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## Islamic Republic of Iran

### Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

#### I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization.<sup>2</sup>

3. The Committee also encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran to make the optional declaration provided for in article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual complaints.<sup>3</sup>

4. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran give full effect to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in its domestic legal system and ensure that domestic laws were interpreted and applied in conformity with its obligations under the Covenant.<sup>4</sup>

5. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran engage and cooperate with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, including by allowing the Special Rapporteur to visit the country.<sup>5</sup>



### **III. National human rights framework**

#### **1. Constitutional and legislative framework**

6. The Human Rights Committee noted the development, in 2023, of a bill on protecting women against violence and promoting their dignity and security, which would criminalize violence against women; and the adoption, in 2020, of the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents, which criminalized all types of abuse against children.<sup>6</sup> The independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that the bill on protecting women against violence, which had been revised and was being referred to as a bill on the prevention of harm against women and on increasing women's security in the face of mistreatment, did not clearly define domestic violence. Harassment, humiliation and marital rape were not covered by the bill, and physical harm was presented as the only outward sign of domestic abuse.<sup>7</sup>

#### **2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures**

7. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the lack of substantive progress in the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) since the Government's agreement, over two decades previously, to establish one.<sup>8</sup>

8. The same Committee recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran ensure the independence, transparency and accountability of its anti-corruption institutions, and guarantee that all corruption cases were independently and impartially investigated and that perpetrators, including high-level public officials, were brought to justice and given appropriate punishment, should they be found guilty.<sup>9</sup>

### **IV. Promotion and protection of human rights**

#### **A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

##### **1. Equality and non-discrimination**

9. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern that the national legislative framework did not contain an explicit definition of racial discrimination on all the grounds enumerated in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and that the framework did not expressly prohibit intersecting forms of discrimination or structural, direct and indirect racial discrimination in the public and private spheres.<sup>10</sup> The Human Rights Committee recommended ensuring that the legal framework provided full and effective protection against discrimination in all spheres and contained a comprehensive list of prohibited grounds for discrimination in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including sexual orientation and gender identity; and ensuring that no such discrimination or violence was tolerated and that such conduct was properly addressed and remedied.<sup>11</sup>

10. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran establish safe remedies and redress mechanisms for victims of racial discrimination, facilitate the filing of complaints of racial discrimination and ensure the accessibility and availability of reporting channels to victims of racial discrimination; and conduct training programmes for police officers, prosecutors and other law enforcement officials on the identification and registration of incidents of racial discrimination.<sup>12</sup>

##### **2. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture**

11. The Human Rights Committee expressed deep concern about the high number of executions, including the considerable increase in that number since 2021; the large number of offences that carried death sentences but that did not qualify as "most serious" crimes,

including *hudud* crimes (such as offences against the State and religion) *qisas* offences (including unintentional killing) and *ta'zir* crimes (such as drug-related offences); and the disproportionate application of the death penalty to members of minorities. It also expressed concern that juveniles continued to be executed, including three in 2022.<sup>13</sup> The Secretary-General noted that an estimated 582 people had been executed in 2022, marking a 75 per cent increase compared with 2021, in which 333 people had reportedly been executed. Three children were among those executed in 2022. Of the total number of executions, 256 (44 per cent) were for drug-related offences, marking a 6 per cent increase in executions for drug-related offences compared with the previous year.<sup>14</sup>

12. The Human Rights Committee expressed serious concern about reports of executions – more than a dozen in 2022 – for crimes involving charges of *moharebeh* (“enmity against God”) and *fesad fil-arz* (“spreading corruption on earth”), and about the increased number of executions for drug-related offences, despite the 2017 amendment to the law on combating drugs.<sup>15</sup>

13. The same Committee expressed concern about the death of Mahsa (Jina) Amini, who, according to credible reports, was beaten while in the custody of the morality police. It also expressed concern about credible reports that, during the largely peaceful protests that followed the death of Ms. Amini in September 2022, security forces intentionally used disproportionate and lethal force, which reportedly resulted in the deaths of more than 550 protesters, including at least 68 children. It further expressed concern about the apparent lack of independent, impartial and transparent investigations into deaths and injuries following incidents of excessive and lethal use of force and firearms by law enforcement officers, about the lack of prosecution of, and sanctions handed down to, perpetrators, and about the lack of remedies for victims, which created a de facto climate of impunity.<sup>16</sup> The independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that there was credible information that, as of January 2024, the courts had pronounced death sentences on at least 28 persons in relation to the protests. Of those 28 individuals, 9 young men had been executed in December 2022, January, May, November and December 2023 and January 2024, while at least another 6 men reportedly remained under sentence of death, with some at risk of imminent execution.<sup>17</sup> The Secretary-General urged the Government to immediately halt the execution of all individuals, including those sentenced to death in the context of protests and for drug-related offences, and to refrain from further application of the death penalty; and to abolish the death penalty and introduce an immediate moratorium on its use and prohibit the execution of child offenders in all circumstances and commute their sentences.<sup>18</sup>

