



**Lovers of Successful Families Association  
(LSFA)  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Submission to the UN Universal Periodic  
Review  
Twentieth Session of the UPR Working Group  
of the UN Human Rights Council  
October-November 2014**

### **Executive summary:**

1. This report respectfully is a review of the status of women and girls in Iran by the Lovers of Successful Families Association. According to our researches we have concluded that although the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past years, particularly 2010 onwards, made all sided attempts to promote the status and character of women, and strengthening the family, nevertheless the subject of the promotion of the status of women is a debatable subject which requires further attention.

2. This report reviews the participation of NGOs for the elimination of the increase in the age of marriage for girls, the remaining single problems, promotion of women and girls status, and the scientific and educational and capacities promotion, and ultimately this Association gives recommendations for Iran to move towards the elimination of this problem and answerability to the presented recommendations in the first round of the UPR on the country.

3. : Some of these recommendations are

- a) Request the Iranian government to further pay attention to the Constitution, and the Rights and Responsibilities of Muslim Women's Charter, and the Perspective Document.
- b) Interaction and use of the experiences of international organizations and other countries' NGOs.
- c) Training governmental manpower and also public consensus for better understanding of the status of women and girls.
- d) Removal of obstacles of youth marriage and encouragement to start families

Keywords:

Women's rights, marriage, education, training employment, family.

### **About us:**

4. The Lovers of Successful Families Association is a nongovernmental, nonpolitical and nonprofit organization which began its activities in 2012 with the aim of strengthening the family institution, and to promote scientific, research, cultural and social capabilities of women and girls. The main objective of this Association is to promote the status of women and the family, and strengthening of the family institution with a focus on the rights and duties of the couples. This objective is pursued through holding numerous education courses for NGOs, experts, boys and girls that are ready for marriage, pre marriage, during and post marriage counseling.

5. Some of the activities of the Association include holding several sittings, participation in numerous Human Rights Council sessions, consolation and participation in international seminars on the subject of women and the family, particularly a speech in a sitting entitled "Women, Achievements and Human Rights" in the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

### **Pivotal recommendations:**

6. This report is prepared on the basis of the below recommendations which were made in Iran's first round of the UPR in 2010:

- a) Continuation of policies and programs related to the promotion of the status of (women and girls (Indonesia
- b) Increasing measures related to the promotion of the participation of women in (various social and economic fields (Bangladesh
- c) Increasing efforts for education and health advancements particularly for women (and girls (Bangladesh.

7. : The situation of recommendations in the past, present and satisfactory future Although the Islamic Republic of Iran after the Islamic revolution has paid particular attention towards the status of women and girls and strengthening of the family, nevertheless subjects such as development's ups and downs, rise in the number of educated women, drop in marriage rates, and American imposed sanctions of the last three decades, and their escalation over the last six years, have all been obstacles in the way of the promotion of women and girls status, and also the family institution have faced serious challenges. In view of factors such as population growth and rise in women and girls education, from our Association's perspective it is only apt that until the completion of the 5th Development Plan of Iran, and the strengthening of the family legislations remaining single and drop in marriages be under the careful monitoring and control of governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

**Data Collection Method:**

8. For this report, the Association adopted various methods: political and legislative studies (evaluation of domestic and international policies and laws especially about the law on women's use of scientific and education fields), research findings reviews (library . (study review, studies, articles, media, thematic and field studies

**Advancements:**

9. Statistical study regarding the promotion of the status of women and girls after the Islamic revolution, particularly over the last four years shows the improvement of women and girls situation and the status of the family. Over the last four years the status of women and girls has improved in four areas:

**Legislative area:**

- a) In 2010 the Iranian Islamic parliament ratified an act entitled The 5th Development Plan, on the basis of which better rights conditions have been foreseen for women and girls, and the promotion of women's positions in the scientific, educational, cultural, social, employment and the strengthening of the family have been stressed upon.
- b) Also in 2010 the Road Plan for the Realization of the Human Rights of Women was ratified by the scientific committee of the third Women Ministers Conference of OIC member states and the efforts of the Presidency's Centre for Women and Family Affairs, for the purpose of the promotion of the scientific position of women, their participation and role in the development of Islamic countries.

- c)** In 2012 the comprehensive draft "Population and Esteem of the Family" was ratified in the Cultural Commission of the Islamic Parliament. This legislation had positive points such as esteem of the family and facilitation of marriage for young people.
- d)** According to article 9 of this comprehensive "Population and Esteem of the Family" draft, the priority of employment is for men that have children, married men without children, and then women with children. Since the financial burden of providing for the family members according to the Constitution and religious law is upon men, the existence of this article shows the attention of the legislator towards working women and or women heads of households.
- e)** Also in 2013, in the Iranian Islamic parliament, the Support for Mothers, Particularly during Pregnancy draft and rising of maternity leave from six to nine months and child custody, and protection of guardianless children was ratified. According to this legislation of the parliament, the government was given permission to increase the maternity leave of women to 9 months, and their husband's enjoyment of 2 weeks mandatory time off work.
- F)** In 2012 the Islamic Parliament passed the Family Support law .

#### **10. : The Jurisdiction area**

In 2013, according to a memorandum from the head of the Iranian Judiciary, family courts were set up with the presence of women consultant judges. The aim behind this move is the preservation of the family. In these courts better atmospheres were created for women and girls in support for families.

