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Committee on the Rights of the Child**List of issues in relation to the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Iran***

1. The State Party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information, of 10,700 words maximum, by 15 October 2026. The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Convention during the dialogue with the State Party. In the present document, the Committee uses the term "child" to refer to a person who is under 18 years of age.

Part I

2. Please explain the measures taken or envisaged:

(a) To review the general nature of its reservation under the Convention with a view to withdrawing it within a clear timeframe;

(b) As the age of majority remains set at predefined ages of puberty, namely 9 lunar years (8 years and 9 months) for girls and 15 lunar years (14 years and 7 months) for boys, to revise its legislation to ensure that all persons below the age of 18 years, without exceptions, are considered as children and are provided with all the rights under the Convention;

(c) To ensure that all its domestic laws and regulations are in compliance with the Convention, including by repealing its laws and regulations that are discriminatory against girls and children belonging to religious and ethnic minorities. Please clarify the enforcement mechanisms of the 2020 Children and Adolescent Protection Act and ensure that its provisions are in line with the Convention;

(d) To adopt a comprehensive child rights strategy and corresponding action plan which will cover all areas under the Convention. Please also explain the scope and nature of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Child Rights in 2025 Horizon as mentioned in paragraph 3 of the State Party report;

(e) To provide the National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child with clear mandate and sufficient authority to coordinate all activities related to the implementation of the Convention at cross-sectoral, national, regional and local levels;

(f) To assess the budget needs of children and to ensure increase in budgetary allocation for social sectors, in particular education, health and social protection, specifically

* Adopted by the pre-sessional working group online on 16 April 2026.

for children in marginalized and disadvantages situations, including children and families with children displaced because of the ongoing conflict;

(g) To ensure systematic collection and analysis of quality and complete data – disaggregated by age, sex, geographical location, ethnic, religious, national and socio-economic background – on the implementation of children’s rights and to make statistical data public, including by unifying the existing databases and increasing data literacy of professionals involved in this process;

(h) To provide children with access to independent complaint mechanisms in all settings to report violations of their rights and access to legal counselling and remedies;

(i) To establish, in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), an independent mechanism for monitoring human rights, including a specific mechanism for monitoring children’s rights that is able to receive, investigate and address complaints by children in a child-friendly manner;

(j) To raise the awareness of its public, including children, about the provisions of the Convention and to provide regular and systematic training activities on the provisions of the Convention for professionals working with and for children;

(k) To establish and implement regulations to ensure that the business sector, especially oil and gas industries, complies with international and national human rights, labour, environment and other standards, particularly with regard to children’s rights.

3. Please provide updated information on the measures taken by the State Party:

(a) To revise its legislation in order to ensure that girls enjoy the same rights and entitlements as boys in all aspects of life, especially in family relations, the criminal and civil justice system and property rights, and to take measures to eliminate any forms of discrimination in practice;

(b) To put an end to discrimination against children belonging to religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities, children of unmarried parents, asylum-seeking and refugee children and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, and to bring those responsible for any forms of discrimination to justice;

(c) To revise its Civil Law to ensure that the best interests of the child is given a primary consideration in decisions concerning the custody of children and to ensure that the right to have children’s best interests taken into account as a primary consideration is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and is applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions affecting children.

4. Please clarify the measures taken or envisaged:

(a) To investigate the killings of children by the State Party’s police and security forces with the use of lethal force during several protests that took place in the State Party in the reporting period, including in 2022 and most recently, in January 2026, and to bring those responsible to justice. Please also inform of the measures taken to prevent such killings and the existing policies with regard to policing protests, especially those attended by children. Please explain how the 1995 Law on the Use of Weapons by Armed Forces in Necessary Cases complies with international standards, particularly whether it prohibits the use of chemical agents and weapons of war, including against children;

(b) To organize basic civilian protection during hostilities, including by ensuring that schools, hospitals, and other civilian objects are protected from attacks, establishing functional air-raid sirens and bomb shelters throughout its territory;

(c) To end the execution of children and persons who committed a crime while under the age of 18 and take legislative measures to abolish the death sentence for persons who committed *hudud* or *qisas* crimes while under the age of 18 years, including by reviewing article 91 of the Penal Code which leaves discretion to the courts regarding exemptions, and commute all existing sentences for offenders on death row who committed a crime while under the age of 18 years;

(d) To repeal article 301 combined with article 612 of the Islamic Penal Code, and ensure that all perpetrators of murders against girls under the age of 18 committed in the name of so-called “honour” receive penalties commensurate with the gravity of their crimes. Please also inform on the status of the bill prepared by the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs in this regard.

