

# **Islamic Republic of Iran**

## **Mid-term Implementation Assessment**



*Promoting and strengthening  
the Universal Periodic Review*  
<http://www.upr-info.org>



## Introduction

### 1. Purpose of the follow-up programme

*The second and subsequent cycles of the review should focus on, inter alia, the implementation of the accepted recommendations and the development of the human rights situation in the State under review.*

A/HRC/RES/16/21, 12 April 2011 (Annex I C § 6)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process takes place every four and half years; however, some recommendations can be implemented immediately. In order to reduce this interval, we have created an update process to evaluate the human rights situation two years after the examination at the UPR.

Broadly speaking, *UPR Info* seeks to ensure the respect of commitments made in the UPR, but also, more specifically, to give stakeholders the opportunity to share their opinion on the commitments. To this end, about two years after the review, *UPR Info* invites States, NGOs, and National Institutions for Human Rights (NHRI) to share their comments on the implementation (or lack thereof) of recommendations adopted at the Human Rights Council (HRC) plenary session.

For this purpose, *UPR Info* publishes a Mid-term Implementation Assessment (MIA) including responses from each stakeholder. The MIA is meant to show how all stakeholders are disposed to follow through on, and implement their commitments. States should implement the recommendations that they have accepted, and civil society should monitor that implementation.

While the follow-up's importance has been highlighted by the HRC, no precise directives regarding the follow-up procedure have been set until now. Therefore, *UPR Info* is willing to share good practices as soon as possible, and to strengthen the collaboration pattern between States and stakeholders. Unless the UPR's follow-up is seriously considered, the UPR mechanism as a whole could be adversely affected.

The methodology used by UPR Info to collect data and to calculate index is described at the end of this document.

Geneva, 14 November 2012



## Follow-up Outcomes

### 1. Sources and results

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All data are available at the following address:

<http://followup.upr-info.org/index/country/iran>

We invite the reader to consult that webpage since all recommendations, all stakeholders' reports, as well as the unedited comments can be found at the same internet address.

64 stakeholders' reports were submitted for the UPR. 33 stakeholders were contacted. The Permanent Mission to the UN was contacted. No domestic NHRI does exist.

12 stakeholders responded to our enquiry. The State under Review did not respond to our enquiry.

*IRI*: 159 recommendations are not implemented, 12 recommendations are partially implemented, and 10 recommendations are fully implemented. No answer was received for 28 out of 212 recommendations (full list of unanswered recommendations is available at the end of this document).

### 2. Index

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Hereby the issues which the MIA deals with:

rec. n°	Issue	page	IRI
1	Death penalty	page 53	not impl.
2	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
3	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
4	Women's rights, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
5	Detention conditions	page 54	not impl.
6	Women's rights, Special procedures, Human rights defenders, Freedom of opinion and expression,	page 50	not impl.
7	Special procedures	page 50	not impl.
8	Elections	page 9	not impl.
9	Women's rights, Human rights education and training,	page 79	not impl.



rec. n°	Issue	page	IRI
10	Women's rights	page 79	not impl.
11	Torture and other CID treatment, Special procedures, Detention conditions,	page 51	not impl.
12	Special procedures	page 51	partially impl.
13	Freedom of the press, Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,	page 9	not impl.
14	Torture and other CID treatment, Special procedures, Detention conditions,	page 51	not impl.
15	Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,	page 11	not impl.
16	Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,	page 11	not impl.
17	International instruments, Death penalty,	page 54	not impl.
18	Rights of the Child, International instruments,	page 55	not impl.
19	Torture and other CID treatment, Special procedures, International instruments,	page 51	not impl.
20	Rights of the Child, International instruments, Death penalty,	page 58	not impl.
21	Women's rights, Special procedures,	page 81	not impl.
22	Freedom of association and peaceful assembly	page 12	not impl.
23	Other	page 86	not impl.
24	Rights of the Child, Death penalty,	page 55	not impl.
25	Torture and other CID treatment	page 58	not impl.
26	Rights of the Child, Death penalty,	page 55	not impl.
27	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 59	not impl.
28	Freedom of opinion and expression, Death penalty,	page 59	not impl.
29	International instruments	page 52	not impl.
30	Rights of the Child, International instruments, Death penalty,	page 55	not impl.
31	Women's rights, Trafficking, Rights of the Child,	page 81	not impl.
32	International instruments, Freedom of opinion and expression,	page 13	not impl.
33	Human rights violations by state agents, Elections,	page 60	-
34	Human rights violations by state agents, Extrajudicial executions, Elections, Detention conditions,	page 60	not impl.
35	Death penalty	page 53	not impl.
36	Rights of the Child, International instruments, Death penalty,	page 55	not impl.
37	National plan of action	page 86	-
38	Rights of the Child, Death penalty,	page 55	not impl.
39	Torture and other CID treatment, Rights of the Child, Death penalty,	page 60	not impl.
40	Right to health, Development,	page 37	partially impl.
41	Other	page 86	not impl.
44	General	page 87	not impl.
45	Right to education, Poverty,	page 37	partially impl.
47	General	page 87	fully impl.
48	Trafficking	page 61	fully impl.
49	Other	page 88	not impl.
52	Right to health, Right to education,	page 38	partially impl.
53	General	page 89	not impl.



rec. n°	Issue	page	IRI
54	Disabilities	page 42	partially impl.
55	Other	page 89	not impl.
56	Right to education	page 38	partially impl.
59	Freedom of religion and belief	page 14	not impl.
60	Freedom of religion and belief	page 14	not impl.
61	Asylum-seekers - refugees	page 42	fully impl.
63	Poverty	page 38	fully impl.
64	General	page 89	not impl.
65	Right to education	page 39	partially impl.
66	Rights of the Child	page 82	not impl.
68	Women's rights, Rights of the Child, Disabilities,	page 82	not impl.
69	Human rights education and training	page 39	not impl.
70	Women's rights, Rights of the Child, Right to health, Right to education,	page 83	partially impl.
71	Other	page 90	fully impl.
72	Human rights education and training	page 39	fully impl.
77	NHRI	page 90	not impl.
78	Human rights education and training	page 39	fully impl.
79	Human rights education and training	page 40	not impl.
80	International humanitarian law	page 90	not impl.
82	Right to health, Right to education,	page 40	partially impl.
83	Other	page 91	not impl.
84	Torture and other CID treatment, Special procedures,	page 52	not impl.
85	Special procedures	page 51	not impl.
88	Women's rights	page 84	not impl.
89	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Racial discrimination, Minorities, Freedom of religion and belief,	page 43	not impl.
90	Rights of the Child, Death penalty,	page 55	not impl.
91	Minorities	page 43	not impl.
92	Racial discrimination, Freedom of religion and belief,	page 16	not impl.
93	Freedom of religion and belief	page 16	not impl.
94	Freedom of the press, Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,	page 17	not impl.
95	Rights of the Child, Death penalty,	page 61	not impl.
97	Human rights defenders, Freedom of the press, Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,	page 18	not impl.
98	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 60	not impl.
99	Treaty bodies, Special procedures, Minorities,	page 44	not impl.
100	Torture and other CID treatment, Enforced disappearances, Detention conditions,	page 62	not impl.
101	International instruments, Freedom of religion and belief,	page 19	not impl.
102	Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,	page 20	not impl.
103	International instruments, Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly, CP rights - general,	page 21	not impl.
104	Detention conditions	page 62	not impl.



rec. n°	Issue	page	IRI
105	Justice	page 63	not impl.
106	Minorities, Justice,	page 44	not impl.
107	Women's rights, Rights of the Child,	page 79	not impl.
108	Torture and other CID treatment	page 64	not impl.
109	Detention conditions	page 65	not impl.
110	Torture and other CID treatment, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly, Detention conditions,	page 21	not impl.
111	International instruments, Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly, CP rights - general,	page 22	not impl.
112	Torture and other CID treatment	page 66	not impl.
113	NHRI	page 91	not impl.
114	Torture and other CID treatment	page 66	not impl.
115	Torture and other CID treatment, Human rights violations by state agents,	page 67	not impl.
116	National plan of action	page 92	not impl.
117	NHRI	page 91	not impl.
119	Rights of the Child, Death penalty,	page 67	not impl.
120	Freedom of religion and belief	page 23	not impl.
122	Special procedures	page 52	not impl.
123	Rights of the Child, Justice, Death penalty,	page 55	not impl.
124	Technical assistance	page 93	fully impl.
125	Rights of the Child, International instruments, Death penalty,	page 55	not impl.
126	Freedom of the press, Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,	page 25	not impl.
127	Special procedures	page 53	not impl.
128	Minorities, Freedom of religion and belief,	page 25	not impl.
129	Torture and other CID treatment, Special procedures, Justice,	page 53	not impl.
130	Elections, Detention conditions,	page 68	not impl.
131	Freedom of opinion and expression	page 27	not impl.
132	Justice	page 68	not impl.
133	Minorities, CP rights - general,	page 27	not impl.
134	Justice, International instruments, Human rights defenders, Freedom of religion and belief, Freedom of opinion and expression,	page 68	not impl.
135	Rights of the Child, Freedom of opinion and expression, Death penalty,	page 70	not impl.
136	Torture and other CID treatment, Detention conditions,	page 70	not impl.
137	Death penalty	page 53	not impl.
138	Death penalty	page 53	not impl.
139	Death penalty	page 53	not impl.
140	Torture and other CID treatment, Human rights violations by state agents, Human rights defenders, Freedom of the press, Extrajudicial executions,	page 71	not impl.
141	Torture and other CID treatment, Special procedures,	page 51	not impl.
143	General	page 93	not impl.
144	Torture and other CID treatment, Human rights violations by state agents, Extrajudicial executions,	page 71	not impl.



rec. n°	Issue	page	IRI
145	Justice	page 72	not impl.
146	Right to education, Minorities, Freedom of religion and belief,	page 28	not impl.
147	Justice, International instruments,	page 72	not impl.
148	Detention conditions	page 73	not impl.
149	Other	page 93	not impl.
151	Right to education	page 40	partially impl.
153	Minorities	page 45	not impl.
154	Death penalty	page 53	not impl.
155	Freedom of opinion and expression	page 29	not impl.
156	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
157	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
158	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
159	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
160	Women's rights, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
161	Women's rights, International instruments,	page 50	not impl.
162	Women's rights, International instruments,	page 50	not impl.
163	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
164	Death penalty	page 74	-
165	Other	page 41	not impl.
166	Freedom of opinion and expression, Detention conditions,	page 30	not impl.
167	Minorities, Freedom of religion and belief, Detention conditions,	page 46	not impl.
168	Elections, Detention conditions,	page 74	partially impl.
169	Rights of the Child, International instruments, Death penalty,	page 55	not impl.
170	Rights of the Child, International instruments, Death penalty,	page 56	not impl.
171	Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,	page 30	not impl.
172	Women's rights, Rights of the Child,	page 79	not impl.
173	International instruments, Death penalty,	page 56	not impl.
174	Minorities, Justice, International instruments, Freedom of religion and belief,	page 31	not impl.
175	Freedom of religion and belief	page 32	not impl.
176	Detention conditions	page 74	not impl.
177	Special procedures	page 50	not impl.
178	Special procedures	page 50	not impl.
179	Human rights defenders, Freedom of opinion and expression,	page 75	not impl.
181	Disabilities	page 46	not impl.
187	Minorities	page 46	not impl.
188	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 49	not impl.
189	Women's rights, International instruments,	page 50	not impl.
190	Women's rights	page 85	partially impl.
191	Human rights defenders, Freedom of the press,	page 33	not impl.
192	International instruments, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly, Civil society,	page 34	not impl.
193	Other	page 41	not impl.



rec. n°	Issue	page	IRI
194	Poverty	page 41	fully impl.
195	Rights of the Child, International instruments, Death penalty,	page 56	not impl.
196	Right to education	page 41	not impl.
197	Racial discrimination, Minorities, Freedom of religion and belief,	page 47	not impl.
198	Special procedures, Right to housing, Minorities,	page 47	not impl.
199	Women's rights, Justice,	page 86	not impl.
200	Disabilities	page 48	fully impl.
201	Torture and other CID treatment, Justice,	page 75	not impl.
202	Women's rights, International instruments,	page 50	not impl.
203	Torture and other CID treatment, Detention conditions,	page 75	not impl.
204	Justice, International instruments,	page 68	not impl.
205	Torture and other CID treatment, Human rights violations by state agents, Extrajudicial executions, Detention conditions,	page 60	not impl.
206	Torture and other CID treatment	page 76	not impl.
207	Human rights violations by state agents, Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of association and peaceful assembly,	page 77	not impl.
208	Impunity, Justice,	page 60	not impl.
209	Freedom of opinion and expression	page 35	not impl.
210	Rights of the Child, Death penalty,	page 78	not impl.
211	Freedom of religion and belief	page 35	not impl.
212	Elections, Detention conditions,	page 78	not impl.





### 3. Feedbacks on recommendations

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## CP Rights

Recommendation n°8: *Accept the establishment of an international, credible and independent inquiry mechanism to shed light on the violations since the 2009 presidential elections (Recommended by France)*

IRI: *not implemented*

Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) response:

Despite showing willingness to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, the country has yet to allow the creation of an independent inquiry mechanism to analyze the current cases of human rights violations taking place in Iran.

World Jewish Congress (WJC) response:

There is little or no rectification of the election process.

Ahwaz Human Rights Organization (AHRO) response:

No

Article 19 (A19) response:

ARTICLE 19 has been in touch with the UN Special Rapporteur to see what can be done in order to facilitate his entry into Iran to conduct his enquiry. The government of Iran has refused that so far.

Recommendation n°13: *Allow freedom of expression, freedom of the media and of assembly (Recommended by Germany)*

IRI: *not implemented*

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) response:

Since the 2009 elections Iranian citizens are increasingly at risk if they express any form of opposition to the status quo that might fall outside the increasingly narrow confines of what the authorities have deemed politically acceptable. Article 24 of Iran's Constitution vaguely acknowledges that publications and the press have freedom of expression, except when it is detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam or the rights of the public. Using this clause, in recent months, a wave of arrests have been made, including of journalist Jila Baniyaghoob and blogger Mehdi Khazali, the latter having been sentenced to four and a half years in prison, followed by ten in exile. Charges are made using the Press Code and Penal Code whereby those arrested can be charged with "spreading propaganda against the system" and "spreading lies with intent to harm state security". The recent clampdown has especially targeted electronic media, which is seemingly seen by the authorities as a



major threat. January 2011 saw the inauguration of a “Cyber Police Force” in Tehran, fully functioning by January 2012, which has demanded that the identity of internet café users should be monitored by CCTV. Bandwidth has been restricted and a state-run internet server is being developed. In October 2011, Police Chief Esmail Ahmadi Moghaddam stated that working with the enemy would be treated “seriously”. Article 26 and 27 of the Iranian Constitution both stipulate that groups may be formed and public gatherings held so long as they are not detrimental to the fundamental principles of Shia Islam. However, the government continues to threaten and harass both non sanctioned churches and sanctioned ones, such as the Assemblies of God denomination, which has faced increasing harassment since in end of 2011. More recently this harassment has been experienced by other sanctioned denomination. So far 2012 has seen the arrest of the leaders of the Anglican Churches of St Paul’s and St Peter’s in Iran’s third largest city, Esfahan. In May it was reported that the head of St Pauls Church, Pastor Hekmat Salimi, had been temporarily released on bail of around \$40,000. In late May and early June, members of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Tehran were detained, and the church was ordered to cease all weekly activities with the exception of its Sunday services. Also in June, an AOG-affiliated church in the Janat-Abad area of west Tehran was ordered to close by the Intelligence Branch of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. According to local sources, the church’s pastor was told to cancel all church activities and seal its property.

Jubilee Campaign (JC) response:

There is no freedom of expression and freedom of the media and assembly. All books domestically distributed are pre-censored by the Ministry of Culture. The government controls all television and radio broad casting. The Press Court often charged journalists under vague terms such as “insulting the leader,” “insulting the president,” or “insulting authorities.” The Iran government has seriously limited its citizen's freedom of expression.

UNPO response:

Several allegations of human rights violations have been reported in Iran since the recommendation was issued. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which, combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people’s rights. According to Amnesty International, the government also places a ban on independent television and radio stations, often jamming satellite broadcast from abroad, as well as on books and websites considered too critical, immoral or atheistic, among other reasons. Newspapers are not free to publish articles on any subject and must instead follow certain regulations provided by the government. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country’s violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated. Activists from minority groups are particularly targeted by the government. Many of them have been imprisoned or executed for expressing dissenting opinions about the regimes in newspapers and blogs.



WJC response:

Needs to be implemented. Media and those who assemble to protest are discriminated against.

AHRO response:

No sign of implementation

International Publishers Association (IPA) response:

Freedom of the media is not guaranteed in Iran. In 2011, at least 7 national newspapers and magazines were shut down, including the weekly Shahrvand and the daily Ruzegar. Foreign media is very restricted, and the internet is heavily censored.

*Recommendation n°15: Amend its Islamic Penal Code law on Offences against the National and International Security of the Country to define national security and associated breaches in specific terms that do not infringe upon the internationally guaranteed rights of free speech and assembly (Recommended by Canada)*

*IRI: not implemented*

UNPO response:

The new Penal Code has not changed the actual political scenario in Iran, in which, the rights guaranteed by the ICCPR are still often violated. Several political activists, including members of the minority community, have been arrested in the two years following the recommendation, under the charges of 'acting against national security'. This measure allows the authorities to arrest demonstrators, journalists and any individual expressing opposing views towards the government. Several peaceful protests have been violently repressed. The government also continues the practice of cutting off communications means and imprisoning political leaders who are merely planning demonstrations, as a way to quell any protest. Peaceful demonstrators are often portrayed as terrorists in the media, with a view to legitimize their arrest and to discredit their cause.

AHRO response:

Did not amend

A19 response:

Freedom of expression and Right to Information is ARTICLE 19's area of expertise. These rights are not only violated [according to] international standards, but also [according to] what has been set out in Iran's various laws, including the Iranian Constitution, in which Article 24 establishes the right to free expression.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented.

*Recommendation n°16: Amend its press law to define the exceptions to article 24 of its Constitution in specific terms that do not infringe upon the internationally guaranteed rights of free speech and a free press (Recommended by Canada)*

*IRI: not implemented*



CSW response:

There has been no attempt to amend Article 24 of the Iranian Constitution which permits freedom of speech “except when it is detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam”. This article is being used by Iranian authorities in 2012 to place a ban on newspapers and arrest bloggers and journalists for “spreading propaganda against the system”.

UNPO response:

No amendments have been proposed to the Iranian Constitution regarding the exceptions mentioned in article 24. This allows for an arbitrary application of the provision by government authorities, as they are able to decide themselves what constitutes a violation of the “fundamental principles of Islam or the rights of the public”, as referenced in the aforementioned article.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented.

AHRO response:

Did not amend

A19 response:

The Press Law is, like most laws in Iran, very vague and open to interpretation. This is of course how it is intended to be. Therefore, as significant as it is to amend the press law, it is equally important to make sure what is adopted is not vague and open to personal interpretation.

IPA response:

Article 24 of the Constitution has not been amended to address its vague wording.

*Recommendation n°22: Carry out independent investigations into serious abuses against participants in peaceful demonstrations, and hold the perpetrators accountable for their crimes (Recommended by Hungary)*

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

There do not appear to have been any attempts to punish perpetrators of abuse against peaceful demonstrators. Abuses have included the brutal gang rape of male and female democracy protestors. Instead, in 2012, new measures were taken by Iran to limit the freedom of expression. Journalists and bloggers expressing views contrary to those of the government continue to be persecuted. Journalist Isa Saharkhiz was, for example, detained without trial for over 11 months before being sentenced to three years imprisonment in September 2010.

UNPO response:

Several members of Iranian minority groups, such as the Ahwazi Arabs, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan, and West Balochistan have been victims of harassment, unfair trials and summary executions following the 2009 presidential elections. However, State criminal prosecutions of Iranian authorities implicated in



cases of wrongdoing are hardly carried out. Victims and their families are thus often left with a sense of impunity.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented. Recommend this be emphasized by UNHRC.

AHRO response:

No investigation initiated

A19 response:

Yes, independent investigations are highly required and almost an extinct idea in Iran

Recommendation n°32: *Conduct a review of legislation to ensure that it complies with article 19 of ICCPR, which protects the right to freedom of expression (Recommended by Slovenia)*

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

Since the 2009 elections, Iranian citizens are increasingly at risk if expressing any form of opposition to the status quo that might fall outside the increasingly narrow confines of what Iranian officials have deemed politically acceptable. With regard to freedom of religion and belief, the bible cannot be printed in Iran, neither can it be legally imported. The only version that is permitted to be sold is a one that changes the meaning of texts deemed controversial.

UNPO response:

The new Penal Code has not changed the actual political scenario in Iran, in which, the rights guaranteed by the ICCPR are still often violated. Several political activists, including members of the minority community, have been arrested in the two years following the recommendation, under the charges of ‘acting against national security’. This measure allows the authorities to arrest demonstrators, journalists and any individual expressing opposing views towards the government. Several peaceful protests have been violently repressed. The government also continues the practice of cutting off communications means and imprisoning political leaders who are merely planning demonstrations, as a way to quell any protest. Peaceful demonstrators are often portrayed as terrorists in the media, with a view to legitimize their arrest and to discredit their cause.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

A19 response:

[...]

IPA response:

No review has been undertaken.



Recommendation n°59: *Continue its policies aimed at promoting dialogue among religions and civilizations, at both the national and international levels (Recommended by Sri Lanka)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Since the 1970s, the idea of dialogue among civilizations and religions has been an ideal that Iran has done little to advance, both nationally and internationally. Attempts have been made by the Iranian authorities to demonstrate adherence to these policies on both a national and international level. For example, Press TV, a government-controlled site, reported that in September 2011, a briefing session on the international Religions, Dialogues and Asian Cultures Conference was held in Tehran by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO). On a national level, there has increasingly been a one-way dialogue as Shia Islam remains at the heart of Iranian law (e.g. Article 26 of The Iranian Constitution). Religious minority groups are being increasingly harassed and arrested on national security charges such as “spreading propaganda against the system”. At an international level, new regulations introduced in 2012 have made it illegal to have contact with any more than sixty listed foreign institutions, media organizations and NGOs.

UNPO response:

Iran claims that its legal system is able to guarantee citizens their rights, regardless of their religious affiliations. However, the country is home to a large number of religious minorities who are often marginalized and repressed. Constant discrimination against members of unrecognized religions, such as the Baha'is, demonstrates the government's disregard for the violations taking place in the national level and its unwillingness to provide them with protection. Without acknowledging the occurrence of abuses, it is not possible for the government to guarantee the dialogue with its numerous minority communities.

