

Annual Report 2016

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence



ODVV

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FOREWORD

2015 came to an end with all its ups and downs, under circumstances in which not only most parts of the world did not become any safer compared to the year before, but we witnessed more violence. The rise in terror attacks in the world which is the result of the rise in extremism and violence, has caused great concern.

Another of the issues and challenges the world experienced last year, was the refugee crisis, which was a direct result of the ongoing conflicts in parts of the Middle East and North Africa. For the first time since the end of the Second World War, the world faced a huge refugee crisis, something unprecedented.

Unrest and conflicts in these regions were some of the most important human rights violations that occurred in the world last year.

Also in the year that has just gone the world faced the continued threat of extremist terror groups which requires the special attention of the whole of the international community.

But alongside the aforementioned terrible events, the global working agenda in ratifying the MDG till the end of 2030, the Iran and world powers nuclear agreement, the Paris agreement on climate change are some of the positive human rights achievements of last year, which has raised the hopes of many human rights activists.

Overall, the promotion of human rights in the world and Iran are some of the objectives that the ODVV tries to promote through transparency of information and various programmes and activities. As each year, the yearly itinerary included ODVV's activities such as the commemoration of International Volunteer Day, participation annual periodic Human Rights Council Sessions other international conferences. The continued empowerment of Iranian NGOs in consultative status to ECOSOC saw the ODVV organise the presence of these organization in the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council, the UPR on Iran.

As every year there is a section in this report on the activities of the ODVV Raha Rehabilitation centre alongside statistics on psychological counselling of victims of violence.

Let us hope that 2016 will be marked as the year in which comprehensive and lasting peace begins to be established throughout the world, in particular the Middle East.

The ODVV welcomes the cooperation of international organizations with NGOs active in human rights, to help take positive steps towards the expansion of human rights and nonviolence culture throughout the world.

What follows is the activities of the ODVV in the past year, in chronological order.

Introduction

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization in Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). The ODVV was established in 1988 in Tehran and has been active in the field of human rights and humanitarian activities.



The ODVV is also associated to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), a participatory of the NGOs Coalition for an International Court (based in New York), and national coordinator of the Global March Against Child Labour (based in New Delhi) which cooperated in a variety of issues with international organizations and has working relations with many NGOs in Iran and around the globe. The ODVV is also member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Asia Youth Network, Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), and the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and member of the Central Council, and AMAN Network of Middle East and North Africa Rehabilitation Centres for Torture Victims and first deputy of the Network.

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ODVV Mission Statement

Being committed to its moral principles the ODVV's mission is:

- To respect high human values;
- To respect the rule of law and be committed to national values, moral principles and laws,
- To respect national interests and to avoid entering political groupings,
- To respect human dignity and status, and to recognise individual's rights and respect of society's public interests,
- To believe in justice, equality and observe everyone's rights (women and children in particular),
- To believe in being responsible, transparent, answerable, honest and virtuous;
- To accept the expansion and promotion of creativity;
- To respect knowledge, competence and experiences of individuals;
- To accept ideas, notions, recommendations and constructive criticisms;
- To be committed to collective unity and cooperation;
- To promote the spirit of service and voluntary campaigns;
- To promote and expand a culture of non-violence;

For the purpose of reaching its goal which is to promote and expand a human rights culture the ODVV shall utilise the following practices:

- Hold educational, seminars, forums and workshops with the aim of information dissemination and raise the society's culture, preparation of articles and research in this regard;
- Protect and defend the rights of victims of violence and society;
- Promote and expand a culture of non-violence;
- Present advisory and counselling services for the rehabilitation of victims of society, and to refer these victims to the relevant centres to receiving care and services;
- Establishment and facilitation of links with national, regional and international organizations that follow similar objectives, and to facilitate the opportunity to exchange views, experiences and knowledge;

Structure

The ODVV conducts its activities and campaigns under the following structure

- Research and Education Department
- International Relations Department
- Communications Department
- Rehabilitation Department (Rehabilitation Centre)

Participation in the 31st Session of the Human Rights Council

The 31st Session of the Human Rights Council took place from 29 February to 25 March 2015 at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland

As in the past, the ODVV activities included, written and oral statements, holding sidelines panels, meetings with thematic special rapporteurs, holding an exhibition, distribution of analytical reports and etc. Below is a brief narrative of the activities in this Session:

- Written and Oral Statements

For the 31st Session of the Human Rights Council, the ODVV submitted 6 written and 8 oral statements. Some of the subjects of the statements that were under Items 3, 4 5, 6 and 7 were as follows:

- 1 – Middle East's Children: Victims of endless armed conflicts
- 2 – Have the universal efforts for the elimination of the threat of ISIS been successful?
- 3 – Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran.
- 4 – The Shia minority in the justice system
- 5 – UPR: first and second rounds

It must be said that the written statements are documented and accessible in the Human Rights Council website. The oral statements that were read on the Council floor too are available in video format also in the Council website.

