

Concluding Observations Committee on the Rights of the Child CRC/C/IRN/CO/3-4 para 82(b)

Full recommendation:

Ensure prompt registration of all its asylum-seeking and refugee children in order to provide them with access to all basic services, including health care and education for free.

Assessment using Impact Iran human rights indicators¹

Registered refugees are granted legal recognition under a system known as *Amayesh*. The Ministry of Interior's Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs is responsible for refugee affairs, including the issuance of *Amayesh* cards. An *Amayesh* card proves legal right of residence and entitles the cardholder access to government services, including healthcare and education. The card has to be renewed regularly for a fee. However, no new *Amayesh* card registrations have taken place since 2007, meaning that there has been no registration of new refugees since then. The Islamic Republic of Iran reportedly hosts between 1.5 million and 2 million undocumented Afghans (*i.e.* who reside in the country illegally, without an *Amayesh* card or valid visa).²

According to the Government, all children, regardless of their legal status have access to the national education system in the Islamic Republic of Iran.³ In May 2015, the Supreme Leader issued a decree requiring the Ministry of Education to “enroll, in schools, students of foreign nationality, asylum seekers and refugees who do not have legal residency in the country.”⁴ Following the decree, the government engaged in a number of improvements for refugee and undocumented Afghans, including through the creation of an educational support card for undocumented Afghan children.⁵ In 2019, UNHCR reported 480,000 Afghan children benefitting from these inclusive education policies, including 130,000 undocumented Afghan children.⁶ A significant number of refugee children is however believed to remain out of school.⁷

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¹CRC.22.1.S.1; CRC.22.1.S.2; CRC.22.2.S.2

CRC.22.1.P.1; CRC.22.2.P.1

CRC.22.1.O.4; CRC.22.2.O.2

² UNSG Report, https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IR/Report_of_the_Secretary-General_on_the_situation_of_human_rights_in_the_Islamic_Republic_of_IranA4320.pdf

³ National Report, UPR 2019, Islamic Republic of Iran, <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/WG.6/34/IRN/1>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ ANALP, <https://www.alnap.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/UNESCO-Final-Background-Paper.pdf>

⁶ UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2019/12/5defeb6f4/afghan-children-learn-side-side-iranian-peers.html>

⁷ Radio Farda, <https://en.radiofarda.com/a/children-of-undocumented-afghan-refugees-exploited-in-iran/29596142.html>

⁸ ALNAP, <https://www.alnap.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/UNESCO-Final-Background-Paper.pdf>

⁹ UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2019/12/5dea18ac4/support-needed-refugee-education-iran.html>

As the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran stipulated: “According to the law, all persons under the age of 18, with no or bad guardian, regardless of religion, ethnicity and nationality, shall enjoy health care, education, medical treatment, subsistence and custodian services.” However, without adequate documentation, asylum-seekers and refugees, including children, face obstacles to access all basic services.^{10 11 12}

Children with a refugee status have access to governmental welfare services in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Admittedly, a significant number of undocumented children have been granted access to education, yet such access is granted without ensuring the children refugee/asylum seeker registration. The prompt registration of refugee or asylum-seeking children is not ensured in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Recommendation Status:

This recommendation has **NOT** been implemented.

¹⁰ Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/11/20/iran-afghan-refugees-and-migrants-face-abuse>

¹¹ Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty <https://www.rferl.org/a/afghan-migrant-boy-s-rough-treatment-in-iran-sparks-anger/30077657.html>

¹² Arabnews, <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1687721>