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# **Human Right Developments in Iran**

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**ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

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**The Human Rights Development of Iran Newsletter,** stresses on the promotion of human rights through monitoring positive actions and developments that have occurred with regards to human rights and raising the awareness of the audience in this regard. This newsletter, compiles measures taken for the promotion and realisation of human rights for the transparency of the real human rights situation in Iran through benefiting from correct information and credible documents.

# Contents

<b>1- Refugees Rights .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1-1 Opportunity for Afghan Investors and Employers to Get Work Permits in Iran.....	5
1-2 Lifting of Restrictions on the Registration of Foreign Schoolchildren in Public Schools .....	6
<b>2- Right to Education.....</b>	<b>8</b>
2-1 Increase in Sports Space per capita in the Country's Schools.....	8
2-2 Construction of 132 Schools in Sistan and Baluchistan Province.....	9
<b>3- Children's Rights .....</b>	<b>10</b>
3-1 Publication of "Support for the prohibition of Child Labour Within UN Documents" Book.....	10
3-2 Expansion of Indigenous Games among Children with Disabilities.....	11
<b>4-Women's Rights .....</b>	<b>13</b>
4-1 Cabinet Approves Allowing Women to Open Bank Accounts in their Children's Names.....	13
4-2 First Iranian Female Sailor in the Caspian Sea: Sailing is not a Profession Exclusive to Men.....	14
4-3 Empowerment of 7,700 Women Heads of Household in Remote and Rural Regions.....	15
<b>5- Rights of the Disabled.....</b>	<b>17</b>
5-1 Extension of Services to Persons with Disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic.....	17
5-2 Seventy Percent Increase in the Rights to Home Care and Nursing for Persons with Disabilities.....	19
5-3 The National Secretariat for Monitoring Social Damages Harms and Disabilities Founded in the Country.....	20

<b>6- Human Rights.....</b>	<b>21</b>
6-1 Registration of the InfomationInformation of more than 250 NGOs in the Judiciary BranchDatabase.....	21
6-2 Prisoners over the Age of 60 Begin to Receive Covid-19 Vaccines...	22
<b>7- Introducing of Human Rights Activists.....</b>	<b>24</b>
Raad-al-Ghadir Charity Institute.....	24



## **1- Refugees Rights**

### **1-1 Opportunity for Afghan Investors and Employers to Get Work Permits in Iran**

According to reports published by the Cooperative, Employment and Social Welfare Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghan investors and employers residing in Iran can with the cooperation of unions receive work permits in their names and launch businesses.

This is while to-date due to problems that they faced, Afghan employers worked illegally in the country. These new regulations are important steps towards Afghan employers in Iran and their activities transparency, and they can benefit the legal benefits of these new regulations. For example, Afghans who are able to get work permits, can provide medical and retirement insurance for themselves and their employees, and many

other fields they can benefit from rules and regulations related to employment just as their Iranian counterparts.

For this, foreign nationals who are in a way employers, if they introduce themselves after changing their status and getting passports, receive work permits and work in various fields legally and in complete transparency.

## **1-2 Lifting of Restrictions on the Registration of Foreign Schoolchildren in Public Schools**

As well as the education of foreign nationals with legal residency documents in Iran, in 2015, the basis for the registration of undocumented schoolchildren in public schools in permitted provinces was facilitated. Often these individuals, particularly Afghan children are faced with problems and restrictions in registering in Iranian schools.

Currently alongside Iranian schoolchildren, nearly 480,000 refugee children and undocumented ones have registered in Iranian schools, 130,000 of which do not have identity documents which has caused financial problems and shortage of education space. To resolve this problem, the Education and Training Ministry has expanded schools' construction of schools in the country, particularly in refugee settlements. In addition to the constructed schools by governmental and non-governmental funds, in 2017, eleven schools, in 2018, six schools, and in 2019, 12 schools were constructed with financial support of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

and several other schools are under construction, which will open before the start of school year in autumn 2021.

Also recently the government has distributed a methodology guidelines for the registration of foreign schoolchildren to public schools and the conditions for the registration of legal and undocumented foreign nationals have been eased. Also school heads have been asked to undertake necessary cooperation in this regard. Furthermore foreign nationals who register in schools for the first time, get medical check-ups from medical centre and their health and vaccination statuses are reviewed and if necessary health oriented interventions and medical assistance are provided for them.



## **2- Right to Education**

### **2-1 Increase in Sports Space per capita in the Country's Schools**

Currently there are 400,417 sports and training complexes in the county some of which have good capacity for hosting coach, referee training courses and hosting Iranian Soccer Super League and international matches.