- Preparation of applicable thematic reports for publication at the Human Rights Council

This activity was limited to the ODVV in previous Sessions of the Council, but for the first time and with the guidance of experts, 13 NGOs also participated in this activity and applicable thematic reports, with consideration of respect to human rights priorities.



- Iranian NGOs Capacity-building Activities

Towards the capacity-building of NGOs for international activities, the ODVV facilitated the presence of representatives of 14 Iranian NGOs in Consultative Status to ECOSOC in the 31st Session of the Human Rights Council.

The presence of Iranian NGOs in Special Consultative Status, with the aim of their capacity-building through practical introduction, through preparation of statements, registration of statements procedure, how sidelines panels are held, how to play an effective role in the UPR mechanism, how to interact with UN thematic rapporteurs (such as meetings with the Special Rapporteur on Minorities, Right to Health etc.), and also with other NGOs present in the Council, were all some of the accomplishments of the ODVV in the capacity-building and empowering of Iranian NGOs.



- Meeting with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Asia-Pacific Deputy

The High Commissioner for Human rights is UN's highest human rights authority which according to the working agenda of this body, with its mandate is to guide, educate and take steps in the empowerment of individuals, NGOs and with the help of States to promote human rights, has a special status among the international human rights organizations. For the first time the ODVV arranged a meeting with the head of Asia-Pacific Mr. Rory Manganon with representatives of 14 Iranian NGOs in Special Consultative Status. He expressed pleasure from ODVV's years of activities for the removal of existing human rights concerns and the capacity-building of NGOs, and arranging the meeting with Iranian NGOs.



- *“Conflicts in the Middle East: Psychological Repercussions” Sidelines Panel*



This sidelines panel was held for the purpose of drawing attention towards urgent issues in the Middle East conflicts and presentation of useful guidelines for decision makers, particularly NGOs, the United Nations and countries. The target group of this panel were the vulnerable groups in armed conflicts that include, victims of violence, women, children, the elderly, families and refugees. This panel was moderated by Dr. Hassan Fartowski, PhD in international law from Geneva University, Dr. Aung Chui on the subject of the “urgency to deal with mental health issues of societies in war conditions”, Professor Betty Radcliffe on the subject of “the necessity for attention towards cultural and religious backgrounds of societies in mental disorders”, and Mostafa Mohammadi on the subject of “effects and consequences of mental disorders as a result of conflicts”.

- *“Children’s Conditions in Armed Conflicts” Joint Sidelines Panel*

Another of significant ODVV activities was holding a joint sidelines panel on the 31st Session with the Child Foundation, entitled “Children’s Conditions in Armed Conflicts.”

- *“Introduction to UN and HRC Human Rights Mechanisms” Education Workshop*



This education workshop was held by the ODVV with the aim of capacity building and introduction of Iranian NGOs who had participated in the Human Rights Council Sessions for the first time.

In this two hour workshop, Mr. Navid Ahmad, an expert from the OHCHR, while giving a brief introduction to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and his activities, he reviewed the way the Council makes its decisions, special procedures, thematic and country rapporteurs, and their mandates, the UPR mechanism, and NGOs' roles in this mechanism.

- Holding "Peace and Conciliation" Exhibit and Music and Peace Performances



During this Session of the HRC, for the second time Geneva was witness to the holding of a "Peace and Conciliation" exhibit by the ODVV. The exhibit was held for two days on Nations Square in front of the UN European headquarters, and one day on the Confederation Street, one of the main and busy thoroughfare of the city. The theme of the exhibit was culture of peace and friendship and rejection of violence by Iranians, and included a traditional Iranian Nowrooz Haft Cin spread, and introduction to the concept of this ancient Persian tradition.

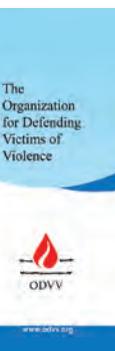
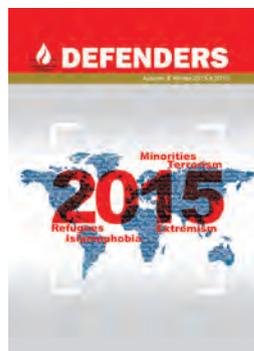


The Peace Performance was another of the sidelines activities of this exhibit, which performed by the son of an Iran-Iraq war martyr, with live movements and improvisations, which drew a large crowd. This activity took place with two objectives: one, to transfer the message of peace and rejection of violence through a tangible and comprehensive method for the audience. At the same time as the performance, live music was played by one of the Janbaz (selfless war veteran) of the Iran-Iraq war, which made the whole thing double better.

- Preparation of Special Media Products for Distribution in the HRC

With the aim of expanding its international links, through publication of media products and reports of its activities, the ODVV produces various items such as Defenders Newsletter, annual reports and multimedia CDs, which were extensively distributed at the 31st Session.

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Video Documentary

Video documentary of ODVV's participation in the 31st Session of the Human Rights Council.