5. Please clarify:

(a) How children’s views are taken into account in judicial decisions concerning custody or divorce and in administrative decisions in practice, as well as in the family, at school and in society;

(b) If measures have been taken to remove all remaining barriers to implement the 2019 Law Amending the Nationality Law and facilitate access to nationality to all children who would otherwise be stateless.

6. Please provide more information whether measures have been taken by the State Party:

(a) To review its legislation in order to define the content-based offences such as “propaganda against the State” or “insulting Islam” and to ensure that children under the age of 18 years are exempted from criminal responsibility for such offences;

(b) To ensure that children can freely exercise their rights to peaceful assembly without fear of threats, intimidation and arrests;

(c) To review its Penal Code in order to decriminalize non-observance of hijab and review other laws and regulation to ensure respect for the rights of girls to religious freedom and to decide whether or not to wear hijab;

(d) To promote tolerance and respect of all religions and beliefs, including through legislative measures, and prevent and eliminate discrimination, persecution and exclusion on the grounds of religion or belief, in particular with regard to Baha’i children;

(e) To provide children with uninterrupted access to age-appropriate information and to put an end to censorship in media and shutdowns to internet and social media.

7. Please update the Committee on the measures taken:

(a) To adopt a national plan on protection of children from all forms of violence and to repeal all legal provisions that authorize, condone or lead to child sexual abuse and exploitation, including article 1108 of the Civil Code, obliging wives to fulfill sexual needs of husbands, and article 630 of the Penal Code which exempts husbands from liability and *qisas* if he commits murder or battery of wife for *zina* offence. Please also provide information whether there is an integrated and child-friendly child protection infrastructure at the local levels, and whether all cases of child sexual abuse, including those within the circle of trust, are investigated and prosecuted;

(b) To review its legislation with a view to prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment irrespective of its purpose, in particular article 1179 of the Civil Code which allows for “reasonable punishment of children for correction or protection purposes” and article 158 (d) of the Islamic Penal Code, which provides for the disciplining of children by parents or guardians “within normal and sharia-sanctioned boundaries”;

(c) To raise the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys to 18 years without any exceptions and to eliminate the practice of child marriages, especially of very young girls;

(d) To prevent and combat torture and ill-treatment of children by the security forces and the police to extract confessions, in particular against children detained in relation to the anti-government protests, and as punishments for *qisas* and *hudud* offences.

8. Please inform the Committee about the measures taken by the State Party:

(a) To revise its Civil Code and all other relevant legislation to ensure equal rights of women and men in family relations and to provide girls with the right to inheritance on equal terms with boys;

(b) To prevent family separations, including through family support services, parenting programmes, social protection measures, early identification of families at risk, and community-based services;

(c) To promote family-type and community-based alternative care for children deprived of parental care, in order to reduce reliance on institutional care, and establish a clear regulation on alternative care for children, including provisions for quality care standards and periodic review of placements; Please inform if there is access to safe, confidential and child friendly complaint mechanisms within alternative care settings;

(d) To prepare children leaving alternative care for independent living, including by providing access to housing, education, vocational training, psychosocial support and social protection, as well to support family reintegration of children leaving alternative care, including through assessment, preparation of the child and family, follow-up support and monitoring of reintegration outcomes;

(e) To revise the Act on the Protection of Children and Adolescents with No Guardian or Abusive Guardians of 2012 in a way that prohibits any marriage or other sexual arrangements with an adopted child;

(f) To uphold the best interests of children during arrests of parents, especially those linked to the January – February 2026 protests, including by adopting child-sensitive arrest protocols, ensuring the right to information about parents' whereabouts in decisions concerning the deprivation of liberty of parents with young children, and in ensuring appropriate visitation rights and adequate standards of living for those living in prisons with mothers.