Tandem Project (TP) response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011 : The government reportedly allows Hebrew instruction but limits the distribution of Hebrew texts, particularly nonreligious texts, making it difficult to teach the language. Moreover, the government requires that in conformity with the schedule of other schools, Jewish schools must remain open on Saturdays, which violates Jewish religious law.

Recommendation n°60: *Continue its policy of promoting and protecting all rights of the members of recognized religious minorities, as an important step to provide cultural diversity in society and create opportunities for those minorities to preserve their identities and, to that end, further ensure their political representation and promote their greater involvement in the planning and implementation of various projects aimed at providing financial assistance for their educational and cultural needs (Recommended by Armenia)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

The government is failing to promote and protect all rights of the members of recognized religious minorities, which according to Articles 13 and 26 of the Iranian constitution are Zoroastrians, Jews, and Christians. Since 1906, the Iranian Parliament has reserved two seats for Armenian Christians and one for each of the three religious minorities. Despite this, reports reveal that trade unions are seeking to gather information about religious minorities to help the government increase its pressure on them as a further measure of control that has only been steadily increasing since 1979. The Intelligence and Security police of Tehran and the Revolutionary Court have reportedly sent warning notices to the offices of parliamentarians representing religious and ethnic minorities, asking them to obtain information about certain religious minorities, immigrants and 'suspicious regime opponents' and their families. Further to this, a list of phone numbers registered under Jewish, Armenian and Assyrian names was jointly compiled by the Intelligence Ministry and the Ministry of Communication and Technology in order to spy on them.

There are indications that religious minority representatives in parliament co-operate with the Ministry of Intelligence. In Shiraz, the capital of Fars province, religious minorities, including Christians and members of the Baha'i community, have been pressured and harassed since February 2012. Ten Christians, including a family, were arrested in Shiraz as security authorities raided their house church and have now been held in Adel-abad prison for over six months. It is evident that no projects have been implemented to provide financial assistance for their educational and cultural needs. The government also continues to restrict the activities of sanctioned churches such as the Assemblies of God denomination, which has faced increasing harassment since the end of 2011. This harassment is now being experienced by other sanctioned denomination. So far 2012 has seen the arrest of the leaders of the Anglican Churches of St Paul's and St Peter's in Iran's third largest city, Esfahan. In May it was reported that the head of St Pauls Church, Pastor Hekmat Salimi, had been temporarily released on bail of around \$40,000. In late May and early June, members of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Tehran were detained, and the church was ordered to cease all weekly activities with the exception of its Sunday services. Also in June, an AOG-affiliated church in the Janat-Abad area of west Tehran was ordered to close by the Intelligence Branch of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. According to local sources, the church's pastor was told to cancel all church activities and seal its property.

UNPO response:

Iran is home to several minority groups, which are linguistically, ethnically, religiously and culturally diverse. Yet, the common sharing of resources among them has often been at the origin of severe disputes. Violent clashes between the central authority and members of minority groups have alarmed the international community in the recent years, as the lack of greater cultural autonomy for these peoples is yet to be recognized. The main concern regarding the protection of minority rights has to do with the fact that the rule of law is recurrently breached, and discrimination against these communities goes unpunished. Also, reports of poor government representation and lack of governmental incentives for the protection of their cultural



heritage have demonstrated a blatant disregard for the defense of their traditional values and reconciliation over historical grievances.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented. UN and OSCE should emphasize this.

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011 : According to UN figures, 300,000 Christians live in the country, and the majority of them are ethnic Armenians

Recommendation n°92: *End incitement to hatred, including statements that show contempt for General Assembly resolutions 60-7 and 61-255, on Holocaust remembrance and Holocaust denial, respectively (Recommended by Israel)*

IRI: *not implemented*

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented. Possibility of violation of Genocide Convention should be looked into.

Recommendation n°93: *End its policy of fanatic Islamism and intolerance towards persons belonging to other religions, including adherents of the Baha'i faith (Recommended by Germany)*

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

The situation of religious minorities in Iran remains alarming. According to a recent report by the Special Rapporteur in Iran, the systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities, such as the Baha'i, is still a predominant issue. The government of Iran has done little to protect these communities, as demonstrated by their policies of tolerance towards those inciting hatred and discrimination against them. Also, members of the Baha'i community are often arrested without proper probable cause, and deprived of property, education and employment. Such conduct by government authorities are in clear violation of the country's obligations under a couple of international treaties, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ratified by Iran in 1968, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified in 1975 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified also in 1975.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented, this practice of discrimination should be condemned by the UNHRC.

AHRO response:

Has not done so





A19 response:

The Baha'is, like any other minority in Iran, must enjoy equal rights to free expression and information. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for most religious minorities.

Recommendation n°94: *End its severe restrictions on the rights to free expression, association and assembly and end the harassment and persecution of journalists and bloggers (Recommended by United States)*

IRI: *not implemented*

JC response:

There is no freedom of expression and freedom of the media and assembly. All books domestically distributed are pre-censored by the Ministry of Culture. The government controls all television and radio broad casting. The press court often charged journalists under vague terms such as “insulting the leader,” “insulting the president,” or “insulting authorities.” The Iran government has seriously limited its citizen's freedom of expression.

UNPO response:

Several allegations of human rights violations have been reported in Iran since the recommendation was issued. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which, combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. According to Amnesty International, the government also places a ban on independent television and radio stations, often jamming satellite broadcast from abroad, as well as on books and websites considered too critical, immoral or atheistic, among other reasons. Newspapers are not free to publish articles on any subject and must instead follow certain regulations provided by the government. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated. Activists from minority groups are particularly targeted by the government. Many of them have been imprisoned or executed for expressing dissenting opinions about the regimes in newspapers and blogs.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

AHRO response:

has not done so

A19 response:

Freedom of expression and Right to Information is ARTICLE 19's area of expertise. These rights are not only violated [according to] international standards, but also [according to] what has been set out in Iran's various laws, including the Iranian Constitution, in which Article 24 establishes the right to free expression.



Recommendation n°97: *Enhance freedom of expression and assembly, and to safeguard all groups, journalists and especially human rights defenders* (Recommended by Brazil)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Several allegations of human rights violations have been reported in Iran since the recommendation was issued. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which, combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. According to Amnesty International, the government also places a ban on independent television and radio stations, often jamming satellite broadcast from abroad, as well as on books and websites considered too critical, immoral or atheistic, among other reasons. Newspapers are not free to publish articles on any subject and must instead follow certain regulations provided by the government. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated. Activists from minority groups are particularly targeted by the government. Many of them have been imprisoned or executed for expressing dissenting opinions about the regimes in newspapers and blogs.

CSW response:

The freedoms of expression and assembly are being curtailed by the authorities. No safeguarding of the groups listed is occurring. Instead, journalists, bloggers, filmmakers and human rights defenders continue to be arrested and detained. Journalist and woman's rights activist Faranak Farid, for example, was reportedly beaten severely after her arrest in September 2011. In February 2012, she was charged with "propaganda against the regime and insulting the leader". Prominent human rights lawyer Mohammed Ali Dadkhah, the lead advocate in Pastor Nadarkhani's case, was sentenced to nine years imprisonment. Mr. Dadkhah was also banned from teaching in universities or practicing law for an additional ten years. He is a founding member of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre (DHRC), whose members are facing legal difficulties following its forcible closure in December 2008.

On 11 June 2012, the family of another prominent human rights defender, Mr. Abdolfattah Soltani, was informed that the appeal court had upheld his conviction, sentencing him to thirteen years in prison in "internal exile" in the remote city of Borazjan in southern Bushehr Province. He too is a founding member of the DHRC, and suffers from a digestive tract and intestinal disease that has been aggravated by poor prison conditions. Mr. Soltani was originally sentenced to eighteen years imprisonment in March 2012 on charges of propaganda against the system, participation in founding the Human Rights Defenders Centre, assembly and collusion against national security, and "earning illegitimate assets" as a laureate of the 2009 Nuremberg City Human Rights Prize. On 21 April 2012, the deputy head of the DHRC, journalist and activist Narges Mohammadi, was detained in the northern city of Zanzan after receiving a summons from the Intelligence Ministry and later



transferred to Evin Prison to serve a six-year jail sentence. The sentence had been reduced from eleven years by a Tehran appeal court following her earlier conviction on charges of spreading propaganda against the ruling system, acting against national security and membership of the DHRC. Ms. Mohammadi is reported to have developed muscular paralysis following an earlier incarceration in 2010, when she was kept in solitary confinement in Evin Prison for a month, an illness that is exacerbated by stress.

The campaign against human rights defenders effectively limits the availability of legal representation for those tried for crimes involving freedom of thought, conscience or belief.

JC response:

There is no freedom of expression and freedom of the media and assembly. All books domestically distributed are pre-censored by the Ministry of Culture. The government controls all television and radio broad casting. The press court often charged journalists under vague terms such as “insulting the leader,” “insulting the president,” or “insulting authorities.” The Iran government has seriously limited its citizen's freedom of expression.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

A19 response:

Freedom of expression and Right to Information is ARTICLE 19's area of expertise. These rights are not only violated [according to] international standards, but also [according to] what has been set out in Iran's various laws, including the Iranian Constitution, in which Article 24 establishes the right to free expression.

IPA response:

Steps have not been taken to safeguard journalists or human rights defenders. In 2011, Iran had the most imprisoned journalists of any country in the world. The Defenders of Human Rights Center, banned in 2008, remains a prohibited organization. Several human rights activists have been arrested for their involvement with the organization and for other work pertaining to human rights, receiving prison sentences of up to 11 years. Two prominent cases resulting from the ban are the imprisonment of Narges Mohammadi, head of the Center, and Nasrin Sotoudeh, a high-profile lawyer who promoted human rights.

Recommendation n°101: *Ensure that its legislation and practice conform fully with requirements of article 18 of ICCPR and with its other obligations under international human rights law (Recommended by Poland)*

IRI: *not implemented*

Bahá'í International Community (BIC) response:

Iran has taken no measures (neither before nor since its UPR) to implement [this recommendation] with regard to members of the Bahá'í religious community.



CSW response:

During 2012, there has been an increase in the harassment, arrests, trials and imprisonments of converts to Christianity and members of the Baha'i faith across Iran. Whilst direct attacks on sanctioned churches were rare in 2011, so far 2012 has for example seen the arrest of the leaders of the Anglican Churches of St. Paul's and St. Peter's in Iran's third largest city, Esfahan. In May, it was reported that the head of St. Paul's church was temporarily released on an extortionate bail of around \$40,000. In late May and early June, members of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Tehran were detained, and the church was ordered to cease all weekly activities with the exception of its Sunday services. Also in June, an AOG-affiliated church in the Janat-Abad area of west Tehran was ordered to close by the Intelligence Branch of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. According to local sources, the church's pastor was told to cancel all church activities and seal its property. Additionally, seven leaders of the Baha'i faith also continue to be imprisoned, having served a conjoined number of 10,000 days in prison, as worries for their health increase.

UNPO response:

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken no action to ensure that this recommendation is put into practice. Recent cases of persecution of minorities, with regard to the Ahwazi Arab community, in which several Arabs were executed with no right to a fair trial, have shown that fundamental mechanisms to safeguard freedom of religion are yet to be developed.

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>102: *Ensure that laws do not criminalize legitimate freedom of expression, association and assembly* (Recommended by Australia)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

The increasing tendency to charge members of religious groups, peaceful political dissidents, journalists, human rights defenders and other members of civil society with political or security crimes effectively criminalises freedom of expression, association and assembly.

JC response:

There is no freedom of expression and freedom of the media and assembly. All books domestically distributed are pre-censored by the Ministry of Culture. The government controls all television and radio broad casting. The press court often charged journalists under vague terms such as "insulting the leader," "insulting the president," or "insulting authorities." The Iran government has seriously limited its citizen's freedom of expression.

UNPO response:

Several allegations of human rights violations, including harassment and imprisonment of human rights activists and journalists, have been reported in Iran since the recommendation was issued. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which,



combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

A19 response:

Freedom of expression and Right to Information is ARTICLE 19's area of expertise. These rights are not only violated [according to] international standards, but also [according to] what has been set out in Iran's various laws, including the Iranian Constitution, in which Article 24 establishes the right to free expression.

IPA response:

In October 2009, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared that criticizing the presidential elections a criminal offense. Insulting the Ayatollah is also a crime.

Recommendation n°103: *Ensure that the new Penal Code safeguards the rights guaranteed by ICCPR, to which Iran is a signatory, in particular by defining or removing offences open to political manipulation, such as so-called offences against national and international security, currently used to curtail freedom of expression, assembly and association (Recommended by United Kingdom)*

**IRI: not implemented**

UNPO response:

The new Penal Code has not changed the actual political scenario in Iran, in which, the rights guaranteed by the ICCPR are still often violated. Several political activists, including members of the minority community, have been arrested in the two years following the recommendation, under the charges of 'acting against national security'. This measure allows the authorities to arrest demonstrators, journalists and any individual expressing opposing views towards the government.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented.

AHRO response:

Has not done so.

Recommendation n°110: *Ensure the transparent and independent investigation of the numerous cases of excessive violence against demonstrators, followed by mistreatment and torture in detention in the aftermath of the presidential elections in June 2009, and ensure the prosecution of the persons responsible (Recommended by Czech Republic)*

**IRI: not implemented**

UNPO response:

Several members of Iranian minority groups, such as the Ahwazi Arabs, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan, and West Balochistan were made victims of



harassment, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. However, State criminal prosecutions of Iranian authorities implicated in cases of wrongdoing are hardly carried out. Victims and their families are thus often left with a sense of impunity.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

AHRO response:

Has not done so

A19 response:

[I]ndependent investigations are highly required and almost an extinct idea in Iran.

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>111: *Ensure, in law and practice, all guarantees of due process of law established in ICCPR, including the principle of presumption of innocence, as well as avoiding any punishment for the exercise of other rights recognized under the Covenant, such as freedom of expression and the right to association and assembly (Recommended by Mexico)*

*IRI: not implemented*

IPA response:

The Iranian legal system does not comply with the due process procedures established in ICCPR. Defendants are often not told what the charges against them are, and often lack access to legal counsel. Officials use intimidation to extract false confessions. Rulings are not always made public until the sentence has been carried out. Citizens are punished for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

CSW response:

Iranian authorities continue to arrest and hold members of religious or ethnic groups, bloggers, journalists and human rights activists for extended periods of time without charge of time, without a timely court appearance and either without allowing bail or setting it at excessive amount that in several cases the title deeds of homes are seized.

For example, Farshid Fathi Malayeri a pastor from the sanctioned Assemblies of God denomination, was arrested on 26 December 2010 in Tehran, and is being held in Evin Prison. The evangelical church leader, and father of two young children, was kept in solitary confinement for a large part of his incarceration. The equivalent of UK£120,000 was demanded as bail for his release and his family eventually managed to raise this, yet the authorities refused to release him. On one occasion, and in a form of psychological torture, Mr Fathi Malayeri was told to pack a bag and get ready to leave. The guards led him as far as the outer gate of the jail, where other prisoners were being released, but he was then suddenly ordered back to his cell. On 5 February 2012, Mr. Fathi Malayeri was finally brought to trial before the Revolutionary Court in Evin Prison. The judge is reported to have adjourned the case for deliberation, and said he would submit a verdict to Mr. Fathi Malayeri's lawyers



within three months. According to the Iranian penal code, once enquiries have been made a judge is meant issue a verdict within one week. On 22 February 2012, it was confirmed that Mr. Fathi Malayeri had been sentenced to six years in prison by the Iranian Revolutionary Court.

Although details of the court session have not been made public, reliable sources claims that charges against him included: “action against regime’s security, being in contact with foreign organisations and religious propaganda”. It is understood that Mr. Fathi Malayeri’s legal representative has appealed this decision. In another example, A group of four Christians arrested in Hamadan in September 2010 were also held in solitary confinement and incommunicado for 44 days before being taken to prison, and did not receive any charges for many months. Trials are generally unfair and detainees are systematically denied access to a lawyer until investigations have been completed, which may take some months. In January 2010, authorities have further effectively criminalized any contact with over 60 foreign media organizations and NGOs, restricting freedoms of expression and the right to association and assembly.

UNPO response:

Recent cases of alleged unfair trials in Iran have sparked international opinion against the violation of due process. The presumption of innocence has also been reportedly eroded in several occasions, as convicts were charged in the absence of a proper investigation and often on the basis of misleading evidence. The trials of the seven Baha’is illustrate the nature of the problem in Iran, as the government made no effort to ensure the fairness and transparency of the decision process. Moreover, according to international legal standards, the trials are considered to have violated due process; and the charges brought against them may as well constitute a violation of the country’s own obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in relation to freedom of expression and freedom of religion.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented.

AHRO response:

Has not done so.

Recommendation n°120: *Extend the rights guaranteed in Iranian legislation to all religious groups, including the Baha’i community* (Recommended by Brazil)

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

The Baha’i faith is not unrecognised in the constitution, meaning it has no legal status or identity. Baha’is continue to face raids on homes and arbitrary arrests, followed by either short-term detention or longer imprisonment. Seven Baha’i leaders arrested in 2008 continue to serve a twenty-year sentence for “forming a religious cult”. Government pressure is accompanied by anti-Baha’i rhetoric; in an interview in November 2010, Mohammed-Javad Larijani, head of the Iranian Human Rights Council stated that “Baha’ism is not a religion in Iran... [they] are a cult... and any



cult... will be prevented by law from operating". Baha'is are also banned from the social pension system, are denied university education and must be expelled if discovered. Those providing informal education for their community are regularly detained. The Ministry of Justice states that the Baha'i are only allowed to enroll themselves in schools if they do not identify themselves with that faith, an action that is forbidden by a central tenet of Baha'i belief.

JC response:

The rights guaranteed in Iranian law are not equally granted to all religious groups. Even though the numbers of Iranian Baha'is are between 300,000 and 350,000, they are not recognized as a religious minority in the Constitution. In addition, the social and economic pressures on Baha'i community have worsened. Baha'is have been denied to access higher education and equal employment. In 2012, the government declared that closing business on Baha'i holy days constituted propagating the Baha'i faith and numbers of Baha'i-owned businesses were forced to close. The Iranian government has failed to extend the rights guaranteed in the law to all religious groups.

UNPO response:

The situation of religious minorities in Iran remains alarming. According to a recent report by the Special Rapporteur in Iran, the systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities, such as the Baha'i, is still a predominant issue. The government of Iran has done little to protect these communities, as demonstrated by their policies of tolerance towards those inciting hatred and discrimination against them. Also, members of the Baha'i community are often arrested without proper probable cause, and deprived of property, education and employment. Such conduct by government authorities are in clear violation of the country's obligations under a couple of international treaties, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ratified by Iran in 1968, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified in 1975 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified also in 1975.

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011 : The constitution provides Sunni Muslims a degree of religious freedom, and states that, "within the limits of the law," Zoroastrians, Jews, and Christians are the only recognized religious minorities with protected freedom to practice their religious beliefs, as long as they do not proselytize. Articles 13 and 26 of the constitution specifically recognize Christianity, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism and grant these three groups the right to worship freely and to form religious societies. The government regarded the Sabean-Mandaeans as Christians, and they are included among the three recognized religious minorities; however, Sabean-Mandaeans do not consider themselves Christians. No other non-Islamic religions are recognized by the law, and adherents of these other religious groups, such as the Baha'is, do not have the freedom to practice their beliefs.





A19 response:

The Baha'is, like any other minority in Iran, must enjoy equal rights to free expression and information. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for most religious minorities.

*Recommendation n°126: Fully guarantee the right to freedom of expression, press and political activity, including through the adoption of concrete measures aimed at the implementation of articles 24, 25, 26 and 27 of the Iranian Constitution (Recommended by Italy)*

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

Since 2011 there has been a severe crackdown on the freedom of expression, particularly with regard to the press and political activity. Many newspapers and other media have been closed down; journalists and political party leaders have been arrested and severe limitations have been placed upon the internet and contact with foreign institutions, NGOs and media organisations. In February 2011, Iranian authorities arrested hundreds of political activists and others to prevent them from attending demonstrations in support of movements in Libya and Egypt. The demonstrations went on and at least two people, Sane' Zhaleh and Mohammad Mokhtari, both in their twenties, were killed.

IPA response:

No measures have been implemented to guarantee the rights provided for in the Constitution.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented, should be observed by UN agencies.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

A19 response:

Freedom of expression and Right to Information is ARTICLE 19's area of expertise. These rights are not only violated [according to] international standards, but also [according to] what has been set out in Iran's various laws, including the Iranian Constitution, in which Article 24 establishes the right to free expression.

*Recommendation n°128: Fully respect the rights of the adherents of the Baha'i faith and to judicially prosecute those inciting hatred against them in religious environments, the media and the Internet (Recommended by Luxembourg)*

*IRI: not implemented*

BIC response:

Some Iranian officials and members of the clergy continue to openly advocate religious hatred and intolerance constituting incitement to hostility and discrimination against the Bahá'í Faith and its adherents, and they do so with total impunity.

National and provincial budgets include allocations for "educational" programmes to "confront" the Bahá'í Faith, and there are official organs dedicated to that purpose.



Articles, TV and radio programmes on State-run and government-affiliated media, and official or State-condoned pamphlets, posters and exhibitions continue to vilify the Bahá'ís and their religious beliefs.

CSW response:

The Iranian regime's policy towards the Bahá'í community could accurately be described as amounting to genocide by attrition. The Bahá'í faith is not officially recognised. Furthermore, the Bahá'í have no legal status or identity, and are continually denied due process and other civil and economic and social rights, such as the denial of access to further education, which has been in force for over thirty years. The Baha'i face daily harassment and are excluded from many normalities, such as attending school and being registered for marriage/divorce and the pension system. 582 Baha'i have been subjected to arbitrary arrest since 2004. Officials continue to make extensive use of the mass media and other means to systematically denigrate and vilify the Bahá'í. Consequently, there has been no attempt to prosecute those inciting hatred against them via any media. For example, Mohammed-Javad Larijani, head of the Iranian Human Rights Council, in November 2010, used a television interview to state that the Baha'i should be "prevented by law from operating".

JC response:

The rights guaranteed in Iranian law are not equally practicing to all religious groups. Even though the numbers of Iranian Baha'is are between 300,000 and 350,000, they are not recognized as a religious minority in the Constitution. In addition, the social and economic pressures on Baha'i community have worsened. Baha'is have been denied to access higher education and equal employment. In 2012, the government declared that closing business on Baha'i holy days constituted propagating the Baha'i faith and numbers of Baha'i-owned businesses were forced to close. The Iranian government has failed to extend the rights guaranteed in the law to all religious groups.

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 120]

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

A19 response:

The Baha'is, like any other minority in Iran, must enjoy equal rights to free expression and information. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for most religious minorities.