“The Role of Psychology and Counselling in Prevention of Violence” Technical Sitting

For the first time, the ODVV held this technical sitting on 28 April 2016 at the Vahdat Hall in Tehran on the sidelines of the biggest psychology and counselling students' assembly of the country. In this sitting, while introducing its activities and services in support of victims of violence, the ODVV highlighted methodology of the role of psychologists and counsellors in prevention of violence. The commemoration ceremony was held by the Welfare Organisation and the Psychology and Counselling System Organization.

Participation in the 7th Family Pathology Congress

The ODVV participated in the 7th Family Pathology Congress and the 3rd National Family Research Festival at the Aboureyhan Hall of Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran on 10-11 May 2016, which had the attendance of experts, students and activists in the field of families. The ODVV held an exhibit of its Rehabilitation Department achievements and products and literature on families, family therapy, marriage counselling, prevention of domestic violence and other related subjects.

Retrieval of Information and UN Documents with a Focus on Human Rights Education Workshop

On 16 May 2016, with the cooperation of UNIC in Iran, the ODVV held this education workshop at the UN headquarters in Tehran for a group of ODVV honorary members and volunteers. Following introduction to the bilingual website of UNIC, particularly the human rights section, and the participants received further information on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its history by Nazanin Ghaemmaghami, the UNIC librarian. The participants were also introduced to the UN and UNHCHR websites. While browsing the activities of the UN in its website, with a reference to human rights as one of the three main activities of the UN, the participants were introduced with the UN documents webpage, and the audio-visual information bank of international law. Also the research guide to Dag Hammarskjöld Library regarding human rights and bodies based on the Charter and based on treaties was introduced to the participants.



Commemoration of the International Day of the Family

On the occasion of the day, on 16 May 2016, the ODVV held a technical sitting on Self-Awareness and its Status in the Prevention of Violence in Families, at the ODVV conference hall.

The ceremony kick started with the reading of UN Secretary General's message for the day by UNIC representative deputy in Iran.

In this technical sitting the status of

self-awareness in the prevention of violence in the families was briefed through psycho-analytical, counselling, Islamic morality and training viewpoints by members of the university science group. In this sitting which was held with the attendance of psychology and counselling students and ODVV honorary members, clinical examples of domestic violence that had been studied and treated, were broken down and analysed by science group lecturers and therapy experts. Also discussed in this sitting was the attention that should be given to climatic, cultural, linguistic, ethnic and belief differences in defining violence in families.



Prevention and Treatment Methods of Violence against Women Sitting

This sitting was held on 29 April 2016 was held by the ODVV in its conference hall. Participants in this sitting included a group of university lecturers, governmental and nongovernmental organizations representatives, and honorary and volunteer members of the ODVV. In this sitting, ODVV director Siavash

Rahpeik, member of university science group Alieh Shokrbeygi, Fatemeh Moghimi PhD in management and entrepreneurship, Mehrdad Shababi member of Shahid Beheshti University



science group, and Dr. Safieh Shahryari Afshar gave speeches on psychology, law, economy and sociology.

The subjects discussed included: definition of violence, domestic violence, areas of violence committed, review of the women's policy setting approach in Europe, worth status of men and women from Islam's aspects, social repercussions of domestic violence against women and the effects on the children, review of the contents of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, gender based violence and the analysis of violence against women statistics in various countries.

Participation in the 32nd Session of the Human Rights Council

The 32nd Session of the HRC took place between 13 June and 8 July 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland through ten Items in the working agenda of the Council with new sub-subjects.

As always with extensive and effective efforts the ODVV used all at its disposal in order to achieve its international goals. The activities included the submission of oral statements (,holding of sidelines panel, and production and distribution of ODVV publications.

Some of the subjects of these statements which were submitted under Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Council working agenda were as follows:

Item 3: General Debate

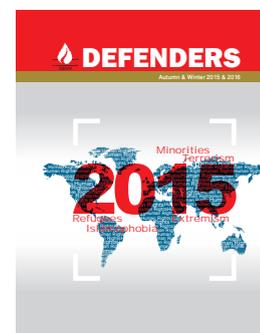
Item 4: Human Right situations that require the Council's attention (Human Rights Situation in Syria)

Item 7: Situation des droits de l'homme en Palestine et dans les autres territoires arabes occupés.

Item 9: Les musulman's inquiets face à la multiplication des actes islamophobes

Defenders Newsletter: Autumn 2015-Winter 2016

The subjects included in this issue of Defenders were: Islamophobia, refugees, terrorism, minorities, and extremism, which was printed in 48 pages in colour. Various articles and notes on various global topical subjects have been published in this issue. Articles such as the violation of human rights in some Middle Eastern countries, discussions on Islamophobia, children and street children from legal and sociological aspects, the geography of the killing of Shias, the refugee crisis in today's world, and Iran the record holder of cultural attractions.



