



The Islamic Republic of Iran

Charter on Citizens' Rights

December 2016

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Declaration of the President
of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

And indeed, we have honored the human beings; and carried them on land and sea; and provided them the best things; and privileged them over most of our creations.

Holy Quran (17:70)

The great and wise people of Iran:

The contemporary history of Iran is a bright mirror of the aspirations and demands of the people of Iran. The history of more than one hundred years of the Iranian nation's search for freedom and justice has witnessed glorious examples thereof, such as the Constitution Movement and the Islamic Revolution. Throughout the vicissitudes of this era, the people of Iran were seeking respect for human dignity and integrity, and realization of their rights. Durability of the legitimacy and authority of a state is guaranteed through the consent of its citizens and realization of their rights. In the words of Imam Ali (peace be upon him): "The Almighty God has considered rights of humankind as a basis for His own rights; therefore, respect of human rights will lead to upholding the rights of Almighty God."

As the President has sworn to the Holy Quran before the Iranian nation to support righteousness and justice, and to protect freedom, human dignity and rights of the nation as enshrined in the Constitution:

- Relying on Almighty God, following the traditions of the Great Prophet and the Immaculate Imams, furthering the thoughts of the Great founder of the Islamic Revolution, and the insistence of the Supreme Leader on the nation as the benefactor and observing the rights of the people;
- Referring to the "Rights of the Nation" that have been clearly emphasized in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in view of the fact that the government is obliged to observe and realize the rights to life, enjoyment of human dignity, justice, freedom and decent life for all citizens of Iran, including both the Iranians residing inside the country and abroad, irrespective of gender, age, wealth, economic or physical, mental and psychological health status, socio-political tendency, lifestyle, religious belief, race, tribe or language;
- Whereas, citizens' rights are founded on principles such as human dignity, preservation of the inalienable rights and freedoms, sovereignty of people, equal enjoyment of all people of human rights, prohibition of discrimination, and equal protection of all individuals of the nation under the law;
- Whereas, realization of civil rights and political freedoms, including freedom of thought, expression and access to information and exchange thereof, freedom of the press and media, right of criticism and expression of views and public scrutiny, right of residence and freedom of movement, right to hold the nationality, right to self-determination and right to good administration will be made possible by relying on the exercise of public suffrage through a sound, transparent and competitive election and free and fair referendum system; rights to form, administer, join and operate organizations, political parties and civil society associations and trade unions, right of free participation in assemblies and demonstrations is possible only through the commitment, responsibility and political will of the Government;
- Whereas, participation of people in social life is subject to enjoyment, without discrimination, of citizens of the right to benefit from a transparent and competitive economic system, right to property, right to housing, and rights to healthy nutrition and clean water, rights to comprehensive welfare and social security, health and treatment

services, work and employment, training and higher education and participation in cultural life;

- Whereas, participation, cooperation and responsibility of individuals, groups and governments are required to realize the right to development, right to enjoy a healthy environment, right of cultural identity, right to peace and rejection of violence and hatred and right to communicate at national and international levels;
- Whereas, the Government considers its duty to cooperate with other State branches to ensure freedom and security for all citizens, access to justice and a fair trial, inviolability of privacy from any illegal intrusion, prohibition against eavesdropping, and illegal search and seizure, inquisition, illegal disclosure of information, arbitrary arrest, and any type of torture or forced testimony or confession; and to uphold principles of the presumption of innocence, *nullum crimen sine lege* (no crime without law), competence of the judicial forum for trying the charge, transparency of crimes and observance of the rights of accused persons and convicts, particularly in political and media crimes, right to trials that are fair, public and without discrimination and differentiation, with the right to retain or be afforded representation of counsel;
- Whereas, realization of citizens' rights will not be possible without the awareness, capability and responsibility of citizens regarding rights, duties and public interests;

A. I hereby declare that the Government is resolute to take action, in collaboration with other State branches and governmental organs within the scope of their competencies, resources and capabilities, and within the framework of the Constitution, with respect of the following:

