



General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 February 2017

English and Spanish only

Human Rights Council

Thirty-fourth session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 January 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.17-02774(E)



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Report on the situation on children forced to marriage in the informal settlements of Iran

Child marriage in informal settlements and rural areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Child marriage deprives a child of his/her rights and limits the opportunities for social progression. Reproduction of poverty, educational deprivation, child mortality, addiction, malnutrition, reproduction of culture of poverty and destructive values might be intensified as a result of child marriage.

Imam Ali Popular Student Relief Society held the first seminar on child marriage in its 18th year of activity in 2016. The results of a survey showed the correlation of poverty, traditions and child marriage, emphasizing on Afghan and Pakistani refugees. The rate of child marriage among immigrants is so high. Child marriage is prevalent among Afghans, considered as a kind of child sale.

Child marriage is legal for girls 13 or older and boys 15 or older in Iran. Younger than this age can also register the marriage by the approval of a father and the court advice. Both cultural and legal reforms must be followed to lessen the issue.

Imam Ali Popular Students Relief Society follows the issue by:

1. Providing cultural, educational and economical services at the informal settlements for the target group of refugees and deprived children
 2. Involving the whole community by research, publishing, seminars, art production, etc. on the issue
 3. Advocacy and influence on policymakers within political, economic, and social systems and institutions on child marriage and refugees issues
 4. International awareness on the related law for the refugees in the host countries
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