Production and Publication of Multimedia CDs

The publications of the ODVV include books, Defenders Newsletter, photo galleries, annual reports and documentaries of ODVV projects. These are put together as a collective in multimedia CDs. This is one of the activities of the Communications Department of the ODVV. In these CDs the files of all products from 2010 to 2016 are collected in high quality and in full colour. Folder6.Multi Media



Education Workshop on Writing Methods for Website and Magazine

On 6 September 2016, the ODVV held this education workshop towards capacity building of its honorary and voluntary members at national and international levels. In this workshop which was held for honorary and volunteer members of the ODVV, methods for writing notes, analytical reports, and article writing for website and magazine were presented in scientific and practical ways by Dr. Mahmoodreza Golshanpazhooh member of ODVV board of directors.



Commemoration of the International Day in Support of Torture Victims

This commemoration was held by the ODV on 28 June 2016 with a focus on the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims for their Return to Life. Among the participants were students in psychology, counselling, behavioural sciences and social work. Dr. Mir Saeed Jaafari held the ceremony.

At the start of the ceremony, while stressing on universal efforts to minimise acts of torture, the ODVV director said: “the ODVV has always utilised all its capacity and endeavours tried to take practical and notable measures towards the rehabilitation and empowerment of torture victims through presentation of psychological services.” The UN Secretary General’s message for the day was read by Mr. Mohammad Rajae Moghadam,



deputy of UNIC in Tehran.

Some of the topics that were discussed by the experts in this ceremony included, the definition of the victim and torture, torture as a crisis experience, types of crisis experience, objectives of providing support to the torture victim, support provision techniques for the torture victim, practical strategies to help and support the torture victim, and the necessity for receiving social and legal support in support of torture victims for their return to life.

Evaluation of the Functionality of the UN in the Prevention of Human Rights Violations Technical Sitting

The technical sitting on the Evaluation of the Functionality of the UN in the Prevention of Human rights Violations, with a stress on Israel and Saudi Arabia was held by the ODVV.

In this sitting which was held on 3 August 2016, Mr. Hossein Gharibi Ministry of foreign Affairs anti-terror senior expert, Dr. Amir Saed lawyer and university lecturer and international disputes legal consultant, and Dr Mahmoudreza Golshanpazhooch senior expert on human rights gave speeches in this sitting. At the start of the sitting, Dr Golshanpazhooch spoke of the reasons behind the concentration on the subject of Saudi Arabia and Israel and



said, “the UN’s recent actions in appointing Israel to head the General Assembly’s Sixth Committee and Saudi Arabia putting pressure on the Secretary General to retract his report on children, were strange actions that have been taken by the UN in the recent years. And the question and doubt is raised in public opinion that how much can there be hope for the UN?”

While deeming these types of UN actions as bad, Dr Amir Saed believed the UN was an unavoidable entity and said: “the eroded and old structure of the UN, the existence of 5 permanent members who represent a particular number of countries, the expansion and growth of the UN to an extent where there is no possibility of its careful and direct monitoring, and the growing demands of the international community and competing to get seats in the UN, are some of the faults that can damage the functionality of the UN.”

While stressing on the necessity for the existence of the UN in the present international community’s

conditions, Mr Hossein Gharibi said: “These restrictions and criteria in fact shape the UN and a world without the UN will not be a better world than today.” He also pointed to a number of politicised decisions of the UN and deemed these types of decisions as a result of the existing faults and limitations within the UN such as serious financial limitations.

The sitting ended with a Q&A session with the participants.

Participation in the 33rd Session of the Human Rights Council

The 33rd Session of the HRC was held from 13 to 30 September 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. The ODVV Representative Office had an active and effective presence in this Session. Some of the activities are as follows:

- Preparation of written and oral statements

In this Session of the HRC the ODVV submitted 6 written and 7 oral statements. Some of the subjects of these statements which were submitted under Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Council working agenda were as follows:

Item 3: Terrorist and Islamophobic Attacks in Europe

Item 3: Foreign Fighters in Iraq and Syria

Item 3: The Refugee Crisis Today

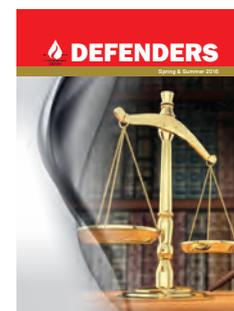
Item 4: human Rights Abuses in Yemen

Item 6: UPR Outcomes: Tajikistan

Item 7: Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Defenders Newsletter: Spring-Summer 2016

This issue of defenders was printed in the summer in the summer of 2016. The perspective ahead in the removal of capital punishment, the situation of alternative punishments in the Iranian criminal justice system, the causes of the refugee crisis, roots of violence against women captured by ISIS, terrorism, human rights violations in some Middle Eastern countries, basic education, and the fundament of development and urban building, Iranian arts and architectural treasures, are some of the subjects discussed in this issue of Defenders.



