

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

Item 2: General Debate

Afghan Refugees and Migrants in Iran



Mr. President,

The people of Afghanistan, have always faced many sufferings and challenges, especially in the last few decades. As of 2021, many Afghans fled to Iran, making the country rank second in the world in accepting refugees with 3.4 million people.¹

Over 670,000 Afghan students are studying in Iran, with their education cost being over \$352 million.² However, due to the excessive increase in the number of Afghan students in recent years, their school population has increased and some are facing problems enrolling in public schools.

For 2023, UNHCR covers the insurance premium for up to 95,000 of the most vulnerable refugees,³ while the number of vulnerable Afghans is three times higher.

As an NGO with 20 years of field experience in Iran, we see the negative effects of unilateral illegal sanctions on Iran's capacity to host refugees, undermining the ability of the government and NGOs to assist the migrant communities.

ODVV is calling on the international community to provide more assistance for Afghan refugees and immigrants in Iran, because continuation of the present situation can decrease the country's capacity to properly host and assist refugees.

¹UNHCR

²IRNA, 2nd May 2023

³UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR-IRAN)