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COI QUERY RESPONSE - Iran

Unregistered marriages between Iranian and Afghan nationals and their treatment by the state; treatment of women and children in unregistered marriages; documentation for children from unregistered marriages

1. Background information on marriages in Iran

There are two forms of officially recognised marriages in Iran, namely permanent and temporary marriages.¹ The practice of temporary marriage in Iran, also referred to as *sigheh*, *mut'ah*, or *nikah mut'ah*, has a legal basis in Shia Islamic jurisprudence² and is not recognised in Sunni Islam.³ Sources have described temporary marriages as 'prevalent'⁴ and 'common'⁵ in Iran, especially among conservative communities.⁶ According to Kameel Ahmady, an Iranian anthropologist and expert on temporary marriages, there is ambiguity concerning temporary marriages in Iran, and that they take various forms with different legal and religious aspects.⁷ According to the United States Department of State (USDOS), *sigheh* marriages are 'controlled, condoned by the state'.⁸

Iran's civil law is based on Islamic law, which 'legally and religiously' recognizes these two forms of marriage.⁹ For a permanent marriage, spouses enter into a union without any time limitations or specific duration, while in *sigheh*, based on the article 1075 of the Iranian Civil Code, spouses are temporarily married for a specific period of time after which the marriage is automatically dissolved,¹⁰ and a specific dowry is agreed upon.¹¹ A *sigheh* marriage can last for various periods of time from one hour to several years.¹²

The institution of temporary marriage is regulated by the Civil Code of 1928, as amended,¹³ and the Family Protection Act of 2012.¹⁴ As such, temporary marriages have been legally recognised in Iran since 2013 but their registration 'is only required if a child is conceived'.¹⁵

¹ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), p. 85

² Ahmady, K., What is Nikah Mubah in Islam and Iran, n.d., [url](#)

³ Iran International, Temporary marriage in Iran: religiously sanctioned, socially taboo, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

⁴ GGLS, An Overview of Marriage and Divorce Regulations in Iran, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

⁵ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), p. 85; Girls Not Brides, Iran, n.d., [url](#)

⁶ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), p. 85

⁷ Ahmady, K., Temporary Marriage in Iran, n.d., [url](#)

⁸ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Iran, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁹ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), pp. 89-90

¹⁰ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), p. 85

¹¹ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), pp. 90-92

¹² Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Iran, September 2023, [url](#), p. 52

¹³ Iran, Civil Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1928, [url](#)

¹⁴ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), p. 92

¹⁵ Iran International, Temporary marriage in Iran: religiously sanctioned, socially taboo, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

Concerning the *sigheh* marriage procedure, the contract is usually done verbally and consists of reciting a formula by both spouses including the duration of the marriage and the value of dowry. This does not require any witnesses to be present. The marriage ends when the duration of the contract ends, and it does not require any formal divorce proceedings.¹⁶

If a *sigheh* marriage is officially registered by the National Organization for Civil Registration (NOCR), this information is also included in the birth certificate. Similarly, information on a termination of a *sigheh* marriage is included and a woman is considered to be divorced. However, if a *sigheh* marriage is not officially registered, this information is also not included in the birth certificate, and such a marriage ends at an agreed time or earlier if the remaining term is waived.¹⁷

According to the Iranian legal system based on Sharia law,¹⁸ girls can marry at 13, and in certain circumstances as young as 9 years old,¹⁹ which makes child marriages in Iran 'somewhat socially acceptable.'²⁰ An Iranian Muslim woman cannot legally marry a non-Muslim man, which applies to both, permanent and temporary marriages.²¹

In line with the Civil Code, while a man can easily divorce a woman whenever he wants, and without stating a specific cause or requiring the wife's consent,²² a woman can only pursue a divorce if it can be proved that 'the marriage caused intolerable difficulty and hardship.' If a married couple with children divorce, a mother has custody rights until children turn seven after which the custody rights go to the father.²³