Prevention of Domestic Violence and Life Skills Education Project

According to the tripartite agreement between the ODVV, UNHCR and BAFIA the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Life Skills Education Project began on 15 October, 20016.



This project was designed for 80 Afghan refugees (40 men and 40 women) in the 12 to 59 age group and with the aim of reducing social and mental abuse, increasing self-belief, and prevention of domestic violence among Afghans residing in the Varamin district.

Also in view of: 1 – the need for this community to learn domestic violence prevention and reduction methods, 2 – extensive positive response of refugees from previous conducted projects, and 3 – the need to further expand these trainings to more vulnerable regions (such as Varamin; this project was designed. Based on the field visits and interviews that took place with the refugees and key Afghan community figures in Varamin, where the social and mental abuse levels – particularly domestic violence – are very high, which brings about irreversible consequences that include rise in addiction, suicides and various social damages. This same issue made the ODVV to pursue the holding of necessary training consecutively for the second year, for the refugee community in the Varamin and suburbs districts.

Also 80 direct beneficiaries of the project who were trained as P2P in life skills and violence prevention methods, will each transfer what they have learned to 5 of their peers, which ultimately will see 400 Afghan refugees that are trained in the prevention and reduction of domestic violence.

The Necessity for Iran to be Active in International Criminal Justice Arena Technical Sitting

On 18 August 2016, the Necessity for Iran to be Active in International Criminal Justice Arena Technical Sitting was held at the ODVV conference hall. Attending the sitting was Dr. Mohammad Hadi Zaker Hossein, PhD in international criminal law and the director of the International Criminal Law Centre of Iran.

In this sitting which was held with the attendance of university lecturers, NGOs' representatives,

ODVV honorary members and university students, while thanking the ODVV for its attention to the ICC, Dr. Zaker Hossein spoke of the importance and preference of a legal war on military war as a new front in international relations and added: "Since the establishment of the ICC, each day we witness the importance and increasing role of this body. In a way that wherever there is conflict and crisis, all looks turn towards the Court, and in fact this body has not had a replacement to-date."

At the end of the sitting there was a Q&A session with the participants.



Introduction to Family Law Education Course

With the cooperation of the legal clinic of Shahid Beheshti University and on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, on 22 November 2016, the ODVV held the Introduction to Family Law Education. This course was held at the ODVV headquarters with the attendance of university lecturers, law experts, ODVV honorary members, GO and NGO representatives. The attendees of the education course reviewed the various aspects of family law and legal methods for the prevention of violence against women, family rights and effective factors in the strengthening of this subject and effective solutions for the enforcement of the law.

The meeting started with the welcoming speech of Dr. Siavash Rahpeik, director of ODVV who stressed on the importance of the subject of women and the family. The next speaker was Dr. Mehrshad Shababi, Shahid Beheshti University lecturer, who while speaking about the recognition process of women and family rights in the international mechanism spoke about the importance





of rights for women throughout history. Next, was Dr. Hassan Fadaee, Shahid Beheshti University lecturer who said that violence in laws include social violence against woman and mental abuse against women, and while stressing on verses of the Koran and credible hadiths said that the preservation of values and attention to them are some of the strengthening foundations and survival of the family. The final speaker was Dr. Homa Garmaroudi, university lecturer, who while pointing out structural victim of crime, said the causes are due to: 1 – crimes, 2 – war, and 3 – structure. Pointing out that laws must be based on humanity and gender discrimination must not be considered, she pointed the value of the equality of rights.

Participation in the 9th Minorities Forum

The 9th Minorities Forum was held on 24-25 November 2016 at the UN headquarters in Geneva. In this forum, the particular needs and the huge effects of human crisis such as war, natural disasters and diseases on minorities were reviewed. The “Minorities Issues” meeting, has been held for the purpose of the creation of a centre for dialogue and cooperation on issues related to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and the presentation of thematic reports and technical consultation with the Special Rapporteur on Minorities Issues.

ODVV’s office in Geneva has conducted a number of activities in the Human Rights Council and through active participation in meetings, has prepared reports, written and edited and read oral statements, and has managed to further participate with this UN body.

The 9th Minorities Forum was dedicated to the particular needs of minorities and the negative effects of human crises on minorities. Thus, human crises such as war, natural disasters and diseases was the focal point of the Forum. In view of the subjects of debate, the ODVV presented four oral statements (2 in English and 2 in French) in this Forum on the following subjects:

1 – Human rights situation in Myanmar, 2 – Investigation of violence and discrimination against minorities, 3 – The situation of minorities in the world, and 4 – The situation of minorities in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The ODVV's Presence in IRCT's 10th International Scientific Symposium and General Assembly

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) Scientific Symposium which was the first global event to look in detail at various disciplines at how to deliver on the promise of the right to rehabilitation for torture victims as set out in the UN Convention against Torture was held from 5-7 December 2016 in Mexico City.



Bringing together the global

rehabilitation movement for the first time in 10 years, the event was a unique opportunity for service providers, clinicians, human rights defenders, researchers, lawyers, funders and policy-makers to come together to exchange experiences and research on developments in the rehabilitation of survivors of torture.

