

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1150
Land:	Iran
Kilde:	All Human Rights for All in Iran
Titel:	Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review. Islamic Republic of Iran. 48th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council (20-31 January 2025)
Udgivet:	4. november 2024
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	5. februar 2025



All Human Rights for All in Iran

Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

Islamic Republic of Iran

48th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council (20-31 January 2025)

The non-governmental organization **All Human Rights for All in Iran** was established in 2017. The history of this organization goes back to 2010 when a group of human rights defenders gathered in Geneva during the first Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We then began a project with the non-governmental Austrian organization Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik, participating in the Human Rights Council, delivering statements and organizing parallel events on human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran through Südwind's support. This project, which had the financial support of the European Union and the Austrian Development Agency from 2012 to 2015, developed into our establishment as an organization. Working with our



partners, we strive to improve the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran by drawing attention to the situation and its causes, at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

Introduction

1. For the UPR to stay a strong and effective mechanism, it is crucial that states respect their obligations regarding the implementation of the accepted recommendations.
2. Furthermore, states must ensure the accuracy and integrity of data, as the fabrication and manipulation of such information not only undermines public trust, as is unfortunately the case in the Islamic Republic of Iran, but also prevents the formulation of effective recommendations to improve the human rights situation in the country by this precious review. In many cases the statistics are not made public and are treated as state secrets. For example, the statistics on death penalties, the number of individuals shot to death during demonstrations like the Woman Life Freedom movement, as well as other demonstrations such as those in 2019 following the sudden tripling of fuel price over night, and deaths attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, it seems that the ages at marriage of girls and women, as well as the ages of mothers at birth, have become state secrets and have not been published since last year.
3. As can be seen, since the first UPR cycles, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not yet considered ratifying the CEDAW, CAT and CPED, despite many recommendations to do so. Although the ratification of the ICMW was supported by the I.R. of Iran, there has been no action taken on this support since the previous UPR Cycle. The reservation on the CRC, noted by the state, allows the age of childhood to be reduced from 18 to as low as 9 for girls and 15 for boys. This reservation has yet to be lifted¹ despite many recommendations, as it does not have the support of the I.R. Iran.

¹*Reservation:* "The Islamic Republic of Iran is making reservation to the articles and provisions which may be contrary to the Islamic Shariah, and preserves the right to make such particular declaration, upon its ratification".

Upon ratification of CRC: Reservation: "The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right not to apply any provisions or articles of the Convention that are incompatible with Islamic Laws and the international legislation in effect."



Child Marriage and Child Mothers

4. Child marriage and early pregnancies particularly jeopardize the health of girl children. There is no minimum age for marriage in Iran by the law. Marriage for girls under 13 years of age and boys under 15 is possible with the permission of a male guardian and on the condition that the child's interest is considered by the court. For girls above the age of 13, marriage is only limited by the requirement of the male guardian's consent, as only men can serve as guardians in matters of marriage in Iran².
5. The officially registered number of girls who married under the age of 15 between March 2019 and March 2023 (the calendar year of the 3rd Cycle until last statistics published) was 119,822. During the same period 3,216 girls in this age group divorced. Additionally, 595,738 teenage girls aged between 15 and 19 married, and 59,291 in the same age range divorced.³ As can be seen in the quarterly Report on the Social and Cultural Situation of Iran published in July 2024 (Ref. 3) the statistics of the ages of women and men in marriage and divorce are showed with *. As shown in table 1-13 of the same report the age difference in marriage is registered in detail, indicating that the ages are recorded but not made public.
6. The number of births to mothers younger than 15 between March 2019 and March 2023 were 5,487. In the same period, 271,328 newborns were born to mothers aged between 15 and 19. Meaning 276,806 teenage girls and younger have given birth to children. Since March 2023, there have been no official statistics on the age of mothers in the quarterly Report on the Social and Cultural Situation of Iran published by the state Statistical Center of Iran.⁴
7. In November 2021, another law came into force called "the Youthful Population and Protection of the Family law." This law significantly deteriorates the rights of women and girls but also men to sexual and reproductive health. The law prohibits the free distribution of contraceptives in the public health care system and limits access to contraceptives in pharmacies, imposes a ban on voluntary sterilization for men and women, enacts a policy of restricting access to information on family planning, and further criminalize abortion for both women and medicals. A medical doctor who performs an abortion for the forth time will face a death penalty.
8. Although the reality of underage girls being sold for marriage in IRI is discussed in some conferences in the country, there is no legal procedure or initiative to prevent guardians

² Family part of Civil Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran, articles 1043 and 1044

³ <https://amar.org.ir/news/ID/15436/gozareshfarhangi041402> tables:1-11, page28 and 1-12,page29

⁴ <https://amar.org.ir/news/ID/15436/gozareshfarhangi041402> table: 1-4,page20



from doing so. The main reasons of selling girl-children including to marriage are poverty and addiction.

