



General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2019

English only

Human Rights Council

Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

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 Family Health Association 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.

[6 February 2019]

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



Female inmates' Health in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The right to the highest standards of health is one of the rights of Mankind and the importance of which has been reiterated in human rights documents. Personal health is deemed as one of the most important aspects of dignity for any individual. Thus, the right to health is officially recognised as one of the fundamental rights of Mankind in the international human rights system.

Human rights documents mostly support physical and mental health and sometimes moral and social health. States can facilitate conditions where the health of individuals is protected and accessing to health is possible for individuals. The right to health has a solid status in human rights documents and international norms; it can be seen as overall principles accepted among developed legal systems.

Vulnerable women are deemed as one of the deprived groups of society who in many instances have little access to social and protection services. Women inmates are one of the most important vulnerable groups in society whose living circumstances cause the creation of countless problems for this group of people. In many societies attention to health and vulnerable women's – such as women inmates – access to health services is neglected, and these individuals have the lowest levels of access to health and SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) services, whereas attention to SRHR needs and provision of services to this group is one of the most important approaches of the health system in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

For the improvement of the health of this group of women and girls, specialist clinics or triangular clinics are made freely available to these individuals in prisons, for harm reduction and providing all basic and specialised medical services, proper nourishment and sports gear for physical activities. In women's and midwifery clinics, all reproductive health services that include education, prevention, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, family planning, vaccinations and treatment of women's sickness are done by midwives and gynaecologists and even women inmates are allowed spouse visits for 24 hours in suitable rooms. Also, in the event of need for hospital treatment, patients are sent to specialised hospitals.

As an NGO and a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), through the signing of a MoU with the Prisons Organization, the Family Health Association of Iran plays a key role in the provision of physical and mental health services to women inmates. In the areas of education, counselling and provision of services in health matters to women inmates the Association has been a forerunner and with the cooperation of the Prisons Organization has conducted harm reduction services, training of peers for the prevention of dangerous diseases, particularly prevention of sexually transmitted diseases with a focus on hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. Also, our organization has been facilitating physical activities for these women, creating peace and happiness among them and has been involved in empowerment of women for job creation, entrepreneurship and income generation. All the above mentioned instances have resulted in the improvement of the living of these women and a rise in the health index at the society's level.