During the three-day event, presentations were covered more than 100 topics connected to delivering on the promise of the right to rehabilitation. These include many different topics and issues such as the refugee transit camps of southern Europe and elsewhere, the plight of Central American migrants, and a trio of talks on the US detention center opened in 2006 at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

As scheduled after the symposium the IRCT General Assembly which is a fundamental platform that further solidifies the democratic nature of the IRCT, was held in the same place on 8-9 December 2016.

At that time, there was also a meeting of the newly elected Council, as well as the election of the new Executive Committee took place and new EXCOM members elected by the Council members.

All IRCT member centers across the globe including the ODVV have been invited for both events. The IRCT embraces 152 rehabilitation centers from 74 countries, representing an international movement against torture and for victims of torture.

Participation in the Elimination of Violence against Women; Challenges and Solutions National Conference

The ODVV participated in the holding of the Elimination of Violence against Women; Challenges and Solutions National Conference that was held on 3 June 2016 in Shahid Beheshti University, hosted by the National Union of Bar Associations of the Justice Department.

Concept understanding and pathology and examples and extent of violence against women, violence from the criminal law and criminology aspects, violence from human rights and international documents aspects, violence from sociological and psychological aspects, violence from cultural and economic attitudes, methods for confronting violence against women, religious and legal concepts of elimination of violence against women and comparative study of violence against women and distribution and severity of forms of violence in the world were some of the subjects of debate and review by the experts and speakers of this conference.

Rehabilitation Centre

With a wish to mend and end mankind's pains and sufferings, and expansion of humanitarian campaigns, the ODVV Rehabilitation Department provides advisory and educational services.

For the protection of victims of domestic and social violence, the department presents counselling and therapy in legal, family, marriage, psychological disorders at the Rehabilitation Centre .

With the cooperation of 40 mental health experts and lawyers the Centre provides pre-marriage, education and legal counselling. The statistics of the cases is determined on the basis of gender, age, occupation, marital status, education levels and the reason for coming to the Centre. The ODVV uses the results of the statistics to set appropriate programmes and projects. In 2016, 3924 cases benefited from the Centre's services.

2031 of them were women and 1893 were men. According to the statistics most of the cases were married and the majority of them had family problems.

The Rehabilitation Centre also provides telephone hotline counselling services for psychological, marital, family and education issues.

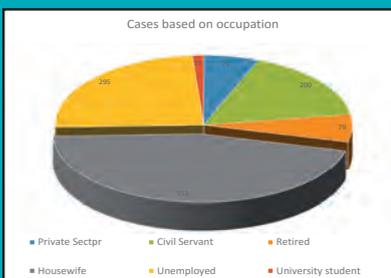
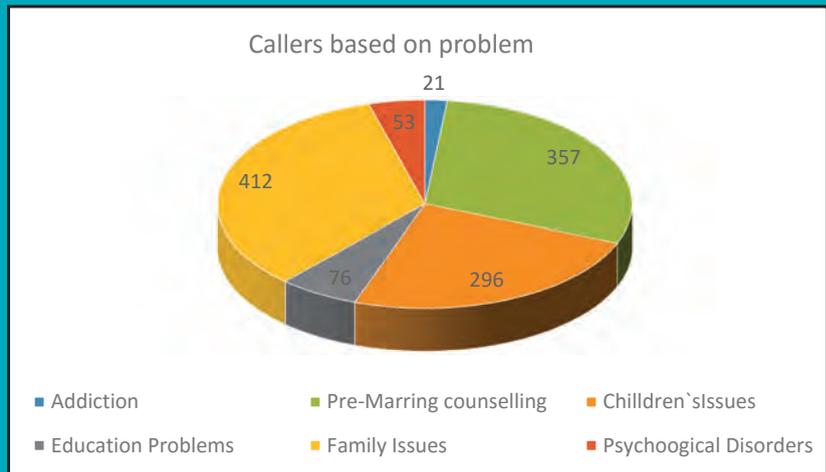
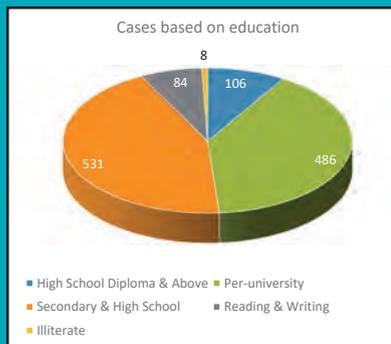
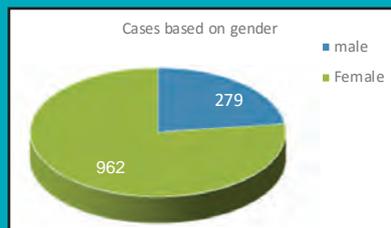
The monthly statistics for the hotline cases are worked out through variables such as, gender,



occupation, age, marital status, education, and reason for call. In 2016, 1215 people benefited from the telephone hotline services, 962 women and 279 men. According to statistics the majority of cases had family problems. As an active member of the Employment and Education Committee the ODVV Rehabilitation Centre, has always endeavoured to work towards the prevention of violence in the “Prevention of Domestic Violence Document.”

