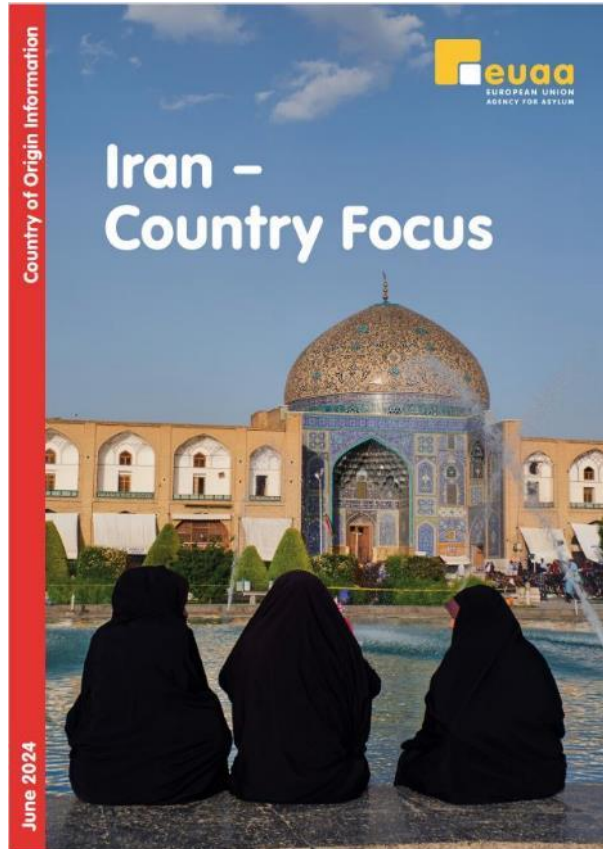


Where are you connecting from?



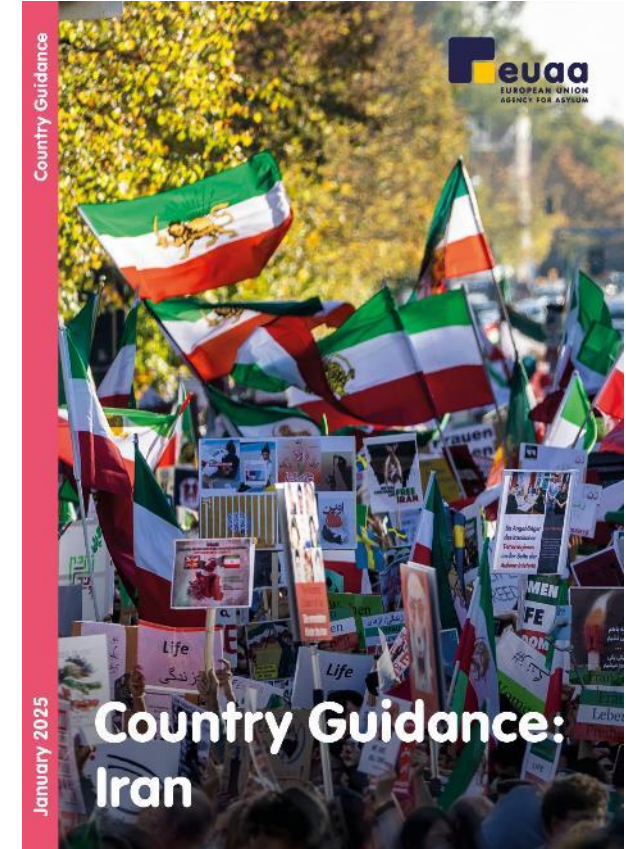
Country of Origin Information and Country Guidance