In view of the need for girl schoolchildren to sports activities, under the fundamental development plan, the expansion of sports and training spaces infrastructures, girls' schools equipment and technology have been given priority. To this aim from two years ago to-date, 583 classrooms have been allocated to physical education exercises and girls sports halls have been equipped and renovated. In some regions where they did not have sports halls, the Education and Training Ministry has begun the construction of halls.



The government intends to promote time given to physical education and renovation of sports in schools, for the physical and mental health of schoolchildren, in line with boosting quality, so that alongside these activities children can receive a better quality education also.

## **2-2 Construction of 132 Schools in Sistan and Baluchistan Province**

Towards support for the education of all children's rights to education in good quality schools, *Barakat* Foundation to-date has opened 132 schools with 548 classrooms in rural and border regions of Sistan and Baluchistan.

*Barakat* Foundation is also committed to the construction of another 43 schools in Sistan and Baluchistan which when opened will increase the number of schools to 175 with 771 classrooms in the province. This Foundation has allocated a budget of 802 billion Rials for the construction of *Barakat* schools in Sistan and Baluchistan province.

Second to Khuzistan province, with 175 schools, Sistan and Baluchistan province has the largest share of *Barakat* Foundation schools construction projects.

It must be said that with the launch of the school construction movement in deprived and lesser off regions of the country, to-date this Foundation has launched 1,530 schools with 8thousand classrooms for schoolchildren in these regions.



### 3- Children's Rights

#### 3-1 Publication of “Support for the prohibition of Child Labour Within UN Documents” Book

The book on International Law Simplified; Support for the Prohibition of Children's Labour within UN Documents, in addendum to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, has been published in Iran for the first time. This book, written by Mohammad Mehdi Seyed Naseri is one of the amendment books of the International Law and Relations Unit of Zekr Publications and Research Institute.

In the Protection of Child labourers' book in UN Documents, the author has attempted to present in a simple and easy understanding language the definition of a child and what is the criteria for a child within international law, and how child labour is defined from the international law perspective and particularly within UN documents.

### **3-2 Expansion of Indigenous Games among Children with Disabilities**

The Iranian Physical Education and Special Olympics Research Centre has introduced and expanded indigenous games to society's mentally disabled children. Furthermore the Research Centre has commenced the implementation of programmes towards presenting and promoting physical movement games for the promotion of good cultural beliefs and also programmes on preparation of a suitable basis for job creation development.

Expansion of scientific, education and research cooperation with the aim of fulfilling the education and research needs of the Research Centre and Special Olympics, exchange of scientific, education and research data with the aim of fulfilling the country's education and research needs for special children's games and sports, mentally disabled and other related sciences, the launching of joint scientific, operations and sports centres

such as the Special Sports and Physical Education Sciences Scientific Studies Centre among individuals with special needs are some of the important working agendas of this Research Centre.

As well as helping children with special needs, this Research Centre provides various services to other different groups of society to create a research basis in research work that include athletes with limited motor skills whose number exceeds 30,000 in the country.



## **4- Women's Rights**

### **4-1 Cabinet Approves Allowing Women to Open Bank Accounts in their Children's Names**

According to the bill approved by the Cabinet which aims for the big support for the role and status of motherhood and children's best interests, and removal of the created legal obstacles for women in opening bank accounts for their toddlers and withdrawing from these accounts, has been prepared, mothers can open bank accounts in the name of their minor children. And the right to withdraw money from these accounts is in control of the mothers until the minors reach the age of eighteen.

## **4-2 First Iranian Female Sailor in the Caspian Sea: Sailing is not a Profession Exclusive to Men**

The first Iranian woman sailor in the Caspian Sea who has officially begun her sailing career from 12 July this year from Port Fereydoonkenar on a merchant ship was born in 1999. Mahkia Sadeghi Monfared whose nickname has been mentioned in many media outlets as Kosar, is from Zanzan province, a girl with dreams related to the sea according to whom at one point she saw these dreams as unreachable, however she has reached some of them and is trying to fulfil the rest of her dreams in seafaring.

Her aim is to one day be at the helm of ocean liners and stresses that she will reach her goal and dream. She hopes that with this action she can make the space for the presence of more women in fields that they thin are exclusive to men be fulfilled.

Although there are no legal obstacles for the presence of women in many professions but culturally women think that these types of careers are exclusive to men. In this regard Sadeghi Monfared says: “I believe for goals that have no legal restrictions, women must stand up to some existing beliefs and work hard to achieve them.”