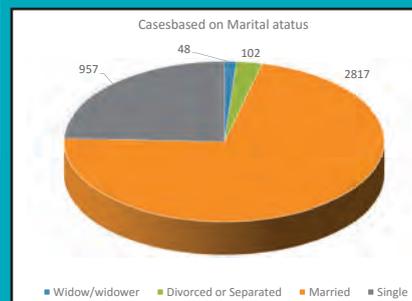
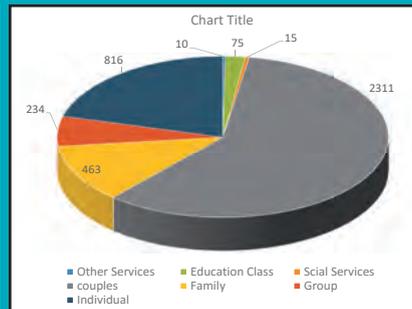
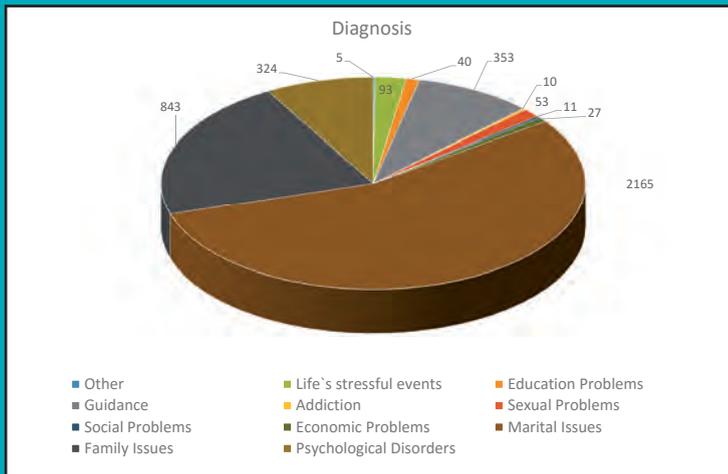
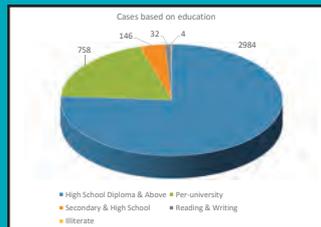
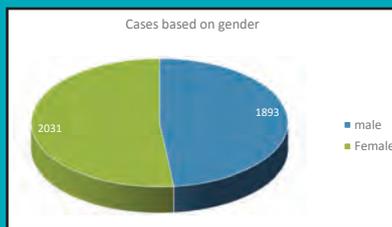
For the realisation of the goals of this Committee, by participation in all meetings with a description of practical activities in this regard, the Rehabilitation Department has undertaken a number of important measures, the important ones of which are:

Statistics of Telephone Hotline Calls for 2015



- Identification of victims of violence at the Raha Rehabilitation Centre
- Review of effective approaches in counselling and psychotherapy in prevention of violence.
- Identification of suitable titles for technical sittings on prevention of violence and treatment of the victims, to hold at the Raha Rehabilitation Centre.
- Setting a suitable research method to review the link between violence and impractical schemas, depression and anxiety among victims of violence cases.
- Identification of counselling problems of related governmental departments with the Rehabilitation Centre project for treatment intervention and counselling towards increasing the mental health of target group.

Statistics of Cases in the Centre for 2015



Foreign Internship

For the purpose of promoting and gaining further experience in its research and education field, and also expanding links and interaction with students, the ODVV provides an opportunity for internal and external interns. To-date a number of students from other countries have spent internship periods at the ODVV over the last few years. In total there were 10 interns in 2016.

Links with Honorary Members

Towards the realisation of its objectives and activities, the ODVV utilises the volunteer force with consideration of their field of expertise.

To this aim, with the launching of the ODVV Volunteers Group on the internet and the facilitation and exchange of up to date communication and information in human rights fields among the group members, the scene for their activities and the blossoming of their capacities and talents was created.

Towards the commemoration of international days, and also establishment of bilateral links with honorary members and benefiting from their invaluable experiences in the field of human rights, on the sidelines of the International Volunteer Day commemoration, the ODVV prepared an honorary member data bank. The data bank is fully up to date through the contacts the ODVV has had with honorary members.

An example of the activities of this group is the active participation and cooperation and presence of these members in holding education workshops and courses and also writing articles for the Farsi, English and Arabic websites and Defenders Newsletters.

