

JOINT STAKEHOLDER REPORT FOR THE 34TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW – NOVEMBER 2019

Impact Iran represents a coalition of non-governmental organizations that draw attention to the situation of human rights in Iran and encourage the Iranian government to address concerns expressed by the international community and international human rights bodies. Impact Iran promotes Iranian civil society efforts to engage with the wider UN human rights system, alongside various intergovernmental processes aimed at strengthening rights protections in Iran. Impact Iran's focus emanates from the belief that the sustainability of efforts to promote respect for human rights in Iran hinges on the capacity of Iranian civil society to effectively engage with and participate in the range of UN processes that promotes accountability and encourages implementation of Iran's international human rights obligations. In addition to Impact Iran Secretariat, this submission includes the following members of the coalition:



Abdorrahman Boroumand Center
<https://www.iranrights.org>



The Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva (KMMK-G) <http://kmmk-ge.org/sd/>



Association for the Human Rights of the Azerbaijani People (AHRAZ) <http://www.ahraz.org>



All Human Rights for All in Iran
<http://www.iranhrc.org>



ECPM (Ensemble contre la peine de mort)
<http://www.ecpm.org/en/>



Iran Human Rights (IHR)
<https://www.iranhr.net/en/>



Iran Human Rights Documentation Center
<https://iranhrdc.org>



Outright Action International
<https://www.outrightinternational.org>



Siamak Pourzand Foundation
<http://pourzandfoundation.org>



Small Media
<https://smallmedia.org.uk>



United for Iran
<https://united4iran.org/en/>



Impact Iran
<http://impactiran.org>

I. Executive Summary

1. Iran is a party to five international human rights conventions.ⁱ The Iranian government participated in two cycles (2010 and 2014) of the Universal Periodic Review and received a total of 511 recommendations at their outcome; ranking it among the top five states that have received the most recommendations under this accountability mechanism. Iran accepted 131 of the 299 recommendations offered during the second cycle of the UPR. Some 203 recommendations are related to civil and political rights, 88 are related to economic social and cultural rights, 50 pertain to the rights of children; 11 speak to the human rights of disabled persons; and 16 relate to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. This report briefly surveys the Government’s progress in implementing a number of recommendations that it accepted at the outcome of its 2014 review. It also highlights improvements where recommendations have been implemented and notes that some Iran’s most pressing human rights challenges persist in the absence of meaningful implementation progress.

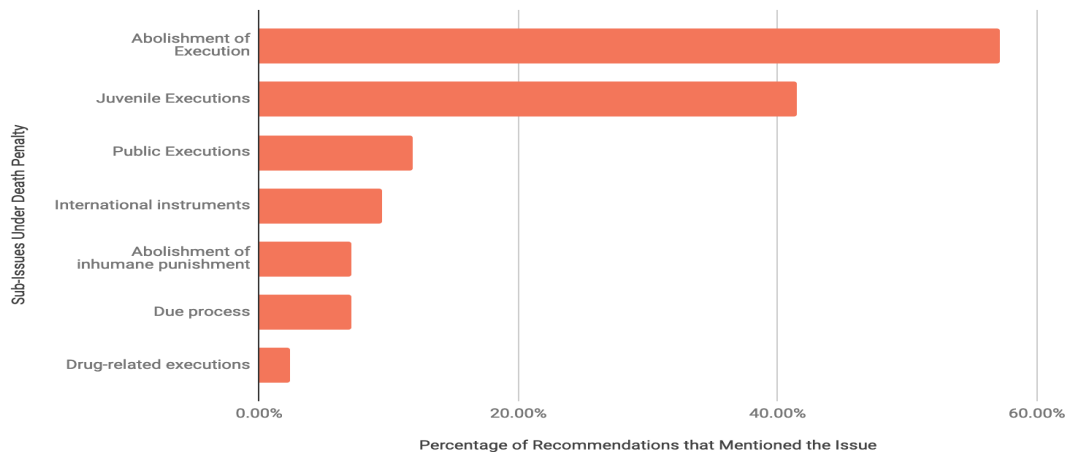
II. Iran’s Approach to the UPR

2. A preponderance of those recommendations rejected by the Iranian Government directly tackle an identifiable human rights problem and contain specific, action-oriented language that address concerns about the safeguards for the peaceful exercise of myriad rights. Recommendations that encourage the reaffirming of commitments to continuing reform in a particular area or that were generally, broadly or vaguely-worded, on the other hand, predominantly enjoy a higher acceptance rate. Moreover, the Government accepted 10 percent of the 299 recommendationsⁱⁱ related to civil and political rights at the outcome of Iran’s second UPR and rejected approximately 51% of suggestions which spoke to states concerns about the status of protections for the rights guaranteed by the ICCPR, compared to its acceptance of 62 percent of rights related to social, economic and cultural rights.

