



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

Agenda item 9

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

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

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

[03 February 2019]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **Empowerment of Indigenous People in Sistan and Baluchestan Province**

Sistan and Baluchestan province is located at east and southeast of the Islamic Republic of Iran and is Iran's vastest province. This province has special significance in the region because it is located at a strategic and transit location; especially Chabahar which is the only port in Iran with access to the ocean and is the best route through which the Middle-Asian countries have the easiest access to free waters. Sistan and Baluchestan province is considered to be the rainbow of the country's mines. This province has exceptional natural sites and historical attractions and the port in Chabahar has also added to its beauty.

Despite all this natural beauty and resources, Sistan and Baluchestan is one of the deprived provinces in Iran. Due to this fact, Imam Ali Popular Students Relief Society (IAPSRS) target this province for different projects, focusing on basic needs of children & women. Building lavatory facilities, medical services, providing foodstuff packages, distribution of more than 1000 packs of milk powder due to lack of educational facilities, distribution of stationary packages, presence of medical teams in villages & rural areas as well as medicine supply supported by reconnaissance networks are among 20 different type of projects designed and managed by IAPSRS and implemented with the help of indigenous people in Sistan Baluchestan.

Educational facilities established by IAPSRS called "The Iranian Homes" have been established in Nikshahr-Ghasre Ghand where educational opportunities are provided to children to protect them from addiction and child labor. This is one of the key & most important activities implemented by IAPSRS in recent years. The teachers of Nikshahr-Ghasre Ghand Iranian Home are indigenous people who are great role models for children in the deprived areas.

Forming out two football teams in two different cities of the province, one in Ghasre Ghand & the other in Sarbaz has had great impacts on children and has helped to prevent child addiction as one of the most serious social harms in the region. The soccer coaches of the teams are indigenous people who put a high premium on training children.

In an entrepreneurship approach relying on historical heritage of the area, we have focused on Needle Work as one of the most potential handicraft products, which could enable indigenous women to be empowered, which has led to registration of "Noura" brand for these fantastic art works.

The results of these projects have significant effects on the empowerment of the local and indigenous people.