Country of Origin
Information

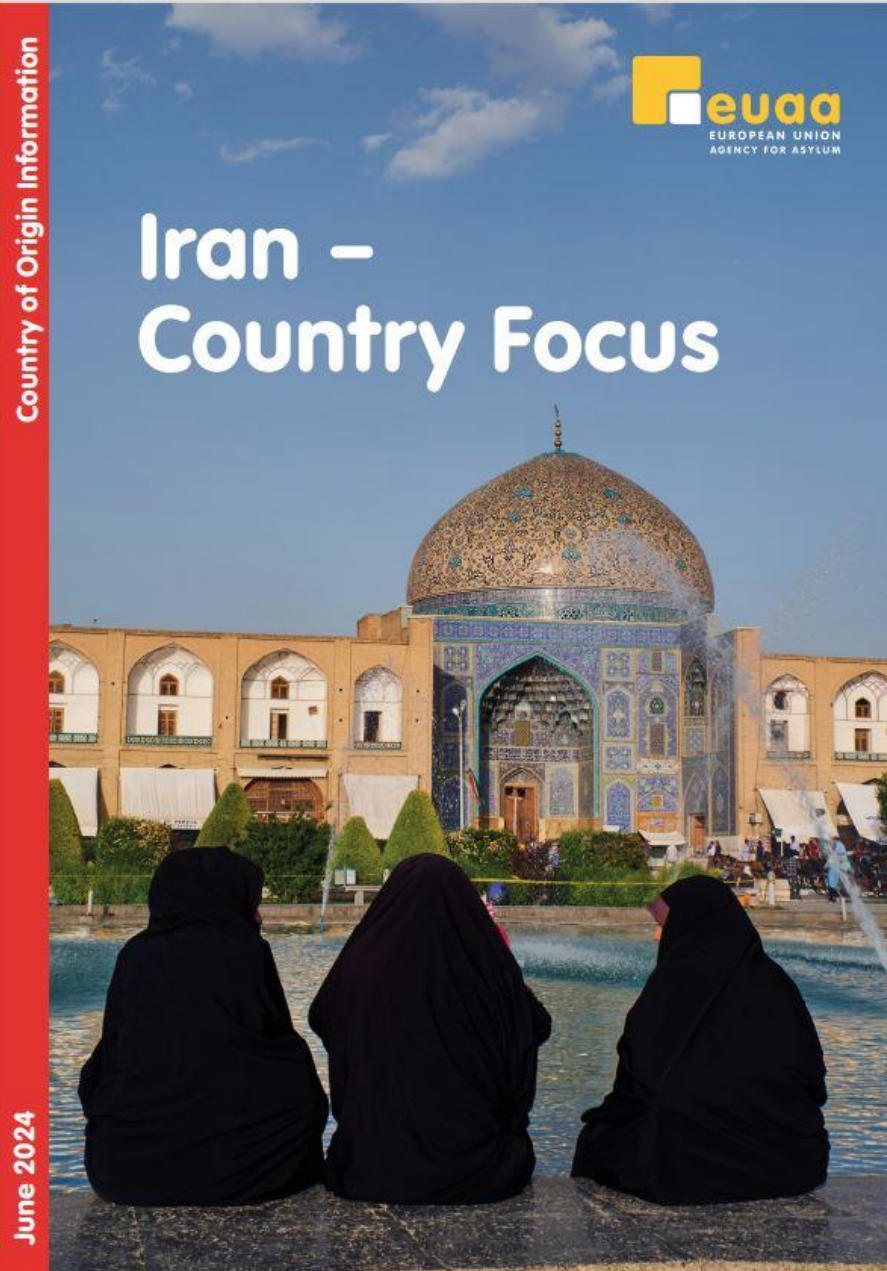
COI is the **factual basis** on which Country Guidance provides an assessment in the form of Common Analysis and Guidance.

In the examination of individual cases, the decision-maker always needs to refer to relevant and up-to-date COI.



Country Guidance





Iran – COI Country Focus (June 2024)