2. Unregistered marriages between Iranian and Afghan nationals and their treatment by the state

According to the COI unit of the Austrian Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA), [informal translation] Afghan citizens with a legal residency in Iran can legally marry Iranian citizens in a formal ceremony, and such a marriage must be registered with the authorities. The procedure is subjected to an approval by the ministry of interior.²⁴ The registration of marriages is particularly challenging for Afghans without a legal residency permit, and the authorities may prevent such registrations. As a result, many Afghans choose unofficial,

¹⁶ Iran International, Temporary marriage in Iran: religiously sanctioned, socially taboo, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

¹⁷ Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Iran, September 2023, [url](#), p. 52

¹⁸ Girls Not Brides, Iran, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁹ UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 23 November 2023, [url](#), para. 17

²⁰ Girls Not Brides, Iran, n.d., [url](#)

²¹ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), p. 93

²² NCRI Women's Committee (The), Widowed Women in Iran: Main Problems and Challenges, 22 June 2025, [url](#)

²³ UN Human Rights Council, Islamic Republic of Iran; Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 11 November 2024, [url](#), para. 33

²⁴ Austria, BFA Staatendokumentation, Themenbericht der Staatendokumentation: Iran: Flüchtlingsstatusdetermination und Aufenthaltstitel für afghanische Staatsangehörige, 13 October 2025, [url](#), p. 31

religious marriages that are not officially registered with the authorities and ‘can lead to complications, especially for the children’.²⁵

Afghan citizens legally married to Iranian citizens can apply for a residence permit after the marriage. Marriage of an Afghan man and an Iranian women can lead to a residency permit, but it does not automatically lead to Iranian citizenship. They can apply for naturalisation in line with the article 980 of the Civil Code. On the other hand, foreign women who marry Iranian men automatically become Iranian citizens. However, this applies only to the officially registered marriages and not to unofficial religious marriages and *sigheh* marriages.²⁶

An article on expulsion of Afghans from Iran dated 24 October 2025 stated that there are 80 000 registered marriages between Afghans and Iranians, which represents with their children a population of 250 000 people. According to the article, ‘children born to Iranian mothers or fathers, and vice versa, are eligible to receive a birth certificate.’²⁷

In October 2025, an article by the Middle East Forum reported that a new bill is under consideration in parliament that would grant citizenship to foreigners if they temporarily married an Iranian woman. The move has reportedly caused angered reactions by Iranians, in particular because of estimated eight million Afghans without documentation living in Iran.²⁸

3. Treatment of women and children in unregistered marriages

Sources indicate that there is stigma attached to temporary marriages in Iran,²⁹ especially because of its association with prostitution. This motivates some women to keep such marriages secret to avoid shame, including from their families. This view concerns short-term marriages in particular.³⁰ Sources suggest that financial reasons are strong factors why women enter temporary marriages to get at least temporary financial support.³¹ A study on marriages between Afghan men and Iranian women published in the Journal of Population Association of Iran in 2024 found that ‘coerced choice’ played a significant role and challenges that women faced included ‘hardships within the paternal household, lack of awareness, poverty, fatalism, paternalistic attitudes leading to forced marriage, cohesion and pressure from foreign nationals, and lack of foresight.’³²

²⁵ Austria, BFA Staatendokumentation, Themenbericht der Staatendokumentation: Iran: Flüchtlingsstatusdetermination und Aufenthaltstitel für afghanische Staatsangehörige, 13 October 2025, [url](#), p. 31

²⁶ Austria, BFA Staatendokumentation, Themenbericht der Staatendokumentation: Iran: Flüchtlingsstatusdetermination und Aufenthaltstitel für afghanische Staatsangehörige, 13 October 2025, [url](#), p. 32

²⁷ MENAFN, Iran Expels 1.45M Afghan Migrants In 6 Months, 24 October 2025, [url](#)

