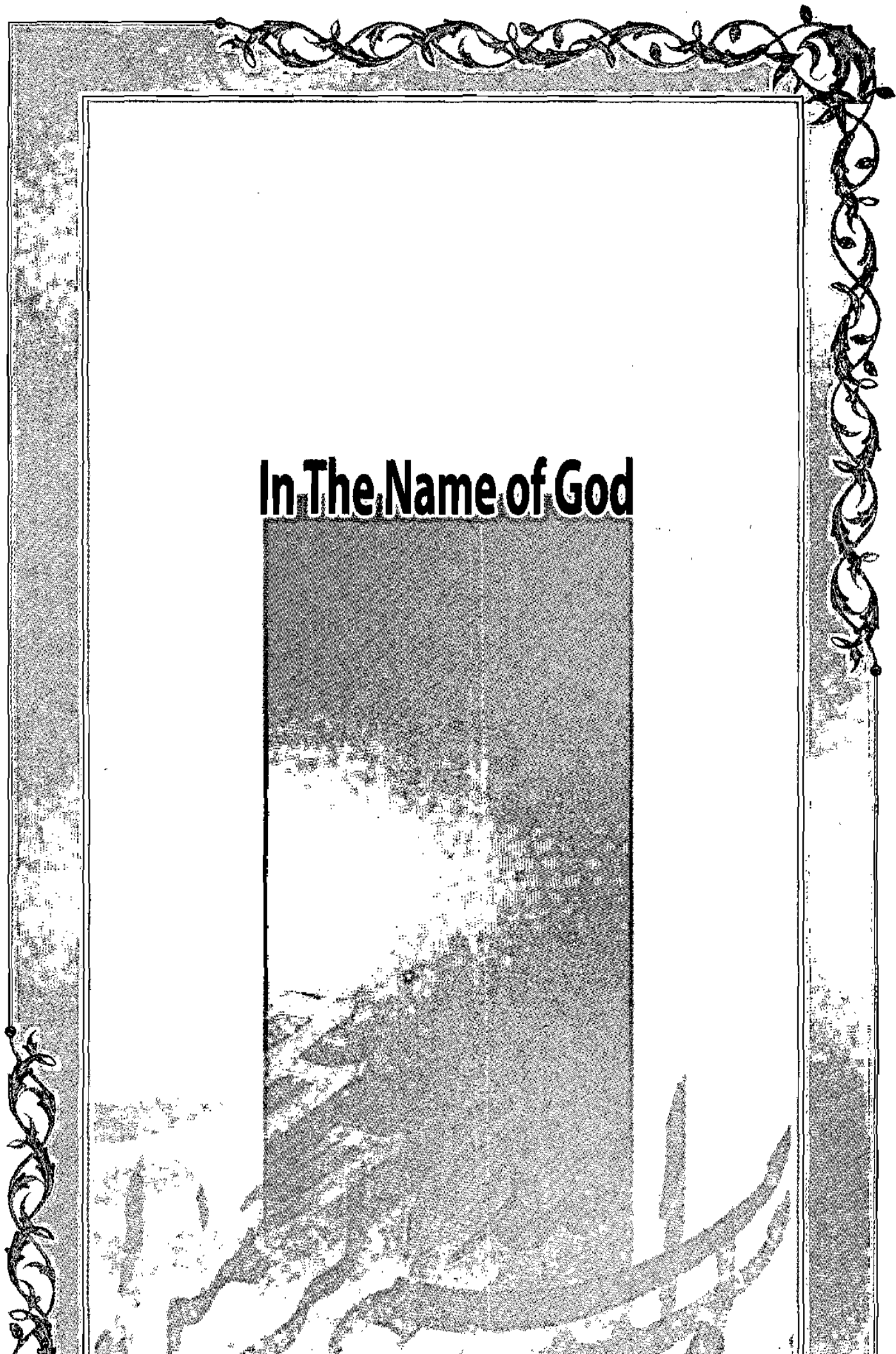


In The Name of God



جمهوری اسلامی ایران
مجلس شورای اسلامی

**Law
of Women's
Rights and Responsibilities
in the Islamic Republic of Iran**





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In the Name of the Almighty

Approval of The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution

The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution approved the law of Women's Rights and Responsibilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed by the Women's Socio - Cultural Council through Letter No, 1259/Sh.z. dated August 2 , 2004 as follows:

Preamble

Preparation of the Comprehensive framework of the Women's Rights and Responsibilities inspired by the religion of the Islam and its related legal framework aiming to regulate the individual, social and family lives have always been one of the necessities of the Islamic society since victory of the revolution.

In line with realization of justice and fairness in the society the Law on Women's Rights and Responsibilities was prepared and adopted inspired by the valuable thoughts of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Great Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran and based on Constitution and the 20 Year Vision Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is hoped that the present law , through its comprehensive view in favor of promotion of the family unit and status of women in the society and restoration of their legitimate rights in all areas and further attention to women's role in the society, will be used as the Focal Point for all authorities in their decision making procedures and relevant planning for introducing women's constructive roles and status of Muslim women at national and international levels.

The Law on Promotion of the Women's Rights and Responsibilities in the Internal and International Scenes

Article 1- In the first line of Para. 1 of the First Chapter of the Law of the Women's Rights and Responsibilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted by the Cultural Revolution Supreme Council, the word "Tamamyat" (integrity, entirety) by "Salamat" (good health).

Article 2- For implementation of Articles 20 and 21 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution and in line with the 20 Year Vision Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government shall be required to prepare the ground for defining and practical realization of rights and responsibilities of women at different internal and international levels based on the Focal Point Document (the Law for Women's Rights and Responsibilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted by Cultural Revolution Supreme Council on Sept. 21, 2004).

Note: Since adoption of the present law all the rules, regulations and treaties which are in contrast with the said Charter shall be considered as null and void.

The said law in two articles and a single note was adopted in the opening session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly on Sunday Sept. 21, 2004 and ratified by the Distinguished Guardian Council of the Islamic

Republic of Iran on Feb. 7, 2007 accordingly.

Single Clause:

The Women's Rights and Responsibilities law in the System of Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of duties of Cultural Revolution Supreme Council as a reference document of policy-making in cultural and social affairs stipulated in 3 Sections, 5 Chapters, and 148 Paragraphs was ratified in session No. 546 dated Sep. 21, 2004 of The Cultural Revolution Supreme Council. All affiliated organizations according to the organizational duties in order to make policy, adopt legal measures, decisions and planning on women's issues are obliged to observe the regulations and principles stipulated in this law . This law will be considered as a basis for introducing and stipulating woman's status in the System of Islamic Republic of Iran as well.

Note: Every other year after ratification of this charter, The Women's Socio-Cultural Council shall take action on the evaluation of women's status in Iran and submit a report to the Cultural Revolution Supreme Council evaluating the current progress towards its implementation as well as of women's rights' violations.



Essential Points referring to the Charter

1. The word "right" refers to ability, privilege and immunity and "responsibility" denotes the duties which women shoulder towards others.

2. In cases where members of society have obligations, the observance of which will be advantageous for women, that obligation has been mentioned as women's right and directly stating others' responsibilities towards women has been avoided.

3. Since, according to the Islamic rules individuals are responsible before God, themselves, their society, and the world at large; therefore, the declaration attempts to refer to women's responsibilities with respect to the above spheres. It is obvious that in the absence of the general prerequisites needed to perform responsibilities such as sound mind, maturity, and free will, women will be exempted their duties. By using the word "right" or "responsibility" the way in which the issue cited is related to women has been defined.