III. Implementation Assessment

A. The right to life

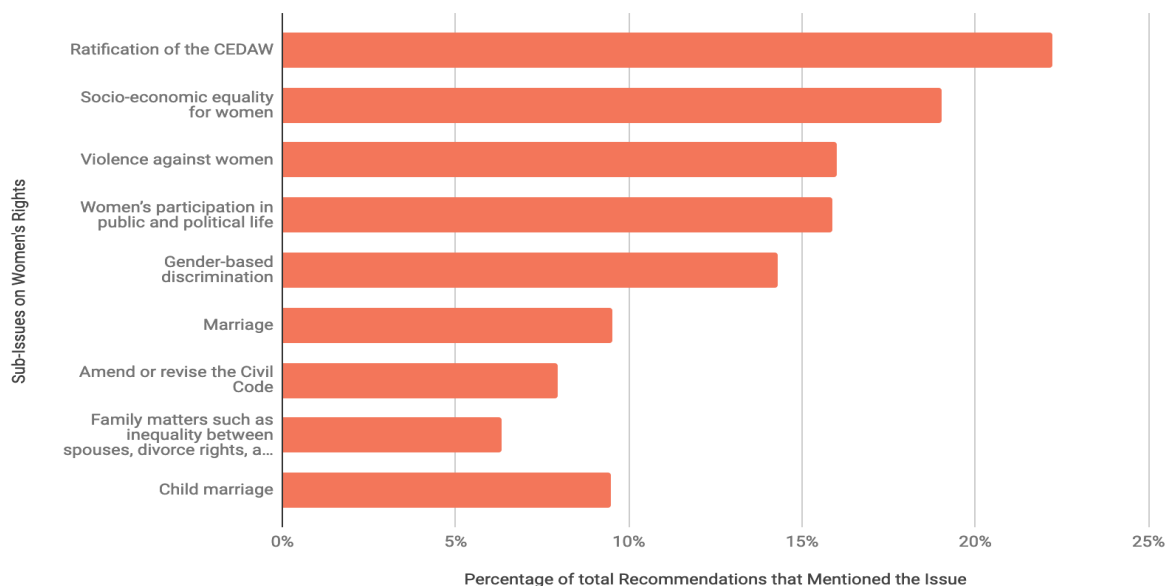
3. The Government accepted one of the 42 recommendations related to the right to life offered during its 2nd UPR cycle, when it committed to ensure that due process rights are observed in trials for capital offenses. The Iranian government continues to put more people to death per capita than any other country in the world, having executed 2,292-2,409 peopleⁱⁱⁱ from 2015 - 2018.^{iv}



4. The Government revisited the issue of juvenile executions by way of its 2010 revision of the Iranian Penal Code (IPC); taking steps to implement a recommendation accepted by the government in 2010 to consider abolishing the practice.^v However, cases of murder committed by minors, continue to be punished with death. Article 205 of the IPC provides the victim’s families the right to issue sentences for guilty verdicts, which can include either the death penalty, compensatory damage (*diya*), or pardon. At least 46 juvenile offenders have been executed since the start of the year in 2014: at least 5 in 2017 and 6 as of the end of June 2018.^{vi} Meanwhile, at least 85 individuals were on death row as of December 2018 for crimes committed before they were 18 years.^{vii} Further to this, Iran’s parliament approved a long-awaited amendment to the country’s drug law in 2017 that increased the threshold required to impose a mandatory death sentence.^{viii} As such, international monitors observed a notable reduction in the total number of executions since 2017. Nevertheless, in 2018, the Government executed at over 230 people.^{ix}

