



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda items 3 and 4

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

**Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Network of Women's Non- governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 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.

[23 January 2020]

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



## Women by Law in Islamic Republic of Iran

As the half of the population of any society, women play important and supportive roles in maintenance and enhancement of the families and society's mental health. The critical role of women in the health, failure or success of families and society and importance of peoples' mental, physical and spiritual needs necessitates a comprehensive investigation of the role of women in all aspects. In today's society, the presence of women in the society is an indicator of the development degree of a country and it has a significant effect on the qualitative and quantitative empowerment of human force. In Islamic Republic of Iran law, the dignity and personality of humankind either men or women are known as important matters. In some part of the constitution, following introduction of family as the fundamental unit of the society and the hub of human growth and excellence, the personality of woman is described as follows: in addition to undertaking the critical and valuable role of motherhood, women together with men act as companions of the life dynamic field in nurturing human beings. In act 21 of the constitution, the state is obliged to protect the women's rights in all aspects based on Islamic principles and also the state shall provide suitable environment for the growth of women's personality and protection of their material and intellectual rights. The most important legal measures have been taken aimed to support and enhance women's rights include:

- Reduction of the working hours of working women who have special conditions, particularly women who have under 6 years old children or disabled husbands or children.
- Implementation of the goals defined in the women's rights and responsibilities charter in individual, social and familial areas.
- Consideration of some articles aimed to support women's rights in citizenship rights charter.
- Enactment of some provisions concerning the enhancement and improvement of women and girls' health and hilarity through sport and exercise.
- Enactments of Supreme Administrative Council concerning the obligation of state to assign 30% of managerial position to women.
- Assignment of 24% of the academic faculty position to women throughout the country.
- 30% of highly educated workers are female (the rate of economic participation of women has had an ascending order and women working in state sectors are 41.67% that indicates the ascending order to women's participation in state-owned organizations.
- More than 4000 female entrepreneurs are active in Iran.
- 18.3% of managers in senior and medial levels are female and more than 970 female judges work in judicial system.
- One-third of female candidates entered the civil councils in the 5<sup>th</sup> round of selection.
- At present, 14 parties are run by women and the number of women members in political parties and groups is more than 15,000.
- Establishment of female-headed households empowerment national workgroup with 563 social work clinics and 15 divorce systems with the aim of mental and social support of divorced women and their children in all provinces as well as 21 mental & social supportive centers for girls and families.
- Establishment of 28 safe houses for mothers and children to protect them against domestic violence including supportive, legal, psychological, psychiatric and medical services round the clock and free of charge.
- Establishment of three empowerment centers for socially harmed girls and women with cooperation of private sector and development of social emergency centers to 346 centers and establishment of 55 social services centers in suburbs.

Despite all above mentioned measures, there are some problems in women's individual, social and familial life; this network, with 500 member NGOs tries to eliminate these problems in order to upgrade the position of women to its real and legal excellence in accordance with Muslim women's dignity. Women's Network tries to inform the female population of society about their rights via holding various seminars all over the country.

One of the activities of Women's Network is upgrading the human identity and recognizing the status of women through cooperation with the legal section of the Ministry of Justice. This network converts the proposed plans into instruction and presents them to related authorities in order to help their implementation under constant supervision and follow-up measures taken by this network which is composed of 500 NGOs all over the country.

The most important challenge faced by women at present is their lack of knowledge about their rights and responsibilities.

For instance, inside the families the dignity of women is still deteriorated by the discrimination and ignorance of some men who continue to humiliate and oppress women in violation of Islamic ethics. In social arena, many women who run their family are deprived of public support and so they are forced to work hard.

Below, the most important rights that women must enjoy and also the significant activities conducted in this regard and resulting achievements are described."

- The act of the rights of children born from Iranian women married to foreign men that is under final enactment in the Parliament.
- The enactment of women protection against violence.
- Enactment of the amendment to the act of the rights of children born from Iranian women married to foreign men.
- Compilation of the document describing how women and families status shall be upgraded through determination of gender balance indices based on article 101 of the 6<sup>th</sup> Development Plan.
- Enactment of maternity leave and breastfeeding leave as well as two-week leave for husbands having newborn child.
- Increasing the maternity leave of working women from 6 months to 9 months.
- Amending the writ of execution of the single women and parent deprived children act.
- Amending the bylaw of the Women and Families Cultural- Social Council.
- Considering the implementation of household women insurance plan in a perfect manner.
- Equation of women and men's blood money in the case the woman is the head of family undertaking the costs of family.
- Enactment of supporting women's rights and responsibilities act in national and international levels.
- Women's heal enhancement policies and strategies.
- Establishment of women and Families Cooperative and Entrepreneurship Foundation.
- Payment of blood money difference in case of men retribution for killing a woman and lack of a clear solution to the implementation of retribution and related problems and issues.
- Bill of special civil law concerning the amendment of public and Revolutionary court hearing and proceedings of family courts emphasizing on the presence of female judicial consultant.

At present, there are some challenges concerning some acts and laws and we hope to eliminate any and all obstacles in this regard with the support of this international authority:

- Penal liability age for girls.

- Child murder by parents.
  - Lack of alternative punishments instead of imprisonment for women lacking conviction records and women who are head of family.
  - Lack of effective law supporting the girls against early and forced marriage.
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