4. This declaration attempts to refer to all women's rights and responsibilities whether inclusive of those shared between the two genders, or those exclusively meant for the women. The reasons for having done so are as follows:

a. Research and debate in the international community over women's rights is controversial with many circles seeking to prove that the Western perspective of Human Rights are fit to be implemented around the globe. In view of the fact that there are various countries with various traditions and perspectives regarding women's rights based on their different cultures, it is necessary that this declaration which reflects the standpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran denote women's human

since there may be some distinction in the observation and implementation of these rights, this set of rights has also been stipulated as women's rights for more emphasis.

c. Since this declaration solely intends to outline women's rights, it does not refer to the rights of other groups of the society, however in practice, keeping in mind that other laws and policies are to be implemented simultaneously, the right of the others, will also be dully observed.

5. This Charter does not intend to stipulate the way to put these rights into practice, therefore it is essential to guarantee their implementation while giving due consideration to the structure of laws.

6. Since the Charter does not refer only to laws but focuses on building culture, therefore, some ethical standards that must be applied are also included amongst women's rights and responsibilities.

7. There are no particular examples mentioned; only general and fundamental rights and responsibilities. However, some examples of rights and responsibilities, needing more clarification and emphasis in international conflicts or domestic culture, have been specifically stated.

8. Women's rights and responsibilities have been outlined in the structure of the Charter as follows:

a. Individual Rights, b. Family Rights, c. Social Rights (classified in terms health, cultural, economic, social, political, and judicial rights)

9. Aiming to reflect viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran (in conformity with Shi'ite Law) regarding women's issues, this Charter can be considered as a point of departure for dialogue among the Islamic countries and serves as a vital step in drafting and ratification of another document on women's issues relving on the thoughts and cooperation



cases where abiding by certain Islamic laws is necessary in order to respect a certain right, or to shoulder a certain responsibility, this factor has been included where it needs to be emphasized.

11. Since the purpose of the Charter is solely to state women's rights and responsibilities, the names of the individuals or institutions in charge of the implementing the related laws are not mentioned. However it is clear that this document is the foundation stone for policymaking, planning, and lawmaking on women's affairs in all the concerned institutions.

Principles and Fundamentals

The principles and fundamentals of this Charter on Women's Rights and Responsibilities in the Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran are derived with the comprehensive and balanced religion of Islam as its foundation in order to pave the way for coordination and harmony for advancing material and spiritual dimensions in individual and social life; taking note of women's freedom along with responsibility, human dignity and a balance between rights and responsibilities.

In its formulation, this Charter relies on knowledge of Allah the Exalted and a belief in Him as the Origin of the universe, the Creator of all beings, and as Originator of laws and the need to submit to His will. It also relies on benefiting from the Holy Qur'an, Sunnah-the honorable tradition of the Holy Prophet (P) and his family, rationality, and belief in the above-mentioned factors' fundamental role in drawing conclusions and extracting rules and regulations out of divine sources based on the requirements of time and place. Avoidance of thoughts



This Charter is founded on the basis of the fact that woman and man in Islam in the sight of God are equal regarding nature, purpose of creation, potential in benefiting from talents, acquiring values, excelling in values, reward and punishment for deeds regardless of gender, superiority over the other in achievement only on the basis of knowledge, piety, and competence in the society. Woman and man are different in terms of physical and psychological characteristics; the differences based on Divine Wisdom are the secret of the continuity of human life, with man and woman complementing each other. These natural differences based on the Justice of the Almighty God have become a basis for difference in rights so that woman would not be led to degradation or unjust discrimination in relation to man.

Woman and man in the Islamic legal system enjoy equal rights and responsibilities in most instances due to their similarity in terms of human nature. Certainly, difference in rights and responsibilities does not indicate preference of one gender over the other; rather mainly pointing to distinct legal titles to which each woman and man is entitled proportionate to the specific roles that are not interchangeable, in the family. These differences are to promote material prosperity and spiritual uplifting of the family which functions as the basic unit of the society, being the real place where humans originate and are nurtured.