Report finalised on 17 April 2024 with limited info added until 21 May 2024

General overview

- System of government and political situation
- Iranian armed forces

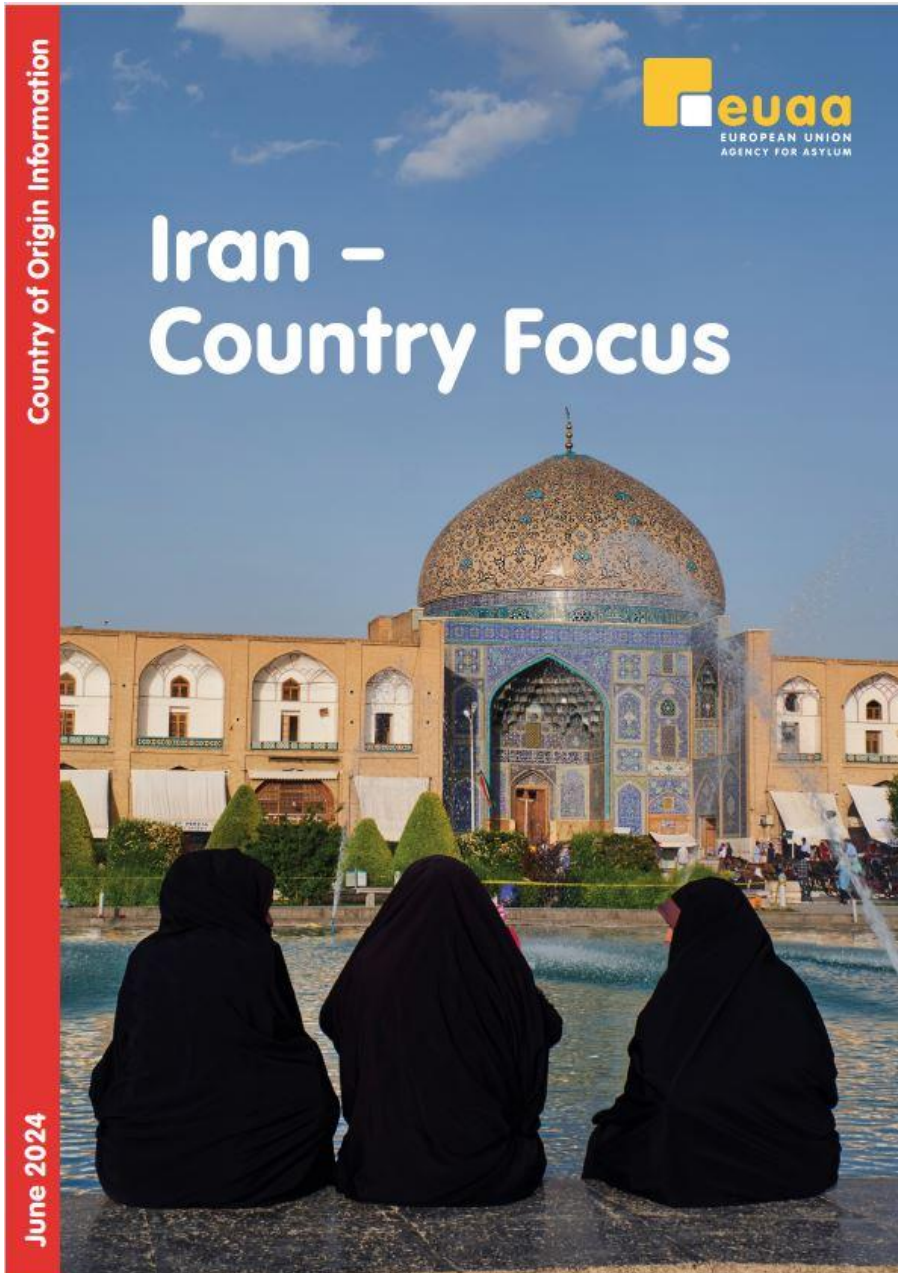
Security situation

- Baluch groups
- Kurdish groups
- Arab groups
- Regional security issues

Legal system and the judiciary

- Overview of the judicial system
- Punishments under the law
- Punishments related to violence against women
- Criminal Courts





Legal system and the judiciary [2]

- Appellate Courts
- Special Clerical Courts
- Due process
- Treatment in detention and prison conditions
- Death penalty

Treatment of selected profiles

- Political opposition and other dissenting groups
- Education personnel
- Draft evaders and deserters
- Ethnic minorities
- Religious minorities
- Other ethnic and religious groups
- Individuals transgressing religious and moral codes
- Women and girls
- LGBTIQ persons and activists for LGBTIQ rights