14. The Secretary-General was alarmed by the scale of the arrests and detentions since the onset of the protests following the death of Ms. Amini, and noted that, between 17 September 2022 and 8 February 2023, an estimated 20,000 individuals had been arrested and detained for supporting or participating in the protests.<sup>19</sup> The Human Rights Committee remained concerned about reports of lengthy detention periods without trial, incommunicado detention in unacknowledged detention centres, and the lack of access to lawyers and communication with families, in particular in cases where the detainees were journalists, human rights defenders, lawyers, members of minority groups, dissidents and/or protesters.<sup>20</sup> The Secretary-General noted that scores of human rights defenders remained imprisoned while authorities continued to harass, arrest and prosecute those seeking accountability and justice. Hundreds of human rights defenders had been arrested, summoned and interrogated in relation to the nationwide protests.<sup>21</sup> The independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran urged the Iranian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all persons arbitrarily arrested and detained in the context of the protests or for non-compliance with or advocacy against the mandatory hijab; cease the judicial harassment of protesters, victims and their families; repeal or amend laws that discriminated against women and girls, as well as men and boys, in particular those on the mandatory hijab; and disband the persecutory system of its enforcement.<sup>22</sup>

15. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about credible reports about foreign and dual nationals being arbitrarily detained on the basis of national security charges, and that some were at risk of imminent execution, and about the arrest of three foreign citizens in 2022 on national security charges based on facts allegedly unrelated to national security.<sup>23</sup>

The Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran ensure that human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and dual and foreign nationals, as well as their families, were not threatened with or subjected to intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest, deprivation of liberty or life, or other arbitrary sanctions, and that it release all those detained; the Secretary-General made a similar recommendation.<sup>24</sup>

16. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the deterioration of the situation of persons deprived of their liberty in prisons and in other formal and informal places of detention, including with respect to unsanitary conditions, overcrowding, poor quality food and water, denial of medical care, and exposure to torture and ill-treatment, including prolonged solitary confinement and corporal punishment; the Secretary-General expressed similar concerns.<sup>25</sup>

17. The Human Rights Committee reiterated its concern about the continuing credible reports of widespread and systemic practice of torture and ill-treatment of persons deprived of liberty by law enforcement officials and members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in formal and informal detention centres. It also expressed concern about reports of torture and ill-treatment carried out to extract confessions during investigations, and that those confessions were later presented as evidence in court, including in cases involving the death penalty.<sup>26</sup>

### **3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

18. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern that under the Constitution, the Supreme Leader, the highest political authority of the country, directly appointed the head of the judiciary for a period of five years. The head of the judiciary in turn directly appointed, among others, the head of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, and the head of the General Inspection Organization. The Committee also expressed concern that the vetting process for the recruitment of judges allowed the judiciary to exclude any individual who failed to adhere to State-sanctioned political and religious ideologies and that women were precluded from certain positions in the judiciary.<sup>27</sup> The Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran undertake reforms to ensure the complete independence of the judiciary, including through the dissolution of the revolutionary courts, and transparency in judicial appointments.<sup>28</sup>

19. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the absence of fair trial guarantees in death penalty cases, including with regard to: the use of coerced confessions, closed proceedings before the revolutionary courts, the low standards of evidence required for conviction (*Qassameh* – sworn oath), and restrictions on attorneys meeting with clients or gaining access to case files.<sup>29</sup> The Secretary-General urged the Government to uphold full respect for due process and fair trial rights in line with international standards, among others by ensuring that all defendants, including those accused of crimes against national security, had effective access to legal counsel of their choosing during the preliminary investigative stage and all subsequent stages of the judicial process.<sup>30</sup>