1. To raise awareness, build capacity, promote public culture, and increase sensitivity, commitment and skill in governmental and non-governmental agencies for the upholding of citizens' rights;
2. To encourage, support and attract the participation of individuals, experts, organizations, civil and private entities to promote public culture, expand public demands, and confront any type of violation of citizens' rights;
3. To take into consideration the principles of non-discrimination and equality of all individuals and groups before the law, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, religion and socio-political affiliations, and to pursue implementation of this principle by other State branches and entities;
4. To resolve to uphold instances of human dignity, and to pursue observance thereof by the three branches of the State and institutions, including stringent prohibition of any type of degrading or humiliating treatment of people by authorities and officers;
5. To develop procedures and non-judicial methods to counter violations of citizens' rights, with the objective of facilitating an easy method of raising objections and complaints, and adjudicating them in the shortest possible time;
6. To expand studies and scientific and applied research for the purpose of identifying challenges and barriers to the realization of citizens' rights, for the purpose of finding practical solutions in the Iranian legal system, and adopting corrective and remedial measures;
7. To develop quantitative and qualitative indices for the purpose of monitoring and assessing activities of all executive organs in the area of citizens' rights;
8. To support public scrutiny, particularly by public entities and media, in identifying, criticizing and analyzing grounds of violation of citizens' rights, and preserving the state

media environment, particularly the media using public funds, against immoral and irresponsible activities, disinformation, libel and slander, derision, and use of abusive language aimed at undermining the dignity, integrity and reputation of persons;

9. To plan and continuously strive, in collaboration with other State branches and sovereign organs, public authorities and non-governmental organizations for establishing coordination and consolidation in observing citizens rights, and in finding appropriate legal strategies;
10. To prevent the grounds for violation of citizens' rights, particularly systematic and recurring violations, using facilities of the executive branch, and in collaboration with other State branches and public and civil entities;
11. To mandate the executive officials and authorities to commit to observing citizens' rights in all planning, policymaking and decisions;
12. To take legal action against any abuse of power violating citizens' rights.

B. Whereas the President is vested with the duty to implement the Constitution and to safeguard, protect and promote freedom, human dignity and the rights of the nation:

1. Based on Article 134 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I declare this "Charter on Citizens' Rights" to be tantamount to the plan and guideline of the Government for the observance and advancement of the fundamental rights of the nation of Iran;
2. I will prepare bills regarding citizens' rights and submit them to the Islamic Consultative Assembly (the Parliament), and have confidence in the cooperation of other State branches for paving the grounds for their implementation;
3. In order to implement the Charter on Citizens' Rights, I attach serious importance to cooperating, with good and constructive interaction, with the Islamic Consultative Assembly (the Parliament), the Judiciary, the Expediency Council, the Council of Guardians, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization, the Armed Forces and the Police, City and Village Islamic Councils, High Council of Provinces and other bodies;
4. I request grand canonical authorities (Grand Ayatollahs), professors of seminaries and universities, specialists, experts, political parties, the media, non-governmental organizations and all citizens to assist the Government and other State branches and sovereign organs, through providing their views and feedback, in the realization and full implementation of the present Charter and in the enhancement and dissemination of citizens' rights discourse.
5. I instruct organs under the Executive Branch to develop the legal and structural grounds and the required cultural and educational endeavors for precise implementation of the Charter on Citizens' Rights.
6. I instruct the organs under the Executive Branch to take action, in collaboration with the non-governmental sector, particularly political parties, institutions and non-governmental organizations, for identifying instances and explaining citizens' rights within the domain of their activities, responsibilities and discretion; to identify the most significant and common instances of violation of citizens' rights, and to take legal measures required for realization of these rights, particularly through public education, dissemination of information, capacity building and promoting dialogue and interaction in the public.

7. I will take due measures, in collaboration with other State branches, for developing, strengthening and improving the capacities of existing institutions, whether governmental or non-governmental, for advancing citizens' rights.
8. I instruct organs under the Executive Branch to develop and adopt, within six months from the declaration of this Charter, a "Legal System Reform and Development Plan" in the area of their responsibility with emphasis on appropriate realization of citizens' rights, and submit to the President on an annual basis their periodical reports covering their progress, challenges, barriers and proposed solutions.
9. In order to implement the Charter on Citizens' Rights, I hereby appoint a "Special Assistant to the President in Citizens' Rights Affairs".

I trust that with the grace of Almighty God, support of the people, guidance of the Supreme Leader, cooperation of other State branches and coordination among governmental, public and civil entities, we will witness blooming and advancement of citizens' rights in our beloved country

Hassan Rouhani

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Charter on Citizens' Rights

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Preamble

Absolute sovereignty over the world and the human being belongs to God. And it is He who has made human beings sovereign over their social destiny. No one can take this divine right away from human beings or apply it to the interests of a certain person or group. The Iranian nation exercises this right through the articles of its Constitution, where, pursuant to Articles 113 and 121, the responsibility for implementing and guarding the Constitution is vested in the President. The President, who has sworn to God on the Holy Quran before the Iranian nation to support righteousness and justice, and to protect freedom, human dignity and rights of the people as enshrined in the Constitution, declares this Charter on Citizens' Rights as the Government's plan and policy for observance and advancement of fundamental rights of the Iranian nation.