Key socio-economic indicators





COI QUERY	
Country of Origin	IRAN
Title	Major political, security, and humanitarian developments
Reference period	18 April to 7 October 2024
Topics	1. Political situation with a focus on reformists 2. Security situation 3. Humanitarian developments
	BIBLIOGRAPHY
Date of completion	7 October 2024
Query Code	Q67-2024
Contributing EU+ COI units	N/A

2024 COI Query Iran

‘Major political, security and humanitarian developments’

Reference period: 17 April 2024 – 7 October 2024

Published on: 18/10/2024

Update on:

- Political situation
- Security situation
- Human rights
- Socio-economic developments



COI QUERY

Country of Origin	Iran
Title	Human rights situation
Reference period	January 2023 to 7 October 2024
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treatment of certain profiles 1.1 Protesters 1.2 Activists 1.3 Ethnic minorities 1.4 Religious minorities 1.5 Women and girls 1.6 Restrictions on artists 1.7 Criminal activities, including trafficking in human beings (THB) 2. Return to Iran 2.1 Potential legal restrictions to travel back to Iran 2.2 Treatment upon return for political activities abroad 3. Armed actors 3.1 Deserters from the armed forces 3.2 State actors involved in human rights violations 3.3 Basij and child recruitment
	Annex I: Chronology
	BIBLIOGRAPHY
Date of completion	17 October 2024
Query Code	Q672-2024
Contributing EU+ COI unit	The Persian content of this query was reviewed by the Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Denmark

2024 COI Query Iran 'Human rights situation'

Reference period: January 2024 – October 2024

Published on: 18/10/2024

Update on:

➤ Human rights situation

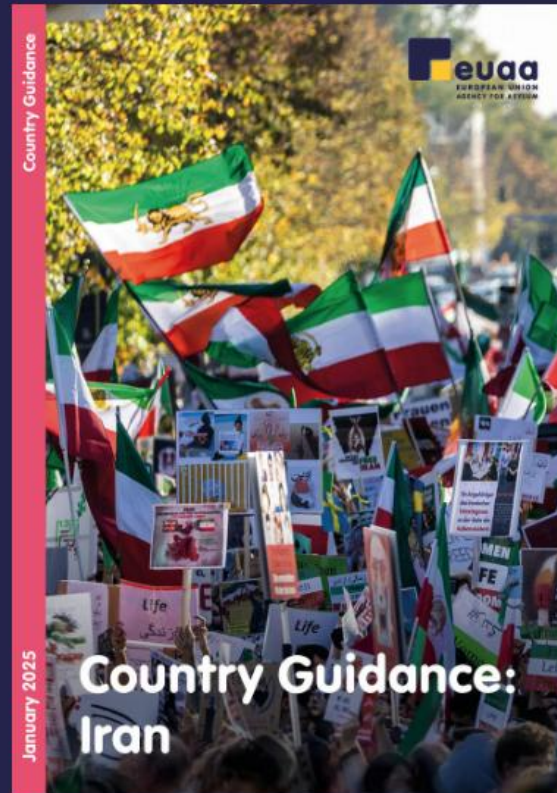
Country Guidance: Iran (January 2025)

General guidance and methodological remarks



Country Guidance: explained

Outlines the general guidance relied upon in this analysis, as well as the methodological framework, approach and indicators used in CG docs.



Country Guidance: Iran

Publication date: 7 January 2025

The 'Country Guidance: Iran' represents Member States' joint assessment of the situation in the country of origin in relation to the applicable international and EU legislation on international protection. The guidance note, accompanied by the common analysis, was finalised by the Country Guidance Network of senior policy officials in October 2024 and was endorsed by the EUAA Management Board on 19 December 2024.

In addition to this electronic publication, the 'Country Guidance: Iran' (January 2025) is available in pdf format.

[Read more online](#)

[Download the PDF](#)

Country Guidance: Methodology

New approach

No separate COI summaries.
Incorporation of COI in the legal analysis.
3 Steps as questions to answer

Step 1: Do the reported acts qualify as persecution?

This part provides examples of acts reported to be committed against individuals belonging to the profile as well as guidance on whether such acts would reach the level of persecution according to Article 9 QD/QR.

Step 2: What is the level of risk of persecution?