20. The independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that defence lawyers who had represented individuals facing charges in protest-related cases and/or had publicly expressed solidarity with the protesters had been subjected to reprisals, including intimidation through summons and questioning by intelligence bodies, threats and actual suspension from the bar, arrest and detention, torture and other ill-treatment, as well as criminal prosecution.<sup>31</sup> It also stated that the authorities had placed the bar associations under increased pressure by demanding that disciplinary measures be taken against numerous lawyers, and the revolutionary and criminal courts had prohibited lawyers from practising. The authorities had introduced legislation to erode the independence of the bar associations further, through interference by the administration and the judiciary into matters such as the issuance of practice licences and oversight of the conduct of lawyers.<sup>32</sup>

21. The Secretary-General continued to be concerned by the lack of prevention and protection measures to protect schools and students, in particular given the large-scale nature of the alleged school poisonings in May 2023, which reportedly affected more than

1,000 students, the majority of whom were girls.<sup>33</sup> The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran establish a full, impartial and independent investigation into all credible reports of killings, torture and other human rights violations perpetrated during and following the protests in November 2019 and September 2022; the downing of Ukraine Airlines flight PS752; the poisoning of schoolgirls between November 2022 and April 2023; and credible reports of reprisals against victims and relatives of human rights violations.<sup>34</sup>

22. The independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran established that the authorities had failed to investigate allegations of human rights violations, and to prosecute or punish those responsible, and had deliberately and systematically obstructed any efforts by the victims and their families to obtain redress and establish the truth.<sup>35</sup> It also stated that victims had been subjected to a justice system lacking independence, transparency and accountability. Judges, prosecutors, intelligence officers and defence lawyers from the head of the judiciary's approved list all worked in unison to deny and conceal violations, to shield the perpetrators and to punish and silence those seeking accountability.<sup>36</sup> The mission called on the Iranian authorities to provide justice, truth and reparations to victims of human rights violations in connection with the protests that had started on 16 September 2022, including survivors and victims' families, in accordance with international human rights standards.<sup>37</sup>

#### **4. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life**

23. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the imposition of arbitrary travel bans on lawyers, journalists, human rights defenders and dissidents, and on their relatives, as well as about discriminatory restrictions on the freedom of movement of women and girls, who were banned from certain public spaces, such as football stadiums, airports, university campuses and government offices.<sup>38</sup>

24. The same Committee expressed concern about the criminalization of blasphemy; about amendments to the Islamic Penal Code made in 2021, which allowed further suppression of religious freedom and freedom of expression; and that apostasy continued to be punishable with the death penalty.<sup>39</sup> The Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran end the targeting, harassment and persecution of members of recognized and non-recognized religious minorities, refrain from targeting them with national security-related charges and end the criminalization of the peaceful expression of faith.<sup>40</sup>

25. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran ensure that its legislation was not used to intimidate, harass, arbitrarily detain or prosecute members of ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups for exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression and their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.<sup>41</sup>

26. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about vague and overbroad legal provisions that might limit freedom of expression and lead to arbitrary punishment, such as those in article 6 of the Press Law and those in a proposed new article (512 bis) of the Islamic Penal Code.<sup>42</sup> The Secretary-General stated that since the onset of protests, respect for the rights to freedom of opinion, expression and information had deteriorated markedly in law and in practice. Reportedly, a significant proportion of the arrests made in the context of the protests had been for exercising the right to freedom of opinion and expression online and offline.<sup>43</sup>

27. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern that the national legislative framework did not contain provisions that expressly criminalized racist hate speech and hate crimes; about reports of the spread of hate crimes, racist hate speech and the dissemination of negative stereotypes against ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups and non-citizens, particularly those from Afghanistan, including in State-owned radio and television broadcasts and print media and on the Internet and social media; and about reports of the use of racist hate speech by politicians and public figures, at the central and provincial levels, and the lack of information on investigations, prosecutions and convictions of politicians and public figures for hate speech.<sup>44</sup> The United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization encouraged the Government to decriminalize defamation laws and place them within the Civil Code, in accordance with international standards.<sup>45</sup>

28. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about Internet disruptions during protests, including the five-day nationwide Internet shutdown during the November 2019 protest, the blockage of social media platforms during the September 2022 protests, and the long-standing blockage of social media platforms.<sup>46</sup> The independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran established a pattern of Internet shutdowns and the blocking of social media platforms and messaging services at protest times and locations.<sup>47</sup> The Secretary-General urged the Government to ensure that Internet shutdowns were never applied as they inherently imposed unacceptable consequences for human rights.<sup>48</sup>

29. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran guarantee and protect the right of peaceful assembly and avoid restrictions that were incompatible with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; ensure that individuals who exercised their right of peaceful assembly were not prosecuted and punished on the basis of arbitrary charges for exercising their rights, and that those detained on such charges were immediately released and provided with adequate compensation; and ensure that relatives of protesters could exercise their right of peaceful assembly, and that lawyers could exercise their profession without reprisals.<sup>49</sup>

30. The same Committee remained concerned about acts that served to restrict the freedom of association, such as preventing meetings from taking place and arbitrarily arresting members of civic associations and trade unions, including members of the Iranian Teachers Trade Association and the Free Union of Iranian Workers. It also remained concerned about the denials of registration of civil society organizations and the requirement to comply with the “principles of Islam” for the establishment of associations.<sup>50</sup>

31. The same Committee expressed concern about violations of the right of members of religious and ethnic minorities, women and political dissidents to participate in public affairs; about the restrictions imposed on potential presidential candidates during the presidential elections of 2021, as the Guardian Council had approved only 7 candidates, while disqualifying 585; and about the constraints on freedom of expression and the ability to seek, receive and impart information during the presidential elections, including threats addressed to journalists, indicating that criticism towards the then-candidate, now President, would not be tolerated.<sup>51</sup>

## **5. Right to privacy**

32. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of targeted surveillance and monitoring of individuals, in particular human rights defenders, journalists and activists, and regretted the lack of information on the legal safeguards applied in the surveillance regime. It also expressed concern about provisions of the computer crimes law of 2010, including those criminalizing data encryption, and by the bill on a regulatory system for online services, also known as the “user protection bill”, which granted the Government and army extensive control over the Internet infrastructure and restricted foreign Internet services and websites, facilitating surveillance and censorship.<sup>52</sup>

## **6. Right to marriage and family life**

33. The United Nations country team noted that women did not have the same right to divorce as men: under the Civil Code, a man could divorce his wife whenever he chose, while a woman could only do so when it was proven that the marriage caused intolerable difficulty and hardship. If parents were divorced or separated, the mother had custody rights until children turned 7, after which custody devolved to the father.<sup>53</sup>

## **7. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons**

34. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the continued prevalence of human trafficking, child labour and sexual exploitation and about women and young girls being subjected to temporary marriages (*sigheh*), which reportedly pushed women and girls

living in poverty to become sex workers.<sup>54</sup> The Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran end child marriage, including by raising the minimum age of marriage to 18.<sup>55</sup>

#### **8. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

35. The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights noted that the imposed trade and financial restrictions had had a direct impact on the Iranian job market. The changing environment in sanctions regimes had resulted in job market instability and insecurity and in heightened risks for those employed in the informal economy without access to social protections.<sup>56</sup>

#### **9. Right to social security**

36. The Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures noted that in March 2022, the Government had decided to revise the means of allocating subsidies for essential food and medicines. While all subsidies for commodities remained in force, the Government had decided to pay amounts for food and medicine directly to individuals and insurance companies.<sup>57</sup>

#### **10. Right to an adequate standard of living**

37. The Secretary-General noted that there were significant concerns over ongoing water and environmental mismanagement, which might affect food security in the country. He also stated that a wide range of human rights, including the rights to adequate housing, health, a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, water and food were negatively affected, in particular as a result of the increased use of highly polluting fuels such as mazut, given the limited accessibility to cleaner sources of energy owing to sanctions.<sup>58</sup> The Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures noted that the reimposition of sanctions in 2018 had jeopardized the country's food security by disrupting the supply of at least 10 million tons of agricultural imports, including the supply of livestock inputs, oilseeds and cooking oil.<sup>59</sup>

#### **11. Right to health**

38. The Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures noted the absence of sustainable medical supplies since 2011 as the result of the sanctions, while expressing concern about significant challenges faced in the procurement and delivery of life-saving medicines and medical equipment produced by foreign companies and destined for the treatment of rare diseases, including certain types of cancer, thalassemia, haemophilia, leukaemia, ichthyosis, multiple sclerosis, epidermolysis bullosa, autism and certain forms of diabetes.<sup>60</sup>

39. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran amend the Youthful Population and Protection of the Family Law to guarantee safe, legal and effective access to abortion where the health of a pregnant woman or girl was at risk, or when carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the pregnant woman or girl substantial pain or suffering, most notably when the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest.<sup>61</sup>

