



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Unilateral Sanctions Violate All Human Rights**

Living as a refugee in in the host country and competing with local people to find and get a job is not easy at all. Livelihood of the refugees faces many challenges and difficulties.

One of the main solution of NGOs working with refugees and empowering them is to train them with vocational trainings and link them into the markets. starting home businesses can be a sustainable solution to solve the unemployment of refugees.

Home businesses are often part of the hidden and informal sector of the economy; But they play a significant role in the production of wealth, the economic growth of society and the development of its social capital. Use of cheap home space and resources, low start-up cost, low risk, optional working hours, no need to get a license (in most cases), tax exemption and no need to pay administrative and commercial taxes.

Starting home businesses is one of the suitable options for refugee women who want to improve their livelihood, enter into economic activities and at the same time fulfill their duties as mothers and wives. By working at home, women can devote more time to their family and home, in addition to managing their own business.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, people have been suffering the bitter consequences of illegal sanctions for over two decades. Unilateral sanctions have directly and indirectly affected individuals and NGOs from different and negative aspects. The social, economic, commercial and business effects of these sanctions can affect women and livelihoods in different ways especially female-headed families. Life with human dignity is considered and subject to the protections stipulated in International bills of human rights.

ILIA Charitable Institute, as an institution that has been working for nearly two decades in the field of supporting refugee women through technical and professional training and providing access to markets. Over the past 3 years, with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a website has been launched for the online sale of products by Afghan refugee women who are engaged in production at home. Sanctions have restricted accessibility and linkage of these women to international markets. Unilateral sanctions have had the following negative consequences, which require the Special Rapporteur's attention:

- The impossibility or difficulty of selling products by female- headed households
  - Impossibility or complexity of cooperation with developers and activists abroad
  - The impossibility or difficulty of transferring knowledge and experience abroad
  - The difficulty of transferring currency
  - And in the field of human rights, violation of the right to access resources
  - Violation of the right to trade and freedom of business
  - Creating various restrictions in the virtual space for digital businesses reduces the level of economic growth and development of the society
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