²⁸ Middle East Forum, Fury in Iran over Alleged Plan to Grant Citizenship Through Temporary Marriage, 19 October 2025, [url](#)

²⁹ Iran Wire, Iran's Temporary Marriage Law Traps Women in Legal Limbo, 21 August 2025, [url](#); Iran International, Temporary marriage in Iran: religiously sanctioned, socially taboo, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

³⁰ Iran International, Temporary marriage in Iran: religiously sanctioned, socially taboo, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

³¹ Ahmady, K., What is Nikah Mubah in Islam and Iran, n.d., [url](#); Iran International, Temporary marriage in Iran: religiously sanctioned, socially taboo, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

³² Amiri, I., Ahmadi, A., Mirfardi, A., Exploring the Semantic Underpinnings of Marriage among Iranian Women and Afghan Men, in: Journal of Population Association of Iran, Vol.18, No.36, Autumn & Winter 2023, 2024, [url](#), p. 221

An IranWire article dated August 2025 noted that ‘Iranian society simultaneously recognizes temporary marriage as religiously legitimate while viewing it as morally suspect, especially for women.’³³ When discussing a possibility of granting citizenship to foreigners marrying Iranian women in a temporary marriage, an Iranian analyst based in London expressed his doubt that it will pass because ‘most Iranians view *sigheh* as dishonorable’.³⁴

Sigheh marriages have been criticised for various reasons, including for being a justification for abuses against women and girls including early and child marriages,³⁵ being ‘a legal avenue for child prostitution in Iran’,³⁶ and being a cover for sex work.³⁷ According to legal experts interviewed by IranWire, ‘temporary marriage functions primarily as a mechanism for male polygamy, without the financial obligations typically associated with marriage’ or any legal consequences for men for extramarital affairs.³⁸ According to Kameel Ahmady, *sigheh* marriages allow men to have multiple sexual partners in the environment where extramarital affairs are prohibited.³⁹

An increase of businesses online offering an easy facilitation of temporary marriages for a fee, especially on Telegram, has been criticised as promoting polygamy and prostitution and being against Islamic teachings.⁴⁰ According to IranWire, there are hundreds of Telegram channels offering ‘informal matchmaking services for temporary marriages’.⁴¹ In an article reporting on Telegram channels offering *sigheh* marriages, Iran International described the acceptance of temporary marriages in the country as follows: ‘An apparent official tolerance of *sigheh* as a moral buffer against paid sex appears to have opened the door to commodifying women under theological cover. Prostitution is criminalized and punished, yet *sigheh* remains legal and broadly interpreted—creating a religiously sanctioned loophole.’⁴²

This type of temporary marriage arrangement allows to have a sexual relationship⁴³ in the country where extramarital sexual relations are banned by law,⁴⁴ extramarital sexual affairs are punishable by 100 lashes,⁴⁵ and adultery is a criminal offence punishable by death under the

³³ Iran Wire, Iran's Temporary Marriage Law Traps Women in Legal Limbo, 21 August 2025, [url](#)

³⁴ Middle East Forum, Fury in Iran over Alleged Plan to Grant Citizenship Through Temporary Marriage, 19 October 2025, [url](#)

³⁵ Ahmady, K., Temporary Marriage in Iran, n.d., [url](#)

³⁶ Borgen Project (The), The Reality of Child Prostitution in Iran, 20 February 2024, [url](#)

³⁷ UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 23 November 2023, [url](#); USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Iran, 24 June 2024, [url](#); UN Human Rights Council, Islamic Republic of Iran; Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 11 November 2024, [url](#), para. 34

³⁸ Iran Wire, Iran's Temporary Marriage Law Traps Women in Legal Limbo, 21 August 2025, [url](#)

³⁹ Ahmady, K., What is Nikah Mutaḥ in Islam and Iran, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁰ Iran International, Temporary marriage in Iran: religiously sanctioned, socially taboo, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