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011 : Broad restrictions on Baha'is severely undermined their ability to practice their faith freely,



function as a community, or maintain links with coreligionists abroad. Baha'is reported arbitrary arrests, prolonged detention, and confiscation of property. Baha'i groups outside the country reported that government authorities increased harassment and intimidation of members of the Baha'i community during the year. Baha'is often were charged officially with "espionage on behalf of Zionism," partly because the Baha'i world headquarters is located in Israel. These charges were more acute when Baha'is were found communicating with or sending monetary contributions to the Baha'i headquarters.

Recommendation n°131: *Guarantee free and unrestricted access to the Internet* (Recommended by *Netherlands*)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

January 2011 saw the inauguration of a "Cyber Police Force" in Tehran that was fully functioning by January 2012, which has carried out attacks on websites at home and abroad. This "cyber army" has also demanded that the identity of internet café users should be monitored by CCTV. The internet bandwidth has also been restricted and a state-run internet server is being developed to monitor internet usage more closely.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented. Internet should not be used to [monitor] citizens.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

A19 response:

It has been observed time and again that due processes set even by Iranian [Government's] standards are not taken into account. Also noted is that while Iran is a signatory to ICCPR, it is not abiding by what has been set out. In a legal analysis of the 'Computer Crimes Law' adopted in Iran, ARTICLE 19 clearly points out how every single item contradicts the ICCPR and other international instruments when it comes to digital media and free expression/information, and also made some recommendations.

IPA response:

The government strictly regulates Internet access and content. Many foreign websites are blocked and it is illegal to use software that can get around the censorship controls. The government systematically blocks websites that carry political news.

Recommendation n°133: *Guarantee the protection of the civil and political rights of all, particularly dissidents and members of minority groups* (Recommended by *Chile*)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Members of sanctioned and unsanctioned Christian denominations, of the unsanctioned Baha'i faith and of ethnic minority groups continue to experience restrictions on civil and political rights, including the rights to life, peaceful assembly and fair trial, freedoms of association, movement, expression and religion or belief.

JC response:

Minority groups such as Christians and Baha'i are denied basic civil and political rights. They are prevented from holding political or military office of any significance. Members of religious minorities are imprisoned, religious materials seized, and houses of worship closed without any process of law. While executions on the basis of religion are rare, religious minorities are often extrajudicially executed or sentenced under trumped up security charges. The Iranian regime claims that the Baha'i faith is a political ideology not a religion and thus charges of Baha'ism are security based not religious based. Currently, Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani has been sentenced to death for apostasy against the Islamic heritage of his ancestors, setting a precedent which could be used to imprison virtually every Christian in Iran aside from certain minority ethnic groups. If Pastor Nadarkhani is executed it will be the first time that Iran has executed anyone solely for his religious belief since Pastor Hossein Soodmand was executed in 1989.

UNPO response:

Iran is home to several minority groups, which are linguistically, ethnically, religiously and culturally diverse. Yet, the common sharing of resources among them has often been at the origin of severe disputes. Violent clashes between the central authority and members of minority groups have alarmed the international community in the recent years, as the lack of greater cultural autonomy for these peoples is yet to be recognized. The main concern regarding the protection of minority rights has to do with the fact that the rule of law is recurrently breached, and discrimination against these communities goes unpunished. Also, reports of poor government representation and lack of governmental incentives for the protection of their cultural heritage have demonstrated a blatant disregard for the defense of their traditional values and reconciliation over historical grievances.

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011 : Non-Muslims may not engage in public religious expression, persuasion, or conversion among Muslims, and there are restrictions on published religious material; for example, Christian Bibles are frequently confiscated and publishing houses are pressured by government officials to cease operations. Proselytizing of Muslims by non-Muslims is also illegal and can be punishable by death.

WJC response:

Needs to be urgently implemented.

A19 response:

The Baha'is, like any other minority in Iran, must enjoy equal rights to free expression and information. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for most religious minorities.

*Recommendation n°146: Provide for urgent instructions to all schools to respect freedom of religion or belief and to take specific measures to reprimand any teacher*



*or school administrator who intimidates or discriminates against Baha'i children (Recommended by Slovenia)*

IRI: *not implemented*

JC response:

Religious tests requiring children to vilify the Baha'i faith and or several of its key leaders are used to degrade Baha'i children and effectively ban Baha'i from higher education or teaching positions. Several Baha'i have even been arrested and imprisoned for attempting to maintain schools for Baha'i.

UNPO response:

The Baha'i community has repeatedly been subject to discriminatory impositions since the recommendation was issued. There have been several cases of Baha'i children who were denied university and educational institution admission, or later discriminated against upon revealing their religious views. The Iranian government has done little to change this reality, as persecution of members of unrecognized religious minorities continues.

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011: Members of religious minorities, excluding Sunni Muslims, are not allowed to serve in the judiciary, security services, or as public school principals. Applicants for public sector employment are screened for their adherence to and knowledge of Islam, although members of religious minorities, with the exception of Baha'is, can serve in lower ranks of government employment. Government workers who do not observe Islamic principles and rules are subject to penalties. Baha'is are barred from all leadership positions in the government and military.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

*Recommendation n°155: Put an end to the detention and trials of writers solely for the practice of their right to freedom of expression (Recommended by Slovenia)*

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Iran holds a history of persecution against human rights activists, especially from minority communities. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which, combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented



Recommendation n°166: *Release all political prisoners* (Recommended by Luxembourg)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

The Iranian government still denies the existence of political prisoners in the country; however, hundreds of people are imprisoned on politically motivated charges, such as “acting against national security”, “propaganda against the regime” or “illegal assembly”, every year. In an attempt to appease the country’s opposition, in 2011, 130 political prisoners were released and in August 2012, another 61 were set free. While these positive developments should be welcomed, there are many other prisoners still facing lengthy sentences in poor prison conditions. According to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, evidences have shown that at least 160 identified citizens were being held under the above mentioned charges in the beginning of 2012. The government is yet to address the issue accurately in order to make the necessary changes for the release of its prisoners.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

A19 response:

[...]

Recommendation n°171: *Repeal all criminal provisions dealing with freedom of expression and freedom of assembly to comply with international human rights standards* (Recommended by Slovakia)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

International human rights standards outlined in the ICCPR are increasingly being breached, as are Articles 19, 26 and 27 of Iran’s own Constitution. These vaguely-worded articles do, however, allow Islam to remain at the heart of judicial proceedings in Iran. Since January 2010, numerous human rights defenders have been detained and in October 2011, Police Chief Esma’il Ahmadi-Moghaddam is reported to have said that working with media organizations such as the BBC or Voice of America is tantamount to “working with the enemy” and would be treated accordingly. There have been numerous cases of harassment, assault and arrests of human rights defenders, trade unionists as well as those speaking against the regime. Iranian authorities have also not taken the opportunity to remove restrictions on the freedom of assembly during the re-drafting of the Penal Code, stating in January 2012 that they have found nothing incompatible in the current re-drafting with Islamic Law. The new Penal Code can be used to impose the death penalty for the vaguely-termed cause of “enmity against God” or under Article 498 when one is perceived to be “forming a branch, group or association whose aim is to harm national security”.

UNPO response:

Iran holds a history of persecution against human rights activists, especially from minority communities. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression,



media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which, combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. The laws, therefore, do exist, but authorities have found ways to still persecute divergent opinions, based on the aforementioned practices. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated.

IPA response:

Criminal provisions dealing with freedom of expression and freedom of assembly remain in place.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

*Recommendation n°174: Respect freedom of religion, and assure a fair and transparent trial for members of the Baha'i faith, in full compliance with the commitments undertaken as a State party to the implementation ICCPR and other human rights instruments (Recommended by Romania)*

*IRI: not implemented*

BIC response:

Iran made no attempt at any time to ensure that the trial of the seven Bahá'ís was fair, transparent and consistent with due process, whether according to international legal standards or even its own laws and regulations. Moreover, since the UPR (and to this day), the judiciary has repeatedly violated due process. In other Bahá'í cases, as well – both before and since the UPR – Iran's intelligence services and its judiciary have failed to act in accordance with due process. Officials cite Iran's own laws and regulations to prove that their legal system is consistent with international standards, but many provisions of national legislation are ignored when intelligence officers arrest and detain Bahá'ís, and also when cases against adherents of this religion are brought to trial.

CSW response:

The Baha'i community does not enjoy freedom of religion in accordance with Article 18 of the ICCPR. Taking plight of the seven Baha'i leaders is a case in point. These leaders were incarcerated in Evin prison and twenty months after being imprisoned without charge, they were finally brought to trial on 12 January 2010. Throughout their long wait for justice, the seven received hardly one hour's access to their legal counsel and suffered appalling treatment and privations, including psychological and physical hardship. The charges against the seven reflect the campaign of disinformation and false accusations that has utilised by the government of Iran to vilify and defame Baha'is for decades. Having been imprisoned for the combined total of 10,000 days so far, there are now grave concerns for the state of their health.

UNPO response:

The systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities and ethnic minorities has demonstrated a clear violation of Iran's obligations under



international law. Members of the Baha'i, Ahwazi, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan and West Balochistan communities have been made victims of harassment, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. According to the Iranian Constitution, only three religious minorities are recognized and eligible for holding five seats in the 290-member parliament. These are Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians. The problem with this provision is that all other non-recognized religions are denied equal rights to employment, education and exercising their faith. Unable to practice their own religion, many minority group members see the impossibility of preserving their language and cultural heritage. Since the recommendation was made, Iran has not issued any apparent action to guarantee the total protection of all cultures and traditions.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011: There were reports of abuses of religious freedom, including religious prisoners and detainees. The government severely restricted overall religious freedom and reports of government imprisonment, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination based on religious beliefs continued during the year. Government rhetoric and actions, particularly since the June 2009 elections, created an increasingly threatening atmosphere for nearly all non-Shia religious groups, most notably for Baha'is, as well as for Sufi Muslims, evangelical Christians, Jews, and Shia groups that did not share the government's sanctioned religious views. Government-controlled broadcast and print media intensified negative campaigns against religious minorities, particularly the Baha'is, during the year. All non-Shia religious minorities suffered varying degrees of officially sanctioned discrimination, particularly in the areas of employment, education, and housing

Recommendation n°175: *Respect the freedom of religion* (Recommended by Germany)

*IRI: not implemented*

BIC response:

Iran has taken no measures (neither before nor since its UPR) to implement these recommendations with regard to members of the Bahá'í religious community.

CSW response:

Since 2010, there have been rising restrictions on religious freedom. Not only have the Baha'i been mistreated, but Christians, one of the three constitutionally recognized religious minorities have been increasingly targeted. At least 300 Christians are confirmed to have been arrested and interrogated in at least 48 cities across Iran during 2011; the full figure, however, is almost certainly higher. The majority of those arrested were released, either on bail awaiting trial or following severe warnings against any further participation in Christian activity. Further to this, there has been a noticeable increase in the harassment, arrests, trials and imprisonments of converts to Christianity since the beginning of 2012. Yousef





Nadarkhani, a pastor from the Church of Iran denomination who was sentenced to death for apostasy in 2010 was recently released after a court hearing on 8 September 8th 2012. Worries remain over his state of safety as precedence shows many after release have been attacked or in the case of Mehdi Dibaj, the last pastor to be charged with apostasy in 1994 and released, assassinated.

JC response:

There is no genuine religious freedom in Iran. Converting from Islam to another religion is punishable to death. In 2011, a Christian pastor, Yousef Naderkhani who became Christian at 19 years old was sentenced to execution by hanging. He has been in jail since 2009. In 2012 over 20 Christians remain in jail on account of their faith. While Nadarkhani was sentenced under fatwa's of the Late Ayatollah Khomeini, there is currently a proposed law which would amend the Iranian penal code to explicitly enact a death sentence for apostasy or leaving Islam. Religious minorities, including Christians, are prohibited from holding governmental and military positions, and are severely limited even in personal rights such as property ownership. The Iranian government does not respect religious freedom.

UNPO response:

The systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities and ethnic minorities has demonstrated a clear violation of Iran's obligations under international law. Members of the Baha'i, Ahwazi, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan and West Balochistan communities have been made victims of harassment, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. According to the Iranian Constitution, only three religious minorities are recognized and eligible for holding five seats in the 290-member parliament. These are Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians. The problem with this provision is that all other non-recognized religions are denied equal rights to employment, education and exercising their faith. Unable to practice their own religion, many minority group members see the impossibility of preserving their language and cultural heritage. Since the recommendation was made, Iran has not issued any apparent action to guarantee the total protection of all cultures and traditions.

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011 : The legal system fosters religious abuse and discrimination. The constitution does not provide for the rights of Muslim citizens to choose, change, or renounce their religious beliefs. The government automatically considers a child born to a Muslim father to be a Muslim and conversion from Islam is deemed apostasy, which is punishable by death.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

Recommendation n°191: *Stop the intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists, bloggers, media and artists* (Recommended by Austria)

**IRI: not implemented**



UNPO response:

Several allegations of human rights violations, including harassment and imprisonment of human rights activists and journalists, have been reported in Iran since the recommendation was issued. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which, combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

A19 response:

Again this is very much in line with what ARTICLE 19 does across the globe including Iran. And unfortunately Iran's records are very low and ever declining.

Recommendation n°192: *Strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations, and ensure that the rights of all those involved in human rights advocacy are protected under Iranian law, in accordance with its obligations under ICCPR, and that freedom of association is enshrined in Iranian law (Recommended by Ireland)*

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

Human rights defenders continue to be arrested arbitrarily, subjected to enforced disappearance and sentenced after unfair trial. Some have been banned from international travel and prevented from leaving the country. Several women's rights activists, including Fereshteh Shirazi are currently detained or serving prison terms for their peaceful activities, often on vaguely-worded charges related to offences against the state. In Article 498 of the newly re-drafted Penal Code, the death penalty can be meted out to those who the Iranian authorities deem to be "forming a branch, group or association whose aim is to harm national security", which includes NGOs. Further to this, demands by ethnic minority activists, particularly those from the Ahwazi Arab, Kurdish and Baluch communities, for greater rights have been suppressed. New regulations in 2012 have criminalized contact with any more than sixty listed foreign organizations and NGOs.

UNPO response:

Iran holds a history of persecution against human rights activists, especially from minority communities. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which, combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions,



members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

Recommendation n°209: *Take timely and extensive measures to guarantee to its citizens the right to express dissent* (Recommended by Denmark)

IRI: *not implemented*

IPA response:

No such measures have been taken. Political activists are frequently arrested for their activities. In early 2011, two opposition leaders, Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi were detained in their homes. They were saved from execution only after international actors including the EU, G8, and NGOs intervened.

CSW response:

Since the 2009 crackdown on those who legitimately express dissent, the Iranian authorities have steadily increased repression both in law and practice, as well as tightening their grip on the media. Human rights activists (including those advocating women's rights) have been targeted and subject to harassment, arbitrary arrests and prevention from international travel.

UNPO response:

Several allegations of human rights violations, including harassment and imprisonment of human rights activists and journalists, have been reported in Iran since the recommendation was issued. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which, combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

Recommendation n°211: *Uphold its constitutional provisions guaranteeing freedom of worship* (Recommended by United States)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

According to Article 13 of the Iranian Constitution, the three recognised religious minorities (Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Judaism) are free to practice religious rites and ceremonies and to act according to their own canon. In 2012, however, there has been a crackdown on Christians in various cities across Iran in which numerous arrests, trials and imprisonments have been made. The renewed wave of



repression has affected both the house church movement and approved denominations, a continuation of events that have occurred since the end of 2011 when the government raided a church belonging to the sanctioned Assemblies of God (AOG) movement. On 6 May, the leaders of the Central AOG church in Tehran stated the government had been demanding intrusive information on members of the congregation, including their ID numbers. Also, in late May 2012, members of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Tehran were detained, and the church was ordered to cease all weekly activities with the exception of Sunday services. In June 2012, an AOG-affiliated church in Janat-Abad area of Tehran was ordered by the Intelligence Branch of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard to cancel all services and seal its property.

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011: The government enforced its prohibition on proselytizing by closely monitoring the activities of evangelical Christians, discouraging Muslims from entering church premises, closing churches, and arresting Christian converts. Authorities pressured evangelical church leaders to sign pledges that they would not evangelize Muslims or allow Muslims to attend church services. Reports implied authorities regarded allowing Muslims to visit a Christian church as constituting proselytizing. Members of evangelical congregations were required to carry membership cards, photocopies of which had to be provided to the authorities. Worshipers were subject to identity checks by authorities posted outside congregation centers. The government restricted meetings for evangelical services to Sundays, and church officials were ordered to inform the Ministry of Information and Islamic Guidance before admitting new members. Christians of all denominations reported the presence of security cameras outside their churches, allegedly to confirm that no non-Christians participated in services. There were a number of examples of Muslims who converted to Christianity being arrested, detained, or questioned, including the case of Pastor Nadarkhani. The government reportedly confiscated at least 6,500 Bibles during the year.

JC response:

There is no genuine religious freedom in Iran. Converting from Islam to another religion is punishable to death. In 2011, a Christian pastor, Yousef Naderkhani who became Christian at 19 years old was sentenced to execution by hanging. He has been in jail since 2009. In 2012 over 20 Christians remain in jail on account of their faith. While Nadarkhani was sentenced under fatwa's of the Late Ayatollah Khomeini, there is currently a proposed law which would amend the Iranian penal code to explicitly enact a death sentence for apostasy or leaving Islam. Religious minorities, including Christians, are prohibited from holding governmental and military positions, and are severely limited even in personal rights such as property ownership. The Iranian government does not uphold its constitutional provisions guaranteeing freedom of worship.

UNPO response:

Iran claims that its legal system is able to guarantee citizens their rights, regardless of their religious affiliations. However, the country is home to a large number of



religious minorities who are often marginalized and repressed. Constant discrimination against members of unrecognized religions, such as the Baha'is, demonstrates the government's disregard for the violations taking place in the national level and its unwillingness to provide them protection. Without acknowledging the occurrence of abuses, it is not possible for the government to guarantee the dialogue with its numerous minority communities.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

## ESC Rights

Recommendation n°40: *Continue efforts aimed at the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and achieve prosperity for the people, in particular by facilitating access for the population to the necessary health services (Recommended by Qatar)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

Anonymous response:

Iran is on track to achieve most of the MDGs, notably on goals 2 (universal primary education), 4 (reducing child mortality rate) and 5 (improving maternal health).

In the area of HIV and AIDS (MDG 6):

- 1) While government of Iran's efforts in provision of services to injecting drug users continues to be commendable, equitable actions for other key populations namely sex workers and men who have sex with men are negligible. Lack of accurate/sufficient data in this respect and/or poor behavior indicators point to a dire need for immediate actions in this respect to contain the epidemic.
- 2) Coverage of HIV care and treatment services is low and Government's policies with regards to provision of HIV prevention treatment and care programmes targeting women and their babies (eMTCT) needs strengthening.

Recommendation n°45: *Continue efforts to reduce poverty and limit disparities in education and income (Recommended by Zimbabwe)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

Anonymous response:

Although access to education is provided for nearly all, the quality of the educational services remains a source of disparity.

Poverty reduction has been identified as a key development priority in the Fifth National Development Plan and the Economic Transformation Plan. The plan aims at reducing or phasing out the level of subsidies to higher income group and increasing the level of subsidies offered to low-income groups



Recommendation n°52: *Continue its efforts to provide health, education and social assistance services in rural areas* (Recommended by *Kuwait*)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Anonymous response:

Although access to education in rural areas has increased, quality of educational services, unfortunately, has not improved accordingly. There is a considerable equity gap in terms of quality education influenced by geographical determinants. Additionally, linguistic minorities, especially those living in remote rural areas cannot equally benefit from quality primary education due to problems they face with school readiness. This, in turn, also affects their progression to higher levels of education in future.

The government has addressed the issue of social assistance services through the economic transformation plan and implementation of its universal cash transfer program. The issue of making appropriate decision to choose universal or targeted cash transfer has been a big challenge as well as the implementation mechanisms of the program from the day it started.

Recommendation n°56: *Continue its innovative programmes to eradicate illiteracy, and continue its initiatives to spread education at all levels and throughout the country* (Recommended by *China*)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Anonymous response:

The literacy Movement Organization, as the government agency mandated to eradicate illiteracy has had achievements in past years. The Adult Literacy rate has increased from 77 percent in 2002 to 85 percent in 2008. However, organizational changes in the government resulting in merger of the Literacy Movement Organization in the Ministry of Education has negatively impacted flexibility and agility of this organization in providing services to community, expected to reduce its effectiveness.

UNPO response:

Iran has a good history of promoting innovative programs to eradicate illiteracy. Nearly 80% of the population can read and write and this figure represents a huge progress, when compared to the country's situation 20 years ago. The only issue that still remains unaddressed is the denial of education to some minority groups. They suffer widespread discrimination in schools, particularly with regard to the language of education, and their educational achievement is consequently lower.

Recommendation n°63: *Continue to combat poverty, with due regard for regional particularities* (Recommended by *Bangladesh*)

IRI: *fully implemented*

Anonymous response:

As reflected in its fifth National Development Plan, the government of Iran has prioritized disparity reduction.



Recommendation n°65: *Continue to implement its literacy plan at the national level to achieve the full elimination of illiteracy* (Recommended by *Bolivia*)

IRI: *partially implemented*

UNPO response:

Iran has a good history of promoting innovative programs to eradicate illiteracy. Nearly 80% of the population can read and write and this figure represents a huge progress, when compared to the country's situation 20 years ago. The only issue that still remains unaddressed is the denial of education to some minority groups. They suffer widespread discrimination in schools, particularly with regard to the language of education, and their educational achievement is consequently lower.

Recommendation n°69: *Continue to include human rights in school curriculums* (Recommended by *Sudan*)

IRI: *not implemented*

Anonymous response:

No progress is made in this regard. There have been sporadic efforts in introducing, for example, peace-building concepts in schools, but they have all been of an experimental nature.

Recommendation n°72: *Continue to promote human rights training for public officials and authorities* (Recommended by *Bolivia*)

IRI: *fully implemented*

UNPO response:

The Islamic Republic of Iran seems cooperative towards the United Nations Development Program, in their attempt to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The partnership has allowed the organization to promote Human Rights trainings, which shows a certain level of willingness to follow the recommendation from the government's side.

Recommendation n°78: *Continue to provide and improve human rights education and training for judicial and law enforcement officials* (Recommended by *Pakistan*)

IRI: *fully implemented*

Anonymous response:

No reliable information is available on provision of human rights education for judicial and law enforcement officials in recent years.