#### **12. Right to education**

40. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern about the lack of education in the languages of ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups at public schools, reports of barriers to using and studying in the languages of ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups, and high dropout rates among children, particularly girls, belonging to ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups.<sup>62</sup> The United Nations country team recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran make more efforts to improve the quality of education, especially in rural and disadvantaged areas, including for those with disabilities; decrease disparities in access to, and the quality of, education between rural and urban areas and between children from high- and low-income families; and improve and expand access to education for undocumented refugee children with a view to reducing the number of children who were out of school.<sup>63</sup>

### 13. Cultural rights

41. The Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures stated that unilateral sanctions had prevented the implementation of joint academic research and exchange programmes, the contribution of Iranian scholars to foreign scientific journals, and access to online academic databases and payments of scholarships and fees for students studying abroad.<sup>64</sup>

### 14. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

42. The Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures stated that unilateral sanctions had reduced the capacity of the Government to maintain and improve essential infrastructure and to engage in important development projects to improve peoples' lives, especially in remote and rural areas.<sup>65</sup>

43. The United Nations country team encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance the engagement of the community and civil society in planning for climate change adaptation and also enhance its preparedness for and response to natural disasters.<sup>66</sup>

44. The Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures called upon all financial institutions and other businesses to act in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and to avoid overcompliance with unilateral coercive measures and violation of the rights of nationals and residents of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially in the areas of critical infrastructure, raw materials, spare parts and food and medical deliveries. In particular, she recalled the need for the establishment of human rights due diligence processes to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that were directly linked to their operations, products or services.<sup>67</sup>

## B. Rights of specific persons or groups

### 1. Women

45. The independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran concluded that the Islamic Republic of Iran had committed a series of extensive, sustained and continuing acts that individually constituted human rights violations, directed against women, girls and persons expressing support for gender equality and the rights of women and girls and that, cumulatively, constituted gender persecution in the context of the protests and associated repression of fundamental rights. Such gender persecution had taken place against the backdrop of an institutionalized system of discrimination and elements of segregation against women and girls. Iranian women and girls had been severely deprived of a broad range of fundamental rights, including the right to life, the right to be free from torture, to freedom of expression, to freedom of religion, to public life, to bodily integrity and autonomy and to access to education and healthcare. The authorities had enforced discriminatory laws through violent measures, including murder, imprisonment, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence. Women and girls had been subjected to further violations, due to multiple forms of discrimination on the grounds of their political or other opinions, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation or gender identity.<sup>68</sup>

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern that women belonging to ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups were marginalized, and subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin, religion, age and gender owing to discriminatory provisions in the domestic legislative framework, such as mandatory dress requirements. Racial discrimination prevented their enjoyment of human rights and equal access without discrimination to employment, education, healthcare and justice, and they were subjected to violence, particularly by law enforcement officials.<sup>69</sup>

47. The Human Rights Committee was very concerned about reports of a considerable number of so-called "honour killings", and expressed serious concern about the bill on supporting the family by promoting the culture of chastity and hijab, which imposed severe punishments on women and girls for breaches of the dress code, including sentences of flogging and up to 10 years in jail; and about the redeployment of the morality police to

monitor the dress code in public.<sup>70</sup> It also remained concerned about the practice of female genital mutilation.<sup>71</sup>

48. The United Nations country team noted that the quota system introduced in 2017, allocating 30 per cent of public sector management positions to women and young people and providing capacity-building for women managers, had been annulled in 2020 on the grounds that it had discriminated against other candidates.<sup>72</sup> The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the lack of representation and participation of women in senior and decision-making positions in political and public life and the private sector.<sup>73</sup> It recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran strengthen its efforts to increase the representation of women in the public and political spheres, including at all governmental levels, particularly in decision-making positions, and in the judiciary and the private sector.<sup>74</sup>

## **2. Children**

49. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the high prevalence of child labour, including the considerable number of child garbage collectors in Tehran, while noting that the law on the protection of children and adolescents of 2020 prohibited and criminalized certain forms of child labour and exploitation.<sup>75</sup>

50. The same Committee expressed concern about the continued practice of flogging and other corporal punishment, and the sexual harassment of children detained for crimes under the *hudud* and *qisas* categories, particularly in the context of the protests of 2022.<sup>76</sup>

