

Arc Association for the defense of human rights of the Azerbaijani people in Iran “ArcHR”

Madame Chair,

The majority of migrants are women and children. Women migrants are among those most vulnerable to human rights violations, as both migrants and as women.

Due to a lack of investment, economic opportunities, and development in the regions of Azerbaijan, they are forced to migrate or to move to the interior of the country. As a result, women and children are affected by marginalization, economic poverty, and educational poverty.

Clearly, these forced displacements do not allow families to provide for their economic needs. Linguistic as well as cultural difficulties must be added to this, as families, not speaking Farsi, are cut off from the world of work. Thus, instead of going to school, many children work in the street to help their family survive. In most cases, these children are subjected to sexual attacks and are victims of the pressure exerted by organized gangs involved in drugs and prostitution.

I note that a majority of these children working in the street do not have national identity cards, because the government ignores them.

Minority women in Iran have always struggled with systematic discrimination in the application of legislation because of their ethnicity. They are more and more often victims on a daily basis of violence induced by this discrimination. These women, subjected to considerable social pressure in a society where they suffer from a lack of protection under the law and the weight of traditions, I believe that policies with respect to women will only obtain their objectives if their foundation is based on human rights and the fight against discrimination.

Article 19 of the Constitution against discrimination has never been applied by the IRI, but it should be noted that formal equality in reality only relates to certain criteria without mentioning other grounds for discrimination such as “sex”. It should also be noted that equality between men and women is not mentioned in the constitution of the IRI.

With regard to what has been said, we recommend to the IRI to demand that

- The Iranian state provides economic opportunities in the regions of Azerbaijan;
- Article 19 of the Constitution on racial discrimination be implemented
- The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals be applied.
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