

**Delivered Report from The Charitable Institute for
Protecting Social Victims to UPR**

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Executive Abstract

The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims (PSC) which was granted an advisory title from the United Nation's Socio-economic Council is covering 451 patients (men and women) suffering from mental disorders. Besides its humanitarian services, this institute tries to promote NGO's potential synergies.

Ignoring the rights of mental patients' freedom, apparent suffering from mental disorders, or labeled as so, separation from society, losing job opportunities and privation of getting proper services for these patients are considered as the most difficult challenges for mental patients according to the defects in the Mental Health Act.

Notwithstanding of religious teachings regarding social behavior, only separately and for particular cases some legislations have been made, a gap for Mental Health Act is still witnessed. Although many efforts have been made from experts and authorities to eliminate this legal defect, this institute has a deep concern for prolonging the process of being introduced to the parliament and its implementation.

Key words: social victims, mental patients' rights, potential synergy

About the institute

The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims is a non-governmental, non-political and non-beneficial institute which possesses special advisory status in the United Nation's Socio-economic Council and started its activities since 1998. Different services such as supplying humanitarian aids, assisting the needy and damaged people, and overnight care of guardian-less chronic mental patients are provided. This institute acts in the fields of charity, treatment, and research. To this end, "Saraye Ehsan" institute was founded to keep and treat the needy mental patients with the support of donors and social activists. During the last year, this institute has hosted more than 14 thousand patients whom have been released after getting the required treatments. 451 people suffering from mental disorders are being hosted in the institute; 343 men and 107 women whom Saraye Ehsan has been regarded as their home for many years. They live there in hope for a day to go back to their families, their city, and society.

Goals

The main goal of this institute is to support the rights of social victims and try to promote the issue of nonviolence in all types. This goal is reached through holding several training sessions for NGOs, experts and researchers of this field, publishing related subjects to increase society's awareness, and providing supporting medical, clinical, and psychological aids for the improvements of social victims. It also holds training courses for NGOs' potential increase in order to raise their attendance and promote their international activities in addition to having a leading role in introducing Iranian NGOs to the human rights' international societies.

Describing the situation

During the last four year, The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims tried to;

- Plan to restrain mental illnesses of the society by using its training abilities, media, and other NGOs in all over Tehran. This process still continues and the NGOs' accounting staff of Tehran city council has made a great contribution.
- Appropriate second phase of its planning through providing services and medical supports for the needed people and treating them in different ways.

- Allocate third phase of activities for the rehabilitation of the improved patients who try to get back to the society.

The institute has built a dormitory and brought some patients back to the society. It aims rehabilitation and indirect training for:

- Making proper arrangements for controlling their financial issues by submitting an expenditure management plan
- Preparing the patients to deal with their probable problems such as revenue deficit, the amount of salary and the way to get financing public services ...
- Holding training session for the patients about how to contact with each other or Saraye Ehsan's staff

This part is of a great importance for our institute and we hope that it would be noticed at the time of legislation and implementation. Thus, if there is no proper programmed plan for the patients to get back to the society, we may witness that not only the patients have not been remedied, but also we have brought some of the non-rehabilitated back to the society whom could be a menace.

The importance of cooperation between the departments of justice and mental health

In conditions where psychiatrists declare a patient “a threat to their families and the society”, if not he/she is not under treatment, the support of judicial authorities for controlling them is strongly needed. In many cases, families send their patients to psychiatrists but many families cannot afford the same and the absence of such rules would lead to the patients to be left untreated. That's why patients should be granted a legal personality so the psychiatrists can compulsively hospitalize the seriously ill patients to be legally protected.

Educative and promotive activities

- Contribute to make a network of inclusive growth and sustainable development and holding professional training courses for the NGOs regarding human rights, about the role of NGOs in human rights council with the presence of more than a hundred NGOs' directors from the Tehran city council for gradating non-governmental potential capacities in international fields and clarifying human

rights' status in Iran with the help of The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims. Those familiar with human rights issues have participated in these training courses and prepared a list of their activities along with the NGOs.

- Holding specialized sessions for promoting culture and reducing social damages with the participation of sociologists and pathologists concerning the role of government in social damages.
- Holding specialized sessions in Tehran city councils accounting staff and cooperating with other active institutions regarding planning for restricting social damages by NGOs.

Recommendation

- Enacting mental health code
- Trying for immediate implementations of mental health code
- Enhancing programs based on social activity
- Enhancing programs based on religious, national and ethnic identity
- Developing the social damages reducing programs
- Developing the approaches of mental and social interventions before and after judicial interposition
- Enhancing social prevention by social organizations
- Providing comprehensive partnership chance for the NGOs regarding controlling and reducing social damages in making decisions, performance, supervision, and advertising the culture of preventing damages
- Developing social emergency program

Challenges

- Absence of mental health code
- Lack of social policy regarding social damages
- Lack of identified proctor regarding social damages
- Strict political-security and judicial approach to social damages
- Lack of attention to social issues beside economic and political ones, lack of continuous assessment of social plans, lack of full coordination between service-providing organizations regarding social damages

- Incomprehensiveness of the local and national community-based programs regarding social damages
- Externalization of religious and social norms and values