⁴¹ Iran Wire, Iran's Temporary Marriage Law Traps Women in Legal Limbo, 21 August 2025, [url](#)

⁴² Iran International, Sex work blessed by religion: Inside Iran's temporary marriage network, 15 May 2025, [url](#)

⁴³ Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Iran, September 2023, [url](#), p. 52

⁴⁴ Borgen Project (The), The Reality of Child Prostitution in Iran, 20 February 2024, [url](#); Daily Jagran (The), Top 10 Countries That Have Laws Against Unmarried Couples: Saudi Arabia, Indonesia To Iran, 6 June 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵ The Borgen Project, The Reality of Child Prostitution in Iran, 20 February 2024, [url](#)

Iran's Islamic Penal Code.⁴⁶ According to the Center for Human Rights in Iran, while men can in practice evade adultery charges for certain offences for stating that they were married in temporary marriages, women have no such right.⁴⁷ Additionally, if a temporary marriage is dissolved, 'religious law also means that women's subsequent relationships can be deemed criminal.'⁴⁸ Especially if the woman does not possess the marriage certificate if it is kept by the husband and she thus remains legally married and may face prosecution if she wants to marry again.⁴⁹

According to Kameel Ahmady, *sigheh* 'is not regulated by law and has received little attention'.⁵⁰ The same author elaborated that temporary marriages take place 'in private family ceremonies without legal registration' and that 'this type of marriage and sexual relationship is secretive and takes place within a religious framework.'⁵¹ According to the author, the husband and wife in a *sigheh* marriage 'are aware that they do not have any commitments or responsibilities at the end of the temporary marriage period.'⁵²

According to an article by Iran International from September 2025, 'temporary marriage allows recognition of children and provide some legal security to women.'⁵³ Nevertheless, wives in temporary marriages do not have maintenance or inheritance rights associated with permanent marriages, exposing women to legal and social risks.⁵⁴ Because temporary marriages are usually not officially registered and are only done verbally, women lack protection and basic rights, and men can easily divorce them with no obligations such as alimony.⁵⁵

Information on situation of children from unregistered marriages was scarce. However, the following information may be relevant.

While not specifically talking about children, according to a UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report from October 2024, 'Iran maintained its inclusive policies by continuing to allow Afghans to access education, primary healthcare, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services.'⁵⁶ The UNCERD found in a report published in November 2024 that among ethnic and ethnoreligious minorities in Iran, particularly Afghans were facing racism, hate speech, and negative stereotypes.⁵⁷ The same report stated that according to the

⁴⁶ Amnesty International, "They violently raped me": Sexual violence weaponized to crush Iran's "Women Life Freedom" uprising, December 2023, [url](#), p. 80; HRW, World Report 2025 - Iran, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷ Center for Human Rights in Iran, Gender Apartheid in Iran is Crushing Women's Lives and Futures, 6 March 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸ Iran Wire, Iran's Temporary Marriage Law Traps Women in Legal Limbo, 21 August 2025, [url](#),

⁴⁹ Iran Wire, Iran's Temporary Marriage Law Traps Women in Legal Limbo, 21 August 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), p. 85

⁵¹ Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), p. 94

⁵² Ahmady, K., Pathological Analysis of Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage in Iran, 20 December 2023, [url](#), p. 94

⁵³ Iran International, Temporary marriage in Iran: religiously sanctioned, socially taboo, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁴ Iran Wire, Iran's Temporary Marriage Law Traps Women in Legal Limbo, 21 August 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁵ Ahmady, K., What is Nikah Mubah in Islam and Iran, n.d., [url](#)

⁵⁶ UNHCR, Regional Refugee Response Plan for Afghanistan Situation; Midyear Report 2024, 17 October 2024, [url](#), p. 11

⁵⁷ UN Human Rights Council, Islamic Republic of Iran; Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 11 November 2024, [url](#), para. 27