However, it is worth mentioning that the Judiciary and Police have conducted several juvenile justice workshops for police officers, judges and social workers during recent years. Training component of these workshops includes child rights and international juvenile justice standards (diversion programmes, standards of arrest and detention, alternatives to punishment, etc.) Over 160 police officers, judges and social workers have been trained on juvenile justice standards in 2011 and 2012 (31 August).

Training alone is not enough for changing the behavior of professionals. It is also necessary to bring national laws in line with the international human rights and to establish a clear procedure for assessing change in the attitude and practice of judicial and law enforcement personnel following the training.



UNPO response:

The Islamic Republic of Iran seems cooperative towards the United Nations Development Program, in their attempt to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The partnership has allowed the organization to promote Human Rights trainings, which shows a certain level of willingness to follow the recommendation from the government's side.

Recommendation n°79: *Continue to raise awareness about human rights, and to strengthen national efforts to protect them, with due respect for cultural specificities and Islam* (Recommended by *Libya*)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Iran is currently a party to five legally-binding international treaties and several of its principles are enshrined in the Iranian Constitution. Iran thus possesses the sufficient legal framework to secure that basic human rights are respected under its territory. However, following the 2009 election protests, several allegations of human rights abuses were reported throughout the country. In an attempt to investigate the situation, a Special Rapporteur was appointed, but he has not yet been formally invited to visit the country by the government. Allegations of ongoing persecution of minorities and intimidation of human rights defenders have shown that despite continuous attempts from the international community to bring such violations to a halt, Iran is not putting much effort into promoting the protection of these individual rights.

Recommendation n°82: *Continue to take measures to increase access for its population to health and education services* (Recommended by *Cuba*)

IRI: *partially implemented*

Anonymous response:

Access to primary education, according to official statistics, is promisingly high in Iran reaching as high as 99 percent. The situation for documented and undocumented refugee children, though, is not as favorable, and policies in this area have been contradictory at times. For instance, recently even children of undocumented migrants are allowed access to public educational services which is a positive development, but both documented and undocumented migrant children are required to pay tuition fees to enroll in state schools.

Iran's primary health care system is well established and well-funded with improving efficiency of inter-sectoral cooperation and involving partners and other primary care services. Despite considerable achievements in provision of basic developmental facilities in terms of drinking water, access to Primary Health Care (PHC) services, high quality and nutritious food, there are some communities in Iran where these essential needs remain unfulfilled. Indeed average health, education and other social and economic indicators may look satisfactory, yet the intra-provincial variances indicate these improvements are not equally distributed around the country.

Recommendation n°151: *Pursue its endeavours to guarantee basic education for all citizens* (Recommended by *Lebanon*)

IRI: *partially implemented*





Anonymous response:

Iran has shown considerable achievements in universal primary education (MDG 2) especially at the national average level and with regard to gender parity. Regional disparities, though, still exist as a challenge.

Recommendation n°165: *Redouble its efforts to prevent any form of discrimination* (Recommended by Nicaragua)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Religious and ethnic minorities, political dissidents and members of civil society continue to face harassment, arrest, imprisonment and a lack of equality before the law.

Recommendation n°193: *Strengthen its efforts to include the various Iranian cultures and traditions in its national legislation* (Recommended by Sudan)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

The systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities and ethnic minorities has demonstrated a clear violation of Iran's obligations under international law. Members of the Baha'i, Ahwazi, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan and West Balochistan communities have been made victims of harassment, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. According to the Iranian Constitution, only three religious minorities are recognized and eligible for holding five seats in the 290-member parliament. These are Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians. The problem with this provision is that all other non-recognized religions are denied equal rights to employment, education and exercising their faith. Unable to practice their own religion, many minority group members see the impossibility of preserving their language and cultural heritage. Since the recommendation was made, Iran has not issued any apparent action to guarantee the total protection of all cultures and traditions.

Recommendation n°194: *Strengthen mechanisms at the national level to reduce poverty among members of socially vulnerable groups and the problems facing them, and share its experiences with interested developing countries* (Recommended by Kyrgyzstan)

IRI: *fully implemented*

Anonymous response:

Poverty reduction has been identified as a key development priority in the Fifth National Development Plan and the Economic Transformation Plan.

Recommendation n°196: *Sustain its designed programmes aimed at the availability and affordability of higher education* (Recommended by Syria)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

The Baha'i community continues to be deprived of access to higher education. More recently, Ms. Fatemeh Nouri, a convert and an art student at a university in Tehran, was arrested in September 2011 at her home in east Tehran. She was convicted of attending a house church, insulting sacred figures and activities against national



security. Ms. Nouri was held in the notorious Evin prison until November 30, 2011, when she was released. The sentence handed down to her by the presiding judge at the Revolutionary Court in Moalem Street was one year's deprivation of education. It is noteworthy that the sentence of deprivation of education has never before been applied to converts

## Indigenous & Minorities

Recommendation n°54: *Continue its efforts to support persons with disabilities and integrate them in society on an equal footing, as real social partners* (Recommended by Kuwait)

IRI: *partially implemented*

### UNPO response:

The Islamic Republic of Iran ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2009. This was a slow process, but proved to be an important one in ensuring better conditions to people with disabilities in their pursuit of cultural rights. However, despite such positive developments, the disabled in Iran still face several challenges in order to integrate equally into society. Most remain indoors, as accessibility of buildings and urban facilities is still limited. They also face issues regarding the difficulty in finding employment, inaccessibility of public transportation and the high cost of rehabilitation equipment. Moreover, Iran is still in the process of providing the disabled with the means of achieving a strong social presence, and the recent developments are positive.

Recommendation n°61: *Continue providing support to the vulnerable group of people who have sought refuge on its territory* (Recommended by Algeria)

IRI: *fully implemented*

### Anonymous response:

Although the government of Iran has been generously providing educational services to Afghan refugee children since the beginning of the crisis in Afghanistan, it has recently, in the past few years, imposed increasing school fees for refugee/migrant children. Additionally, replacing the older social protection system of subsidizing goods and services with a cash transfer system—which excludes Afghan population—has resulted in increased poverty among refugee/migrant communities, thus reducing their access to education.

### UNPO response:

The Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated its commitment to the improvement of the refugee resettlement process, as shown by the government's cooperation with the Iran Contact Group, created in 2010, which aims at addressing the situation of Afghan refugees in the country. In addition, in January 2012, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and UNHCR discussed the pursuit of a regional strategy towards a common solution for the Afghan refugee situation, ensuring that their returns are sustainable. According to UNHCR, in the first eight months of 2012, 10.000 Afghan refugees have already returned home from Iran.



Recommendation n°89: *Eliminate, in law and practice, all forms of discrimination against persons belonging to religious, ethnic, linguistic and other minorities, as well as against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons* (Recommended by Israel)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Iran is home to several minority groups, which are linguistically, ethnically, religiously and culturally diverse. Yet, the common sharing of resources among them has often been at the origin of severe disputes. Violent clashes between the central authority and members of minority groups have alarmed the international community in the recent years, as the lack of greater cultural autonomy for these peoples is yet to be recognized. The main concern regarding the protection of minority rights has to do with the fact that the rule of law is recurrently breached, and discrimination against these communities goes unpunished. Also, reports of poor government representation and lack of governmental incentives for the protection of their cultural heritage have demonstrated a blatant disregard for the defense of their traditional values and reconciliation over historical grievances.

Regarding the treatment received by members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender communities by Iranian authorities, the situation remains alarming. Same-sex relations between consenting individuals are still considered a crime under the Iranian Penal Code, and if prosecuted, a convicted person may face a severe punishment, including the death penalty. In the last two years, several men were executed under the Iranian sodomy law. NGOs and activists fighting for the rights of LGBT individuals are often intimidated and sometimes even prosecuted as well.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

Recommendation n°91: *End acts of repression against persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, particularly the Baha'i, and to respect their rights* (Recommended by France)

IRI: *not implemented*

JC response:

The Iranian government consistently conducts operations against religious minorities. Members of the Christian minority, particularly those who speak Farsi, or who come from Muslim backgrounds are considered threats to the regime. These house-churches are attacked by security personnel, pastors and lay leaders are imprisoned and held without charge. Religious minorities in Iranian prison face deprivation, torture and constant attempts to forcefully convert them to Islam. Imprisoned members of minority Muslim sects often face similar pressures to conform to the particular strain of Shia Islam which dominates Iran.

UNPO response:

The situation of religious minorities in Iran remains alarming. According to a recent report by the Special Rapporteur in Iran, the systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities, such as the Baha'i, is still a predominant issue. The government of Iran has done little to protect these communities, as demonstrated by their policies of tolerance towards those inciting hatred and



discrimination against them. Also, members of the Baha'i community are often arrested without proper probable cause, and deprived of property, education and employment. Such conduct by government authorities are in clear violation of the country's obligations under a couple of international treaties, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ratified by Iran in 1968, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified in 1975 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified also in 1975.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

Recommendation n°99: *Ensure that all minorities, and particularly the Baha'i community, can exercise all of their rights free from discrimination and persecution, in conformity with the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing* (Recommended by Mexico)

IRI: not implemented

JC response:

[See response to recommendation n° 91]

UNPO response:

The situation of religious minorities in Iran remains alarming. According to a recent report by the Special Rapporteur in Iran, the systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities, such as the Baha'i, is still a predominant issue. The government of Iran has done little to protect these communities, as demonstrated by their policies of tolerance towards those inciting hatred and discrimination against them. Also, members of the Baha'i community are often arrested without proper probable cause, and deprived of property, education and employment. Such conduct by government authorities are in clear violation of the country's obligations under a couple of international treaties, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ratified by Iran in 1968, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified in 1975 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified also in 1975. Regarding the specific issue of housing, there have been several reports indicating that the practice of land confiscation by the government authorities is still carried out against Baha'i community members to this date.

Recommendation n°106: *Ensure that the trials of seven Baha'is are fair and transparent and conducted in accordance with international standards, and that Iran amend all legislation that discriminates against minority groups* (Recommended by Australia)

IRI: not implemented

BIC response:

Iran made no attempt at any time to ensure that the trial of the seven Bahá'ís was fair, transparent and consistent with due process, whether according to international legal standards or even its own laws and regulations. Moreover, since the UPR (and



to this day), the judiciary has repeatedly violated due process. In other Bahá'í cases, as well – both before and since the UPR – Iran's intelligence services and its judiciary have failed to act in accordance with due process. Officials cite Iran's own laws and regulations to prove that their legal system is consistent with international standards, but many provisions of national legislation are ignored when intelligence officers arrest and detain Bahá'ís, and also when cases against adherents of this religion are brought to trial.

CSW response:

After having been imprisoned in the notorious Evin prison for twenty months without being charged, the trial of the seven Baha'i leaders began in January 2010. Having suffered appalling mistreatment and privations, including psychological and physical hardship and in 2012, concerns have increased for the safety and health of the seven leaders as information as to their condition is not forthcoming. Current legislation that can be utilised to discriminate against members of the three sanctioned minority groups as well as the Baha'i and the unsanctioned house church members has not been amended; it is instead being used to harass arrest and imprison them. Baha'ís remain unable to attend Iranian schools and universities, are excluded from the Iranian pension scheme and are not recognized legally.

UNPO response:

The trials were considered dubious by several independent sources, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, as Iran made no effort to ensure the fairness and transparency of the decision process. Upon having their sentences reduced to 10 years in prison, the seven leaders had them reinstated to 20 years, in early 2011. According to international legal standards, the trials are considered to have violated due process; and the charges brought against them may as well constitute a violation of the country's own obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in relation to freedom of expression and freedom of religion.

*Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>153: Put an end to discrimination and incitement to hatred vis-a-vis the adherents of the Baha'i faith (Recommended by Luxembourg)*

*IRI: not implemented*

UNPO response:

The situation of religious minorities in Iran remains alarming. According to a recent report by the Special Rapporteur in Iran, the systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities, such as the Baha'i, is still a predominant issue. The government of Iran has done little to protect these communities, as demonstrated by their policies of tolerance towards those inciting hatred and discrimination against them. Also, members of the Baha'i community are often arrested without proper probable cause, and deprived of property, education and employment. Such conduct by government authorities are in clear violation of the country's obligations under a couple of international treaties, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ratified by Iran in 1968, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified in 1975 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified also in 1975.



Recommendation n°167: *Release detained Baha'i leaders and end policies of discrimination against Baha'i and other religious and ethnic minorities* (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: *not implemented*

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011 : The government continued to imprison and detain Baha'is based on their religious beliefs. The government arbitrarily arrested Baha'is and charged them with violating Islamic penal code articles 500 and 698, relating to activities against the state and spreading falsehoods, respectively. Often the charges were not dropped upon release, and those with charges pending against them reportedly feared arrest at any time. Most were released only after paying a large fine or posting high bail. For some, bail was in the form of deeds of property; others gained their release in exchange for personal guarantees from a "guardian" that the offender would appear in court, or the granting of a work license. Government officials reportedly offered Baha'is relief from mistreatment in exchange for recanting their religious affiliation, and if incarcerated, made recanting their religious affiliation a precondition for release.

UNPO response:

The situation of religious minorities in Iran remains alarming. According to a recent report by the Special Rapporteur in Iran, the systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities, such as the Baha'i, is still a predominant issue. The government of Iran has done little to protect these communities, as demonstrated by their policies of tolerance towards those inciting hatred and discrimination against them. Members of the Baha'i community are still often persecuted. Since August 2004, it has been reported that over 600 Baha'is have been arrested in Iran and, despite constant demand for their release, many still remain imprisoned.

Recommendation n°181: *Share its experience and best practices with other interested countries, regarding the protection and consolidation of the rights of persons with disabilities* (Recommended by Pakistan)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

The Islamic Republic of Iran ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2009. This was a slow process, but proved to be an important one in ensuring better conditions to people with disabilities in their pursuit of cultural rights. However, despite these earlier developments, since the recommendation was made, no apparent actions have been taken in order to guarantee that experiences and practices are shared among Iran and other interested countries.

Recommendation n°187: *Share with regional and other interested countries its good practices regarding the protection of the cultural heritage of members of traditional minorities* (Recommended by Armenia)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Iran is home to several minority groups, which are linguistically, ethnically, religiously and culturally diverse. Yet, the common sharing of resources among them has often



been at the origin of severe disputes. Violent clashes between the central authority and members of minority groups have alarmed the international community in the recent years, as the lack of greater cultural autonomy for these peoples is yet to be recognized. The main concern regarding the protection of minority rights has to do with the fact that the rule of law is recurrently breached, and discrimination against these communities goes unpunished. Also, reports of poor government representation and lack of governmental incentives for the protection of their cultural heritage have demonstrated a blatant disregard for the defense of their traditional values and reconciliation over historical grievances.

Moreover, since the recommendation was made, no apparent actions have been taken in order to guarantee that experiences and practices are shared among Iran and other interested countries.

*Recommendation n°197: Take all appropriate measures to end discrimination and harassment against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities (Recommended by Austria)*

*IRI: not implemented*

TP response:

US Department of State 2011 International Religious Freedom Report : In March the UN Human Rights Council created a new position of special rapporteur for human rights in Iran. Dr. Ahmed Shaheed assumed the mandate in August and issued his first interim report in October, in which he noted his concern regarding targeted violence and discrimination against Iran's religious minorities, as well as the constraints on freedom of religion and belief.

JC response:

[See response to recommendation n° 91]

UNPO response:

Iran is home to several minority groups, which are linguistically, ethnically, religiously and culturally diverse. Yet, the common sharing of resources among them has not always been smooth. Violent clashes between the central authority and members of minority groups have alarmed the international community in the recent years, as the lack of greater cultural autonomy for these peoples is yet to be recognized. The main concern regarding the protection of minority rights has to do with the fact that the rule of law is recurrently breached, and discrimination against these communities often goes unpunished. Following the 2009 election protests, the government has purposely been targeting members of minority communities, as well as activists, students and journalists, in an attempt to destabilize opposition groups and gain political advantage. This discriminative process has led to the persecution, and eventually, to the execution of innocent individuals in a blatant violation of universal human rights.

*Recommendation n°198: Take all measures necessary to ensure the protection of religious minorities, including implementing the recommendations on adequate*



*housing put forward by the Special Rapporteur after his visit in 2006 (Recommended by Denmark)*

*IRI: not implemented*

TP response:

US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report for 2011 : Government rhetoric and actions created a threatening atmosphere for nearly all non-Shia religious groups, most notably for Baha'is, as well as for Sufi Muslims, evangelical Christians, Jews, and Shia groups that did not share the government's official religious views. Baha'i and Christian groups reported arbitrary arrests, prolonged detentions, and confiscation of property. During the year, government-controlled broadcast and print media intensified negative campaigns against religious minorities, particularly Baha'is. All religious minorities suffered varying degrees of officially sanctioned discrimination, particularly in the areas of employment, education, and housing. Baha'is continued to experience expulsions from, or denial of admission to, universities.

BIC response:

Since Iran's UPR, confiscation and destruction of Bahá'í property has continued. Plainclothes agents and others have attacked Bahá'í homes and cemeteries with total impunity. All the discriminatory practices that target Bahá'ís have continued during the two years since Iran's UPR.

UNPO response:

Religious minorities in Iran have suffered several abuses from government authorities, such as marginalization and discrimination within their own homeland. The process of assimilation, as is the case with the Baloch people bordering Pakistan, demonstrates the government's lack of consideration for ethnic identities within the country. According to a recent report by the Special Rapporteur, areas with a Baloch majority are underdeveloped and access to adequate housing is often nonexistent. Therefore, it is difficult to conclude that the Iranian government has done much to implement the changes it set out to since the recommendation was issued.

*Recommendation n°200: Take further concrete steps to promote the rights of disabled persons (Recommended by Kazakhstan)*

*IRI: fully implemented*

UNPO response:

The Islamic Republic of Iran ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2009. This was a slow process, but proved to be an important one in ensuring better conditions to people with disabilities in their pursuit of cultural rights. However, despite such positive developments, the disabled in Iran still face several challenges in order to integrate equally into society. Most remain indoors, as accessibility of buildings and urban facilities are still limited. They also face issues regarding the difficulty in finding employment, inaccessibility of public transportation and the high cost of rehabilitation equipment. Moreover, Iran is still in the process of providing the disabled with the means of achieving a strong social presence, and the recent developments have shown that they are heading on the right direction.



## International Instruments

Recommendation n°2: *Accede to CAT and the Optional Protocol thereto* (Recommended by *Czech Republic*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°3: *Accede to CAT, as well as the Optional Protocol thereto, and establish a national preventive mechanism provided for by the Protocol* (Recommended by *Estonia*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°156: *Ratify CAT* (Recommended by *Austria*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°157: *Ratify CAT* (Recommended by *Italy*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°158: *Ratify CAT* (Recommended by *Netherlands*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°159: *Ratify CAT and the Optional Protocols thereto* (Recommended by *Luxembourg*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°163: *Ratify the Optional Protocol to CAT* (Recommended by *Chile*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°188: *Sign and ratify CAT and the Protocols thereto* (Recommended by *Spain*)

IRI: *not implemented*

### UNPO response:

Iran has not yet ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The country has also not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

### AHRO response:

NO

Recommendation n°4: *Accede to CEDAW* (Recommended by *Estonia*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°160: *Ratify CEDAW* (Recommended by *Chile*)

IRI: *not implemented*



+

Recommendation n°161: *Ratify CEDAW and the Optional Protocols thereto* (Recommended by Luxembourg)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°162: *Ratify CEDAW as soon as possible, without any reservation* (Recommended by Belgium)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°189: *Sign and ratify CEDAW* (Recommended by Spain)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°202: *Take further steps to ratify CEDAW* (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: not implemented

UNPO response:

Iran has not yet ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women or the Optional Protocol

AHRO response:

NO

Recommendation n°6: *Accept a visit to the country by the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women, on the situation of human rights defenders, and on freedom of opinion and expression* (Recommended by Belgium)

IRI: not implemented

UNPO response:

Iran did not accept the request made by the Special Rapporteur for a visit to the country, in 2011. Despite showing previous interest in cooperating with the United Nations, the government has not allowed visits concerning thematic mandates since 2005.

AHRO response:

Dr. Shaheed's (Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Iran) request denied

Recommendation n°7: *Accept requests for visits from special procedures so that they can take place as soon as possible* (Recommended by Spain)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°177: *Respond positively to pending requests by several United Nations Special Rapporteurs to visit* (Recommended by Austria)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°178: *Respond positively to the pending requests of several special procedures, and to allow the timely carrying out of their visits* (Recommended by Czech Republic)

IRI: not implemented

UNPO response:

Iran has not allowed visits by thematic mandate holders since 2005.

AHRO response:

Denied

Recommendation n°11: *Agree to a visit by the Special Rapporteur on torture to investigate these practices and allegations of systematic violence in detention facilities* (Recommended by New Zealand)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°14: *Allow the Special Rapporteur on torture to visit the country, and provide him with access to detention facilities* (Recommended by United States)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°141: *Invite the Special Rapporteur on torture to visit the country* (Recommended by Australia)

IRI: not implemented

UNPO response:

Iran did not accept the request made by the Special Rapporteur for a visit to the country. Despite showing previous interest in cooperating with the United Nations, the government has not allowed visits concerning thematic mandates since 2005.

AHRO response:

No

Recommendation n°12: *Allow for a visit by OHCHR and other United Nations Special Rapporteurs and experts who have requested access to Iran* (Recommended by United States)

IRI: partially implemented

+

Recommendation n°85: *Cooperate with the United Nations special procedures, and follow up on the requests of visits of special rapporteurs, as announced today* (Recommended by Luxembourg)

IRI: not implemented

UNPO response:

In December 2011, the Iranian government allowed the visit of a working-level mission of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with the purpose of preparing a future visit of the High Commissioner. Despite such positive development, Iran has yet to schedule the visit of the Special Rapporteurs to the country.

Recommendation n°19: *Become a party to CAT and accommodate visits by the Special Rapporteur* (Recommended by Denmark)

IRI: not implemented

UNPO response:

Iran has not yet acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and has not yet scheduled a visit by the Special Rapporteur.

AHRO response:

NO

Recommendation n°29: *Comply fully with the international human rights obligations to which it is bound* (Recommended by New Zealand)

IRI: not implemented

CSW response:

Frequent and numerous breaches of international human rights obligations outlined in the ICCPR and UDHR are underway in Iran, including of the right to life, freedom of religion or belief, peaceful assembly, to be treated with humanity and dignity even when detained, and the right to fair trial. Attempts have been made to demonstrate an effort to promote international dialogue based on respect and co-operation. Press TV, a government-controlled site, has for example reported that in September 2011, a briefing session on the international Religions, Dialogs and Asian Cultures Conference was being held in Tehran by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO). In reality, international human rights obligations are being politicised by the Iranian government, as demonstrated in Articles 20, 22, 24, 26 and 27 of the Iranian Constitution. Here, rights such as the freedom of expression and freedom of assembly may be upheld but only as long as it is not detrimental to the fundamental rights of Islam, the primary religion supported by the regime in an ever more fervent manner.