51. The same Committee expressed concern about the inadequate access that juveniles alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law had to justice and about the insufficient upholding of their rights in criminal procedures, including with regard to the low minimum age of criminal responsibility (around 9 years for girls and around 15 for boys), the lack of a time limit for pretrial detention, and the detention of children with adults, especially in small towns.<sup>77</sup>

## **3. Older persons**

52. The United Nations country team recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran develop comprehensive, affordable, formal and informal care services for older persons, including those with disabilities, and reduce the costs of ageing by boosting productivity and active ageing.<sup>78</sup>

## **4. Persons with disabilities**

53. The United Nations country team stated that stigma, discrimination, a cumbersome and often lengthy registration process and a lack of awareness about their rights likely contributed to the reluctance among some, particularly among women and girls, to register disabilities.<sup>79</sup> Many persons with disabilities faced difficulties in accessing affordable and comprehensive healthcare services, including the high out-of-pocket expenses for specialized healthcare services, rehabilitation and assistive devices.<sup>80</sup>

## **5. Minorities**

54. The Secretary-General stated that ethnic and religious minorities continued to be discriminated against and faced systemic marginalization in law and in practice. Members of ethnic minorities, in particular the Baluchi, Kurd and Ahwazi Arab ethnic minorities, reportedly constituted the majority of political prisoners and a disproportionate percentage of persons executed on political and national security-related charges.<sup>81</sup> The independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that ethnic and religious minorities were caught in a perpetual cycle of State violence whereby structural and deep-rooted discrimination facilitated severe forms of violations of their rights in the first place while also further obstructing any forms of redress and justice.<sup>82</sup> The mission further found that during interrogation or as a punishment for the protests, the methods of torture used on detainees from ethnic or religious minorities were particularly severe and brutal. Women from such minorities were subjected to sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, and humiliated on the basis of their Baluchi or Kurdish identity, or for being Sunni.<sup>83</sup>

55. The Human Rights Committee remained concerned about the continued and systematic violations of the rights of, and discrimination against, members of the Baha'i religious minority; the Secretary-General expressed similar concerns.<sup>84</sup>

56. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran take specific and effective measures to tackle structural socioeconomic inequalities in provinces inhabited mainly by members of ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups compared to other provinces, particularly with a view to ending extreme poverty, improving infrastructure and basic services, including access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and ensuring access on an equal basis with others to employment and to gender-responsive and high-quality health services, including by reducing infant mortality.<sup>85</sup>

## **6. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons**

57. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran repeal or amend the Islamic Penal Code in order to decriminalize same-sex consensual relations between adults, in particular ensuring that the death penalty was not imposed for such relations or for advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons; ensure that all acts of violence against persons due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and against human rights defenders who advocated on behalf of sexual or gender minorities were effectively investigated, that perpetrators were brought to justice and that victims were provided with reparation; and ensure that all persons held in prison or other places of detention solely on account of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or their consensual sexual activities were released.<sup>86</sup>

## **7. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers**

58. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the detention, through round-up operations, of undocumented foreign nationals, which could lead to deportations, including of children, without a screening process.<sup>87</sup>

59. The Secretary-General stated that since November 2022, Afghan refugees were increasingly facing discrimination, violence and more limited access to basic economic and social services, which negatively affected their enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to health and education.<sup>88</sup> The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the forcible deportation of a large number of Afghans since August 2021, without an individual assessment of protection needs, and by pushback operations characterized by excessive use of force.<sup>89</sup>

## **8. Stateless persons**

60. The United Nations country team noted that children of Iranian women married to undocumented migrants or refugees remained at risk of statelessness.<sup>90</sup>

### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/43/12](#), [A/HRC/43/12/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/43/2](#).

<sup>2</sup> [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 42.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 43.

<sup>4</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 6.

<sup>5</sup> [A/HRC/55/62](#), para. 91.

<sup>6</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 4 (a) and (b).

<sup>7</sup> "Detailed findings of the independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran", conference room paper, para. 295. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-iran/index>.

<sup>8</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 7. See also [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 7.

<sup>9</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 12.

<sup>10</sup> [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 8.

<sup>11</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 14.

<sup>12</sup> [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 13 (a) and (c).

<sup>13</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 23.