Secretary-General, Afghans have been facing increasing levels of ‘discrimination, violence and more limited access to basic economic and social services.’⁵⁸ The Human Rights Committee reported on an increased levels of forced deportations of Afghans since 2021.⁵⁹ The UNCERD also stated that it was concerned about state operations against foreign nationals in Iran that could lead to deportations, including of children.⁶⁰

4. Documentation for children from unregistered marriages

According to an Iran International article from September 2025, registration of temporary marriages, that have been legally recognised since 2013, is required if the couple conceives a child, and such children can be legally recognised.⁶¹

Iran’s Civil Code allows only the Iranian father to pass the Iranian nationality on to the children. This was amended in 2019 by the ‘Modification of the Nationality Law related to Children Born from Iranian Mothers and Foreign Fathers’.⁶² In October 2019, UNHCR reported that Iran amended its nationality law to allow Iranian women married to foreign men to pass their nationality to their children under age 18. After reaching 18, such children can apply for Iranian citizenship directly.⁶³ According to a 2020 article, there were 500 000 children in Iran without Iranian citizenships resulting from marriages of Iranian women and foreign men.⁶⁴ According to an Iranian lawyer interviewed by Info Migrants news site, ‘children born under the sharia and unofficial marriage of Iranian women with foreign men will not receive Iranian citizenship from the date of implementation of this law.’⁶⁵ A study published in January 2022 found that the reality of ongoing repatriation of Afghans residing in Iran to Afghanistan has caused ‘a major dilemma’ for their Iranian wives due to the unrecognised children from these marriages considered to be Afghan nationals and as such excluded from state benefits and access to education and healthcare.⁶⁶

Children of undocumented Afghans in Iran reportedly continued facing difficulties when accessing legal documentation.⁶⁷ Despite the 2019 amendment, children born to Iranian mothers and foreign fathers did not automatically get Iranian citizenship, but the mother must submit an application on their behalf.⁶⁸ In line with the nationality law, the application is subjected to the approval by the intelligence services that need to certify whether there is no

⁵⁸ UN Human Rights Council, Islamic Republic of Iran; Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 11 November 2024, [url](#), para. 58

⁵⁹ UN Human Rights Council, Islamic Republic of Iran; Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 11 November 2024, [url](#), para. 59

⁶⁰ UN Human Rights Council, Islamic Republic of Iran; Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 11 November 2024, [url](#), para. 58

⁶¹ Iran International, Temporary marriage in Iran: religiously sanctioned, socially taboo, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

⁶² Asghari, S., Governance of Migration by Decree: Legal Life of Afghan Migrants in Iran, March 2024, [url](#), p. 7

⁶³ UNHCR, Iran, Ending Statelessness, n.d., [url](#)

⁶⁴ Info Migrants, Iranian citizenship law for children of foreign fathers approved, 4 June 2020, [url](#)

⁶⁵ Info Migrants, Iranian citizenship law for children of foreign fathers approved, 4 June 2020, [url](#)

⁶⁶ Cambridge University Press, Transnational Marriages, Gendered Citizenship, and the Dilemma of Iranian Women Married to Afghan Men, 1 January 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁷ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Iran, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁸ Asghari, S., Governance of Migration by Decree: Legal Life of Afghan Migrants in Iran, March 2024, [url](#), p. 7; USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Iran, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

‘security problem’ with the child’s father. As of September 2022, 14 000 out of 80 000 applications have been approved, allowing these children to enrol in schools.⁶⁹

According to a Dutch government report published in September 2023, children born in Iran who are considered ‘non-Iranian’ can get a distinct birth certificate for foreign children if certain conditions are met and documents are submitted to the NOCR. Requirements include valid ID cards of both parents, a childbirth declaration, residence permits from parents, and ‘the approval of the police intelligence service.’⁷⁰ Additionally, parents of a ‘non-Iranian child’ can apply to register its birth with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants’ Affairs (BAFIA).⁷¹ According to Al Jazeera, Afghans in Iran can apply for personal documentation ‘if their mother is Iranian or if they are a woman married to an Iranian man.’⁷²