Section I. Women's Individual Rights and Responsibilities

1. The right to live prosperously and enjoy physical health and the responsibility to protect it from any diseases, accidents, and aggression;
2. The right to be treated with dignity and the responsibility towards respecting others;
3. The right to freedom of thought and immunity from violation of the security of one's belief
4. The individual right and responsibility to enjoy faith, piety and maintain it and the right to spiritual perfection in beliefs and deeds
5. The right to protect women's life, property and dignity from any illegal aggression
6. The Right to enjoy social justice in implementation of law regardless of gender;
7. The right to have a name and keep or change it, the same is true about a family name;
8. The right to Iranian citizenship for Iranian women and negation of citizenship upon their own request;
9. The right to practice religious ceremonies and teachings in accordance with their religion and within the confines of the law if they belong to religious minorities.
10. The right to wear their local *hijab*, to speak their own language, and to practice their local customs and norms in a way compatible with Islamic ethics;
11. The right to be protected from material and spiritual harm that may result from others when they exercise their rights;
12. The right and responsibility of keeping different temperamental features that differentiate them from men;
13. The right to benefit from a healthy environment



Section II. Women's Family Rights and Responsibilities

Chapter 1. Girls' Rights and Responsibilities in the Family

14. The right to suitable parental guardianship
15. The right to having expenses met, including accommodation, clothing, adequate nutrition and health facilities to secure their physical and psychological health
16. The right to education and to preparing the ground for development of their potentials and creativity
17. The right to have their emotional and psychological needs met and to enjoy loving treatment from their parents and to be protected from domestic violence
18. The right to enjoy family facilities, without any gender discrimination
19. The right of girls who have been deprived of their fathers and who have unqualified guardians to be protected under the guardianship of relatives or volunteers taking into account their interests under the governmental supervision.
20. The responsibility to respect parents, to obey their legitimate orders, and to treat the other members of the family respectfully

Chapter 2. Women's Rights and Responsibilities in Forming and Sustaining the Family

21. The right and responsibility towards strengthening the structure of the family and the right to facilities and legal support in order to prevent disagreement and diminish divorce cases
22. The right to enjoy cultural, social, and economic facilities in order to facilitate marriage at the appropriate time and their responsibility to abstain

23. The right to be informed of the rights and obligations of spouses and the rules of married life and to enjoy the required facilities in this regard as well

24. The right to know the appropriate criteria for choosing a spouse, and the right to get to know him (before marriage)

25. The right and responsibility to know and observe religious and legal standards related to marriage, such as equality of the spouses in the fundamentals of belief and religion

26. The right to set conditions when signing marriage contracts, within the framework of religiously permitted demands, with conditions that if such demands were not met, the other party would be fined a clear punishment

27. The right to have marriage, divorce, and revocation documents registered at official and legal organizations

28. The right to enjoy financial rights during the period of conjugality

29. The right and responsibility to being provided with a private, hygienic, sound sexual relation with her legal spouse and the right to file complaints in case of violations

30. The right and responsibility of living at the same residential unit with the spouse, to be treated humanely, to psychological security in relations with the spouse, and the right of filing complaints in case of the spouse's inhumane conduct

31. The right and responsibility to achieve scientific, spiritual, and ethical growth in collaboration with and relying on the support of family members

32. The right and responsibility towards being on good terms with relatives and next of kin

33. The right to get pregnant, to observe birth control methods and benefit from the appropriate training and facilities in this field

34. The right to material and spiritual protection during the period of pregnancy and breast-feeding

35. The responsibility to respect the rights of the fetus.



37. The right to enjoy protection and participation of the spouse in rearing, training, and nurturing of the children

38. The mothers' right to enjoy material and spiritual security, particularly during old age and when they cannot take proper care of themselves

39. The right and responsibility to provide a living and care for her needy parents according to her ability as long as the husband's rights are not violated

Chapter 3. Women's Rights and Responsibilities in Case of Family Dissolution

40. The right to divorce from the spouse if making up with him is proved to be impossible or hazardous after referring to the court, presenting reasonable proof and heeding the responsibilities mentioned in divorce laws.

