

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ELABORATING ON SEXUAL RIGHTS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Despite numerous efforts by the UN to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, 70 percent are still victims of such crimes. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been forced upon over 200 million women and girls alive today, with 3 million more at risk every year. Sex trafficking affects women and children globally, which, paired with the prevalence of rape culture in countries, does not allow women a safe and developmental environment. The Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1946, with the 53rd Session focusing explicitly on ending violence against women and girls. Children continue to be centers of sexual exploitation, in pornography, sex trafficking and forced and early marriage. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) was adopted to lay groundwork for child rights, including freedom from sexual abuse and exploitation. These issues are often exaggerated by poverty and war, with governments unable to heal the population, and encumbered families selling women and children into trafficking, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage.

Iran considers the elimination of all forms of violence against women and children a priority. FGM is almost unseen within Iran, and there continues to be a decrease in FGM across the country due to the illegality of bodily mutilation. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and related legislation have aimed to prevent violence against women and also provide for compensating and reducing the trauma caused by violence against women. To this end, the Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2004) was adopted, establishing a set of comprehensive laws and regulations. In cases of women's and children's abuse and trafficking, Iranian law ensures heavy punishment against the perpetrator, even without complaint by the victim. To confront rape culture, Iran places importance on the family institution, which emphasizes the importance of women as an equal and valuable counterpart to men. Proper justice for those harmed by these immoral acts is further ensured by the hundreds of female judges within Iran's judicial system. The National Body on the Convention for the Rights of the Child (2010) was established to end forced and early marriage and sexual violence against children.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the first step towards ending sexual violence must be a realization of states' contributions to these issues, as many of the strongest advocates against sex trafficking and sexual violence have created an atmosphere that not only favors it within their own countries but others as well. This manifestation of violence against women is brought by their materialization, through prostitution, pornography, trafficking and objectification. The strengthening of the family institution will serve to rectify women's standing in societies through the development of moral and spiritual values and human dignity. The hiring of women within public, professional, and educational sectors must become a priority, as it will help to build the safeguards and cultural respect necessary for women's safety. The proper environment for change must be implemented in developing countries. Extraordinary challenges such as poverty and war have hindered, halted, or reversed sustainable development. Member States must support not only the societal development of nations, but make greater strides to enhance economies and stable government as well.