Recommendation n°84: *Cooperate with the Special Rapporteurs, such as the Special Rapporteur on torture, who have been refused access to Iran since 2005, despite the standing invitation extended to them* (Recommended by France)

IRI: not implemented

UNPO response:

The Special Rapporteur has not yet been invited for a visit in the country

AHRO response:

Has not done so

Recommendation n°122: *Facilitate visits by all special procedures mandate holders outstanding since 2005, and extend an invitation to the Secretary-General so that he may investigate the post-election violence and independently assess the human rights situation* (Recommended by United Kingdom)

IRI: not implemented

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 12]

AHRO response:

has not done so



Recommendation n°127: *Fully implement the standing invitation extended to the United Nations human rights special procedures* (Recommended by Chile)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 12]

AHRO response:

has not done so

Recommendation n°129: *Grant access to the United Nations Rapporteurs on torture and on the independence of judges and lawyers, and facilitate their visits* (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

The Special Rapporteurs have not yet received a formal invitation to visit the country.

AHRO response:

has not done so

## Justice

Recommendation n°1: *Abolish the death penalty* (Recommended by Luxembourg)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°35: *Consider a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it* (Recommended by Brazil)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°137: *Immediately stop executions and abolish the death penalty* (Recommended by Germany)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°138: *Introduce a moratorium on executions as soon as possible* (Recommended by Belgium)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°139: *Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition* (Recommended by Italy)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°154: *Put an end to executions and adopt a moratorium on the death penalty* (Recommended by France)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

During 2011 there were 660 officially recorded executions in Iran, and during May 2012, 53 people were executed in a single week.



UNPO response:

Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, no progress has been made towards abolishing the death penalty. On the contrary, in the past year, the number of executions significantly increased in the country, reaching at least 600 cases only in 2011 (Amnesty International Report, 2012). Iran also fails to address the issues behind its international human rights violations, as the country continues to display public executions and make use of inhumane methods of execution, such as stoning. Lastly, Iran is one of the few countries that still send juvenile prisoners to death, in violation of the country's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified in 1975, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified in 1994. Moreover, an official moratorium on capital punishment in Iran is yet to be discussed.

AHRO response:

No, daily executions

*Recommendation n°5: Accept a visit by the working group on arbitrary detention to investigate the detention conditions of prisoners (Recommended by France)*

*IRI: not implemented*

UNPO response:

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has not been allowed to investigate the detention conditions of Iranian prisoners since its last visit in February 2003. However, UN reports and studies by human rights groups have shown that the government continues to allow the use of torture, and other inhumane treatments in Iranian prisons. Also, prisoner interviews carried out by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran's team have revealed that the custodial conditions still fall well below United Nations standards. The facilities are often overcrowded and unhygienic and do not provide sufficient access to water or medical services. In the province of Sistan and Balochistan, reports of prisoners being tortured to death and having no access to legal assistance prompted a series of international protests against the government's disregard for its prisoners. Cases of torture and summary executions have also been reported against members of the Iranian Kurdistan, Ahwazi and Southern Azerbaijan communities.

AHRO response:

Denied visit

*Recommendation n°17: Amend the relevant legislation to abolish capital punishment entirely, in keeping with General Assembly resolutions 62-149 and 63-168, as well as the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, and transfer the existing death sentences to imprisonment terms (Recommended by Slovakia)*

*IRI: not implemented*

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n°1]

AHRO response:

Did not amend



Recommendation n°18: *Ban executions of juvenile offenders, in compliance with article 6 of ICCPR* (Recommended by Italy)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°24: *Cease all planned executions of juvenile offenders, and to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for crimes committed by minors* (Recommended by Australia)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°26: *Cease immediately the use of the death penalty, especially for minors and those who committed offences while they were juveniles* (Recommended by New Zealand)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°30: *Comply with its obligations under article 37 of CRC and article 6 of ICCPR and prohibit executions of persons who, at the time of their offences, were under the age of 18* (Recommended by Israel)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°36: *Consider eliminating the death penalty for people who were under 18 at the time of the commission of the crime for which they were convicted, as stipulated by CRC, and withdraw its general reservation to the CRC* (Recommended by Chile)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°38: *Consider the abolition of juvenile execution* (Recommended by Kazakhstan)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°90: *Eliminate, juvenile executions and executions of persons for crimes that they committed when they were under the age of 18* (Recommended by Czech Republic)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°123: *Favourably consider alternative sentences for juvenile offenders, and immediately halt executions of all juvenile offenders on death row* (Recommended by Slovenia)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°125: *Fully comply with its obligations under ICCPR and CRC with regard to the use of inhumane and-or public execution and the use of the death penalty in the case of minors* (Recommended by Ireland)

IRI: not implemented

+

Recommendation n°169: *Remove or define its blanket reservation to the CRC and to declare an immediate moratorium on juvenile executions, with the aim of abolishing*



*the death penalty for offences committed by minors (Recommended by United Kingdom)*

IRI: not implemented

+

*Recommendation n°170: Renounce the execution of persons who were minors at the time of the crime, in accordance with its commitments under CRC (Recommended by France)*

IRI: not implemented

+

*Recommendation n°173: Respect at least the minimum standards and the provisions of ICCPR and CRC concerning the death penalty, for as long as it is maintained (Recommended by Belgium)*

IRI: not implemented

+

*Recommendation n°195: Strengthen the moratorium on the death penalty against young people, established in October 2008 limit the crimes punishable by the death penalty to commute death sentences to imprisonment and withdraw its reservations to CRC and specifically prohibit the application of the death penalty to young people in all circumstances (Recommended by Spain)*

IRI: not implemented

#### Anonymous response:

The juvenile execution has not yet been abolished in law and practice of the country. However, there has been some progress in ratification of the revised Islamic Penal Code bill (IPC), which establishes new measures to limit the death sentencing of children.

On 28 January 2012, the Guardian Council approved the revised Islamic Penal Code (IPC). According to article 90 of the revised IPC, juveniles below 18 who commit offences under categories of Hodoud (punishments that are fixed by Shariat law for certain offences such as drinking alcohol, sex out of marriage, sodomy, etc.) and Qesas (retribution in kind) will not be sentenced to death if the court decides, through forensic evidence, that the offender did not have adequate mental maturity and ability to reason. Alternatively, the offender will be sentenced to one of the punishments under the category of Ta'zir (punishments that are administered at the discretion of the judge), appropriate to her/his age. The court may ascertain the development and mental maturity of the juvenile using forensic reports or any other appropriate means. Although the amendment of the IPC does not end juvenile executions in Iran, it establishes new measures to limit the death sentencing of children. The revised IPC has not yet implemented as it was returned to the Parliament for edition and apparently some minor revisions in April 2012.

#### JC response:

In February 2012 even though Iran government announced that it had abolished Juvenile execution under eighteen, it is not clearly changed. In the previous penal code of Iran, the age of criminal responsibility was the age of "puberty," meaning nine lunar years for girls and fifteen lunar years for boys. Therefore, if a nine years old girl committed a crime, she would be sentenced as an adult. In the new penal code, "puberty" is still the age of criminal responsibility. Under article 87, the





executions for discretionary punishments have been abolished for children under eighteen but it is not clear how the new penal code will be applied on other cases. The Iranian government has changed only some parts of penal code for children, and failed to abolish the juvenile execution.

LLG response:

The execution of juvenile offenders continue even through a new Islamic Penal Code adopted in Parliament in January 2012 reduces the range of offences for which the death penalty may be applied against juveniles. Under Iranian Law offenders can be subject to punishment after reaching maturity at the age of 9 for girls and 15 for boys. In 2011 four juvenile offenders were convicted of offences they committed when they were under the age of 18: Alireza Molla-Soltani (17 years old when executed) hanged publicly on 21 September 2011 for murder in the city of Karaj, Hamid Hashemi (16 years old when executed) executed in prison of Ahwaz for protesting; Vahid Moslemi executed on 18 September 2011 executed for drug trafficking; Mohammed Nourozi executed on 18 September for drug trafficking. However according to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in 12 February 2012 the Government of Iran announced that death penalty was abolished for under-age defendants. However in the same report the Special Rapporteur notes that two minors, Fatemeh Salbehi and Ehsan Rangraz Tabaataba'ie, are currently facing death sentences.

UNPO response:

Iran has recently amended its Penal Code and several provisions of its criminal law system have been altered. However, despite such developments, many problematic issues remain unaddressed. One of them is the legitimacy in the application of capital punishment on juvenile convicts. The legality of this provision violates the country's obligations under the ICCPR, which it ratified in 1975, as children accused of certain crimes are still confronted with the possibility of facing the death sentence. The minimum age of criminal responsibility in Iran is nine for girls and fifteen for boys. However the age of majority, i.e. the age individuals are considered fully mature to comprehend the consequences of their criminal actions, is set at eighteen in Iran. [Convention on the Rights of the Child, of which Iran is a signatory, prohibits the use of adult punishments for individuals under eighteen]. However, article 90 of the new Code stipulates that mature individuals under eighteen, who have committed certain crimes, can still be prosecuted as adults, and thus face the death penalty. The new Code, therefore, does not yet resolve the issue of capital punishment for minors, as they can still be legally executed under certain conditions. A positive development, however, was observed as the number of offences for which the death penalty may be applied has decreased. Furthermore, the OHCHR delegation has learned that the number of juvenile executions has dropped in 2011.

AHRO response:

More juveniles executed since [the UPR].

+

7 more Ahwazi-Arab minority activists executed.



CSW response:

This does not appear to have occurred. Executions have seen a steep rise, with 660 officially reported during 2011 - the true figure is feared to be far higher. In May 2012, 53 executions occurred in the space of a week, and in September 2011, Alireza Molla-Soltani, a minor, was executed in a public square in the city of Karaj

Recommendation n°20: *Bring its legislation in line with the international human rights conventions that Iran has ratified, including CRC, and abolish at least the death penalty for crimes committed by persons under the age of 18* (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: not implemented

LLG response:

[See response to recommendation n° 18]

UNPO response:

Iran has recently amended its Penal Code and several provisions of its criminal law system have been altered. However, despite such developments, many problematic issues remain unaddressed. One of them is the legitimacy in the application of capital punishment on juvenile convicts. The legality of this provision violates the country's obligations under the CRC, which it ratified in 1994. Children accused of murder are thus still confronted with the possibility of facing such severe sentence. A positive development, however, was observed as the number of offences for which the death penalty may be applied has decreased. Furthermore, the OHCHR delegation has learned that the number of juvenile executions has reportedly dropped in 2011.

AHRO response:

No sign of implementation

Recommendation n°25: *Cease execution by stoning* (Recommended by Australia)

IRI: not implemented

London Legal Group (LLG) response:

New Islamic Penal Code adopted in Parliament in January 2012 omits the penalty of stoning (United Nations General Assembly (Human Rights Council), Report of the Secretary General on the Human Rights situation in Iran, 20 March 2012). This legislation passed to use alternative modes of execution (hanging) and reserve stoning for only most egregious crimes. No new stoning cases reported from 2010 to 2011. However 147 prisoners are on death row for adultery, whose sentence is execution by stoning. Also at a judicial colloquium held in December 2010 Dr. Mohamad Javad Larijani (secretary general of Iran's Human Rights Committee) stated that stoning should not be categorized as a "method of execution", but rather as a method of punishment that is actually more lenient, because 50 per cent of those condemned survive. Nevertheless, the authorities have indicated that Parliament is currently reviewing the punishment of death by stoning. According to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions the Government of Iran has revoked stoning as a method of execution (United Nations Human Rights Council, 20th session, 18 June 2012).



UNPO response:

The recent amendment to the Iranian Penal Code has introduced new provisions, despite making no progress towards abolishing the death penalty. As far as ceasing executions by stoning, a possible encouraging development has been recognized. The amended Code omits the term ‘stoning’ as a means of enforcing the death penalty in the case of “adultery while married”. However, it is not yet clear whether this omission is indicative of the complete abolition of this type of execution in the judicial system in Iran, as only further interpretation by the Iranian Courts will determine the impact of this omission.

*Recommendation n°27: Codify torture as an offence in law, in keeping with the definition set out in CAT (Recommended by New Zealand)*

*IRI: not implemented*

UNPO response:

UN reports and studies by human rights groups have shown that the government continues to allow the use of torture and other inhumane treatments in Iranian prisons. In the province of Sistan and Balochistan, reports of prisoners being tortured to death and having no access to legal assistance prompted a series of international protests against the government’s disregard for its prisoners. Several nonviolent activists fighting for Azeri rights in Southern Azerbaijan have also reportedly been arrested and sent to isolation sections of different prisons, where they were tortured and kept illegally as many were not given a chance for trial. In the last year, cases of torture and summary executions have also been reported against members of the Iranian Kurdistan and Ahwazy communities.

Since the recommendation was issued, there have not been any new developments in the direction of eradicating torture and other inhumane methods.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

*Recommendation n°28: Commute all death sentences, in particular executions of political prisoners, and abolish, in practice, public executions by hanging and stoning (Recommended by Israel)*

*IRI: not implemented*

UNPO response:

Iran recently amended its Penal Code, but no progress has been made towards abolishing or commuting death sentences. On the contrary, the number of executions in the country has been steadily increasing since 2003. Moreover, Iran remains one of the few countries that still display executions to the public, and there have been no signs that this will be discontinued in the near future. Regarding the current changes on the Penal Code, a possible positive development has to do with the omission of stoning as a means of enforcing the death penalty in the case of “adultery while married”. However, it is not yet clear whether this omission is indicative of the complete abolition of this type of execution in the judicial system in Iran, as only further interpretation by the Iranian Courts will determine the impact of this omission.

AHRO response:

Has not done so.

Recommendation n°33: *Conduct a transparent and public inquiry into the violence emanating from security forces following the presidential elections of 2009* (Recommended by *Austria*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°34: *Conduct an independent investigation regarding killings, arrests and detentions following the demonstrations following the 2009 presidential elections, including the possible excessive use of force by security forces* (Recommended by *Poland*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°205: *Take measures to ensure that Government and security officials implicated in human rights abuses relating to extrajudicial and arbitrary detention and the possible use of torture are investigated, prosecuted and punished* (Recommended by *Netherlands*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°208: *Take steps to end the current culture of impunity by ensuring that all allegations of abuse are investigated by the judiciary in a timely, independent and transparent manner* (Recommended by *United Kingdom*)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Several members of Iranian minority groups, such as the Ahwazi Arabs, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan, and West Balochistan were made victims of harassment, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. However, State criminal prosecutions of Iranian authorities implicated in cases of wrongdoing are hardly carried out. Victims and their families are thus often left with a sense of impunity.

Recommendation n°39: *Consider the elimination of cruel punishment, including juvenile execution and stoning* (Recommended by *Japan*)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°98: *Ensure that all acts of torture are crimes according to national legislation, and that the definition used complies with that set out in article 1 of CAT* (Recommended by *Czech Republic*)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Over the years, Iran has demonstrated little regard for the respect of its obligations under international law. UN reports and studies by human rights groups have shown that the government continues to allow the use of torture, and other inhumane treatments in Iranian prisons. In the province of Balochistan, reports of prisoners being tortured to death and having no access to legal assistance prompted a series of international protests against the government's disregard for its prisoners. Several nonviolent activists fighting for Azeri rights in Southern Azerbaijan have also been



reportedly arrested and sent to isolation sections of different prisons, where they were tortured and kept illegally as many were not given a chance for trial. In the last year, cases of torture and summary executions have also been reported against members of the Iranian Kurdistan and Ahwazy communities as well. Since the recommendation was issued, we have not seen any new developments in the direction of eradicating torture and other inhumane methods.

As far as ceasing executions by stoning, the amended Code omits the terms ‘stoning’ as a means of enforcing the death penalty in the case of “adultery while married”. However, it is not yet clear whether this omission is indicative of the complete abolition of this type of execution in the judicial system in Iran, as only further interpretation by the Iranian Courts will determine the impact of this omission. Iran also continues to publicly display executions.

Recommendation n°48: *Continue its efforts to combat drug trafficking*  
(Recommended by *Tajikistan*)

IRI: *fully implemented*

CSW response:

There are legitimate concerns that members of ethnic minority groups are disproportionately targeted as drug traffickers and sentenced to death, and that this may in fact be masking other abuses. For example, in 2006 the authorities arrested Issa Motamedi Mojdehi, a Muslim convert to Christianity following his attempt to register his son as a Christian. A charge of drug trafficking was brought against him, which Christians claimed was an attempt to punish him for his conversion, and could have resulted in a death sentence.

LLG response:

An amended Anti-Narcotics Law came into force in January 2011 which denies the right to appeal for those sentenced to death under this law. Anti-Drug trafficking legislation amended to also include the death penalty for synthetic drugs. In 2011, 81% of executions were based on drug trafficking sentences. However some sources indicate that some political prisoners who are arrested for demonstrating are executed under drug trafficking charges, which inflates this number. For example Zahra Bahrami was arrested in the aftermath of the 2009 election protests in December 2009 and was sentenced under Moharebeh. However later her charge was changed to drug trafficking and she was sentenced to hang. She was executed by hanging on 28, January 2011 in Tehran's Evin prisons.

Recommendation n°95: *End the practice of executing juvenile offenders and of public executions, including through stoning* (Recommended by *Austria*)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

[See response to recommendation n°18]

LLG response:

[See response to recommendation n°18]



UNPO response:

Iran has recently amended its Penal Code and several provisions of its criminal law system have been altered. However, despite such developments, many problematic issues remain unaddressed. One of them is the legitimacy in the application of capital punishment on juvenile convicts. The legality of this provision violates the country's obligations under the ICCPR, which it ratified in 1975. Children accused of murder are thus still confronted with the possibility of facing such severe sentence. A positive development, however, was observed as the number of offences for which the death penalty may be applied has decreased. Also, in the case of attempted pre-meditated murder, in which the death penalty is imposed, the convict will remain in prison and be executed only upon reaching the legal age. Furthermore, the OHCHR delegation has learned that the number of juvenile executions has been reportedly dropped in 2011. As far as ceasing executions by stoning, the amended Code omits the terms 'stoning' as a means of enforcing the death penalty in the case of "adultery while married". However, it is not yet clear whether this omission is indicative of the complete abolition of this type of execution in the judicial system in Iran, as only further interpretation by the Iranian Courts will show. Iran also continues to publicly display executions.

AHRO response:

[See response to recommendation n°18]

Recommendation n°100: *Ensure that competent bodies investigate allegations of torture, enforced disappearance and secret detention, that those responsible are punished and that programmes providing reparation for victims are established* (Recommended by Chile)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

No visible signs of this occurring.

UNPO response:

Several political activists, members of the press, as well as, members of Iranian minority groups, such as the Ahwazi Arabs, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan, and West Balochistan were made victims of harassment, torture, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. However, State criminal prosecutions of Iranian authorities implicated in cases of wrongdoing are hardly carried out. Victims and their families are thus often left with a sense of impunity.

Recommendation n°104: *Ensure that the treatment of detainees duly follows international standards and that irregularities to those standards are properly investigated* (Recommended by Estonia)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Prolonged periods without charge or trial, experiences extended incommunicado detentions, beatings, psychological pressure, rape and other forms of torture continue to be reported. The case of Pastor Benham Irani is a particular case in



point. He is currently serving a five year sentence in Ghezel Hesar prison in Karaj for “action against the state” and a further one year sentence for “action against the order”. The verdict against him includes text that describes Pastor Irani as an apostate and reiterates that apostates “can be killed”. Pastor Irani is currently sharing a cell with criminals who regularly beat him, and as a result of injuries sustained during these assaults, he is now having difficulty walking. During the first few months of his imprisonment, the pastor was held incommunicado in a small cell, where guards would repeatedly wake him from sleep as a form of psychological torture. He was moved into a cramped room where inmates could not lie down to sleep, before being transferred to his current cell. Pastor Irani’s health has deteriorated further in recent months, as and he has developed colon problems. He has suffered severe bleeding, which has rendered him unconscious. There are fears he may die within weeks, however the authorities have allowed him minimal medical attention.

LLG response:

There were reports of the widespread use of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in detention facilities, particularly of those accused of national security-related crimes. The UN expressed its concern for the continued imposition of corporal punishment by judicial and administrative authorities, in particular amputations and flogging executed for a range of crimes, including theft, enmity against God (mohareb) and certain sexual acts. In response, the Iranian authorities stressed that the Constitution forbids torture, the Penal Code stipulates stringent punishment for offenders, and confessions extracted through torture have no legal validity. The Committee also reported frequent denial of trial guarantees such as access to lawyers and families. (United Nations General assembly, Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 19th session, 20 March 2012).

UNPO response:

UN reports and studies by human rights groups have shown that the government continues to allow the use of torture, and other inhumane treatments in Iranian prisons. Also, prisoner interviews carried out by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran’s team have revealed that the custodial conditions still fall well below United Nations standards. The facilities are often overcrowded and unhygienic and do not provide sufficient access to water or medical services. In the province of Balochistan, reports of prisoners being tortured to death and having no access to legal assistance prompted a series of international protests against the government’s disregard for its prisoners. Cases of torture and summary executions have also been reported against members of the Iranian Kurdistan, Ahwazy and Southern Azerbaijan communities.

AHRO response:

has not done so

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>105: *Ensure that the trial of the Yarran is conducted in a fair and transparent manner, consistent with Iranian law, natural justice and due legal process (Recommended by New Zealand)*

*IRI: not implemented*



BIC response:

Iran made no attempt at any time to ensure that the trial of the seven Bahá'ís was fair, transparent and consistent with due process, whether according to international legal standards or even its own laws and regulations. Moreover, since the UPR (and to this day), the judiciary has repeatedly violated due process. In other Bahá'í cases, as well – both before and since the UPR – Iran's intelligence services and its judiciary have failed to act in accordance with due process. Officials cite Iran's own laws and regulations to prove that their legal system is consistent with international standards, but many provisions of national legislation are ignored when intelligence officers arrest and detain Bahá'ís, and also when cases against adherents of this religion are brought to trial.

LLG response:

The Seven leaders were arrested in 5 March 2008 and 14 May 2008 and held in Evin prison in Tehran for several months without access to legal representation and no charges. Trial began on 12 January 2010, it was conducted in a closed trial with no transparency, and in violation of the guarantees of the Iranian Constitution. The trial concluded on 14 June 2010 after six brief session where the seven leaders of the Baha'i community were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. After the initial sentence of 20 years imprisonment for each of the defendants met with outrage and condemnation throughout the world it was changed one month later. The appeal court revoked three of the charges and reduced their sentence to 10-year jail terms. In March 2011, the prisoners were informed that their original 20-year sentences were reinstated. Notwithstanding repeated requests, neither the prisoners nor their attorneys have ever received official copies of the original verdict or the ruling on appeal.