This Charter is drawn up with the objective of realizing and promoting citizens' rights as the "Plan and Policy" of the Government, the subject matter of Article 134 of the Constitution. It encompasses a set of citizens' rights that are either already recognized in the Iranian legal system or that the Government will exert stringent and pervasive efforts for their recognition, creation, realization and enforcement by amending and developing the legal system and by preparing and pursuing enactment by the legislature of bills to be submitted by the Government in this respect, or by taking any other measure or legal action required. Attainment of this objective will require cooperation of other government branches and entities and participation of the people, organizations, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

The provisions of this Charter shall be read, construed and put into force as a whole and in the framework of the existing legal system, and shall not undermine the rights of Iranian citizens and rights of foreign nationals otherwise recognized in the laws and/or by international obligations undertaken by the State.

I. Right to Life, Health and Quality of Life

Article 1

Citizens have the right to life. No one may be deprived of this right save pursuant to the law.

Article 2

Citizens have the right to enjoy a decent life and necessities thereof, such as clean water, adequate food, promotion of health, environment, appropriate medical treatment, access to medicines, and medical, medicinal and health equipment, supplies and services in compliance with current standards of science and national standards, and safe and sustainable environmental conditions.

Article 3

Women have the right to enjoy suitable health and treatment plans and facilities and appropriate training and counseling to provide for their physical and psychological health in their individual, family and social life and in different stages of life, particularly during pregnancy, childbirth and in post-delivery time, also when suffering from illness, poverty or disability.

Article 4

Children specifically and irrespective of their gender have the right to be protected against discrimination, harassment and exploitation, and to be provided appropriate social protection in the areas of health and prevention of mental, psychological and physical diseases, as well as medical and treatment services.

Article 5

The disabled persons and the older persons have the right to be provided with treatment and rehabilitation facilities for cure and/or re-enablement to have an independent life and to enjoy participating in various aspects of life.

Article 6

Citizens have the right to enjoy an environment favorable to fostering ethical and religious virtues and spiritual elevation. The Government will employ all of its powers to bring about the requisites for the enjoyment of this right, and to combat moral shortcomings such as dishonesty, hypocrisy, blandishment, intolerance, indifference, hatred, distrust, radicalism and dissemblance.

II. Right to Human Dignity and Equality

Article 7

All citizens are equally entitled to human dignity and to all the privileges laid down in the laws and regulations.

Article 8

Exercise of any type of undue discrimination, particularly in access of citizens to public services such as health services and occupational and educational opportunities is forbidden. The Government shall refrain from adopting any decision and taking any action that leads to the widening of the class divide, undue discrimination or deprivation of citizens' rights.

Article 9

The dignity and reputation of citizens is inviolable. No person, authority or media, particularly those using public budget and facilities, may harm the dignity and reputation of others through their actions or defamatory statements such as libel and slander, even if by quoting others.

Article 10

It is prohibited to insult, degrade or cause hatred against ethnicities and followers of other faiths and creeds and social and political groups.

Article 11

Women have the right to have active and effective participation in policymaking, legislation, management, implementation and supervision, and shall be provided equal social opportunities in accordance with Islamic norms.

III. Right to Freedom and Personal Security

Article 12

Personal and public freedoms of citizens are inviolable. No citizen can be deprived of these freedoms. Restriction of these freedoms may take place only to the extent necessary and pursuant to the law.

Article 13

Every citizen has the right to enjoy security of their person, property, dignity, employment, legal and judicial process, social security and the like. No authority shall, in the name of security, violate or threaten legitimate rights and freedoms of citizens and their human dignity and integrity. Illegal actions in the name of public security, especially violation of people's privacy, are prohibited.

Article 14

Citizens have the right to speedy and easy access to public security authorities and officials in the event of an illegal violation of their freedom and security. The said authorities and

officials shall render services immediately, without discrimination, proportionate to the violation or threat that the citizens have become exposed to and in compliance with the law.

IV. Right to Self-Determination

Article 15

Citizens have equal right to participate in determining their political, economic, social and cultural destiny, and may exercise this right in free and fair elections or referendums.

Article 16

Citizens have equal rights to participate in and monitor the electoral process, to enjoy governmental facilities and privileges (including subsidies, radio and television advertisements and the like), to benefit from campaign contributions and other means of financing election costs, and to complain and object to competent authorities regarding electoral violations.

Article 17

Decisions, measures or statements of governmental officials, administrative and supervisory authorities of elections, military, police, and security officials, prior to election, in the course of considering the qualifications of election candidates, and after elections shall be completely transparent, unbiased and in compliance with the law, in such manner that even the suspicion of electoral fraud or violation, or support for certain candidate(s) cannot arise.

Article 18

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization and all media that use public budget or property shall observe complete neutrality in all stages of the elections to such an extent that no suspicion of supporting certain candidate(s) would arise.