B. The Human Rights of Women and Girls

5. Some 60 percent of the 21 women’s rights recommendations offered by states during Iran’s first UPR called for addressing discrimination against women in the country’s civil and penal codes, alongside improved national legislation to protect the full enjoyment of their human rights.^x Improvements in several areas, especially the right of women and girls to education were noted in the lead up to the second cycle of Iran’s UPR, but overall, women and girls in Iran continued to experience widespread violence and discrimination in law and practice. Consequently, approximately 20% of recommendations offered during Iran’s second review touched on the rights of women and girls. The Government accepted 42.8% of these suggestions, committing to better addressing violence against women, strengthening protections against early and forced marriage of women and girls, and to reducing barriers to their enjoyment of several social and economic rights.



6. Unfortunately, implementation progress for these recommendations remains unsatisfactory, with no meaningful reform of the civil and penal code and of family law undertaken since the last review. As a consequence, discrimination against women in law and practice continues to be widespread in Iran today. Pursuant to the Islamic Penal Code (IPC), the

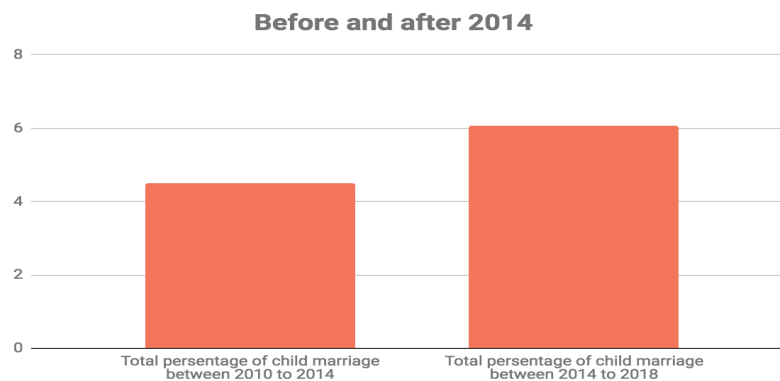
age of criminal responsibility for girls is 9 lunar years, but 15 lunar years for boys;^{xi} a woman’s testimony in a court of law is weighted half that of a man’s;^{xii} and women are entitled to less compensation than men for compensatory damages resulting from any acts that cause bodily harm.^{xiii}

7. Furthermore, women continue to lack equal treatment or protections under Iranian Civil Code (ICC), including in matters of marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance. For example, husbands have a unilateral right to divorce their spouse, while women must prove the endurance of “intolerable hardship” to be granted a divorce.^{xiv} Married women cannot obtain a passport or travel without the permission of their husbands, and cannot pass on their Iranian nationality on to their children.^{xv} Moreover, men continue to be granted the capacity to prevent their spouses from pursuing an occupation which he believes to be against his family values or to be harmful to his or his spouse’s reputation.^{xvi} In 2017, the Supreme Leader, openly criticized the Sustainable Development Goals agenda for its focus on gender equality, deemed at odds with Islamic standards.^{xvii}

8. Women and girls from age 7 or older who do not wear acceptable attire (hijab) in public can be fined or sentenced from ten days to two months in prison.^{xviii} Since January 2018, at least 30 protesters against compulsory hijab have been arrested across Iran and indicted on charges of “encouraging immorality or prostitution,” which carries a ten-year prison sentence.^{xix} Most recently, lawyers defending these protesters have also faced arrest on multiple national security related charges that incur stiff penalties.^{xx}

9. Over 1/3 of recommendations accepted by the Government in 2014 related to women’s human rights focused on various forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). In its UPR submission, the Government acclaims a 2015 draft bill that acknowledged early or forced marriage as a form of violence and offered free-of-charge legal counseling and representation for women subjected to violence,^{xxi} to be a major step taken to prevent violence against women and girls.^{xxii} The bill remains stalled in the pre-parliamentary review process after four years, and has yet to be introduced to parliament for consideration.^{xxiii} Furthermore, it is unclear whether or not the protections afforded by the bill would supersede the ICC and IPC which include laws that sanction structural and physical violence against women.