Concerning the residence permit, COI unit of BFA noted that [informal translation] Amayesh⁷³ status can be transferred to children only if both parents hold it, and a marriage doesn’t automatically lead to documentation. A child of a parent with an Amayesh card can receive documentation when the partner with the card changes their residence permit into residence visa. Afghan citizens who are married to Iranian citizens can apply for a residence permit but a marriage to an Iranian woman does not automatically grant citizenship.⁷⁴ In a report released in November 2024, UN Human Rights Council stated that children of Iranian women and undocumented foreigners continued to be at risk of statelessness.⁷⁵

In a report published on 19 September 2024, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD) listed among positive developments in Iran the 2019 amendment of the nationality law allowing Iranian women married to foreign men to transmit their nationality to their children, the establishment of the Citizenship Rights Charter in 2016 aimed ‘at protecting the rights of ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups and combating hate speech against them’, and the adoption of a decree in 2015 that allowed Afghan children to enrol in schools irrespective of their documentation status.⁷⁶ The same committee has also found that girls from ethnic and ethnoreligious minorities experienced high dropout rates from school.⁷⁷

⁶⁹ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Iran, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁰ Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Iran, September 2023, [url](#), p. 25

⁷¹ Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Iran, September 2023, [url](#), p. 25

⁷² Al Jazeera, Inside Iran’s crackdown on Afghan migrants after the war with Israel, 22 July 2025, [url](#)

⁷³ According to the UNHCR: ‘Effectively, Amayesh and Hoviat status grant the holders temporary right to stay in the designated area for the period of their validity. Permission must be obtained for any travel outside the area of registration. It also provides access to services such as education, health care, health insurance, and employment within predefined fields, if a work permit is obtained.’ UNHCR, Help, Iran, Are you a person that UNHCR Iran can support?, n.d., [url](#)

⁷⁴ Austria, BFA Staatendokumentation, Themenbericht der Staatendokumentation: Iran: Flüchtlingsstatusdetermination und Aufenthaltstitel für afghanische Staatsangehörige, 13 October 2025, [url](#), pp. 31-32

⁷⁵ UN Human Rights Council, Islamic Republic of Iran; Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 11 November 2024, [url](#), para. 60

⁷⁶ UNCERD, Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-seventh periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 19 September 2024, [url](#), para. 3

⁷⁷ UNCERD, Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-seventh periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 19 September 2024, [url](#), paras. 18, 34

Concerning the 2019 nationality law amendment, UNCERD expressed concerns about a bill proposed by the Islamic Consultative Assembly that would move acquiring of nationality from the time of birth to the age of 18, and ‘reports of challenges and barriers faced by members of ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups and in provinces inhabited mainly by them in the issuance of birth certificates and identity documents’, and no dedicated procedures to address statelessness.⁷⁸

Despite the 2015 decree allowing Afghan children to enrol to education, in practice, children faced barriers due to limited infrastructure and resources.⁷⁹ In practice, Afghan students have limited allocated space in schools that cannot accommodate them,⁸⁰ and Afghan pupils without documentation have been expelled.⁸¹

Even though an enrolment of Afghan children without documentation in schools theoretically protects from deportation to their families, in practice, some Afghan families choose not to enrol their children in because of a fear that they will be deported anyway.⁸²

⁷⁸ UNCERD, Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-seventh periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 19 September 2024, [url](#), para. 36

⁷⁹ UNCERD, Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-seventh periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 19 September 2024, [url](#), para. 38

⁸⁰ UNHCR, Regional Refugee Response Plan for Afghanistan Situation; Midyear Report 2024, 17 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 10-11

⁸¹ Zantimes, No documents, no education: Afghan girls in Iran, 6 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸² ADSP, Afghan Children’s Access to Education in Iran and Pakistan, 2023, [url](#), p. 6

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