### **4-3 Empowerment of 7,700 Women Heads of Household in Remote and Rural Regions**

The Presidency's Women and Family Affairs Deputy with the cooperation of the Interior Ministry, Technical and Professional Training Organization and *Kardok* Institute, implemented the Empowerment of Women Heads of Household in the country's unofficial residencies in seven stages and with a development of micro livelihood development and the aim of prevention of social damages.

The first stage of the project included the preparation of organizations, institutions, connections and facilitators in 15 provinces and 18 provincial towns. The second stage was the identification of target locations and evaluation of the properties, interaction with different charitable and local NGOs and understanding the successful businesses of the location and holding public meetings to introduce the target community in 86 locations. The third stage was the setting up of a group, encouragement for local participatory groups made up of women heads of household in neighbourhoods and creation of consensus to set up a group by local facilitators, and ultimately resulted in the formation of 8 to 12 person groups.

Cultural-social, economic and business skills training was the next stage of the project in which the capacities of the group, transfer of results, market assessment reviews, and studies of higher documents were determined; suitable working basis of the group and the beginning of technical

and professional training process were determined alongside the training of 7700 individuals. And in the next step these individuals who had received technical and professional training and started the empowerment process and teaching technical skills, these individuals were introduced to the Technical and Professional Training Organization.

After these stages, the manufacturing of products and connection to the market, completion of economic and business skills and completion of links with the market process was implemented and ultimately with the formation of local micro funds, presentation of financial trainings, preparation of business projects, and necessary credit evaluation was done, and introduction to a bank was made to receive facilities.

While being implemented for undress of women heads of household in rural and remote regions and unofficial residencies, in this project now the medialization stage has successfully come to a conclusion and continue on for the resolving of these women's problems.





## **5 -Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

### **5-1 Extension of Services to Persons with Disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

For the prevention of the contraction of the virus and observation of the Education and Training Ministry, and in view of the limited in person attendance services of daily education centres, the Away from Daily Rehabilitation Centres Education Packs Projects was made accessible with the cooperation of headquarters, provincial experts and daily centres scientific centres of the State Welfare Organization was designed.

With this measure not only have the services to persons with disabilities have not been reduced, but while the establishment of services, facilities and assistance for these individuals have expanded.

The Away Rehabilitation Services Pack, has been designed towards fulfilment of the needs of those that need rehabilitation that receive services from the abovementioned centres and establishment of provision of services and prevention of the lowering of function due to the severing of designed services, and include evaluation, survey, prevention, intervention, supervision services, and presentation of rehabilitation and counselling services to those that require them and their families through establishing bilateral links with the specialist experts of the said centres that include technical official, rehabilitation, training, arts, sports and coaches experts and the utilization of the internet and telecommunications.

Furthermore, for the prevention of the deterioration of the said centres services receivers, as well as this pack, in person attendance services with observation of hygiene protocols in proportion of the contraction colour coding areas of the country based on the guidelines issued by the Prevention of contractual diseases committee of the Organization are presented

It must be said that in the present conditions, with the cooperation of 15,000 personnel, 1,400 daily rehabilitation training centres, profession training and supportive production workshops services are provided for individuals with mental disabilities, physical motion disabilities, individuals with spinal cord disabilities, families, and children with hearing impairment, families and semi-blind persons, autistic individuals, severe

mental health patients, the elderly, individuals with multiple disabilities for 55,000 patients.

## **5-2 Seventy Percent Increase in the Rights to Home Care and Nursing for Persons with Disabilities**

According to the government's decision the right to home care for persons with disabilities has increased by 70 percent. As well as this assistance, for the expansion of the construction of housing for persons with disabilities, a team made of the Planning and Budget Organization, State Welfare Organization and the Housing Foundation has been set up. While fair distribution of housing which are currently ready to be given to these individuals, this Organization also has plans in its working agenda for the construction of new housing for all persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, the government is seriously pursuing the policy to revamp public paths and services provision centres for persons with disabilities. In this regard meetings have taken place and also programmes have been designed and soon will become operational.

### **5-3 The National Secretariat for Monitoring Social Harms and Disabilities Founded in the Country**

The National Secretariat for Monitoring Social Harms and Disabilities alongside the unveiling of a website was launched in the presence of representatives from the Cooperative, Employment and Social Welfare Ministry, and the State Welfare Organization.

In view of the need to correctly monitor social harms at national level in the form of various studies, this Secretariat was launched. Alongside provision of various services to persons with disabilities and monitoring how these services are presented, this Secretariat monitors social damages and analyses the data and will present suitable solutions for facing these damage; because the form of the damage might look the same but in nature its resolution might be different. For example the reason for suicides in the deprived Kohgilooye and Booyrahmar Province is different to the reason for suicide in the northern districts of the City of Tehran which are pretty well off districts. There are suicides committed by both genders, but what factors in what regions can be created on the basis of what type of culture, can be different. Thus, this Secretariat has the duty to monitor social harms on an individual basis and extract the threats and protection factors.