41. The right of annulment of the marriage if it is proven that he pretended to have qualities other than the truth (being dishonest), as listed in deficiencies mentioned under this category in laws and the right to receive compensation thereof

42. The right to enjoy financial support during the course of dissolution of the marriage and to expect good treatment from her husband at the time of separation

43. The right and responsibility of child custody and the necessity for financial support of the father and rights to visitation of the child in case of expiry or waiving of custody

44. The right to benefit from the rights entitled to married women during the prescribed waiting period of three menstrual cycles following divorce and the right to marry after expiration of the waiting period

45. The right to file complaints at courts of justice against the second marriage of the husband if he is incapable of guaranteeing their expenses, not able to observe justice and other related rights

46. Parents' social responsibility to take appropriate care of their children and criminal punishment for not observing



Section III. Women's Social Rights and Responsibilities

Chapter 1. Women's Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Physical and Psychological Health

47. The right to enjoy physical and psychological health in individual, social, and family life considering women's characteristics at different stages of life and their responsibility toward preserving it

48. The right to enjoy healthy and sanitarily fit environment (at work, the home, etc.) and the right to benefit from the related necessary training

49. The right to participate in process of policymaking, lawmaking, management, executive affairs and supervision in the field of health and rehabilitation processes, particularly in fields exclusively related to women

50. The right to enjoy appropriate health-treatment plans and facilities for women for the prevention of disease and treatment of physical diseases and psychological disorders related to women

51. The right to select doctors and centers providing health services, on the basis of Islamic rules and medical scientific standards and to enjoy the appropriate and adequate information to make informed and better choices

52. The right to be informed and play a part in decision making relevant to fertilization and family planning

53. The right to have full and fair access to sports facilities, athletic training and appropriate recreational activities

54. The right to develop their athletic talents and to

partum health care through benefiting from women specialists and to prevention from common diseases among women, venereal diseases and sterility.

56. The right to benefit from counseling services and medical tests in order to ensure that the husband enjoys full health at the time of getting married, and that he has no medical problems relating to married life.

57. The right of girls without guardians, divorcees, widows, the elderly to benefit from public insurance, relief services and private insurance particularly in the medical and rehabilitation fields.

58. The right of women who are physically, mentally or psychologically disabled or abused to benefit from support and proper rehabilitation.

59. The right to enjoy proper nutrition, particularly during the period of pregnancy and breastfeeding, and the responsibility to take care of the infant and his/her proper nutrition, giving priority to nursing with mother's milk

Chapter 2 . Women's Cultural and Spiritual Rights and Responsibilities

A. General Culture

60. The right and responsibility to acquire and increase knowledge in terms of her own personality, rights, and role in different arenas of life in accordance with the sacred standards of Islam

61. The right to be immune from the verbal and behavioral abuse of others and responsibility of treating members of society with respect

62. The right and responsibility to observe the Islamic codes of dress and the responsibility to observe chastity in society

63. The right and responsibility to raise the level of religious and human awareness, to be immune from and work toward removing cultural and moral

65. The right to produce beneficial cultural goods and programs according to Islamic standards and to profit from them

66. The right to establish and manage cultural and artistic centers and organizations in order to train responsible and professional women dedicated to developing their cultural activities

67. The right to exchange information and to take part in constructive cultural communications at the national and international levels

68. The right and responsibility toward spreading Islamic culture and knowledge and to present a model of the Muslim woman at the national and international levels

69. The right and responsibility toward creating moral and religious solidarity regarding women's issues around the world

70. The right to partake in policymaking, lawmaking, supervision and executive phases of cultural affairs, particularly, women's issues

71. The right and responsibility to be informed of and to acquire the necessary skills related to home and family management, child rearing, and effective confrontation against cultural and social ills.