10. Recommendations on VAWG included those about early and forced marriage, a concern on which nearly 10% of UPR recommendations offered on women’s rights in 2014 focused (none of which Iran accepted). Article 50 of the Family Protection Act (2012) criminalizes the marriage of men with girls younger than the age of 13 and boys under the age of 15, generally, but permits such a marriage where the father or the legal guardian of the child gives his consent.^{xxiv} Children under the age of 15 were parties to approximately 4% of all marriages in Iran from 2010 and 2014, which increased by 1.5% between 2014-2018.^{xxv}



11. Iran's midterm report highlights positive trends in women's participation in political and economic life. These include a 2% increase in women's economic participation between 2015 and 2016 according to the government,^{xxxvi} and a doubling of the number of women in parliament between 2012 and 2016.^{xxxvii} However, women still constitute less than 25% of the workforce according to official sources,^{xxxviii} and only represent 7% of the seats in parliament.^{xxxix} There is also a clear wage gap in certain industries, such as agriculture where women received around 26% less compensation for their labour than men did during the Summer of 2018.^{xxx} According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report of 2018, women made up only 19% of the total number of legislators, senior officials and managers in Iran while men made up 81%.^{xxxi} Additionally, despite rising numbers of women enrolled in university in Iran, Human Rights Watch has reported that 1/3 of the women with bachelor's degrees remain unemployed and women overall have an unemployment rate twice higher than that of men.^{xxxii}

C. The human rights of minorities and the right to non-discrimination

12. Iran's treatment of persons belonging to religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities was marked by systematic and pervasive discrimination in law and practice in the lead up to its 2014 review. The Government accepted five of the 32 recommendations regarding the human rights of religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities during its 2014 UPR. The Government predominantly rejected recommendations that called for specific action to eliminate discrimination against specific religious minorities^{xxxiii} or other ethnic minorities.^{xxxiv} Iran rejected all 13 recommendations focused on the human rights of persons subjected to violence and discriminated on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), most of which either called for an end to discriminatory laws and practices, as well as violence against sexual minorities.

15. The constitution identifies Shia Islam as the country's official religion, and recognizes Christian, Jewish and Zoroastrian faiths. This legal hierarchy grants persons who identify with Iran's official religion preferential treatment under the country's penal and civil codes, along with privileged access to certain jobs. It also confers various degrees of human rights protections for persons identifying with recognized faiths, and leaves individuals identifying with other faiths like Bahá'ís and Yarasan without any protections under Iranian law. Moreover, the manifestation of unrecognized religions or beliefs can be treated as criminal acts against the state, and religious minorities are often prosecuted^{xxxv} for national security crimes in support of opposition groups for practicing their faith,^{xxxvi} and prosecuted for acts against national security, including "*Moharebeh*" (waging war against God) and "*Ifsad fel Arz*" ("Corruption on Earth").^{xxxvii}

16. Adherents of the Bahá'í, Christian and Sufi faiths^{xxxviii} are systematically discriminated against^{xxxix}. Most recently, more than 100 Christians accused of proselytizing were arrested in December 2018.^{xl} The religious institutions of the Bahá'í have been dismantled, their leaders imprisoned, and their adherents denied a range of human rights including access to education and employment. In 2015, 56 Bahai's were arrested in Iran, this number grew to 81 in 2016 and 84 in 2017.^{xli} Millions of Sunni Muslims have been prevented from building mosques and are barred from holding high-level governmental positions. A large number of Sunnis have been charged for participating in religious seminars and distributing religious literature containing information deemed to constitute "propaganda against the system", "corruption on earth", and "enmity against God". The last two national security offenses can carry the death penalty.^{xlii} Iranian authorities have also repeatedly targeted members of the Gonabadi Sufi Order^{xliii}, also known as Gonabadi dervishes.^{xliiv} On March 15, 2019, 23 members of the Gonabadi Sufi Order were sentenced to up to 26 years of imprisonment as well as lashings for exercising their faith.^{xlv}

17. Iran's Constitution guarantees equality and non-discrimination on the basis of color, race, language, and ethnicity and allows for "the use of regional and tribal languages in the press and mass media, as well as for teaching of their literature in schools." In August 2016, participants in the national entrance examinations for universities in Iran were