9. Please provide information whether the State Party has taken measures:

(a) To provide children with disabilities with access to all services available to children including access to health care, education and social protection throughout its territory and to implement the "Protection of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act" of 2018;

(b) To adopt a national strategy for children with disabilities, and to combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against children with disabilities by promoting a positive image of such children;

(c) To provide access to primary health care service for all children, especially children in remote and rural areas and refugee and migrant children from Afghanistan, to address malnutrition and obesity and to improve access to water and sanitation services for all children throughout the country;

(d) To provide access to mental health services, to sexual and reproductive health services and education to all adolescent girls and boys as well as access to contraception and safe abortion services and counselling for adolescents throughout its territory;

(e) To guarantee an adequate and sustainable standard of living for all children within the territory of the State Party, with a particular focus on children in the most marginalized and disadvantaged situations, and to extend access to social benefits and cash transfer programs to such children and their families;

(f) To address the adverse effects of environmental degradation and climate change on the enjoyment of children's rights.

10. Please update the Committee on the measures taken:

(a) To ensure access to free and compulsory primary education and free secondary education for all children, in particular girls, including married girls, asylum seeking and refugee children, children belonging to minority groups, especially in Sistan and Baluchestan and among Arab communities;

(b) To improve the quality of education and provide quality training and incentives for teachers, with a particular emphasis on rural and remote areas;

(c) To provide access to education based on the national curriculum also in the native languages of ethnic minorities, in particular in Azeri, Kurdish, Arabic, Baluchi and Turkmen languages;

(d) To end the continuous intimidation and harassment of Baha'i children in the education system as well as discrimination, bullying and expulsions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children from schools;

(e) To improve the inclusive education and ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education by improving facilities and accessibility of schools;

(f) To ensure children's rights to rest, leisure, play, recreation and participation in cultural and artistic life, including for girls, children with disabilities, children living in rural areas, children affected by conflict and children belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minority groups.

11. Please clarify the measures taken by the State Party:

(a) To provide adequate support and shelter to children and families with children who are internally displaced due to the ongoing conflict;

(b) To provide long term solutions to asylum seeking, refugee and migrant children, especially those from Afghanistan, and provide them with access to all services available, including access to the social protection system;

(c) To identify and support unaccompanied and separated children, including refugee, asylum-seeking, migrant and internally displaced children, and to ensure their access to guardianship, documentation, family tracing and appropriate care arrangements;

(d) To uphold the principle of *non-refoulement* and stop the deportations, arrests and detention of Afghan children, subjecting them to high risks of rights violations and exploitations, especially at the border points;

(e) To guarantee economic, social and cultural rights of children belonging to ethnic and linguistic minority groups, in particular Ahwazi Arab, Azerbaijani Turkish, Baloch and Kurdish minorities, including the rights to register their names in their native languages;

(f) To protect children in street situations, children affected by labour exploitation, and children affected by displacement or conflict from trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced begging and other forms of exploitation;

(g) To combat the high prevalence of child labour, including in hazardous conditions such as in waste management, through effective labour inspections, expanding social safety nets and by amending the 2003 law which exempts small businesses with fewer than 10 employees from labour regulations;

(h) To implement its existing initiatives and develop a comprehensive strategy to protect children in street situations and carry out assessment of the scope and extent of the phenomenon.

12. Please explain the measures taken or envisaged:

(a) To increase the age of criminal responsibility for girls, and ensure that girls and boys are treated on equal terms under the whole criminal justice system;

(b) To prevent arbitrary arrests of children and ensure fundamental safeguards for children in detention, including immediate contact with a family or a legal representative;

(c) To implement the specialized juvenile courts and adopt the bill on specialized police for children and adolescents and ensure qualified and independent legal aid to children in conflict with the law;

(d) To implement non-custodial measures to deprivation of liberty, such as diversion, probation, counselling, mediation, community service or suspended sentences;

(e) To establish a limited timeframe for pre-trial detention of children while establishing mechanisms to ensure that detention is used as a measure of last resort and that children are never detained together with adults.