72. The right to continual supervision over the cultural activities relevant to women in order to safeguard woman's personality, honor and human dignity in production of cultural materials

73. The right to take advantage of cultural centers that are exclusively for women while observing Islamic standards, taking into account their physical and spiritual uniqueness. Deprived regions have priority for establishment of such centers

74. The right of socially disturbed and vulnerable women to enjoy the appropriate support in order to improve their cultural status and that of the society as well

**B. Education**

76. The right to public literacy, to educational advancement and to benefit from educational and training facilities

77. The right to enjoy higher education up to the highest scientific level

78. The right to master expertise in special fields, both quantitatively and qualitatively, up to the highest levels

79. The right of women and girls from impoverished areas to benefit from special support in education

80. The right and responsibility to design school and educational textbooks

81. The right and responsibility to enjoy a worthy status in harmony with their role, dignity and status in educational texts

82. The right to participate in policymaking, decision making and management of academic and scientific affairs; and to active participation at national and international scientific and cultural gatherings

83. The right to recognize, support, and benefit from the capabilities of women with outstanding talents and their responsibility to help meet the country's needs

84. The right to enjoy necessary support in the field of education, access to higher education, and technical and vocational training for women with physical and mental disabilities proportionate to their talents and extent of disability

C. Research

85. The right to carry out research, author, translate and publish books, articles in general and specialized publications while observing authenticity, honesty, and the interests of the community

86. The right to enjoy necessary support regarding sources and facilities for research on women's



87. The right to benefit from support for scientific and research work and to develop research centers under women's management

88. The responsibility of women researchers to present their views and explain their positive religious and national findings on women's issues to the nation and the world

Chapter 3. Women's Economic Rights and Responsibilities

A. Financial Rights and Responsibilities in the Family

89. The right to receive alimony in permanent marriage from the husband proportionate to woman's prestige and from the father or child if they are financially capable and if the woman is in need

90. The right to benefit from the estate of the deceased and to financial bequests according to Islamic rulings

91. The right of endowment, and of receiving and charge of endowment

92. The right of accepting the power of attorney or being a legal representative in economic affairs

93. The right to determine the dowry, to obtain it from the husband and to do whatever she wishes with it

94. The right to receive her father's, husband's or children's pension in case of death, according to the law or contract

95. The right to benefit from the retirement pension of a deceased woman employee for her legal heirs

96. The right to accept financial guardianship of the children and responsibility to observe the children's financial rights

97. The right of women and girls to benefit from the



98. The right to get wages from the husband for doing household chores upon her request and to protection as a result of her effects on the family economy and national revenue

B. Women's Rights and Responsibilities regarding Employment and Economic Participation

99. The right to own capital and private property and to benefit from it in accordance with legal and religious regulations

100. The right to sign contracts and unilateral treaties

101. The right to work after reaching legal age for employment, the freedom to choose a job, and use personal capital along with their responsibility toward respecting Islamic regulations on earning and spending

102. The right to have access to information, training and appropriate expertise aimed at acquiring qualifications for appropriate employment, and the right to be supported in such fields for female single-parents, or women without providers

103. The right to benefit from job counseling and recruitment by women

104. The right to benefit from wages and equal privileges with men and other women under equal work conditions

105. The right to benefit from job security, ethical respect, and an immune atmosphere from social hazards and the responsibility to observe modesty at workplace

106. The right to be exempted from compulsory, dangerous, hard and harmful work

107. The right to enjoy facilities, rules, and laws consistent with family responsibilities taking into account that she is a spouse and mother during recruiting employment promotions and retirement:



109. The right to participate in economic policymaking, as well as in the establishment and management of economic institutions and membership in them

110. The right and responsibility to receive and pay blood money along with collateral damages in accordance with the related laws and regulations

111. The right to benefit from appropriate and effective legal support in order to prevent the exploitation, trafficking and employment of women and girls in illegal and unlawful occupations