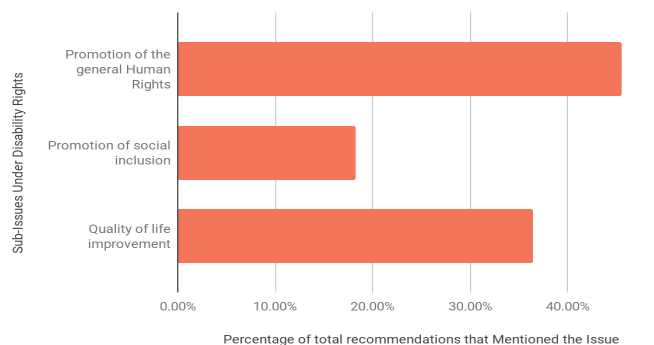
allowed to choose Kurdish and Turkish languages as their majors at the bachelor level. Despite these constitutional guarantees for the human rights of ethnic minorities—including Ahwazi Arabs, Azerbaijani Turks, Baloch, Kurds and Turkmen—and recent steps to strengthen some protections for their linguistic rights, these persons face a range of discriminatory laws and practices in matters of employment, adequate housing, political office, and with regard to their exercise of cultural, civil and political rights. Rights groups continue to document restrictions on the use of ethnic languages in schools and the media, for example. And access education for primary and secondary students in their mother tongue remains elusive. Rights groups also continue to document the frequent prosecution of human rights activists and journalists working to raise awareness and advocate for remedy.^{xlvi}

18. In general, ethnic minorities, some of which are also religious minorities, often Sunnis, also face various socio-economic, environmental and infrastructural challenges. In particular, 75% of the people of Sistan Baluchistan are faced with food security poverty, while also often in need of drinking water.^{xlvii} Moreover, given that Kurdish communities also struggle with marginalization and poverty, many members resort to hazardous means for making a living, including by operating as border couriers (Kulbars) which often transport staple goods between the Iraq-Iran border. Border authorities engage in the indiscriminate killing of these Kulbars; 75 of them were killed between January - October 2018,^{xlviii} despite the Government’s stated intention to address this issue.^{xlix}

19. Moreover, status of protections for the human rights of persons belonging to LGBTQ communities in Iran remained largely unchanged. Iran remains one of eleven countries whose law provides death penalty for consensual same-sex intercourses: Article 233-240 in the IPC imposes the death penalty to the “passive” Muslim male or “active” non-Muslim male engaging in the consensual acts of sodomy,ⁱ and stipulates flogging for other sexual acts that go against “heteronormativity”.ⁱⁱ Rights groups have also published concerning reports about the coercive nature of the Government’s enforcement of sexual reassignment laws.ⁱⁱⁱ

D. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities

20. The Iranian government accepted all 11 recommendations regarding various aspects of the human rights of persons with disabilities.



21. In April 2018, the Guardian Council approved a law adopted by the Parliament in 2017ⁱⁱⁱⁱ on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities^{lv} aimed at, among other things, extending insurance coverage to disability related issues, increasing pensions for persons with disabilities, improving the accessibility of public facilities, in addition to access to free education and transportation.^{lv} Insufficient funding continues to be a challenge to the enforcement of this measure.^{lvi}

Consequently, persons with disabilities in Iran continue to struggle with accessibility to myriad public services. Public buildings and public transportation systems also continue to lack requisite infrastructural accommodations; workplaces and schools^{lvii} remain ill-equipped to accommodate employees and students with disabilities, and state agencies with a mandate to provide support to persons with disabilities, like the State Welfare Organization, lack adequately trained personnel and the infrastructure to adequately serve their needs.^{lviii}

22. Persons with disabilities also continue to be discriminated against in law and practice. Article 28 of Iran's Law for the Islamic Consultative Parliament, for example, requires candidates for parliamentary elections to have full physical abilities, including vision, hearing and speech.^{lix} The government has also failed to enforce measures meant to promote access to equal employment for persons with disabilities^{lx}, including a three percent quota for the employment of persons with disabilities in certain sectors of the economy^{lxi}, and difficulties for disabled children to access the mainstream school system.

E. Economic, social and cultural rights

23. In the lead up to the Iranian government's second UPR, labor rights activities and persons belonging to labor unions experienced a spate of harassment and arrests due to their engagement in various forms of peaceful protest over economic concerns, including anxieties over living wages and inflation, and concerns about discrimination in access to employment based on gender, religion and ethnicity.^{lxii} Additionally, there have been widespread protests concerning the deteriorating economic situation in Iran.^{lxiii} Iran accepted 9 of the 15 recommendations related to labor rights in 2014. Six of these recommendations intersected with the issues of gender equality. Iran also accepted two recommendations encouraging the Government to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. These specific recommendations have not yet been implemented.