13. Please clarify the reports of recent call by the Government for recruitment of children as young as 12 years of age as “combatants defending the homeland” to be engaged in patrols and checkpoints.

Part II

14. The Committee invites the State Party to provide a brief update (no more than three pages) on the information presented in its report with regard to:

(a) New bills or laws, and their respective regulations;

(b) New institutions (and their mandates) or institutional reforms;

(c) Recently introduced policies, programmes and action plans and their scope and financing;

(d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments.

Part III

Data, statistics and other information, if available

15. Please provide consolidated information for the past three years on the budget lines regarding children and social sectors by indicating the percentage of each budget line in terms of the total national budget and the gross national product. Please also provide information on the geographic allocation of those resources.

16. Please provide, if available, updated statistical data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin, national origin, religious affiliation, geographic location and socioeconomic status, for the past three years, on:

- (a) Children under the age of 18 killed during protests by the police and security officials, investigations carried out and sentences imposed;
- (b) Children killed or injured as a result of the ongoing armed conflict;
- (c) Cases of imposition and execution of the death penalty on persons under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged offence;
- (d) Children and persons under the age of 18 at the time of the alleged offence on death row;
- (e) Cases of so-called honour killings of children under the age of 18 and investigations, prosecutions and sanctions applied for perpetrators;
- (f) Children convicted for content-based offences such as “propaganda against the State” or “insulting Islam” and sentences imposed for such children;
- (g) Children under the age of 18 arrested and detained during protests including the recent January 2026 protest;
- (h) Girls under the age of 18 convicted for non-observation of Hijab;
- (i) Cases of investigations, prosecutions and sanctions applied for perpetrators, including among security officials, of torture, ill-treatment and enforced disappearance of children;
- (j) Cases of abuse and violence perpetrated against children under the age of 18, including all forms of corporal punishment, domestic violence, sexual violence and abuse, sexual harassment, marital rape and crimes committed in the name of so called “honour” as well as investigations, prosecutions and sentences handed down in the State Party in such cases;
- (k) Cases of child marriages as well as prosecutions and sentences handed down in the State Party in such cases;
- (l) Children living in poverty;
- (m) Children displaced as a result of the ongoing armed conflict;
- (n) Asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, including Afghan children subjected to deportation;
- (o) Children in street situations,
- (p) Cases of child labour and prosecutions and sentences handed down in such cases;
- (q) Cases of recruitment of children as combatants, including in patrols and checkpoints.

17. Please provide data disaggregated by age, sex, socioeconomic background, ethnic origin, national origin, religious affiliation, geographic location and socio-economic status regarding the situation of children deprived of a family environment, for the past three years, on the number of children:

- (a) Separated from their families, including data on the duration of the separation;
- (b) Placed in institutions, as well as the number of institutions and data on children by institution;
- (c) Placed with foster families;
- (d) Children living with relatives;

18. Please provide data, disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, ethnic origin, national origin, religious affiliation, geographic location and socio-economic status, for the past three years, on the number of children with disabilities:

- (a) Living with their families;
- (b) Living in institutions;
- (c) Attending regular primary schools;
- (d) Attending regular secondary schools;
- (e) Attending special schools;
- (f) Out of school;
- (g) Abandoned by their families.

19. Please provide, if available, updated statistical data disaggregated by age, sex, type of offence, ethnic and national origin, religious affiliation, geographic location and socioeconomic status, for the past three years, on children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law who have been:

- (a) Arrested;
- (b) Referred to diversion programmes;
- (c) In pretrial detention;
- (d) Serving a sentence in detention and the length of the sentence.

20. Please provide information on how the planning, implementation and monitoring of measures for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals integrate a child rights-based approach, including with regard to child participation and data collection, and how they promote the realization of children's rights under the Convention and the Optional Protocol on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

21. Please provide the Committee with an update of any data in the report that may have been outdated by more recent data collected or other new developments.

22. In addition, the State Party may list areas affecting children that it considers to be of priority with regard to the implementation of the Convention.
