

Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
E/CN.4/2006/61/Add.3 para 75 (b)

Full recommendation:

In order to promote and support the empowerment of women in all spheres of life, it is recommended that the Government:

Institute special measures to increase women's political participation and appoint more women to high-level government positions;

Assessment using Impact Iran human rights indicators¹

In general, the structures of the Islamic Republic do not allow the presence of women for some senior positions. For this reason, the field of women's political participation is limited to certain positions.

For example, women are completely prohibited from holding the position of Supreme Leader, Iran's Head of State.² Candidates for the presidency in Iran must be what the Constitution refers to as "Rajol-E-Siasi" ("political men").³ Though many argue that the phrase as a whole could be understood as "political persons," without a specification as to gender, the Guardian Council of the Constitution, (body mandated to bring parliamentary resolutions in line with Sharia Law and the Constitution and to oversee elections) has never approved a woman to stand in presidential elections⁴ or in elections to the Assembly of Experts (The body that is mandated to appoint the Supreme Leader and monitor him). Additionally, no woman has ever served on the Guardian Council itself or the Expediency Council (body which serves as the Supreme Leader's advisory arm, formulating "general policies for the state" and overseeing the implementation of those policies on the behalf of the Supreme Leader).⁵

However, despite these limitations, the policies of some government administrations in the Islamic Republic are different. For example, in the government of Hassan Rouhani, executive orders were issued in this regard. In his decree, Hassan Rouhani demanded government-affiliated institutions (executive bodies) to appoint at least 30% of directors and senior positions in government institutions to women by the end of his presidency (summer of 2021).⁶

¹ CCPR.3.S.1; CCPR.26.S.1; CCPR.3.P.1; CCPR.26.P.1; CCPR.3..O.1

² Articles 5 and 109 of the Constitution, that introduced the qualification of the Supreme Leader.

³ Article 115 of the Constitution.

⁴ The Guardian Council interpretation of the Article 115: <http://www.shora-rc.ir/Portal/home/?news/12410/237109/18595/>

⁵ The Article 94 of the Constitution.

⁶ <https://p.dw.com/p/2ie1y>

In this regard, the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs has published a report on the trend of increasing the appointment of women in the governorates, provincial administrations. According to the report, the share of women in political positions has increased.⁷

However, it is important to note that due to the structural barriers discussed, the current government appointments are not guaranteed at all, and the next government can easily change these appointments. For this reason, there is no permanent measurement in place to guarantee an increase in the share of women in high level governmental positions.

Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has **NOT** been implemented

⁷ <http://women.gov.ir/fa/news/7408/> and <https://rouhanimeter.com/fa/articles/2019-09-04-women-leadership.html>