24. The Parliament recently adopted measures that contribute to the implementation of some of these recommendations. The 2017 passage of the Law of Equalization of Pensions, for example, aligns the pensions of those under national pension plans to that of government employees. However, the Government's lack of enforcement of both measures, partially due to a lack of requisite funding for implementation, gave rise to protests from October to November 2018 by workers from a range of sectors, including teachers, which called for government action.^{lxiv} Iran's government has also failed to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families despite its acceptance of recommendations to that effect.^{lxv}

25. The deteriorating economic situation in Iran has also led to a recent spike in protests, as workers from various sectors have protested over a range of grievances, including protests by workers at the Iran National Steel Industrial Group, Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Company Workers, Teachers and Truckers.^{lxvi} Hepco factory's workers in Arak, who protested in response to months of unpaid wages, were sentenced to jail and flogging in October 2018.^{lxvii}

26. The right to education in Iran was severely challenged in the lead up to the 2014 review as a consequence of numerous restrictions on access to education for women, religious, ethnic, and linguistic minorities in the country. Women were increasingly being barred from enrolling certain majors and facing gender-based quotas in other areas not prohibited for women. Religious minorities, like the Bahá'í, continued to see their right to access higher education challenged. Iran received 17 recommendations related to the right to education in 2014. The majority of these recommendations focused on the right to education for women and girls. Other recommendations focused on the enjoyment of the right to education by persons with disabilities, religious minorities and persons living in rural areas.

27. On October 2018, an education bill was introduced which provides that no individual should be deprived of his or her access to higher education for reasons other than academic qualifications.^{lxviii} In particular, this bill, if adopted and implemented, could put an end to the practice of excluding so-called “starred” students, that are barred from university because of their track-record of political activism.^{lxix} Similarly, Bahá’í students have been expelled from their higher institutions of education upon discovery of their faith.^{lxx} This bill has yet to be passed and approved and it is unclear which protections will remain in the final version. Reports of star students and Bahá’í students being denied their right to a higher education have continued to surface.^{lxxi}

28. In 2013, President Hassan Rouhani publicly expressed disapproval of gender-based quotas, promising to reduce hurdles for women’s access to higher education.^{lxxii} Attempts to lift gender-based quotas have not been successful, however. Women’s enrollment in majors governed by gender-based quotas, such as engineering and technology remain disproportionately low.^{lxxiii}

IV. Conclusion

29. The situation of human rights in Iran will be reviewed for the third time in the framework of the UPR. This review is an opportunity to take stock of some of the progress made on certain areas over the past four years, but it is also an opportunity to hold Iran to account for the many recommendations it has accepted in the last two reviews that have not been followed by action and meaningful efforts of implementation.

30. For this review to be useful to the advancement of human rights in the country, we call on recommending states:

- To remind Iran of its previous commitments,
- To call on Iran to implement recommendations from previous cycles that have not been implemented.
- To that end, to follow-up with recommendations that should be more action-oriented, calling on Iran to take action, and not only to “consider” taking action. This will allow the community of states to test the will of the Iranian government to commit itself to genuine reform.

31. The Iranian authorities have been proclaiming repeatedly their attachment to the UPR as the most appropriate mechanism to address human rights challenges in the country. Recommending states should therefore call on Iran to take action on long-awaited reforms, in line with the many recommendations it has received from accountability mechanisms in the past.

32. In that line, we call on states to participate in the UPR of Iran and to make the following recommendations:

- Ensure that the death penalty is not applied for offenses that do not meet the threshold of ‘most serious crime’ as set forth in the ICCPR.
- Increase the age of criminal responsibility of girls and boys to align it with CRC standards, and reform the law to abolish the death penalty for persons who were under 18 at the time of the commission of the offense, in line with international treaties Iran is party to.
- Amend IPC and ICC to provide women equal rights and protections under the law and
- Uphold the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, including for women protestors, and make sure that women’s rights activist and lawyers defending them are not prosecuted for exercising their human rights.