V. Right to Good Governance and Administration

Article 19

Citizens have the right to good governance of State affairs based on the rule of law, efficiency, accountability, transparency, justice and equity. Observance of this right by all authorities and government personnel is mandatory.

Article 20

Citizens have the right to have their administrative affairs handled and performed in compliance with the law, in an objective manner and away from profiteering or personal bias, nepotism, or political favoritism and without prejudgment, at a definite and appropriate time.

Article 21

Citizens have the right to seek remedies and recourse to competent administrative and judicial authorities when they consider decisions of administrative entities and/or of their personnel to be in contravention of laws and regulations.

Article 22

Citizens have the right to be informed of administrative decisions and measures that in one way or another affect their legitimate rights and interests.

Article 23

Administrative authorities and officers shall be accountable and accessible to citizens; and, where they reject a request, they shall respond in writing, upon request, and shall provide the maximum guidance within the framework of their competence.

Article 24

Citizens have the right to a government that is committed to observing good morals; being sincere, honest and trustworthy; consultation, preserving the public treasure, considerate of

public conscience and public opinion; moderation and prudence; refraining from radicalism, haste, arbitrariness, deceit, concealments and information manipulation; assuming responsibility for its decisions and actions; apologizing to people for its mistakes; welcoming the views of its opponents and critics; and making appointments and dismissals based on qualifications and capabilities of individuals.

VI. Freedom of Thought and Expression

Article 25

Citizens have freedom of thought. Inquisition is prohibited, and no one can be persecuted merely for his or her beliefs.

Article 26

Every citizen has a right to freedom of speech and expression. This right shall be exercised within the limits prescribed by law. Citizens have the right to freely seek, receive and publish views and information pertaining to various issues, using any means of communication. The Government shall, according to the law, guarantee freedom of speech and expression, especially in the mass media, cyber space, including in newspapers, magazines, books, cinemas, radio and television, social networks and the likes.

Article 27

Citizens have the right to express their opinions, creativeness and emotions via various intellectual, literary and artistic means, in compliance with the law and the rights of others.

Article 28

Citizens have the right to criticize, express dissatisfaction, invite to do good, and advise the Government and public entities regarding their performance. The Government shall be required to promote and develop the culture of accepting criticism, tolerance and compromise.

Article 29

The Government will protect the freedom, independence, plurality, and diversity of the media within the framework of the law. No authority has the right to put pressure on the press and other media to publish or refrain from publishing information or matters, in contravention of legal principles, or embark on censorship or control of publications or other media.

VII. Right of Access to Information

Article 30

Citizens have the right to access public information available in public institutions and private institutions that provide public services. All organs and entities are required to continuously publish unclassified information required by society.

Article 31

Citizens have the right to access their personal data collected and kept by persons and institutions providing public services, and to request correction of such data, should they find it to be incorrect. Personal information pertaining to individuals shall not be placed at the disposal of others, save pursuant to the law or with the consent of the individuals themselves.

Article 32

Children have the right to access information appropriate to their age, and shall not be exposed to immoral, violent or any other types of content that would cause intimidation or physical or psychological harm.

VIII. Right of Access to Cyberspace

Article 33

Citizens have the right to freely and without discrimination enjoy access to and communicate and obtain information and knowledge from cyberspace. This right encompasses respect for cultural diversity, languages, traditions and religious beliefs and observance of ethical principles in cyberspace. Imposition of any type of restriction (such as filtering, interference, speed reduction and network interruption) without explicit legal authority is prohibited.

Article 34

Citizens have the right to enjoy the benefits of e-government and e-commerce, educational opportunities and user training, without discrimination.

Article 35

Citizens have the right to enjoy cyber security, security of communication technologies and informatics, and protection of their personal data and privacy.

IX. Right to Privacy

Article 36

Every citizen has a right to have their privacy respected. Residences, personal spaces, belongings and vehicles are immune from search and inspection, except pursuant to the law.

Article 37

Searching, collecting, processing, using and disclosing of letters, whether electronic or otherwise, personal information and data, as well other mail and telecommunications, such as telephone communications, faxes, wireless, private internet communications and the like is prohibited, save pursuant to the law.

Article 38

Collection and publication of private information of citizens is forbidden, except with their informed consent or pursuant to the law.

Article 39

Citizens have the right to have their personal information, held by organs and natural persons and legal entities, protected and preserved. Providing access to and disclosure of personal information of individuals shall be barred, and where required at the request of judicial and administrative authorities, they shall be provided to them exclusively. No official and authority shall, without express legal permit, have the right to place personal information of individuals at the disposal of another person or divulge them.