UNPO response:

The trials were considered dubious by several independent sources, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, as Iran made no effort to ensure the fairness and transparency of the decision process. Upon having their sentences reduced to 10 years in prison, the seven leaders had them reinstated to 20 years in early 2011.

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>108: *Ensure the full implementation of international obligations and constitutional guarantees, including with regard to the prohibition of torture (Recommended by Austria)*

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

Reports persist of severe beatings, rape, psychological torture, and other inhuman or degrading treatment meted out by the authorities on those taken into custody. For example, in several cases, torture was used to pressure detained individuals from house churches to make confessions, provide information on fellow Christians and religious activities or sign documents renouncing Christian activities. Detainees are frequently held for lengthy periods of time prior to trial, and they are at grave risk of being subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. Frequently convictions are made in the absence of defence lawyers, on the basis of confessions or other information allegedly obtained under torture in pre-trial detention. Courts often accept such





confessions as evidence without investigating how they are obtained, Death by stoning is authorised in Article 83 of the IPC, which prescribes this punishment for offences of adultery committed by a married man or woman. Adultery can be proved by the testimony of an eyewitness, the confession of a defendant, or by “Judge’s knowledge”, a loophole which allows the judge to make decisions without factual, written, or verbal evidence. Death by stoning is authorised in Article 83 of the IPC, which prescribes this punishment for offences of adultery committed by a married man or woman. Adultery can be proved by the testimony of an eyewitness, the confession of a defendant, or by “Judge’s knowledge”, a loophole which allows the judge to make decisions without factual, written, or verbal evidence.

LLG response:

Governmental official Larijani quoted that flogging and amputation as sentences are not seen as torture but as punishment. Practices such as solitary confinement, poor prison conditions and deliberate lack of access to medical assistance are commonplace in prisons, as well as forms of torture in pre-trial detention, such as food deprivation, sleep deprivation, mock executions, threats to family members, severe beatings, rape, and threats of rape, flogging, and solitary confinement.

UNPO response:

Over the years, Iran has demonstrated little regard for the respect of its obligations under international law. UN reports and studies by human rights groups have shown that the government continues to allow the use of torture, and other inhumane treatments in Iranian prisons. In the province of Sistan and Balochistan, reports of prisoners being tortured to death and having no access to legal assistance prompted a series of international protests against the government’s disregard for its prisoners. Several nonviolent activists fighting for Azeri rights in Southern Azerbaijan have also been reportedly arrested and sent to isolation sections of different prisons, where they were tortured and kept illegally as many were not given a chance for trial. In the last year, cases of torture and summary executions have also been reported against members of the Iranian Kurdistan and Ahwazy communities as well. Since the recommendation was issued, we have not seen any new developments in the direction of eradicating torture and other inhumane methods.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>109: *Ensure the immediate release of illegally detained persons*  
(Recommended by *Austria*)

*IRI: not implemented*

JC response:

Dozens of Christians as well as other religious minorities remain illegally detained by the Iranian security forces. These detainees are subject to harassment, deprivation, torture including torture of a sexual nature, and constant attempts to forcefully convert them to Islam. Those who are members of minority Islamic sects are often subject to similar methods which attempt to force them to conform to the particular Shia strain which dominates Iran.



UNPO response:

The Iranian government still denies the existence of political prisoners in the country; however, hundreds of people are imprisoned on politically motivated charges, such as “acting against national security”, “propaganda against the regime” or “illegal assembly”, every year. In an attempt to appease the country’s opposition, in 2011, 130 political prisoners were released and in August 2012, another 61 were set free. While these positive developments should be welcomed, there are many other prisoners still facing lengthy sentences in poor prison conditions. According to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, evidences have shown that at least 160 identified citizens were being held under the above mentioned charges in the beginning of 2012. The government is yet to address the issue accurately in order to make the necessary changes for the release of its prisoners.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>112: *Eradicate, in national legislation and in practice, torture or other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (Recommended by Israel)*

*IRI: not implemented*

JC response:

Dozens of Christians as well as other religious minorities remain illegally detained by the Iranian security forces. These detainees are subject to harassment, deprivation, torture including torture of a sexual nature, and constant attempts to forcefully convert them to Islam. Those who are members of minority Islamic sects are often subject to similar methods which attempt to force them to conform to the particular Shia strain which dominates Iran.

UNPO response:

UN reports and studies by human rights groups have shown that the government continues to allow the use of torture, and other inhumane treatments in Iranian prisons. In the province of Sistan and Balochistan, reports of prisoners being tortured to death and having no access to legal assistance prompted a series of international protests against the government’s disregard for its prisoners. Several nonviolent activists fighting for Azeri rights in Southern Azerbaijan have also been reportedly arrested and sent to isolation sections of different prisons, where they were tortured and kept illegally as many were not given a chance for trial. In the last year, cases of torture and summary executions have also been reported against members of the Iranian Kurdistan and Ahwazi communities as well.

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>114: *Establish effective complaint mechanisms for victims of torture (Recommended by Czech Republic)*

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

There is no evidence that this has occurred. Complaints against Government officials and paramilitary members of gravely mistreating civilians for their actions are often dropped due to the Iranian authorities’ belief that they are acting for the sake of Islam



LLG response:

Complaint mechanism is the filing of a complaint with the judiciary, but fear of reprisal and stigmatization, especially to victims of rape, prevent reporting. Therefore the complaint mechanism is not effective. Furthermore female victims of rape can be prosecuted for adultery by the judiciary, which adds to the barrier of reporting.

UNPO response:

No effective complaint mechanism has been developed for the specific purpose of guaranteeing victims of torture their right to prosecute the authorities implicated in the action.

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>115: *Establish strict accountability of members of the police and military, prison and detention personnel and the judiciary for any violations of human rights, in particular for torture (Recommended by Czech Republic)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

There is no evidence that this has occurred. Complaints against Government officials and paramilitary members of gravely mistreating civilians for their actions are often dropped due to the Iranian authorities' belief that they are acting for the sake of Islam

UNPO response:

Several members of Iranian minority groups, such as the Ahwazi Arabs, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan, and West Balochistan were made victims of harassment, torture, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. However, State criminal prosecutions of Iranian authorities implicated in cases of wrongdoing are hardly carried out. Victims and their families are thus often left with a sense of impunity.

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>119: *Extend the moratorium on the death penalty and abolish the death penalty, especially for juveniles, in keeping with its international commitments (Recommended by Estonia)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Iran currently executes more people per year than any other country except China. It is generally believed, however, that actual figures are far higher than those officially recorded. Executions have risen markedly, with 660 officially documented during 2011. In May 2012, 53 executions occurred in the space of one week.

UNPO response:

Iran has recently amended its Penal Code and several provisions of its criminal law system have been altered. However, despite such developments, many problematic issues remain unaddressed. One of them is the legitimacy in the application of capital punishment on juvenile convicts. The legality of this provision violates the country's obligations under the ICCPR, which it ratified in 1975, as children accused of certain crimes are still confronted with the possibility of facing the death sentence. The minimum age of criminal responsibility in Iran is nine for girls and fifteen for boys. However the age of majority, i.e. the age individuals are considered fully mature to comprehend the consequences of their criminal actions, is set at eighteen in Iran.



[Convention on the Rights of the Child, of which Iran is a signatory, prohibits the use of adult punishments for individuals under eighteen]. However, article 90 of the new Code stipulates that mature individuals under eighteen, who have committed certain crimes, can still be prosecuted as adults, and thus face the death penalty. The new Code, therefore, does not yet resolve the issue of capital punishment for minors, as they can still be legally executed under certain conditions. A positive development, however, was observed as the number of offences for which the death penalty may be applied has decreased. Furthermore, the OHCHR delegation has learned that the number of juvenile executions has dropped in 2011.

AHRO response:  
has not done so

Recommendation n°130: *Guarantee access to legal representation for those detained in connection with the demonstrations following the 2009 presidential elections* (Recommended by Poland)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Different reports have shown that several members of Iranian minority and political groups have been arbitrarily arrested following the 2009 presidential elections on false or unproved allegations. Many of them were sent to secret locations where they received poor treatment and had no access to legal representation.

Recommendation n°132: *Guarantee the independence of the judicial system, renounce the staging of collective trials and allow the effective exercise of the right to a defence* (Recommended by France)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°204: *Take measures to ensure an effective and impartial judicial system, in conformity with ICCPR is guaranteed* (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

According to article 14 of the ICCPR, to which Iran is a signatory, “Everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law”, a provision also present in the Iranian Constitution. However, in Iran, it is very common for judges to be appointed on the basis of ideology or political expediency, and the decision over an individual’s alleged guilt will likely rest upon an interpretation of different texts, rather than codified laws. Allegations of unfair trials, lack of legal representation and violation of due process are thus frequent, despite constant refutation from government authorities. Moreover, the government has not expressed interest in carrying out practical reforms to assure the full application of the law in this regard.

Recommendation n°134: *Guarantee, in compliance with its obligations under ICCPR, the effective independence of the procedures and administration of justice, restricted emergency legislation, adequate protection for human rights defenders and political*



*opposition members, and the effective guarantee of freedom of expression and opinion and freedom of religion and belief (Recommended by Chile)*

*IRI: not implemented*

BIC response:

Iran has taken no measures (neither before nor since its UPR) to implement these recommendations with regard to members of the Bahá'í religious community.

CSW response:

Human rights defenders and political opposition members face hostile treatment and arrests, generally on the grounds of promoting “propaganda against the regime”. The administration of justice maintains Islam as the primary source of law, and although apostasy is not a crime under penal law, a constitutional loophole allows judges to refer to authoritative fatwas to label a defendant an apostate and issue a death sentence. In February 2011, authorities arrested hundreds of political activists to prevent them from attending demonstrations in support of protest movements in Tunisia and Egypt. Demonstrations went ahead and as the crowds were violently dispersed by security forces, two people were killed, and both aged in their twenties. Opposition leaders and former presidential candidates, Mehdi Karroubi and Mir Hossein Mousavi, as well as their wives have been placed under de facto house arrest shortly after requesting permission to hold the demonstrations; the decision whether to keep them detained is said to rest with the Supreme Leader. The freedom of religion and belief is being seriously curtailed also. In May 2012, Mehrdad Sajadi and his wife Forough Dashtiani, both presbyters and teachers in Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Tehran, has their home raided and were arrested for preaching in the Farsi language.

JC response:

See [recommendations n°] 13, 175

LLG response:

Continued reports of discrimination, arrest, harassment, and persecution of human rights defenders and ethnic, religious, and LGBT minorities.

UNPO response:

Several allegations of human rights violations, including harassment and imprisonment of human rights activists and journalists, have been reported in Iran since the recommendation was issued. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which, combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated.



IPA response:

Court sentencing is sometimes arbitrary. According to a human rights report, there have been cases where the Supreme Court has rejected a lower court's ruling to implement the death penalty, only to have the case returned to them until they accept the death penalty as the appropriate judgment. Human rights defenders and political opposition members are still subject to persecution.

Recommendation n°135: *Immediately halt the execution of juveniles and political prisoners and, furthermore, establish an official moratorium* (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

In September 2011 Alireza Molla-Soltani, a minor, was executed in public square in the city of Karaj.

UNPO response:

Iran is still one of the few countries that send juvenile prisoners to death, in violation of the country's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified in 1975, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified in 1994. Political prisoners are also a common target, and hundreds are reported to have been sentenced to death since the recommendation was presented. Moreover, an official moratorium on capital punishment in Iran is yet to be discussed.

WJC response:

Needs to be implemented

AHRO response:

has not done so

Recommendation n°136: *Immediately investigate all allegations involving the torture and other ill treatment of those arrested or detained during the demonstrations in June 2009* (Recommended by Australia)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

There is no evidence this has occurred. Complaints against Government officials and paramilitary members of gravely mistreating civilians for their actions are often dropped due to the Iranian authorities' belief that they are acting for the sake of Islam.

UNPO response:

Several political activists, members of the press, as well as, members of Iranian minority groups, such as the Ahwazi Arabs, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan, and West Balochistan were made victims of harassment, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. However, State criminal prosecutions of Iranian authorities implicated in cases of wrongdoing are hardly carried out. Victims and their families are thus often left with a sense of impunity.



Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>140: *Investigate and prosecute all those, including Government officials and paramilitary members, suspected of having mistreated, tortured or killed anyone, including demonstrators, political activists, human rights defenders and journalists* (Recommended by Canada)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Complaints against Government officials and paramilitary members of gravely mistreating civilians are often dropped due to the Iranian authorities' belief that they are acting for the sake of Islam. Iranian authorities have not taken the opportunity to remove restrictions on the freedom of assembly during the re-drafting of the Penal Code, stating in January 2012 that they have found nothing incompatible in the current re-draft with Islamic Law. During the run up to parliamentary elections in February 2012, writers, bloggers, workers' rights activists and members of religious and ethnic minorities were detained in a large wave of arrests. Hundreds of prisoners of conscience and political prisoners continue to be imprisoned or detained and it is extremely difficult to obtain information regarding their whereabouts or current well-being. Torture appears rife. In January 2011, for example, human rights defender Navid Khanjani was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for "causing unease in the public mind" and "spreading propaganda against the system". Prior to this, he had been held for at least 23 days in solitary confinement, was beaten while being questioned and nearly strangled while blindfolded by a police officer for refusing to "confess" on camera.

UNPO response:

Several political activists, members of the press, as well as, members of Iranian minority groups, such as the Ahwazi Arabs, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan, and West Balochistan were made victims of harassment, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. However, State criminal prosecutions of Iranian authorities implicated in cases of wrongdoing are hardly carried out. Victims and their families are thus often left with a sense of impunity.

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>144: *Prosecute security officials involved in torturing, raping or killing* (Recommended by Austria)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Complaints against Government officials and paramilitary members of gravely mistreating civilians are often dropped due to the Iranian authorities' belief that they are acting for the sake of Islam.

UNPO response:

Several political activists, members of the press, as well as, members of Iranian minority groups, such as the Ahwazi Arabs, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan, and West Balochistan were made victims of harassment, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. However, State criminal prosecutions of Iranian authorities implicated in cases of wrongdoing are hardly carried out. Victims and their families are thus often left with a sense of impunity.



Recommendation n°145: *Provide due process of law for those charged with crimes, and to discontinue the show trials (Recommended by United States)*

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Recent cases of alleged unfair trials in Iran have sparked international opinion against the violation of due process. The presumption of innocence has also been reportedly eroded in several occasions, as convicts were charged in the absence of a proper investigation and often on the basis of misleading evidence. The trials of the seven Baha'is illustrate the nature of the problem in Iran, as the government made no effort to ensure the fairness and transparency of the decision process. Moreover, according to international legal standards, the trials are considered to have violated due process; and the charges brought against them may as well constitute a violation of the country's own obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in relation to freedom of expression and freedom of religion.

A19 response:

This is something ARTICLE 19 has observed and raised concerns.

Recommendation n°147: *Provide guarantees of a fair trial, allowing access to independent observers during the judicial proceedings amend the provisions of the procedural criminal code that allows the Government to deny the basic right to a lawyer during the accusation period guarantee transparency and accountability and allow lawyers access to relevant information concerning each case investigate and prosecute all public officials and Basij paramilitary members suspected of torture, ill treatment or extrajudicial execution eliminate every restriction on the freedom of expression, particularly with regard to digital media, which runs counter to ICCPR (Recommended by Spain)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

The criminal justice system in Iran offers little protection for human rights. Those detained for allegedly political crimes tend to receive grossly unfair trials in which they often face vaguely worded charges, which do not amount to any recognisable offences. Under Iranian law, the accused has no right to legal representation prior to being formally charged. Frequently convictions are made in the absence of defence lawyers, on the basis of confessions or other information allegedly obtained under torture in pre-trial detention. Courts often accept such confessions as evidence without investigating how they are obtained. Detainees are often held for lengthy periods of time prior to trial, where they are at grave risk of being subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. Prisoners held for suspected political crimes in particular are often held incommunicado. A Christian detainee, Farshid Fathi Malayeri, has been imprisoned since December 2010, is held in the political wing of Evin prison and was held incommunicado for much of his detention. A group of four Christians arrested in Hamadan in September 2010 were also held in solitary confinement and incommunicado for 44 days before being taken to prison, and did not receive any charges for many months. Trials are generally unfair and detainees are systematically denied access to a lawyer until investigations have been completed, which may take some months. Judicial procedure during the trial Masoud Delijan at the Revolutionary Court of Kermanshah was also questionable. Reports indicate Mr.





Delijani was not allowed to choose his own advocate or to defend himself against the charges. This is in itself a violation of Iranian Constitution, which allows for defendants to have access to a lawyer and places the onus on the court to secure legal representation when the defendant is unable to. However, of particular concern is the deplorable state of the prison to which he has been sent and the limited access he has to visitors. It is reported that his wife is only allowed brief visits every two to three weeks, and can only see him behind glass and communicate using an intercom.

A19 response:

Like [recommendation n°]145, it has been observed time and again that due processes set even by Iranian Gov's standards are not taken into account. Also noted is that while Iran is a signatory to ICCPR, it is not abiding by what has been set out. In a legal analysis of the 'Computer Crimes Law' adopted in Iran, ARTICLE 19 clearly points out how every single item contradicts the ICCPR and other international instruments when it comes to digital media and free expression/information, and also made some recommendations.

Recommendation n°148: *Provide information concerning the whereabouts of detainees, to their families and legal defenders and to provide access to them (Recommended by Austria)*

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

Hundreds of prisoners of conscience and political prisoners continue to be detained and it is extremely difficult to obtain information regarding their whereabouts or current well-being.

LLG response:

Reports of political detainees held incommunicado, without charge, and gone through unfair trials without legal representation. Trials are in violation of individuals' procedural guarantees, many of which reach the final verdict without proper legal assistance and representation throughout the proceedings or in violation of the rights to defence.

UNPO response:

Iran has demonstrated little interest in providing information concerning the fate of detainees, as the recent case involving the Ahwazi Arab convicts demonstrates. In early 2012, five members of the minority group were arrested and sentenced to death in what was considered an unfair trial by several Human Rights groups. Four of the men were executed in June and the fate of the fifth man is still unknown. Situations like these are not unusual in Iran; Amnesty International has revealed that many prisoners are held in secret locations with potentially no access to legal representation, and their fate is only known after the executions have taken place. Despite accepting this recommendation, Iran is yet to improve the channels responsible for providing such information, as the ongoing failure to do so continues to alarm the international community.

AHRO response:

Has not done so.

Recommendation n°164: *Reconsider the inclusion of apostasy, witchcraft and heresy as capital offences in its updated penal code (Recommended by New Zealand)*

IRI: -

LLG response:

Apostasy is not in the Iranian Penal Code, but article 220 of the Iranian Penal Code states that if the law is silent then article 167 of the Constitution may be applied. Article 167 of the Constitution allows the judge to deliver sentence based on official Islamic sources, such as authentic fatwas, and his judgement, in the case of absence of laws. This was used in the sentencing of one man, named Sayed Ali Ghorabat, who was executed by hanging on the charge of apostasy on 26 January 2011 in the Laroun prison of the city of Ahvaz.

UNPO response:

International law prohibits the discrimination and persecution of people based on religion. The abandonment of a person's religion, also known as apostasy, should thus not be subject to the punishment of death, as is the case in Iran. The new Iranian Penal Code, which will take effect as soon as it is signed by the President, does not cite the crime of apostasy, but allows judges to rely on religious sources to convict a person under this charge. This clearly violates the country's obligations under the ICCPR, ratified by Iran in 1975.

Recommendation n°168: *Release or charge and bring before a court - in a manner consistent with international fair trial standards and Iran's own Constitution - all persons detained in connection with the demonstrations following the 2009 presidential elections (Recommended by Canada)*

IRI: *partially implemented*

UNPO response:

The Iranian government still denies the existence of political prisoners in the country; however, hundreds of people are imprisoned on politically motivated charges, such as "acting against national security", "propaganda against the regime" or "illegal assembly", every year. In an attempt to appease the country's opposition, in 2011, 130 political prisoners were released and in August 2012, another 61 were set free. While these positive developments should be welcomed, there are many other prisoners still facing lengthy sentences in poor prison conditions. According to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, evidences have shown that at least 160 identified citizens were being held under the above mentioned charges in the beginning of 2012. The government is yet to address the issue accurately in order to make the necessary changes for the release of its prisoners.

Recommendation n°176: *Respect the human rights of prisoners and detainees, and investigate and stop immediately any alleged abuses (Recommended by Ireland)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

There is no evidence that this has occurred



JC response:

Dozens of Christians as well as other religious minorities remain illegally detained by the Iranian security forces. These detainees are subject to harassment, deprivation, torture including torture of a sexual nature, and constant attempts to forcefully convert them to Islam. Those who are members of minority Islamic sects are often subject to similar methods which attempt to force them to conform to the particular Shia strain which dominates Iran.

UNPO response:

Recent UN reports and studies by human rights groups have shown that the government continues to allow the use of torture, and other inhumane treatments in Iranian prisons. Also, prisoner interviews carried out by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran's team have revealed that the custodial conditions still fall well below United Nations standards. The facilities are often overcrowded and unhygienic and do not provide sufficient access to water or medical services. In the province of Sistan and Balochistan, reports of prisoners being tortured to death and having no access to legal assistance prompted a series of international protests against the government's disregard for its prisoners. Cases of torture and summary executions have also been reported against members of the Iranian Kurdistan, Ahwazy and Southern Azerbaijan communities.

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>179: *Review security and criminal laws that are open to abuse in the form of the persecution of human rights defenders and political critics (Recommended by Czech Republic)*

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

The new Penal Code has not changed the actual political scenario in Iran, in which, the rights guaranteed by the ICCPR are still often violated. Several political activists, including members of the minority community, have been arrested in the two years following the recommendation, under the charges of 'acting against national security'. This measure allows the authorities to arrest demonstrators, journalists and any individual expressing opposing views towards the government.

AHRO response:

Has not done so

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>201: *Take further steps to eliminate torture and other forms of ill treatment, and ensure an effective and impartial judicial system (Recommended by Denmark)*

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n<sup>o</sup>203: *Take immediate action to cease the practice of torture in detention facilities, and investigate and prosecute allegations of torture (Recommended by United States)*

IRI: *not implemented*

JC response:

Dozens of Christians as well as other religious minorities remain illegally detained by the Iranian security forces. These detainees are subject to harassment, deprivation,



torture including torture of a sexual nature, and constant attempts to forcefully convert them to Islam. Those who are members of minority Islamic sects are often subject to similar methods which attempt to force them to conform to the particular Shia strain which dominates Iran.

CSW response:

There is no evidence that this has occurred.