- <sup>14</sup> [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 14.
- <sup>15</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 23.
- <sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 25. See also [A/78/511](#), para. 46.
- <sup>17</sup> [A/HRC/55/67](#), para. 61. See also [A/HRC/53/23](#), paras. 16, 19 and 20.
- <sup>18</sup> [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 61 (a) and (b).
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 21.
- <sup>20</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 31.
- <sup>21</sup> [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 51.
- <sup>22</sup> [A/HRC/55/67](#), para. 123.
- <sup>23</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 31.
- <sup>24</sup> [A/HRC/55/62](#), para. 93 (d); and [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 61 (c).
- <sup>25</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 33; and [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 30.
- <sup>26</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 27. See also [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 29.
- <sup>27</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 39.
- <sup>28</sup> [A/HRC/55/62](#), para. 93 (x).
- <sup>29</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 23.
- <sup>30</sup> [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 61 (f).
- <sup>31</sup> [A/HRC/55/67](#), para. 80.
- <sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 81.
- <sup>33</sup> [A/78/511](#), para. 54.
- <sup>34</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 10.
- <sup>35</sup> [A/HRC/55/67](#), para. 116.
- <sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 118.
- <sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 124.
- <sup>38</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 37.
- <sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 47.
- <sup>40</sup> [A/HRC/55/62](#), para. 93 (i).
- <sup>41</sup> [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 25 (a).
- <sup>42</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 49.
- <sup>43</sup> [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 32.
- <sup>44</sup> [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 14.
- <sup>45</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization submission for the universal periodic review of the Islamic Republic of Iran, para. 32.
- <sup>46</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 49. See also [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 28.
- <sup>47</sup> [A/HRC/55/67](#), para. 100.
- <sup>48</sup> [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 61 (d).
- <sup>49</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 52. See also [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 61 (e).
- <sup>50</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 53.
- <sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 55. See also [A/78/326](#), paras. 72–75; and [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 33.
- <sup>52</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 45.
- <sup>53</sup> United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Islamic Republic of Iran, para. 13.
- <sup>54</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 35.
- <sup>55</sup> [A/HRC/55/62](#), para. 93 (q).
- <sup>56</sup> [A/HRC/51/33/Add.1](#), para. 24.
- <sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 61.
- <sup>58</sup> [A/78/511](#), para. 23.
- <sup>59</sup> [A/HRC/51/33/Add.1](#), para. 42.
- <sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 28. See also [A/78/511](#), para. 26; and United Nations country team submission, paras. 41 and 53.
- <sup>61</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 22. See also United Nations country team submission, para. 50.
- <sup>62</sup> [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 34. See also [A/HRC/55/62](#), para. 93 (k) and (l).
- <sup>63</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 64 (c)–(e).
- <sup>64</sup> [A/HRC/51/33/Add.1](#), para. 87.
- <sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 44.
- <sup>66</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 48 (b). See also [A/HRC/51/33/Add.1](#), para. 50.
- <sup>67</sup> [A/HRC/51/33/Add.1](#), para. 96.
- <sup>68</sup> [A/HRC/55/67](#), para. 107.
- <sup>69</sup> [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 18.
- <sup>70</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), paras. 19 and 20. See also [A/HRC/55/62](#), para. 93 (n) and (o); and [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 61 (h).
- <sup>71</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 17.
- <sup>72</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 10.

<sup>73</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 17.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., para. 18 (b).

<sup>75</sup> Ibid., para. 35.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid., para. 29. See also United Nations country team submission, para. 33 (a).

<sup>77</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), paras. 31 and 32.

<sup>78</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 59 (a).

<sup>79</sup> Ibid., para. 19.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid., para. 22. See also [A/HRC/51/33/Add.1](#), para. 67.

<sup>81</sup> [A/78/511](#), para. 42. See also [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 20 (b); and [A/79/509](#), para. 43.

<sup>82</sup> “Detailed findings of the independent international fact-finding mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran”, conference room paper, para. 1119. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-iran/index>.

<sup>83</sup> [A/HRC/55/67](#), para. 97.

<sup>84</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 47; and [A/HRC/53/23](#), para. 50. See also [A/78/511](#), para. 43.

<sup>85</sup> [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 23.

<sup>86</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 16. See also [A/78/511](#), para. 47.

<sup>87</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 43.

<sup>88</sup> [A/78/511](#), para. 28.

<sup>89</sup> [CCPR/C/IRN/CO/4](#), para. 43. See also [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), paras. 38 and 39.

<sup>90</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 8. See also [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#), para. 36.