## 6- Human Rights

### 6-1 Registration of the Information of more than 250 NGOs in the Judiciary Database

The registration of information of NGOs includes the subject of their specialised activity, registration number, permit number, postal address, and contact info. The extension of the activity of registering organization in the popular participation website is in the three national, provincial and provincial town levels. In 2020, the information of more than 38thousand NGOs were prepared and registered in the Judiciary Branch's data bank. 1,800 NGOs are active in charity work, 1,500 on health and hygiene, 1,200 in welfare and rehabilitation, 660 in the environment, 660 on social damages and 420 in children's rights.

Out of the 38thousand identified NGOs, 20thousand of them are members of board of trustees of mosques across the country and 2,200 are servants of holy shrines.

NGOs can enter their information in the following website: <https://mosharekat.eadl.ir> so that the confirmation of their information they can through relevant authorities officially take part in some programmes with the Judiciary Branch.

With this action, the Judiciary Branch is trying to promote the participation of NGOs in social, legal, particularly human rights (women, children, prisoners etc. rights) issues, so that NGOs can in an organized way be the voice of the people and notify officials of and have more active roles in the promotion of human rights

## **6-2 Prisoners over the Age of 60 Begin to Receive Covid-19 Vaccines**

Towards improvement of the mental and physical health of the country's prison population, with the follow up of the Hygiene and Treatment and COVID-19 Vaccination Bureau, began its mission with the vaccination of prisoners over the age of sixty. To this aim all prisoners over sixty have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines in prison infirmaries.

Also for the assurance of the health of prisoners and prisons staff, since the outbreak of COVID-19, continued

monitoring and check-ups have been considered. In the event of a suspect case, the individual is isolated from the prison population and sent to medical centres outside prison and following tests and paraclinical measures, and medical advice the patient is hospitalised and if tested negative the prisoner is returned to prison. And because of exiting and re-entering prison, the prisoner will be quarantined.



## 7- Introducing of Human Rights Activists

### **Raad-al-Ghadir Charity Institute**

The Raad-al-Ghadir Charity Institute is a non-governmental, non-political, and non-partisan and non-profit institute, whose objective is the promotion of the capacities of physical-movement persons with disabilities through technical and professional training, rehabilitation and effective support for employment and job creation of the disabled, and the Institute began its activities in 2001.

Through administrative procedures and getting legal permit from the Interior Ministry, the State Welfare Organization, the Technical and Vocational Training Organization and Greater Tehran Security Police, on 20 October 2001, registered under number 21700 as an NGO in the Registration of Non-trading Companies and Institutes Bureau.



Since the beginning of the activities of the Institute in the Yaftabad district of Tehran and the deprived south-east district of Tehran to-date, more than 2,500 persons with physical-movement disabilities in the district and surrounding districts and also towns in the outskirts of Tehran have benefited from the 100 percent free services of the Institute.

Also, from the beginning of the Institute's activities in the employment and job creation field to-date 733 persons with physical-movement disabilities have through working supportive workshops such as Payam Centres, sewing, and also self-employed supportive workshops in handicraft and the arts have managed to make honest and decent livings.

As a national non-governmental charity institute, this Institute for the purpose of providing free services to persons with physical-movement disabilities in other deprived and lesser off provinces, and without state help and with the participation of good and local charitable individuals in provincial towns, sister institutes in Bushehr, Bandar Abbas, Zahedan, Gilan, Kashan, Isfahan, Shiraz, Aligoodarz, Pakdasht, Sirvan, Hamadan etc. have been founded.

### Perspective

Raad-al-Ghadir is an Institute which originates from the great initiative to provide service to fellow countrymen and women and concentrates on the professional

empowerment of persons with physical-movement disabilities without racism and discrimination.

The Institute will endeavour to through reviewing and identification of the latest effective training methods which result in employment, and provision of timely rehabilitation and a prevention and treatment of disability approach right from childhood stand against post-puberty damages of the disabled. The Institute will try to in the shadow of provision of free specialised rehabilitation services never to let any child be stuck at home due to heavy costs of treatment and endure pain and disability and no persons with disabilities without any skills be isolated at home.

In the Institute the staff and charitable individuals wholeheartedly alongside each other work towards the realisation of humanitarian goals. This Institute tries with the enjoyment of the views of experts on training, rehabilitation and job creation to be able to move forward as a top institute in the field of the disabled in various national and international fields.

For further information on the Institute please visit the following website: <https://raad-alghadir.org/>