LLG response:

Governmental official Larijani quoted that flogging and amputation as sentences are not seen as torture but as punishment. Practices such as solitary confinement, poor prison conditions and deliberate lack of access to medical assistance are commonplace in prisons, as well as forms of torture in pre-trial detention, such as food deprivation, sleep deprivation, mock executions, threats to family members, severe beatings, rape, and threats of rape, flogging, and solitary confinement.

UNPO response:

According to the Iranian Constitution, in its article 38, torture should not be used as a means of extracting confession or acquiring information from convicts. However, recent reports suggest that the use of physical and psychological mistreatment is frequent against detainees. Many are forced to 'confess', as was the case of the four members of the Ahwazi Arab minority, who were executed in mid-2012. In the province of Sistan and Balochistan, reports of prisoners being tortured to death and having no access to legal assistance prompted a series of international protests against the government's disregard for its prisoners. Iranian Kurds have also been the victims of torture and unfair trials. A few Kurdish activists have even come forward to describe the appalling conditions of Iranian prisons, recounting the infliction of severe physical pain on inmates as a constant practice among authorities. Moreover, confessions extracted under torture also led to the prosecution of several Azerbaijanis, who were later sentenced to death and executed in 2011.

Recommendation n°206: *Take measures to ensure that no torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment occurs* (Recommended by Netherlands)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

There is no evidence this has occurred.

JC response:

Dozens of Christians as well as other religious minorities remain illegally detained by the Iranian security forces. These detainees are subject to harassment, deprivation, torture including torture of a sexual nature, and constant attempts to forcefully convert them to Islam. Those who are members of minority Islamic sects are often subject to similar methods which attempt to force them to conform to the particular Shia strain which dominates Iran.



UNPO response:

According to the Iranian Constitution, in its article 38, torture should not be used as a means of extracting confession or acquiring information from convicts. However, recent reports suggest that the use of physical and psychological mistreatment is frequent against detainees. Many are forced to ‘confess’, as was the case of the four members of the Ahwazi Arab minority, who were executed in mid-2012. In the province of Sistan and Balochistan, reports of prisoners being tortured to death and having no access to legal assistance prompted a series of international protests against the government’s disregard for its prisoners. Iranian Kurds have also been the victims of torture and unfair trials. A few Kurdish activists have even come forward to describe the appalling conditions of Iranian prisons, recounting the infliction of severe physical pain on inmates as a constant practice among authorities. Moreover, confessions extracted under torture also led to the prosecution of several Azerbaijanis, who were later sentenced to death and executed in 2011.

Moreover, prisoner interviews carried out by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran’s team have revealed that the custodial conditions of inmates still fall well below United Nations standards. The facilities are often overcrowded and unhygienic and do not provide sufficient access to water or medical services.

*Recommendation n°207: Take measures to ensure that security forces, including police, armed forces and Basij, do not use excessive force against those exercising their right to freedom of expression, association and assembly (Recommended by Australia)*

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

No measures have been taken to protect Iranians who exercise their right to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Throughout 2011 and 2012, violence from security forces increasingly worsened as penal laws allow the death penalty to be meted out to those seen to be “spreading propaganda against the regime” or “working with the enemy”. In February 2011, authorities arrested hundreds of political activists and others to prevent them from attending demonstrations in support of protest movements in Tunisia and Egypt. Demonstrations went ahead and as the crowds were violently dispersed by security forces, Mohammad Mokhtari, 22 and Sane’ Zhaleh, 26 were killed. In May 2012, a number of new Christian converts, including artist Vahid Zarday and his wife, were arrested in the religious city of Mashhad, capital of the Khorasan Province. Mr. Zarday had gathered together with his wife and a number of new Christians in a house church when plain clothes security officers raided, thoroughly searched the place, arrested everyone present and transferred them to an unknown location.

UNPO response:

Several allegations of human rights violations, including harassment and imprisonment of human rights activists and journalists, have been reported in Iran since the recommendation was issued. Despite the recent amendments to the Iranian Penal Code, numerous provisions may still be applied in ways to limit freedom of expression, media and assembly. Articles 498, 500, 513, 514, 610 and 618 are good illustrations of the imprecise nature of these regulations, which,



combined with arbitrary application and abuse of power, can easily result in the restriction of people's rights. Moreover, the current cases involving the imprisonment of members of unions, members of the press, students and activists have shown that the country's violation of its obligations under international law have continued unabated.

IPA response:

Measures do not yet exist to limit the use of force against citizens. A legitimate protest in February 2011 was violently dispersed with authorities killing several people and arresting hundreds more. In the months after this incident, peaceful demonstrations were met with aggressive security forces.

Recommendation n°210: *Take urgent action to reduce the number of offences punishable by death, and to entirely ban the execution of such sentences in case of juveniles (Recommended by Hungary)*

IRI: *not implemented*

LLG response:

[See response to recommendation n° 18]

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 1]

Recommendation n°212: *With regard to those arrested after the presidential elections, fully respect the right to a fair trial of all persons under arrest and detainees, in compliance with articles 32, 35, 38 and 39 of the Iranian Constitution (Recommended by Italy)*

IRI: *not implemented*

LLG response:

Mock trials were performed, including reports of torture used to get confessions and lack of adequate legal representation. Concerns were raised throughout the year by the High Commissioner and special procedures mandate holders about the procedural guarantees being observed in relation to trials of Government opponents. The formation of a special court inside Evin prison for political and security cases has increased concerns about due process rights for detainees. For instance, during preliminary investigations, judges only receive information from intelligence officers, suspects' lawyers are not entitled to meet with their clients, and judges have to work in an environment that is under the oversight of the Ministry of Intelligence.

UNPO response:

The Iranian Constitution calls upon the respect of several rights, such as the presumption of innocence, the prohibition of torture and the right to legal representation. However, recent cases of alleged unfair trials in Iran have incited international opinion to question the legality of such practices. The presumption of innocence has also been reportedly eroded in several occasions, as convicts were charged in the absence of a proper investigation and often on the basis of misleading evidence. The trials of the seven Baha'is illustrate the nature of the problem in Iran, as the government made no effort to ensure the fairness and transparency of the decision process. Moreover, according to international legal standards, the trials are



considered to have violated due process; and the charges brought against them may as well constitute a violation of the country's own obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in relation to freedom of expression and freedom of religion.

## Women & Children

Recommendation n°9: *Adopt and implement efficient policies aimed at eliminating genderbased violence, combating traditional stereotypes through targeted human rights educational campaigns, and guaranteeing for victims access to justice and rehabilitation* (Recommended by Slovakia)

IRI: *not implemented*

AHRO response:

Not adopted.

Recommendation n°10: *Adopt measures to guarantee women's equality under the law* (Recommended by Chile)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°107: *Ensure the equal treatment of women and girls in law and practice* (Recommended by Austria)

IRI: *not implemented*

+

Recommendation n°172: *Repeal or amend all discriminatory provisions against women and girls in national legislation* (Recommended by Israel)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Although the Charter on the Rights and Duties of Women in Iran underlines the importance of women's rights, men's role as the provider of the economic life of women creates a fundamental distinction between the sexes. Beliefs such as these continue to influence the law. New legal decrees have been created that are beneficial for women; these include a bill to enable women to inherit from their deceased husband, a bill for women to be entitled to equal blood money (Diyeh) as men, and the right to benefit from alimony in permanent marital relationships. Despite these seemingly progressive laws, in 2012, Iranian women are discriminated against in personal status matters related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody. Women still require a male guardian's approval for marriage regardless of age and they cannot pass on their nationality to foreign-born spouses or their children. Women also remain unable to obtain a passport to travel outside the country without their husband's written permission. Women young and old, women with a university education, women belonging to minority groups and women of different sexual orientations, all experience discrimination. The number of female students seeking entry to university in Iran in 2011 was lower than ever before, with news emerging in August 2012 that women had been excluded from 77 BA and BSc courses in 36 universities, including engineering, accounting, education, counselling



and chemistry, a move that allegedly came after women outperformed men in entrance examinations. In addition, over 70,000 police had been placed on the streets so as to arrest women who were not properly dressed. Women rights activists, who speak up for the equality of women, including Fereshteh Shirazi and women connected with the 'One Million Signatures' Campaign have been detained by Iranian authorities or are serving prison terms for their peaceful activities, often on vaguely-worded charges related to offences against the state. Although measures are being taken to make women's role in society equal to men's under the law, in practice, the effects are minimal and women continue to face severe discrimination.

JC response:

Women do not enjoy equal rights under Iranian law. In the Iranian court, a woman's testimony counts for half that of a man's testimony. A female judge cannot issue final verdicts. Without a husband or male relative's permission, women may not obtain passports. The Iranian government has failed to adopt any measures to balance women's equality under its law.

LLG response:

Discriminatory laws continue to exist in the legislator. These include the fact that no woman has ever been appointed to the Guardian Council or to top decision-making positions of the Expediency Council, and that women cannot become presiding judges.

Furthermore the Civil Code contains discriminatory practices such as the testimony of two women is equivalent to one man's, and the blood money (diyeh) of a women is one half that of a man. Concerning marriage, the Civil Code requires the father's or paternal grandfather's approval to legalize a marriage, men have the unconditional power to divorce, while women don't, woman are legally obliged to be obedient to their husband, when a woman intends to leave the country, she requires her husband's approval, and polygamy is allowed for men and not women under particular conditions, including insanity of the woman, conviction to prison or infertility. In relation to their children, woman are also disadvantaged, as full custody rights is granted to father after a child reaches the age of 7 or if the mother remarries, guardianship over a child in the case of the father's death is granted to paternal male next of kin (i.e uncle or grandfather) and not the mother, and Iranian women don't have the right to transmit nationality to their children. Besides, women are granted half the inheritance rights as men.

UNPO response:

According to a report developed by the UNDP in 2011, Iran ranks 98 out of 187 in gender inequality, which includes inequality over women's rights under Iranian law. Several Iranian NGO, journalists and peace activists have been fighting to guarantee a better legal scenario for women, as discriminatory laws continue to create conditions for the emergence of gender inequality in the country. These include laws on marriage, divorce, the number of partners, the age of criminal responsibility, inheritance, bearing witness and social security. The government does not seem to support the work done by activists on this subject, as many have been sentenced to prison under the charge of acting against national security, especially in 2012.





Moreover, Iran has yet to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and develop mechanisms to guarantee gender equality under the law, as cases of discriminatory condemnations still persist.

A19 response:

[...]

Recommendation n°21: *Bring its national legislation into conformity with international obligations on women's rights, and to follow the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, as well as guarantee the safety of advocates for gender equality* (Recommended by Estonia)

IRI: not implemented

UNPO response:

Iran still holds a history of persecution against activists advocating for women's rights and gender equality. This is verified by the number of activists sent to jail every year, under the charge of acting against national security. Also, the country is yet to create conditions to guarantee legal equality between men and woman. Although in some cases there is seemingly no gender bias in the laws, as the same punishment is provided for both men and women, in several of them, men are able to take refuge in other laws, and thus evade charges. Regarding the matter of violence against women, which is still deep-rooted in gender inequality, a recent report by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women has also raised concerns over the phenomenon of self-immolation committed by women in Iran, as the rates of this means of suicide in the country place among the highest in the world.

AHRO response:

No sign of implementation

Recommendation n°31: *Conduct a policy of zero tolerance towards the trafficking in women and girl children, child prostitution and the production of pornography involving children* (Recommended by Germany)

IRI: not implemented

LLG response:

Human trafficking is illegal by law. Articles 18 and 19 of the Bill on the Protection of the Minor and Youth, which has been approved by the Government and is presently going through legal channels for finalization, has stipulated up to 10 years imprisonment for the purchasing, selling, trafficking and transfer of limbs. Those punishments may not be pardoned or suspended. Moreover, in case the crime is carried out by parents, guardians and skilled people, including physicians, they shall receive the highest punishment. Article 26 of the Bill stipulates punishments if the perpetrator is a legal entity.

However, the trafficking and sale of persons under 18 years of age, particularly young girls from rural areas, is often facilitated by temporary marriages (or "siqeh") partially motivated by poverty. The minimum age for marriage stands at 13 for girls, and 15 for boys although majority tend to not get married until 18. The Islamic Consultative Assembly passed the Law on Trafficking of Persons, in 2004, with the aim of safeguarding human dignity. The law prohibits trafficking in persons by means



of threat or use of force, coercion, abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability of the victim for the purposes of prostitution, removal of organs, slavery or forced marriages. These offences would reportedly be punished with up to 10 years in prison. A 2012 report found there was no activity from the government on monitoring or actively punishing any of these practices, especially not where officials may be involved.

*Recommendation n°66: Continue to implement measures aimed at further promoting and protecting children's rights, and intensify efforts to ensure further opportunities for access to higher education (Recommended by Qatar)*

*IRI: not implemented*

LLG response:

The Iranian authorities have made great strides in extending education to girls and woman since 1993 (over 60% of all university entrants are now woman). However, during the same period, woman in Iran have remained subject to discrimination under the law. The last year has seen proposals by the authorities to implement gender segregation in institutions of higher [learning], for which the norm in recent years has been to have mixed gender courses. President Ahmadinejad was reported in July 2011 to have asked the ministry of Science, Research, and Technology (MSRT) to stop current gender segregation plans, but it is not clear whether he has the authority to enforce this request, as the Supreme Leader is the head of state and seems to support these proposals. In August 2011, it was reported that 20 universities would be restricting certain courses to one gender only. Later that same month, the Ministry of Education issued a directive, banning mixed gender classes in most pre-schools. In August 2012, Government information showed that for the new academic year (starting 22 Sept 2012), 36 public universities across the country have banned female enrollment in 77 fields of study. On a smaller scale, male enrollment was also banned from a number of majors. Gender segregation in Universities raises concerns about whether men and woman will continue to enjoy access to the same quality of higher education. It also seems to limit access for woman to courses that will provide them with high paying jobs in the future. These measures, coupled with reports of quotas, restricting woman's admission to specific university programmes, as well as requirements for unmarried woman to study as near to their hometown as possible, appear to indicate that woman are facing increasing discrimination in their access to education.

*Recommendation n°68: Continue to improve its policies and programmes to advance the status of women and girls, and protect children, including those with disabilities (Recommended by Indonesia)*

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

Although the Charter on the Rights and Duties of Women in Iran underlines the importance of women's rights, men's role as the provider of the economic life of women creates a fundamental distinction between the sexes. Beliefs such as these continue to influence the law. New legal decrees have been created that are beneficial for women; these include a bill to enable women to inherit from their deceased husband, a bill for women to be entitled to equal blood money (Diyeh) as men, and the right to benefit from alimony in permanent marital relationships. Despite



these seemingly progressive laws, in 2012, Iranian women are discriminated against in personal status matters related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody. Women still require a male guardian's approval for marriage regardless of age and they cannot pass on their nationality to foreign-born spouses or their children. Women also remain unable to obtain a passport to travel outside the country without their husband's written permission. Women young and old, women with a university education, women belonging to minority groups and women of different sexual orientations, all experience discrimination. The number of female students seeking entry to university in Iran in 2011 was lower than ever before, with news emerging in August 2012 that women had been excluded from 77 BA and BSc courses in 36 universities, including engineering, accounting, education, counselling and chemistry, a move that allegedly came after women outperformed men in entrance examinations. In addition, over 70,000 police had been placed on the streets so as to arrest women who were not properly dressed. Women rights activists, who speak up for the equality of women, including Fereshteh Shirazi and women connected with the 'One Million Signatures' Campaign have been detained by Iranian authorities or are serving prison terms for their peaceful activities, often on vaguely-worded charges related to offences against the state. Although measures are being taken to make women's role in society equal to men's under the law, in practice, the effects are minimal and women continue to face severe discrimination.

**Recommendation n°70: *Continue to make progress in education and health care, with a particular focus on women and girl children* (Recommended by Bangladesh)**

**IRI: *partially implemented***

Anonymous response:

In the area of Girls' Education, the Iranian Ministry of Education has had promising achievements. In some urban areas the enrollment of girls in primary education exceeds that of boys, and at the country level, in 2009, 49 percent of first-year entrants into the primary education were girls. In rural areas where the gender parity is lower, the government is putting in place special plans targeting communities to promote access of girls to education.

CSW response:

Women young and old, women with a university education, women belonging to minority groups and women of different sexual orientations, all experience discrimination. The number of female students seeking entry to university in Iran in 2011 was lower than ever before, with news emerging in August 2012 that women had been excluded from 77 BA and BSc courses in 36 universities, including engineering, accounting, education, counselling and chemistry, a move that allegedly came after women outperformed men in entrance examinations.

LLG response:

Members of parliament and five rural hospitals have shown an inclination to segregate hospitals based on gender, which would severely degrade level of health facilities and services provided to women due to large discrepancy between male and female specialists. Preventive and protective measures for vulnerable women and victims include the establishment of intervention and rehabilitation offices and enforcement of programs of intervention in individual, family and social crises; setting



up of a social emergency telephone line; provision of mobile emergency services; establishment of 24 rehabilitation centers and 31 health houses for women and girls. Gender discrimination is a serious issue within the educational system. It is portrayed in textbooks, and through the prohibition of physical education for girls, and the banishment of poor girls who were sold into marriage from the school system. As the legal age of marriage for girls is 13, child brides in rural areas and impoverished villages are banned from school in fear of having a negative influence to their peers. Although they can theoretically be enrolled in evening adult school, being separated from their peers and constrained by inconvenient hours and location, it becomes impractical or impossible for them to continue.

#### UNPO response:

Reports of minorities being denied access to education and health care have become a concern to the members of these communities, who have risen up against such injustices in an attempt to revert their current situation. All the children are required to study Farsi, the national language, before they are able to learn their own ethnic language. This shows the government's lack of interest in safeguarding their cultural values, and is consequently received by minorities as a sign of disregard for their culture and traditions. It is thus difficult to perceive Iranian's attempts to make progress in education and health care in a national level considering it does not address the needs of the whole of its population, which includes the minority groups as well. Until such discriminative measures are brought to a halt, Iran cannot be considered to have followed this recommendation.

*Recommendation n°88: Develop a legal framework for protecting and promoting the rights of women (Recommended by Brazil)*

*IRI: not implemented*

#### CSW response:

New legal decrees have been created that are beneficial for women; these include a bill to enable women to inherit from their deceased husband, a bill for women to be entitled to equal blood money (Diyeh) as men, and the right to benefit from alimony in permanent marital relationships. Despite these seemingly progressive laws, in 2012, Iranian women are discriminated against in personal status matters related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody. Women still require a male guardian's approval for marriage regardless of age and they cannot pass on their nationality to foreign-born spouses or their children. Women also remain unable to obtain a passport to travel outside the country without their husband's written permission. Women young and old, women with a university education, women belonging to minority groups and women of different sexual orientations, all experience discrimination. The number of female students seeking entry to university in Iran in 2011 was lower than ever before, with news emerging in August 2012 that women had been excluded from 77 BA and BSc courses in 36 universities, including engineering, accounting, education, counselling and chemistry, a move that allegedly came after women outperformed men in entrance examinations. In addition, over 70,000 police had been placed on the streets so as to arrest women who were not properly dressed and in February 2012, it was reported that female civil servants would have to wear a mandatory uniform conforming to the "Islamic dress" by March 2012. Women rights activists, who speak up for the equality of women, including



Fereshteh Shirazi and women connected with the 'One Million Signatures' Campaign have been detained by Iranian authorities or are serving prison terms for their peaceful activities, often on vaguely-worded charges related to offences against the state. Although measures are being taken to make women's role in society equal to men's under the law, in practice, the effects are minimal and women continue to face severe discrimination.

UNPO response:

According to a report developed by the UNDP in 2011, Iran ranks 98 out of 187 in gender inequality, which includes inequality over women's rights under Iranian law. Several Iranian NGOs have been fighting to guarantee a better legal scenario for women, as discriminatory laws continue to create conditions for the emergence of gender inequality in the country. These include laws on marriage, divorce, the number of partners, the age of criminal responsibility, inheritance, bearing witness and social security. The government does not seem to support the work done by activists on this subject, as many have been sentenced to prison, especially in 2012, under the charge of acting against national security. Moreover, Iran has yet to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and develop mechanisms to guarantee gender equality under the law, as cases of discriminatory condemnations still persist.

*Recommendation n°190: Step up efforts to enhance the participation of women in all spheres of socio-economic life, in keeping with the progress made in women's education (Recommended by Bangladesh)*

*IRI: partially implemented*

LLG response:

Iran has appointment women as members or secretaries of Councils and offers training to them in order to cultivate skilled human resources, which are among the achievements of the Councils. However, women are employed mostly in the Councils dealing with women, such as Family Councils. Gender distribution among the members of the Councils is largely disproportional, with 8.8% of the roles occupied by women. Iran is making proportional steps in including more women in judicial roles, the number has risen from 161 women in 2003 to 614 women [...]. However, women's roles are restricted to counselling and assisting in prosecution, not directly handing down sentencing.

UNPO response:

According to a report developed by the UNDP in 2011, Iran ranks 98 out of 187 in gender inequality, which includes inequality over women's rights under Iranian law. Several Iranian NGOs have been fighting to guarantee a better legal scenario for women, especially those members of minority communities, as discriminatory laws continue to create conditions for the emergence of gender inequality in the country. These include laws on marriage, divorce, the number of partners, the age of criminal responsibility, inheritance, bearing witness and social security. The government does not seem to support the work done by activists on this subject, as many have been sentenced to prison, especially in 2012, under the charge of acting against national security. Moreover, Iran has yet to develop mechanisms to guarantee gender equality under the law, as cases of discriminatory condemnations still persist.



Recommendation n°199: *Take all steps necessary to reform the discriminatory provisions of penal and civil laws, including with regard to women's equal rights in marriage, access to justice and legal discrimination* (Recommended by Ireland)

IRI: *not implemented*

JC response:

[See response to recommendation n° 10]

LLG response:

Along with discriminatory laws (see above issue 10), women cannot be residing judges who hand out sentencing. Women are allowed to listen to civil cases as judges, they are prohibited from becoming the verdict-speaking judge in civil courts and absolutely prevented from participating as judges in criminal courts

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 190]

## Other

Recommendation n°23: *Cease all actions as a third-State proxy, and to refrain from financing, organizing, training, supplying and equipping non-State actors committing acts in violation of international law* (Recommended by Israel)

IRI: *not implemented*

AHRO response:

Added more proxies in Bahrain

Recommendation n°37: *Consider favourably the inclusion of the outcome of the present review in the human rights national strategic plan referred to in paragraph 124 of the national report* (Recommended by Mexico)

IRI: -

UNPO response:

In the years following the 2009 election protests, many allegations of human rights violations were reported in Iran. Individuals accused of acting against national security were unable to express opposing views and were arrested, some even summarily executed, under false or unproved charges. Minority communities, such as the Baha'i, Ahwazi, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan and West Balochistan have been made victims of harassment and unfair prosecution, and measures to safeguard their rights have often not taken place. Iran also has categorically ignored several of the Human Rights delegations demands for a visit to the country. Such practices have thus demonstrated Iran's lack of commitment to its obligations under international law, as well as to the principles of human rights.