Article 40

All inspections and body searches must be made in accordance with the law, with due respect, and by using non-humiliating and non-intrusive methods and tools. Furthermore, compulsory medical tests and measures without legal authorization are forbidden.

Article 41

Illegal audio and video controls in places of work, public places, shops and other spaces where services are provided to the public are prohibited.

Article 42

Citizens have the right to have their dignity and privacy respected in the media and public fora. And, should this right be violated, causing material or immaterial harms, the violators shall be liable and obliged to make reparation, in accordance with the law.

X. Right of Association, Assembly and Demonstration

Article 43

Citizens have the right to form, join and participate in political parties, societies, social, cultural, scientific, political and trade associations and non-governmental organizations in compliance with the law. No one may be barred from participating therein, or be forced to participate in any. Membership or non-membership shall not cause deprivation or restriction of citizens' rights or result in undue discrimination.

Article 44

Citizens have the right to have effective participation in policymaking, decision-making and implementation of laws within the framework of unions, associations and trade unions.

Article 45

Citizens have the right to civil activities in the areas of citizens' rights. Non-governmental organizations must have the right to access information and the standing to make recourse to competent courts in case of violations of citizens' rights.

Article 46

Citizens have the right to assembly and make demonstrations and to participate therein, freely and in compliance with the law, and to enjoy impartiality of the responsible bodies and protection and security for the assembly.

XI. Right to Nationality, Residence and Freedom of Movement

Article 47

It is the inalienable right of every Iranian individual to enjoy benefits of Iranian nationality and no one may hinder enjoyment of this right.

Article 48

It is a right of every citizen to have freedom of movement inside the country, to exit Iran and to enter Iran, save where this right has been restricted by law.

Article 49

Citizens have the right to reside and be domiciled in any point of the Iranian territory. No one may be banished from his or her place of residence, be barred from his or her place of interest or be forced to settle in a place, save in instances prescribed by law.

Article 50

Iranian nationals in any part of the world shall have the right to take benefit of legal, consular, and political services and protections of the Government of Iran.

XII. Right to Family Life

Article 51

Citizens have the right to get married and form a family with full consent, freely and without any compulsion, in compliance with relevant laws.

Article 52

Citizens have the right to take benefit of educational, consultation and medical facilities they require for marriage.

Article 53

Citizens have the right to take benefit of measures and protections required for forming, strengthening, promoting and securing families, and facilitating marriage based on religious and national values and traditions.

Article 54

All citizens, especially women and children, have the right to be immune from verbal and physical abuse and violence in all family and social environments, and shall have easy access to safe places, emergency assistance, treatment and to judicial entities for seeking redress should such violence occur.

Article 55

Children have the right to have appropriate parents and custodians. Children may not be separated from their parents and legal custodians, except on the basis of law.

XIII. Right to a Fair Trial**Article 56**

Citizens have the right to freely and easily access competent and impartial judicial, police, administrative and supervisory authorities to seek justice. No one can be deprived of this right.

Article 57

There is a presumption of innocence and no one shall be considered guilty unless the charge against him or her is proven in a court of competent jurisdiction and by observance of due process of law, including the principles of *nullum crimen sine lege* (no crime without law); independence and impartiality of judicial bodies and judges; the right of defense, the principle of individual criminal responsibility; the principle of speedy trial and adjudication within a reasonable period without prolongation of proceedings; and the right to have an attorney. Judgments must be issued on the basis of relevant laws and principles.

Article 58

Citizens have the right to retain attorneys of their choosing from the outset to the conclusion of judicial, police and administrative proceedings. In case individuals are unable to retain attorneys before judicial authorities, they shall be provided facilities for retaining an attorney. In line with the realization of the inviolable right of defense, the professional independence of attorneys will be protected.

Article 59

Trials will be held in open court as a matter of principle and citizens shall have the right to attend hearings, if they so wish. Exceptions shall be determined only by law.

Article 60

Citizens (including accused persons, convicts and victims) have the right to have their personal data protected and secured before judicial, police and administrative authorities; and that no damage shall be inflicted upon their status, honor and human dignity. Any type of illegal conduct, such as physical or psychological torture; obtaining forced testimony or information; using verbal or physical humiliation; applying verbal or physical violence; insulting an accused person or a convict shall constitute violation of citizens' rights; and, aside from being legally prosecutable, the results obtained through these means will not be admissible.

Article 61

Citizens facing political or press related charges must only be tried in open court and in the presence of a jury. Jury members must be selected to constitute a reflection of the public conscience and a representation of the opinions and views of various social groups.

Article 62

Citizens have the right to be immune from arbitrary detention and unwarranted search and seizure. Any threat, exertion of pressure and restriction against the family and relatives of individuals being accused or detained is prohibited.