Recommendations:

- 1- Provide precise age range of marriages and mothers aged under 18 in the public national statistics.**
- 2- Enforce compulsory registration of all marriages, including the sharia Nikah Mut'ah/Sigheh (temporary marriage).**
- 3- Adopt legislation setting the minimum age for marriage, as a first step to prohibit underage marriages and pregnancies without any exception.**
- 4- Repeal “the Youthful Population and Protection of the Family law” and other laws that violate the rights of women and girls and endanger their health.**

Violence Against Women

9. Domestic violence against women in the IRI is not curtailed by any mechanism, and in fact, it may even be argued that the legal structures amplify this issue. Family law, which grants superiority to men, especially in divorce and child custody, is one of such discriminatory laws. Women require the permission of the husband for further study or for visiting their own family after marriage. Even for surgeries, women depend on the consent of their husbands after marriage.
10. Despite the acceptance of many recommendations during the second and third UPR cycles regarding the national mechanisms for combating violence against women, the 2014 draft bill to prevent violence against women has not yet ratified. This bill has undergone many changes, and is now named “The Bill to Prevent Harming Ladies and Improve their Safety Against Abuse.” Notably, the phrase “violence against women” has been removed from both its name and content.
11. “Femicide” under the name of “honor” by male family members in Iran is not treated the same as other murders, both in law and practice. The latest example was the murder and dismemberment of a 30 years old woman by her father in Tabriz. The father was release a month ago after serving 8 months in prison.⁵ There have been at

⁵ <https://stophonorkillings.org/fa/?p=4918>



least 186 femicide under the name of honor in Iran from March 2023 to March 2024.⁶ The reports also speak of the cases of 34 women killed in name of honor that find their way to the public since March 2024.⁷

Recommendations:

- 1- Gender-based violence against women is deeply rooted in discrimination against women; therefore, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women is a milestone in this regard. **Ratify CEDAW.**
- 2- **Collect data through a national survey on violence against women, both domestic violence and violence perpetrated by official and non-official authorities.**
- 3- **Collect data on femicide, especially on cases of honor killings by the guardians of underage girls, and the punishment imposed on them.**
- 4- **Provide sufficient shelters for women who are victims of violence, and ensure reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence of violence.**

The Nelson Mandela Rules

12. Although the I.R. Iran has accepted the recommendation of Austria to comply with the Nelson Mandela Rules, particularly by providing adequate health care, the situation of prisoners in prisons and detention centers has deteriorated since the last UPR Cycle.
13. There have been various reports on torture, which have raised the concerns of the UN Committee on the Rights of the child⁸ and were confirmed by the International Independent Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran as physical, psychological and sexual torture.⁹ There have been reports of rape and killing¹⁰ as well as sexual assault¹¹ even in the vehicles used to transport arrested individuals during the

⁶ <https://stophonorkillings.org/fa/?p=4843>

⁷ <https://bidarzani.com/46278/>

⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2022/10/iran-end-killings-and-detentions-children-immediately-un-child>

⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/ffmi-iran/20240626-ffmiIran-fact-sheet-torture.docx>

¹⁰ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68840881>

¹¹ <https://ir.voanews.com/a/iran-yalda-moayeri-photographer-says-she-was-sexually-assaulted-by-security-agents/7274667.html>



Woman Life Freedom movement.

14. Only recently, there have been reports of the situation of Mr Jaber Sakhravi, prisoner of conscience, who has been denied transport from Sheyban Prison in Ahvaz to hospital after suffering a stroke. The same goes for the human rights lawyer and prisoner of conscience Mr. Mohammad Najafi, who had a heart attack in prison in Arak in August 2021 and was denied hospital treatment. He has again been banned from receiving hospital care despite having numerous health conditions. These are only two recent examples of hundreds of such cases which were announced by their lawyers. The deliberate denial of health care, has been mentioned in the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Iran often in the category of frequent use of torture as in his last report to the Human rights council.¹²

Recommendations:

- 1- Fully implement the Nelson Mandela Rules**
- 2- Implement compulsory training on the Nelson Mandela Rules for all prison staff including the prison chiefs and police forces**
- 3- Implement compulsory training on the Nelson Mandela Rules for all Basij and IRGC staff working in all official and unofficial detention centers, including public and secret prisons that are yet to be integrated into a regular police force system.**

¹² <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/55/62> p.18(English)