- Expedite the adoption of the 2015 draft bill entitled the Comprehensive Provision of Women’s Security Against Violence, in a form that ensures adherence with international standards related to protection of women and girls against violence.
- Reform the penal code with a view to decriminalize sexual activities between consenting adults, in line with the ICCPR.
- Prevent and punish acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment against all Iranian citizens, including on the ground of someone’s sexual orientation and gender identity
- Take measures to prevent and punish the use of lethal force against border couriers by law enforcement forces.
- Adopt, with the full participation of concerned communities and minority rights defenders, a comprehensive plan aiming at addressing the economic, social and cultural challenges faced by persons belonging to ethnic minorities in Iran, and at remedying their historical marginalization
- Amend the Family Protection Act (2012) to outlaw under any circumstance marriages of children under the age of 18.
- Enforce measures to promote equal access to employment for persons with disabilities and repeal the law that forbids individuals with disabilities to run for parliamentary elections.
- Expedite the adoption of the education bill (2018) and make sure that nobody can be denied enrolment at the University for another reason than his or her academic qualification. This law should apply to everyone, including Bahá’ís and students that engaged in peaceful political activism.
- Remove the gender quota in universities and make all curriculum accessible to men and women.

ⁱ The Conventions on Civil and Political Rights, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2013); the Rights of the Child (2016); the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2017); and the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2010).

ⁱⁱ 19 out of 196 recommendations for Civil and Political rights for 2014.

ⁱⁱⁱ 642 in 2015, 296 in 2016, 231 in 2017 and 24 in 2018 up to the date of the report.

^{iv} Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2018, ensemble contre la peine de mort, p.10 https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2019-GB-BD.pdf (last visited Mar 5, 2019); Reported Execution in Iran, Abdorrahman Boroumand Center (<https://www.iranrights.org/library/videos>)

^v Iran Mid-Term UPR report 2015-2016, (p.110) The revision of the Penal Code introduced provisions: (a) assigning special branches of the court to investigate juvenile offences, (b) providing special regulations to adjudicate independent investigations of juvenile offenses, (c) enacting measures that call on judges to administer age appropriate penalties that consider a child’s ability to form *mens rea* in the act of committing a crime.

^{vi} [A/HRC/40/67](https://www.hra-news.org/periodical/a-53/), (par. 38)

, Human Rights Activists News Agency, Annual Report (2018), p. 21: <<https://www.hra-news.org/periodical/a-53/> (Accessed on February 22, 2019)

^{vii} [A/HRC/40/24](https://www.hra-news.org/periodical/a-53/), (par. 6)

^{viii} Organization, Iran parliament eases drug death penalty Tehran Times(2017), <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/415910/Iran-parliament-eases-drug-death-penalty> (last visited Mar 7, 2019) ; Directive Regarding Capital Punishment - January 2018, Impact Iran Directive Regarding Capital Punishment January 2018 Comments, <http://impactiran.org/2018/01/06/directive-capital-punishment/> (last visited Mar 7, 2019).

^{ix} Annual Report on the Death Penalty in Iran 2018, ensemble contre la peine de mort, p.10 https://iranhr.net/media/files/Rapport_iran_2019-GB-BD.pdf (last visited Mar 5, 2019); Reported Execution in Iran, Abdorrahman Boroumand Center (<https://www.iranrights.org/library/videos>)

^x [A/HRC/22/56](https://www.hra-news.org/periodical/a-53/), (par. 43)

^{xi} Islamic Penal Code, Article 147: قانون مجازات اسلامی - مرکز پژوهشها - <http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/845048> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).

^{xii} Islamic Penal Code, Article 550 (diya) in both criminal and tortious cases: قانون مجازات اسلامی - مرکز پژوهشها - <http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/845048> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).

^{xiii} Islamic Penal Code, Article 199 (testimony): قانون مجازات اسلامی - مرکز پژوهشها - <http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/845048> (last visited Mar 26, 2019). (“diya” or “blood money”)

^{xiv} Article 1130 and 1133 of the Islamic Civil Code: قانون مدنی - مرکز پژوهشها - <http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/92778> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).

^{xv} Article 976 of the Islamic Civil Code: قانون مدنی - مرکز پژوهشها - <http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/92778> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).