Article 63

Citizens have the right to be informed of all their rights in a legal proceeding, including the right to be informed of the type and reasons for the charges against them and the evidence in support thereof; the right to be represented by an attorney; the right to be given reasonable time for presentation of complaint or defense; the right to accurate transcription of the points presented in all stages of proceeding; the right to be kept in detention houses and prisons that are legally recognized; and the right to inform one's family about one's detention.

Article 64

Detainees, convicts and prisoners have the right to enjoy citizens' rights pertaining to them, including the right to have suitable nutrition, cloths, health and medical care, to communicate with and to be informed of their family; to take advantage of educational and cultural services; and to perform religious worship and rituals.

Article 65

Citizens have the right to appeal from judgments rendered by criminal, civil, administrative and quasi-judicial courts based on legal criteria.

Article 66

All temporary detainees and convicts have the right to return to an honorable life after the end of their detention or conviction, and to enjoy all citizens' rights, particularly the right to employment. Imposition of restriction on social activities, save in instances expressly stated in the law and within the scope and time specified, is prohibited.

Article 67

In cooperation with other branches of the Government and state authorities, the Government takes due measures to improve the Iranian legal system and create an efficient model with emphasis on observance of the due process of law.

XIV. Right to a Transparent and Competitive Economy**Article 68**

Citizens have the right to enjoy equal access to economic opportunities and to public and governmental facilities and services. Contracts and agreements of the public and governmental sector with the private sector and granting of any type of license in economic areas to citizens shall be made in compliance with the respective laws and regulations and fair competition in accessing opportunities and facilities.

Article 69

Citizens have the right to be informed of the process of adoption, modification and implementation of economic policies, laws and regulations; to advise the approving authority of their views; to be notified of adoption of decisions different from previous policies and procedures on a timely basis that would allow them to prepare for such changes; and to learn about the decisions adopted through public announcements, in a transparent manner.

Article 70

Citizens have the right to enjoy equal access, in the most transparent fashion, to economic information, including the information relating to bids and tenders to be held.

Article 71

The Government guarantees a law-based, transparent and competitively fair business environment for citizens to engage in various economic activities, where the citizens' investments are secure and protected.

Article 72

In order to ensure realization of economic rights of citizens, and to maximize participation of each and every member of society in business activities, the Government shall bring about the circumstances required for security of investment; adoption of economic decisions that are simple, straight forward and durable; expanding regional relations and ties; making preparations required for the presence of Iranian economic activists in world markets, supporting renovation, provision of modern science to production enterprises, and targeted arrangement of exports and imports; and combating organized economic crimes, money laundering and illegal trafficking of goods and foreign currencies.

XV. Right to Housing**Article 73**

Citizens have the right to take benefit of a safe house suitable to meet their own and their family's requirements. The Government will pave grounds for realization of this right by observing priorities and by taking into account the resources.

Article 74

The Government will adopt necessary measures and regulations to prepare the grounds for provision of appropriate housing and for improvement of the housing issue, taking into account domestic specifications and cultural values, compliance with Construction National Regulations, and energy consumption optimization plans.

XVI. Right to Property**Article 75**

Personal property rights of citizens shall be respected. No person or authority may dispossess one's ownership, confiscate, seize or attach one's property, or prevent, obstruct or restrict one from enjoyment of one's ownership rights or proprietorship, save pursuant to the law.

Article 76

Various types of intellectual property rights, including literary, artistic, and industrial property rights in compliance with the law shall be respected and protected. Citizens have the right, in accordance with the law, to enjoy the required support for creating and presenting artistic works and for benefiting from the economic and non-economic rights thereof inside and outside the country.

XVII. Right to Employment and Decent Work**Article 77**

Citizens have the right to freely select and engage in the work they choose without discrimination and in compliance with the law. No one has the right to deprive citizens of this right on grounds of ethnicity, religion, gender and/or political and/or social persuasions.

Article 78

Citizens have the right to equal employment opportunity and to select their professions freely in accordance with the provisions of law, in a way as to enable them to earn their livelihood in an equitable and dignified manner. The Government guarantees and oversees the appropriate prerequisite conditions for realization of this right.

Article 79

Citizens have the right to enjoy professional trainings required in relation to work.

Article 80

Citizens have the right to a healthy and safe environmental and work space; and to be provided with necessary measures for preventing physical and mental injuries in work environments.

Article 81

Citizens have the right to seek redress from competent legal authorities for breaches of labor laws and regulations.

Article 82

Employment, promotion and granting of benefits to employees shall be based on specialization, competency, and job-related skills; arbitrary, discriminatory and biased approaches in this context, as well as the use of methods violating privacy rights in the process of selection for employment are prohibited.