#### **11. : Executive area**

- a)** Study of statistics shows that during the three decades following the Islamic revolution serious attention has been given to the education and literacy levels of women. The rate of women in education compared to the number of men in the 2011-12 educational years has reached 44 percent, which although shows that almost half the student population is made up of women but still education opportunities for boys and girls have not fully been brought about.
- b)** According to the Statistics Centre of Iran, the literacy levels of the population in 2011 was at 93.2 percent. The ratio of women in education to the number of men in the 2011-12 education years has reached 44 percent which shows that despite that almost half population in education is made up of women, but still equal education opportunities have not been brought about.
- c)** According to the Statistics Centre of Iran, in 2011 the literacy level of the country was at 93.2 percent. In this year the ratio of the literacy levels of women has been at 47.4 percent. The said data indicates the suitable growth in women's enjoyment of literacy and nearly half the literate population of the country is made up of women.
- d)** Over the last four years in Iran, the educational advancement of women in different levels and an increase in the number of girls entering universities is seen; in a way that the ratio of girls accepted in higher education in the years 2011-12 reached in excess of 60 percent. The increase trend of the accepted and students in higher education

indicates the positive move of society towards the institutionalization of a larger population of the women's community in higher education.

**e)** The ratio of women university students in Human Sciences till March 2010 greatly increased and reached the 60 percent border. Also the ratio of female university students in subjects such as basic, technical and engineering sciences, medicine and arts has noticeably increased.

**f)** Furthermore the ratio of female students in Masters Levels and professional PhD in the year 2010-11 has reached 48 percent.

**f)** Today in Iran we see the participation of women in the economy and rise in employment levels, which of course comes with ups and downs; in such a way that the census for 2011 shows that approximately 15.2 percent of the women in Iran are working.

**g)** In view of article 29 of the Constitution, women heads of household are extensively covered by insurance, and in 2010 1.551 million women were insured which is an increase. Also in 2013 the Social Security Organization and the Nomad and Rural Social Insurance Organization were obligated to insure housewives (women homemakers) respectively 7% and 5% insurance allowance towards the insuring of married women homemakers.

**h)** Implementation and memorandum of the Mothers' Support Plan, particularly during pregnancy and increasing of maternity leave from 6 to 9 months, and child custody and support for children without guardians in 2013.

## **12. : The NGOs area**

Over the last few years, with the multiplication of NGOs involved in women and girls affairs, and their concentration on the education debate, a better environment than in the past was brought about of the understanding of the people and society towards the status of women and girls, the elimination of discrimination, inequality and removal of obstacles from marriage. Also the participation level and support of benevolent individuals in this field in the said time span has proportionately increased.

## **13. : Challenges and difficulties**

In spite of the aforementioned advancements and the improvement of the public space towards this, there are still challenges and difficulties in this regard which are:

**a)** The Lovers of Successful Families Association as an active NGO expresses its deep concern in about human rights in the areas of women education development and employment growth that in its result lack of coordination between marriage age and women's education has caused rise in marriage age , permanent celibacy age which in result women's childbearing age also has increased, and a woman has been deprived from the best days and times that a woman can be a mother and raise her children.

**b)** The imposition of sanctions have brought along many problems in the way of the promotion of the status of women, girls and the strengthening of the family and the marriage of young people. Most certainly this is contrary to the contents of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**c)** Some of the recommendations of the Comprehensive Population and Esteem of the Family Plan are idealistic and not applicable, and may even place obstacles in the way

of population growth and be in conflict with the main objective of the plan. Furthermore some of the contents of the plan, individuals who support their spouses or parents who cannot work are encouraged. This is not an encouragement to have children, and placing it in the Population and Esteem of the Family Plan does not have any place.

**d)** Also the Comprehensive Population and Esteem of the Family Plan does not pay attention to some contents of the Fifth Development Plan and the Facilitation of Young People's Marriage Act. In this plan a suitable age has been determined for marriage and supports and facilities for individuals in this age group who want to get married have been foreseen. For example the suitable age of marriage for girls has been set at 18-22 and for boys 20-25, and if a girl gets married before 18 or after 25, and has a child the foreseen supports will not include her.

**e)** A large number of women are studying in universities and it is necessary for the necessary foundations for their more highlighted presence in complementing education be prepared.

#### **14. : Recommendations**

**a)** The reforming of the situation of women in Iran requires an orderly charter in which the ideal situation of women is written; to this aim it is worthy for the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to fulfill the Constitution, the Rights and Responsibilities of Muslim Women Charter, and the Perspective Document, and legislations ratified by the Islamic Parliament regarding the promotion of the status of women and girls.

**b)** Necessary education for women and girls, especially heads of households for facing difficulties and prevention of being affected by social problems.

**c)** It is necessary for more attention to be given in the Comprehensive Population and Esteem of the Family Plan in the compilation of policies and better institutionalization be made.

**d)** Considering that expertise and educated forces are seen as the most assets in any society and a lot is invested in their education and scientific training, the selection of suitable subjects for women's employment must be facilitated further.

**e)** Considering the importance the Islamic Republic of Iran gives to the strengthening of the family institution and the constructive and raising role of women in the family, necessary regulations and facilities must be considered for the coordination of the participation of women in society and strengthening of the family.

**f)** Extensive participation of women in society and scientific and social arenas must not be obstacles in their marriage and starting families, therefore it's apt that any obstacle is removed.



**g)** The removal of sanctions and assistance of the World Bank and UN relevant bodies in the promotion of the status of women and girls and strengthening of the family is very effective.