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Universal Periodic Review

Written statement* submitted by Network of Women's Non-governmental Organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 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.

[04 February 2020]

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



The prevalence of violence against women in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Violence against women is a global issue with estimates indicating that 30% of all women worldwide have experienced either physical and or sexual abuse by intimate partners, once or more violence in their life time.

In Iranian society, based on its rich culture and Islamic values and its bound to principles, have been in safe family atmospheres and environments, for women.

However, as a family therapist, working and counseling the Iranian women, victims of violence, there are large evidence of all forms of domestic violence; Such as physical, sexual and emotional. Psychological abuse all over the country.

A national research on domestic violence against women, in 25 provinces of the country, as a joint project between center for women participation and the social department of the ministry of interior, with collaboration of the ministry of science has been conducted since 2001 to 2004.

This project had 5 phases based on 12596 women and 2066 men selected randomly from 100,000 complained the cases referred to family court and counseling centers.

The overall estimates show that 60 percent of the men and women covered in the research, since the beginning of this marital life have experienced violence at least once and 30 percent have at least serious physical violence and 10 Percent experienced permanent physical clam age.

Different stages of women's life show that in the first year of marriage, financial problems, after first child born, middle age and pregnancy are the most vulnerable years of women, and violence reaches its minimum rates at high income and old age.

The main causes of domestic violence against women are Iran as full laws:

- Establishment of Social Emergency as a woman shelter for the victims (about 240 centers)
- Establishment of the Safe homes including social workers, lawyers, lawyer consultant
- Weakness of laws and special support for women.
- Lack of enough number of counseling centers and special courts for violence against women.
- Lack of knowledge of couples regarding that rights and legal duties.
- Economic dependency of women to men for living expenses
- Lack of coverage of domestic violence by mass media.
- Weak spiritual and moral training to invite families to kindness, love and peace.

According to the clinical studies, research thesis, by university students and particularly the clinical experiences for almost years (1980 up to now), the highest rates of violence against women is emotional psychological and dehumanizing verbal behavior, as a result women lose their self-esteem and self-confidence.

Suggestions:

- Providing gender sensitive programs, especially through mass media.
- Establishment of 15 shelters by NGOs and 7 shelters by the government
- Expand Hot line crisis centers, health houses and safe houses
- Developing group movements for awareness raising.
- NGOS holding meetings and allocation of periodicals on violence against women.
- Recommendations by NGOS to revise laws and implementation of laws to punish violence actors against women.

- Preparation of life enthusiasm regarding violence against women and publishing newsletter
 - Legislation of national committee on elimination of violence against women so that approvals can put in force and implemented.
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