Recommendation n°41: *Continue efforts and contributions at the international level aimed at strengthening international human rights mechanisms and, in particular, help to make those mechanisms work on the basis of non-politicization and dialogue*



*based on respect and cooperation, which guarantees the realization of the interests of the international community (Recommended by Libya)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Frequent breaches of international human rights conventions such as the ICCPR and UDHR are occurring. Attempts have been made to demonstrate an effort to promote international dialogue based on respect and co-operation. Press TV, a government-controlled site, reported that in September 2011, a briefing session on the international Religions, Dialogs and Asian Cultures Conference was being held in Tehran by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO). In reality, however, international human rights are being politicized by the Iranian government as demonstrated in Articles 20, 22, 24, 26 and 27 of the Iranian Constitution. Here, rights such as the freedom of expression may be upheld but only as long as it is not detrimental to the fundamental rights of Islam, the primary religion supported by the regime in an ever more fervent manner. Iranian authorities have also not taken the opportunity to remove restrictions on freedom of assembly in the re-drafting of the Penal Code, stating in January 2012 that they have found nothing incompatible in the current re-drafting with Islamic Law, the primary informer of action. This latter measure directly imposes restrictions on the ability to promote a national and international dialogue based on respect and co-operation.

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 37]

*Recommendation n°44: Continue efforts to implement its obligations in the sphere of human rights protection (Recommended by Russian Federation)*

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Iran is currently failing to implement its obligations under ICCPR which allows for rights such as freedom of expression, assembly and religion. In all of these areas, Iran is suppressing and/or persecuting civilians. Although flawed, Iran's domestic legal framework governing pre-trial detention should provide some protection against arbitrary arrest and detention, prohibited under Articles 9 and 14 of the ICCPR. Despite this, thousands of people have been arbitrarily arrested since 2009, and many of those arrested have been subject to serious human rights violations. These violations include incommunicado detention conditions which amount to enforced disappearance as well as torture and other mistreatment. For example, Noorollah Qabitzade, a 47 year old minister, was arrested whilst preaching in a house church in Dezful, Khugestan Province, to celebrate Christmas in December 2010. During his 19 months in detention, Mr. Qabitzade was subject to numerous interrogation sessions, severe mental torture and solitary confinement.

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 37]

*Recommendation n°47: Continue its capacity-building programmes related to all aspects of human rights (Recommended by Zimbabwe)*

IRI: *partially implemented*



CSW response:

In October 2011, Mohammad Reza Sajjadi, Iranian Permanent Representative at the UNHRC, said that Iran had moved in three directions to institutionalize the promotion of human rights, and had engaged in legislative reform, capacity building and awareness raising. An advisory and technical assistance agreement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had been signed, human rights had been included on school curricula and open invitations were extended to thematic Rapporteurs. Despite this, the Human Rights Committee correctly expressed its concern about various human rights issues that continue to be breached in Iran during 2012. These issues include concern over the death penalty, particularly with regard to pregnant women and minors, impunity, guarantees of a fair trial, the appeals process, torture and illegal detention. Other current concerns include women's rights; the marriage age of girls; the rights of students, protestors and political activists; discrimination against ethnic minorities as well as the right of freedom of expression and continuing censorship of the internet. Although capacity building programmes exist, mainly with international help, human rights issues promoted by these programmes in all areas continue to be seriously compromised or ignored.

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 37]

Recommendation n°49: *Continue its efforts to promote and protect human rights in accordance with the characteristics, values and needs of Iranian society* (Recommended by Lebanon)

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

Iran is failing to protect the human rights of those with different characteristics, values and needs in Iran, instead seeking to promote only the values of Shia Islam, the predominant religion of Iran. Although three religions, Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Judaism are recognized as religious minorities, thousands have been harassed, suppressed and arrested by Iranian authorities in the past few years. Demands from ethnic minorities, particularly those from the Ahwazi Arab, Kurdish and Baluch communities for greater rights have been suppressed. These groups of Iranian people face discrimination in both law and practice. This discrimination includes arbitrary arrest and them with the death penalty after unfair trials, as well as having restrictions placed on their movement. Further to this, Baha'is remain unable to attend Iranian schools and universities, are excluded from the Iranian pension scheme and are not recognized legally ignoring the basic needs of this group of Iranian peoples. Characteristics and values are therefore being positively discriminated against by Iranian authorities.

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 37]





Recommendation n°53: *Continue its efforts to strengthen and protect human rights in accordance with the cultural values of the Iranian people* (Recommended by Sri Lanka)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Iran is failing to protect the human rights in accordance with differing cultural values of the nation's people groups, seeking only to promote the values of Shia Islam as officially propagated. Although members of three other religions, Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Judaism, are recognized religious minorities, thousands have been harassed, suppressed and arrested by Iranian authorities in the past few years. Demands from ethnic minorities, particularly those from the Ahwazi Arab, Kurdish and Baluch communities for greater rights have been suppressed. These people groups face discrimination in both law and practice, including arbitrary arrest, an inordinate amount of cases in which the death penalty is issued after unfair trial, and having restrictions placed on their movement. Followers of Sunni Islam also complain of restrictions, although this could be an outworking of the suppression of these ethnic minorities, who make up the majority of adherents. Members of the Baha'i community remain unable to attend schools and universities, are excluded from the national pension scheme and are not legally recognized.

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 37]

Recommendation n°55: *Continue its initiative on dialogue among cultures, in particular intercultural dialogue on human rights* (Recommended by China)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Since the 1970s, the idea of dialogue among cultures has been an ideal that Iran has done little to advance. On a national level, there has increasingly been a one-way dialogue as Shia Islam remains at the heart of the law (e.g. Article 26 of The Iranian Constitution). Religious minorities are being increasingly harassed and arrested for alleged crimes against the state or the Islamic order. Members of ethnic minority groups have also been targeted, including Sa'id Metinpour, a member of the Azerbaijani minority who remains in prison since his arrest in 2007, where he has been subjected to torture after being charged with "espionage" and "spreading propaganda against the system".

Recommendation n°64: *Continue to consider greater interaction with international human rights mechanisms* (Recommended by Viet Nam)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

In the years following the 2009 election protests, many allegations of human rights violations were reported in Iran. Individuals accused of acting against national security were unable to express opposing views and were arrested, some even summarily executed, under false or unproved charges. Minority communities, such as the Baha'i, Ahwazi, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan and West Balochistan have been made victims of harassment and unfair prosecution, and measures to safeguard their rights have often not taken place. Iran also has categorically ignored



several of the Human Rights delegations demands for a visit to the country. Such practices have thus demonstrated Iran's lack of commitment to its obligations under international law, as well as to the principles of human rights.

**Recommendation n°71: *Continue to promote and protect its rich historical and cultural heritage* (Recommended by Cuba)**

IRI: *fully implemented*

UNPO response:

In 2011, the Islamic Republic of Iran joined forces with UNODC for a project that aims to protect the country's cultural heritage and combat trafficking of cultural property. This development shows Iranian commitment to the promotion of its historical and cultural heritage.

**Recommendation n°77: *Continue to promote the work of the High Council for Human Rights to achieve the establishment of an NHRI, as well as the timely implementation of a national plan for human rights* (Recommended by Bolivia)**

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

An NHRI that acts in accordance with the Paris Principles has so far failed to materialise. The gravity of human rights issue breaches is still a major concern. As fundamental human rights are being ever more frequently denied, the implementation of a national plan for human rights is looking increasingly unlikely. According to Shirin Ebadi of the Defenders of Human Rights Center, the IHRC is "housed in a government building and headed by the chief of the judiciary" and is not considered to be particularly concerned with human rights abuses. The IHRC fails to reflect or address human rights violations in Iran and is mostly concerned with human rights in countries other than Iran or defending Iran's record on human rights.

UNPO response:

The Islamic Human Rights Commission is currently the only national human rights institution active in Iran. The commission is, however, not accredited with an "A status", which implies it does not yet fully comply with the Paris Principles. The country already possesses sufficient legislative tools to promote human rights, as it is party to five legally-binding international treaties; yet, following the 2009 election protests, a series of allegations of human rights abuses were reported. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights has not yet received a formal invitation to visit the country, despite his numerous requests. The government thus demonstrates little interest in cooperating with the international community towards assuring that such violations no longer take place.

**Recommendation n°80: *Continue to respect international humanitarian law and international law in general* (Recommended by Kuwait)**

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Frequent breaches of international human rights conventions such as the ICCPR and UDHR are underway. Attempts have been made to demonstrate an effort to promote international dialogue based on respect and co-operation. Press TV, a government-controlled site, reported that in September 2011, a briefing session on the



international Religions, Dialogs and Asian Cultures Conference was being held in Tehran by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO). In reality, international human rights are being politicized by the Iranian government, as demonstrated in Articles 20, 22, 24, 26 and 27 of the Iranian Constitution. Here, rights such as the freedom of expression and freedom of assembly may be upheld but only as long as they are not detrimental to the fundamental rights of Islam, the primary religion supported by the regime in an ever more fervent manner. Iranian authorities have also not taken the opportunity to remove restrictions on freedom of assembly in the re-drafting of the Penal Code, stating in January 2012 that they have found nothing incompatible in the current re-drafting with Islamic Law, the primary informer of action.

UNPO response:

[See response to recommendation n° 37]

Recommendation n°83: *Continue, in view of its rich history, culture and tradition, its efforts and initiatives to promote dialogue among religions and civilizations, including by focusing on the theme of promoting and protecting human rights and a culture of peace* (Recommended by Malaysia)

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

The systematic persecution of members of unrecognized religious communities and ethnic minorities has demonstrated a clear violation of Iran's obligations under international law. Members of the Baha'i, Ahwazi, Iranian Kurdistan, Southern Azerbaijan and West Balochistan communities have been made victims of harassment, unfair trials and summary executions in the last couple of years. According to the Iranian Constitution, only three religious minorities are recognized and eligible for holding five seats in the 290-member parliament. These are Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians. The problem with this provision is that all other non-recognized religions are denied equal rights to employment, education and exercising their faith. Unable to practice their own religion, many minority group members see the impossibility of preserving their language and cultural heritage. Since the recommendation was made, Iran has not issued any apparent action to guarantee the total protection of all cultures and traditions.

Recommendation n°113: *Establish a national human rights institution NHRI in full compliance with the Paris Principles* (Recommended by Poland)

IRI: *not implemented*

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Recommendation n°117: *Explore the possibility of seeking the accreditation of the High Council for Human Rights as Iran's NHRI through the International Coordinating Committee for NHRIs* (Recommended by Malaysia)

IRI: *not implemented*

CSW response:

Although the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC), an NGO based in London, has since 2007 had consultative status with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the IHRC fails to fulfill its mandate in line with the Paris Principles. In paragraph 66 of its report to the UPR in 2010, Iran stated that the establishment of



the National Human Rights Institution of the Islamic Republic of Iran was a national priority and that relevant legislation was being drafted by the High Council for Human Rights. However, it remains unclear whether any such draft has been submitted to parliament. The IHRC appears to suffer from a lack of independence from the government, which is also evident from its website. According to Defenders of Human Rights Center Shirin Ebadi, the IHRC is "housed in a government building and headed by the chief of the judiciary," and is not considered to be particularly concerned with human rights abuses. It fails to reflect or address human rights violations in Iran and is mostly concerned with human rights in countries other than Iran, or defending Iran's record on human rights. Where cases in Iran are cited, including that of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, whose sentence to death by stoning received wide international attention in 2010, the IHRC's role is limited to describing the judicial process and denying that human rights violations have occurred.

#### UNPO response:

The Islamic Human Rights Commission is currently the only national human rights institution active in Iran. The commission is, however, not accredited with an "A status", which implies it does not yet fully comply with the Paris Principles.

**Recommendation n°116: Expedite the completion of its strategic national action plan for human rights (Recommended by Pakistan)**

**IRI: not implemented**

#### CSW response:

In October 2011, the Human Rights Committee expressed justifiable concern regarding a variety of human rights issues, including concerns over the death penalty, particularly with regard to pregnant women and minors, impunity, guarantees of a fair trial and the appeals process, torture and illegal detention. Women's rights, the marriage age of girls, rights of students, protestors and political activists, discrimination against ethnic minorities as well as the right of freedom of expression and censorship of the internet also remain of major concern. In September 2012, for example, after the UNHRC had expressed its concern at the marriage age of Iranian girls, motions have been set in place to legally lower the age from 13 to 9 years old. Those that speak out against the regime highlighting these issues, including netizens and students, are increasingly being subjected to arbitrary arrests and involuntary disappearances, as well as being banned from international travel. Any national action plan is stagnant, especially since arrests have increased throughout the recent months.

#### UNPO response:

Iran is currently a party to five legally-binding international treaties and several of its principles are enshrined in the Iranian Constitution. Iran thus possesses the sufficient legal framework to secure that basic human rights are respected under its territory. However, following the 2009 election protests, several allegations of human rights abuses were reported throughout the country. In an attempt to investigate the situation, a Special Rapporteur was appointed, but he has not yet been formally invited to visit the country by the government. Allegations of ongoing persecution of minorities and intimidation of human rights defenders have shown that despite continuous attempts from the international community to bring such violations to a



halt, Iran is not putting much effort into promoting the protection of these individual rights. No national action plan for human rights has been expedited since the recommendation was issued.

**Recommendation n°124: *Finalize arrangements for the visit by the delegation from OHCHR (Recommended by Australia)***

*IRI: fully implemented*

UNPO response:

In December 2011, the Iranian government allowed the visit of a working-level mission of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with the purpose of preparing a future visit of the High Commissioner. Despite such positive development, Iran has yet to allow the visit of the Special Rapporteurs to the country.

**Recommendation n°143: *Proceed with the implementation of strategies and policies to support human rights infrastructures and to achieve further progress in promoting a culture of respect for human rights (Recommended by Qatar)***

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

Although it is positive that In October 2011, Iran's Permanent Representative in Geneva said Iran had made moves to institutionalize the promotion of human rights, in reality little to no progress has been made due to increasing restrictions on the fundamental rights of Iranian citizens. A culture of respect for human rights is failing to be fostered due to the politicisation of international human rights, as demonstrated in Articles 20, 22, 24, 26 and 27 of the Iranian Constitution. Here, rights such as the freedom of expression may be upheld as long as they are not detrimental to the fundamental rights of Shia Islam. Religious minorities such as the Baha'is and Christians are being increasingly harassed and arrested under political or national security charges such as "spreading propaganda against the system".

**Recommendation n°149: *Pursue and enhance its contributions to the dialogue among civilizations (Recommended by Algeria)***

*IRI: not implemented*

CSW response:

Since the 1970s, the idea of dialogue among civilizations and religions has been an ideal that Iran has done very little to uphold. Attempts have been made to demonstrate adherence to these policies on an international level. Press TV, a government-controlled site, reported that in September 2011, a briefing session on the international Religions, Dialogs and Asian Cultures Conference was held in Tehran by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO). On a national level, there has increasingly been a one-way dialogue in Iran as Shia Islam remains at the heart of the law (e.g. Article 26 of The Iranian Constitution). Religious minorities are increasingly harassed and arrested under political or national security related charges such as "spreading propaganda against the system". At the international level, new regulations in 2012 have made it illegal to have contact with more than sixty listed foreign institutions, media organizations and NGOs.



## Methodology

### A. First contact

Although the methodology has to consider the specificities of each country, we applied the same procedure for data collection about all States:

1. We contacted the Permanent Mission to the UN either in Geneva (when it does exist) or New York;
2. We contacted all NGOs which took part in the process. Whenever NGOs were part of coalitions, each NGO was individually contacted;
3. The National Institution for Human Rights was contacted whenever one existed.
4. UN Agencies which sent information for the UPR were contacted.

We posted our requests to the States and NHRI, and sent emails to NGOs and UN Agencies.

The purpose of the UPR is to discuss issues and share concrete suggestions to improve human rights on the ground. Therefore, stakeholders whose objective is not to improve the human rights situation were not contacted, and those stakeholders' submissions were not taken into account.

However, since the UPR is meant to be a process which aims at sharing best practices among States and stakeholders, we take into account positive feedbacks from the latter.

### B. Processing the recommendations

The persons we contact are encouraged to use an Excel sheet we provide which includes all recommendations received by the State reviewed.

Each submission is processed, whether the stakeholder has or has not used the Excel sheet. In the latter case, the submission is split up among recommendations we think it belongs to. Since such a task is more prone to misinterpretation, we strongly encourage stakeholders to use the Excel sheet.

If the stakeholder does not clearly mention neither that the recommendation was “fully implemented” nor that it was “not implemented”, UPR Info usually considers the recommendation as “partially implemented”, unless the implementation level is obvious.



UPR Info retains the right to edit comments that are considered not to directly address the recommendation in question, when comments are too lengthy or when comments are defamatory or inappropriate. While we do not mention the recommendations which were not addressed, they can be accessed unedited on the follow-up webpage.

### C. Implementation Recommendation Index (IRI)

UPR Info developed an index showing the implementation level achieved by the State for the recommendations received at the UPR.

The **Implementation Recommendation Index (IRI)** is an individual recommendation index. Its purpose is to show an average of stakeholders' responses.

The *IRI* is meant to take into account stakeholders disputing the implementation of a recommendation. Whenever a stakeholder claims nothing has been implemented at all, the index score is 0. At the opposite, whenever a stakeholder claims a recommendation has been fully implemented, the *IRI* score is 1.

An average is calculated to fully reflect the many sources of information. If the State under Review claims that the recommendation has been fully implemented, and a stakeholder says it has been partially implemented, the score is 0.75.

Then the score is transformed into an implementation level, according to the table below:

Percentage:	Implementation level:
0 – 0.32	Not implemented
0.33 – 0.65	Partially implemented
0.66 – 1	Fully implemented

Example: On one side, a stakeholder comments on a recommendation requesting the establishment of a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI). On the other side, the State under review claims having partially set up the NHRI. As a result of this, the recommendation will be given an *IRI* score of 0.25, and thus the recommendation is considered as “not implemented”.

### **Disclaimer**

*The comments made by the authors (stakeholders) are theirs alone, and do not necessarily reflect the views, and opinions at UPR Info. Every attempt has been made to ensure that information provided on this page is accurate and not abusive. UPR Info cannot be held responsible for information provided in this document.*

## Uncommented recommendations

Hereby the recommendations which the MIA does not address:

rec. n°	Recommendation	SMR	Response	A	Issue
42	Continue efforts to develop education, particularly in the rural parts of the country, with the participation of the private and public sectors and nongovernmental organizations, with a view to reducing poverty through employment opportunities and the strengthening of human resources	Kyrgyzstan	Accepted	2	Right to education, Poverty, Civil society,
43	Continue efforts to guarantee effective social coverage and all related services	Kuwait	Accepted	2	ESC rights - general
46	Continue in its plans to realize the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and tackle the problems related to the illegal and unjustified economic sanctions against the country	Zimbabwe	Accepted	2	ESC rights - general
50	Continue its efforts to promote human rights in the economic, social and cultural fields	Sudan	Accepted	2	ESC rights - general
51	Continue its efforts to provide educational facilities for students with special educational needs	Sri Lanka	Accepted	2	Right to education
57	Continue its international efforts to create an international order based on cooperation and inclusion	Tajikistan	Accepted	2	Other
58	Continue its ongoing efforts, in accordance with the Twenty-Year Vision Strategic Plan for Development, to achieve global and sustainable development	Lebanon	Accepted	2	Development
62	Continue the extraordinary initiatives of cooperation with developing countries, as a way to achieve the full realization of the right to development	Venezuela	Accepted	2	Development
67	Continue to implement the advice of the important United Nations treaty bodies	Kazakhstan	Accepted	2	Treaty bodies
73	Continue to promote initiatives in defence of international solidarity and equality dialogue at the relevant United Nations organs, with a view to promoting human rights and solidarity among all nations and peoples of goodwill	Zimbabwe	Accepted	2	Other
74	Continue to promote initiatives on dialogue among cultures	Syria	Accepted	2	Other
75	Continue to promote its successful social policies aimed at satisfying the needs of its population	Venezuela	Accepted	2	Other
76	Continue to promote the living standards of the people by allowing the further enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights	Kuwait	Accepted	4	ESC rights - general





81	Continue to take innovative measures to ensure that its development policies permit the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in the country	Bolivia	Accepted	2	ESC rights - general
86	Coordinate efforts in a manner that promotes the effective enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and tackle obstacles in that regard	Libya	Accepted	4	ESC rights - general
87	Decriminalize consensual same-sex activity between adults and eliminate legal provisions discriminatory to women and religious, national and other minorities	Czech Republic	Rejected	5	Women's rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Racial discrimination, Minorities,
96	Enhance efforts to further promote economic and social rights, as well as the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and people with disabilities	Viet Nam	Accepted	4	Women's rights, Rights of the Child, ESC rights - general, Disabilities,
118	Explore the possibility of undertaking a comprehensive study on the positive implications of the implementation of a legal system based on civil and Islamic law, and share its experiences and best practices in that regard	Malaysia	Accepted	3	Justice
121	Facilitate for all children born to Iranian mothers access to a birth certificate and Iranian nationality, regardless of the nationality of the father	Mexico	Accepted	4	Rights of the Child
142	Make a full explanation of the relationship between the restrictive actions taken by the authorities and the Constitution	Japan	Accepted	5	Other
150	Pursue its efforts at the international level to create an international order based on justice and equality	Syria	Accepted	2	Other
152	Put an end to abusive recourse to trials in camera, and authorize international observers to attend trials	France	Rejected	4	Justice
180	Revise legislative provisions that are discriminatory on the basis of sex, religion, political opinion or sexual orientation	Luxembourg	Rejected	4	Women's rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Freedom of religion and belief, Freedom of opinion and expression,
182	Share its experiences in the realization of the cultural rights of the people, including through diversified cultural initiatives and activities	Tajikistan	Accepted	1	ESC rights - general
183	Share its experiences, expertise and initiatives with interested countries in the field of public health and health tourism	Pakistan	Accepted	1	Right to health



184	Share with interested countries the Iranian experience with regard to promoting the participation of civil society	Algeria	Accepted	1 Civil society
185	Share with other countries, in particular multicultural countries, its experiences in the strengthening of education	Tajikistan	Accepted	1 Right to education
186	Share with other developing countries its experiences and best practices in guaranteeing the right to food and combating poverty, in particular in the area of microcredit	Tajikistan	Accepted	1 Right to food, Poverty,

A= Action Category (see on [our website](#))

SMR = State making recommendation

## Contact

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