Article 83

Women have the right to appropriate job opportunities, and to pay equal to men for equal work.

Article 84

Forced child labor is prohibited. Exceptions that might be in their best interests shall be authorized only by law.

XVIII. Right to Welfare and Social Security**Article 85**

Citizens have the right to peace of mind, pursuit of happiness, hope for a better future, spiritual self-improvement, social empowerment, leading a safe and tranquil life, having the opportunity and the means to spend more time with their family, recreation, sports, and tourism.

Article 86

Citizens have the right to enjoy public welfare, social security and aid services.

Article 87

Citizens have the right to enjoy unemployment benefits in cases of involuntary unemployment; in accordance with the law.

Article 88

Citizens living in rural areas and in tribal areas have such rights like rural development, insurance, social security and safety of living environment.

Article 89

Citizens, particularly women, have the right to access sport, educational and safe recreational facilities, and be able to attend national and world sport arenas, while preserving Islamic-Iranian culture.

Article 90

Women shall have the right to enjoy healthy nutrition during pregnancy; healthy childbirth; postpartum health care; maternity leave; and medical treatment for common women diseases.

Article 91

Citizens have the right to an environment free of individual and social harms, including narcotics and psychedelic substances. Vulnerable groups and those seeking assistance are entitled to benefit from effective measures of the Government in areas of rehabilitation, creation of hope, and social security.

Article 92

The community of veterans and others who made great sacrifices for the country and their esteemed families have the right to be specially provided necessary facilities for individual and collective empowerment in order to effectively attend and participate in various aspects of cultural, political and social life.

Article 93

The Government protects rights of the insured; and this protection entails assurance of existence of a competitive environment; supervision over activities of insurers and insurance entities; regulation of the insurer and insured relations; improvement of the mechanisms for considering claims of the insured persons and other beneficiaries.

Article 94

Citizens have the right of access to goods and services in a way that will not put their health or safety in jeopardy.

XIX. Right of access to and Participation in Cultural Life**Article 95**

Citizens have the right to enjoy the benefits of cultural development; scientific advancements; participation in cultural life; and balanced support for different aspects of culture.

Article 96

Diversity in general and cultural diversity of the people of Iran shall be respected as a part of cultural heritage, within the framework of national identity.

Article 97

Citizens have the right to intercultural communication, irrespective of their ethnicity or religion.

Article 98

The Government shall protect, preserve and maintain civilizational and cultural heritage, and shall conserve historical works, buildings and monuments, no matter which cultural groups they belong to.

Article 99

Citizens have the right to enjoy the facilities required for participation in cultural life and to join other citizens, *inter alia*, in founding organizations and associations, as well as practicing religious and tribal rites and pursuing cultural traditions, in accordance with the law.

Article 100

Activists in artistic fields have the right to engage in free activities in a non-monopolistic environment. The Government shall take due measures to promote competitive participation of the private sector in production and supply stages of artistic works.

Article 101

Citizens shall have the right to learn, use and teach their own local language and dialect.

Article 102

Citizens are free to choose their clothing, consistent with social custom and culture, and within the framework of the law.

Article 103

All citizens, especially women, whilst having the right to participate in and attend public environments and centers, shall also have the right to form their own special social, cultural and artistic groups and organizations.

XX. Right to Education

Article 104

Citizens have the right to education. Primary education is compulsory and free. The Government will provide for free education up to the end of secondary school, and will expand free higher education to the extent needed and required in the country. The Government will provide for basic education for those lacking primary education.

Article 105

All professors and students shall have the right to take benefit of education and research privileges, including promotions. Granting facilities and academic support, such as sabbaticals and scholarships, shall be merely on the basis of academic capabilities and qualifications, irrespective of political and partisan inclinations and the like.

Article 106

Scientific, seminarian and university societies shall enjoy academic freedom and independence. Professors, seminary students and university students shall be free in expressing their opinions and they shall not be persecuted or interrogated or deprived of teaching or studying, merely for having or expressing an opinion in academic arenas. Professors and students shall have the right to establish and participate in professional, political, social, scientific and other societies.

Article 107

University must be a safe and secure space for professors and students. University authorities must endeavor stringently to ensure the security of students. Disciplinary violations of students shall be resolved with observance of due process of law; principles of fair trial; access to competent, independent and impartial authorities, the right of defense and the right to appeal, in the shortest time possible and without delay, in accordance with regulations.

Article 108

Children have the right to an education that results in the development of their personalities, talents and mental and physical potentials; and of respect for the child's parents, the rights of others, cultural identity, and religious and national values; and that prepares them for a moral and responsible life of understanding, peacefulness, tolerance and humanity, fairness, orderliness and discipline, and equality and friendliness amongst people, and respect for the environment and cultural heritage.