Chapter 4. Women's Political Rights and Responsibilities

A. Women's Rights and Responsibilities in Domestic Politics

112. The right and responsibility to have access to information and to partake and play a role in determining the fate of nation in preserving and strengthening the Islamic system

113. The right and responsibility to participate in and supervise over social affairs in order to lead society towards spirituality and moral virtues ridding it of moral and behavioral ills

114. The right to the freedom of the press, speech and assembly with the observance of regulations

115. The right to form political parties and other political bodies and to take part in them while safeguarding the independence of the country, national integrity and interests of the Islamic system

116. The right to participate in elections, to be elected as members of the parliament as well as city and other councils, and the right to participate in the government planning process and to hold high ranking executive posts in accordance with related regulations



118. The right to develop communication and to exchange productive political information between the women of Iran and the world while respecting national interests and legal regulations

119. The right and responsibility of active and effective participation at Islamic, regional, and international conventions in particular those related to women's issues while observing legal standards

120. The responsibility to do their utmost best to strengthen solidarity among Muslim women and to support the rights of the deprived and oppressed women and children around the world

121. The right of women refugees in the Islamic Republic to enjoy security, health and the possibility of returning to their homeland

122. The right of Iranian women nationals to government support confronting the nationals of other countries within the framework of regulations and treaties

123. The right to benefit from legal support regarding marriage and establishing a family with non-Iranian men while observing the related laws and regulations

C. Women's Rights and Responsibilities in Defense – Military Affairs

124. The right and responsibility to take part in legitimate defensive activities in order to safeguard their faith, country, lives, property and reputation as well as that of others

125. The right and responsibility to partake in establishing world peace based on justice and to ensure and strengthen it

126. The right to have the support needed to maintain their physical security and to prevent them from falling prey to aggressors during the time of



128. The right for the families of martyrs, the war disabled, war veterans, and former POW's to benefit from the exclusive support of the Islamic government

129. The mother's right and responsibility to take care of and nurture the children and her priority in shouldering their guardianship in case of the husband's martyrdom, captivity or if missing in action

130. The right to law enforcement training and to hold security posts

Chapter 5. Women's Judicial Rights and Responsibilities

131. The right to acquire legal information and training

132. The right to enjoy legal measures and judicial support for the prevention and elimination of crime and oppression against women in the family and society

133. The right to enjoy special family courts in order to safeguard the privacy of the family, reconciliation and resolution of conflict in the family

134. The right to have access to female police and disciplinary forces in case of aggressive behavior, being charged or commission of a crime

135. The right to occupy legal and judiciary posts in accordance with the law;

136. The right to take legal action in the courts of justice and other legal authorities;

137. The right to benefit from an attorney and legal consultant in the courts and other legal authorities

138. The right to comprehensive judiciary support against factors leading to crime against women or to crimes committed by women

139. The right of accused women to be protected from having her honor abused, from defamation, and

141. The right to have their reputation restored for defamation due to a judge's inaccurate judgment or mistake in relation to the accused or in issuing the verdict and to compensation for spiritual and material damages

142. The right to have their sentence reduced or to be pardoned in case of repentance and in the presence of proof that the repentance is authentic on the part of female delinquents, as well as at the time of pregnancy, breastfeeding and illness

143. The right to see parents, children and husband while in prison according to the regulations of the country

144. The right to enjoy the appropriate hygienic, cultural and educational facilities in prisons aimed at rehabilitation and a return to a healthy social life

145. The right of girls to be imprisoned at special youth centers where appropriate special facilities for their rehabilitation and expert social workers would be at their disposal

146. The right to file complaints against government regulations or government or judiciary officials in order to attain their own rights

147. The right and responsibility towards testifying in courts in compliance with legal and religious standards

148. The right to enjoy judiciary support, applied by Prosecutor General against a disqualified legal guardian or provider, or other violators of her legitimate rights.