- ^{xvi} Article 1117 of the Islamic Civil Code: مرکز پژوهشها - قانون مدنی, <http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/92778> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).
- ^{xvii} Iran: Increased support for UN human rights scrutiny needed amid crackdown on dissent, ARTICLE 19, <https://goo.gl/fc9u6i> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).
- ^{xviii} Article 638 of the Islamic Penal Code: مرکز پژوهشها - قانون مجازات اسلامی, <http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/845048> (last visited Mar 26, 2019). ; Amnesty International Report p.3 <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1377832018ENGLISH.PD>
- ^{xix} Iran: Increased support for UN human rights scrutiny needed amid crackdown on dissent, ARTICLE 19, <https://goo.gl/fc9u6i> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).
- ^{xx} Nasrin Sotoudeh sentenced to 33 years and 148 lashes in Iran, Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/03/iran-shocking-33-year-prison-term-and-148-lashes-for-womens-rights-defender-nasrin-sotoudeh/> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).
- ^{xxi} The Comprehensive Provision of Women's Security Against Violence ; "The following are examples of what has been included in the Bill: Understanding the concept of violence and identification of its different typologies including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence and unhealthy practices (such as early and forced marriages), etc" Source: UPR Mid-Term Report by the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the attention of High Council for Human Rights (2015-2016), p.103
- ^{xxii} "According to the agreement signed between the Presidential Deputy for Women and Families and Central Bar Association, women who cannot afford counseling and representation fees are entitled to free-of-charge-legal counseling, free-of-charge lawyers for legal disputes, and cheap lawyers for penal proceedings. According to this agreement women who are victims of crimes, violent acts, and gender-based violence in particular receive specific attention". Source: UPR Mid-Term Report by the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the attention of High Council for Human Rights (2015-2016), p.103
- ^{xxiii} ISNA News Agency, ناسنایسنا قضائی مسئولان کار دستور زنان در امنیت تأمین لایحه (2019), <https://www.isna.ir/news/97111005856/> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).
- ^{xxiv} داودآبادی, Article 50 of Family Protection Act: ماده ۵۰ قانون حمایت خانواده مصوب, <https://bit.ly/2uhJlxw> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).; Article 1041 Civil Code: مرکز پژوهشها - قانون مدنی, <http://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/92778> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).
- ^{xxv} National Organization for Civil Registration- Marriage, <https://www.sabteahval.ir/en/Marriage> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).
- ^{xxvi} "Based on the results of the Workforce Census conducted by the Iran Center for Statistics in the summer of 2016, the economic participation rate (the activity rate) of the population of men and women stood at 64.9% and 15.9%, respectively; the same figures were 64.2% and 13.8%, respectively, in the summer of 2015 which depicts a 2.1% increase in women's economic participation in the course of one year." Source: UPR Mid-Term Report by the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the attention of High Council for Human Rights (2015-2016), p.96
- ^{xxvii} "In the current 10th Parliament, the number of female MPs has reached 18 which demonstrate a doubling in the overall number compared to the ninth term." Source: UPR Mid-Term Report by the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the attention of High Council for Human Rights (2015-2016), p.98
- ^{xxviii} "Based on the results of the Workforce Census conducted by the Iran Center for Statistics in the summer of 2016, the economic participation rate (the activity rate) of the population of men and women stood at 64.9% and 15.9%, respectively;" Source: UPR Mid-Term Report by the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the attention of High Council for Human Rights (2015-2016), p.96
- ^{xxix} Table 15 Source: UPR Mid-Term Report by the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the attention of High Council for Human Rights (2015-2016), p.98
- ^{xxx} Iran ranked 142nd out of 149 countries in terms of participation of women in political and economic life. Radio Zamaneh, Labor Rights in Iran Vol. 3 33-33 (2018).
- ^{xxxi} The Global Gender Gap Report 2018, http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2018.pdf (last visited Mar 26, 2019).
- ^{xxxii} "It's a Men's Club" | Discrimination Against Women in Iran's Job Market, Human Rights Watch(2018), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/05/25/its-mens-club/discrimination-against-women-irans-job-market#> (last visited Mar 26, 2019).
- ^{xxxiii} e.g. Bahá'ís, members of Nematollahi Gonabadi Sufi order
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