After becoming members, the honorary members can benefit from the following facilities:

- Use of the ODVV library
- Access to reports and researches available
- Access to the internet, website and subscription to electronic newsletters (English and farsi)
- Benefit from ODVV publications and links
- Participation in meetings, conferences, seminars, sittings and education courses



Also over the last year the ODVV has continually updated and published news and human rights materials in its Farsi and English websites.

The following pages are available for interested parties:

<https://twitter.com/ngoodvv>

<http://www.aparat.com/ordvvir>

<https://www.facebook.com/ODVVNGO>



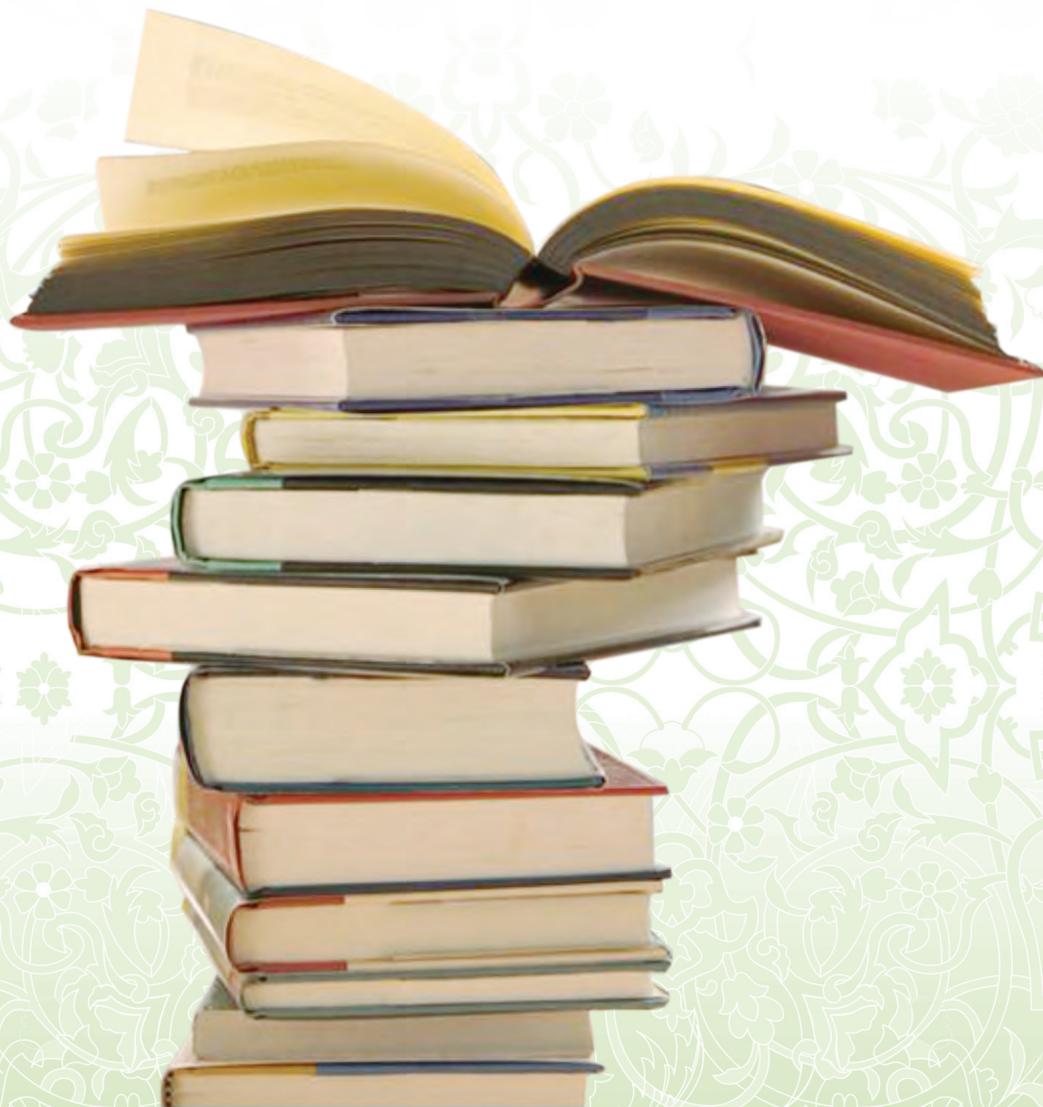
Farsi, English and Arabic Websites

The worldwide web is one of the necessary communications channel to access the audience. To benefit from this the ODVV has a trilingual website – Farsi, English and Arabic – (and the Arabic site was launched from the beginning of 2016). The ODVV has managed to make human rights news and development, its activities and positions towards various issues, its advancements throughout the year, objectives and programmes available to the addressees and keep them updated on a daily basis; in such way that in 2016, a total of 160 articles and around 840 various news items on human rights issues were published on the website.

Library

The ODVV is equipped with a specialist library which contains books in Farsi and 3000 books in English on various human rights issues and subjects.

Honorary members, students and researchers can access books from the library as well as documents and reports of the ODVV.





ODVV