Article 109

Students have the right to have their personality and dignity respected. The views of children on issues pertaining to their life must be heard and considered.

Article 110

No one shall have the right to instill tribal, religious and political hatred in children's mind, or create violence in respect of a special race or religion, by education or training or by mass media in children's minds.

Article 111

Disabled persons must be given the opportunity and possibility to study and acquire skills appropriate to their capabilities. Disability must not lead to deprivation of the right to acquire knowledge and professional skills.

XXI. Right to a Healthy Environment and Sustainable Development

Article 112

Protection of the environment—in which today's generation and future generations shall have a productive social life—is a common duty. Accordingly, economic activities and otherwise,

which are accompanied by environmental pollution and irreversible environmental damage are prohibited. Citizens have a right to environmental conservation, improvement and beautification and promotion of a culture of environmental protection. The Government shall take this right into consideration in its developmental, economic, social, cultural, defense and security plans, decisions, and actions, and shall combat pollution and environmental destruction.

Article 113

Every citizen has the right to enjoy a healthy and clean environment, which is free of various pollutants, including air pollution and water pollution, and environmental pollution arising from harmful waves and radiation; and, shall have the right to be aware of the extent and consequences of existing environmental pollutants. Executive bodies will take due measures for reducing environmental pollutants, particularly in big cities.

Article 114

Any action aimed at infrastructural or industrial development, such as building dams and roads or extraction, petrochemical and nuclear industries and the like, shall be executed after an environmental impact assessment. Implementation of developmental projects shall be subject to strict observance of environmental considerations.

Article 115

The Government will take action for achieving comprehensive and balanced sustainable development and elimination of international barriers by playing an effective international role through economic cooperation, exchange of information, transfer of technical know-how and cultural exchange. Citizens have the right to enjoy the benefits and advantages of new technologies in all areas, including in health, medical, pharmaceutical, food, economic and trade.

XXII. Right to Peace, Security and National Power

Article 116

Citizens have the right to take benefit from a transparent and peace-seeking foreign policy, in the framework of national interests and national security. The Government shall pursue the principles of dignity, wisdom and expediency to establish, maintain, and promote sustained relations and ties with states and international organizations. It will use diplomatic tools and rational methods to seek to spread and strengthen a discourse of peace, protection of human rights and human dignity, combating violence and extremism and defending the rights of the downtrodden.

Article 117

The Government plans and acts in respect of protecting the rights of Iranians abroad, and of improving Iran's international image.

Article 118

Citizens have the right to enjoy security, independence, unity, territorial integrity and national power.

Article 119

It is the duty of the Government to make the required plans and allocate sufficient resources towards achieving strategic deterrence and enhancing the defense capabilities of the country, particularly by equipping and strengthening the armed forces.

Article 120

Citizens have the right to receive required defense training. The Government will, through planning and allocating required resources, strengthen national defense capability and public mobilization.

Implementation of the Charter and Supervision Mechanism

1. The President shall appoint a Special Assistant for supervising, coordinating and pursuing appropriate implementation of the Government's obligations under this Charter. The Special Assistant will be responsible for, amongst others, proposing plans and guidelines for the full implementation of the Charter on Citizens' Rights.
2. Executive bodies under the Executive Branch, in coordination with the Special Assistant and within the scope of their legal competence and by attracting participation of the people, societies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and by summing up and codifying the laws and freedoms set forth in the Constitution and in statutes, shall take legal measures and actions required for realization of these rights, particularly by preparing and implementing a plan for reforming and developing the legal system; providing information to the public; embarking on capacity building; and by enhancing mutual understanding, dialogue and interaction in the public arena.
3. The bodies under the Executive Branch shall be required to prepare their plan for reforming and developing the legal system within six months from the date of the publication of this Charter and submit the same to the Special Assistant of the President, and shall present an annual report on their progress, challenges, barriers, and proposed solutions for the promotion and realization of citizens' rights within the scope of their responsibility, and shall take measures for realization of the citizens' rights set forth in this Charter through institutional and structural reforms.
4. Ministries of Education; Science, Research and Technology; and Health and Medical Education shall make necessary arrangements to best familiarize school and university students with citizens' rights concepts.
5. The President reports to the people annually on the progress and approaches to overcome challenges for realization of citizens' rights, and shall update the Charter as required.

Hassan Rouhani

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

**References of the charter to existing Iranian
legal system**

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Article 3: Articles 10 and 21 of the Constitution; Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2004, by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution); Women's Health Promotion Policies and Approaches (2007, by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution).

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Article 7: Articles 2.6, 19, 20 and 22 of the Constitution.

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