This part assesses how likely it is for applicants within the profile to have a well-founded fear of persecution. Further guidance is provided with regard to the circumstances which should be taken into account in the individual assessment, addressing also how they would impact the risk.

Step 3: Is there a ground for persecution?

This part provides guidance on whether in case of established well-founded fear of persecution, this would be connected to a reason falling within the provision of Article 10 QD/QR (nexus).



The Iranian Authorities - Actors of persecution or serious harm [1]

- Since 1979, the **Islamic Republic of Iran** functions based on the principle of ***Velayat-e Faqih*** (guardianship of the Islamic Jurist) and is led by a **Supreme Leader**.
- The current **Supreme Leader** is **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**. He holds the ultimate political power with no fixed term in the office.
- **Elected institutions** include the **Assembly of Experts**, the **Parliament**, the **President**, and the **City Council**.
- **Appointed institutions** include the **Supreme National Security Council**, the **Guardian Council**, the **Judiciary**, the **Expediency Council**, the **armed forces**, and the **Cabinet of ministers**.



The Iranian Authorities - Actors of persecution or serious harm [2]

Punishments

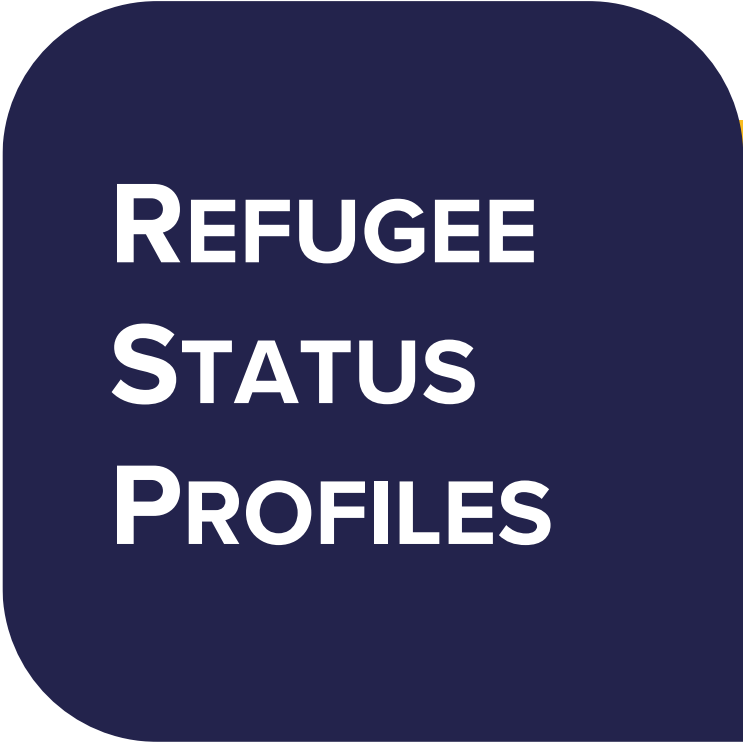



- Iran's **judicial system** is based on **Sharia** (Islamic law).
- **Punishments** such as *hudud* (crimes against God), *qesas* (retribution), *diyat* (financial compensation), *tazir* (discretionary punishments) are incorporated in Penal Code which is consisted of Books one to five.
- **Ill-treatment** and **torture** in **detention** has been reported.
- **Death penalty** is used as a tool of **political repression** against **protesters, political dissidents, and ethnic minorities**.
 - In 2023, at least 834 persons were executed in Iran, including 22 women and 2 minors
 - Several executions were carried out publicly.



The Iranian Authorities - Actors of persecution or serious harm [3]

State surveillance capacity

- The Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps - Intelligence Organisation (IRGC-IO) target political rivals and dissent, **both inside Iran and abroad.**
- They **collect online information, intercept communications, and remove critical content.**
- Iranian authorities do not systematically monitor all citizens abroad, but high-profile activists, journalists, and human rights defenders may face surveillance and arrest upon returning, specially if their online activities attract state attention.



REFUGEE STATUS PROFILES



List of commonly encountered profiles of applicants for international protection

Profiles for which a well-founded fear of persecution would **in general be substantiated**:

- Members and sympathisers of opposition parties and movements seen by the Iranian authorities as advocating for a regime change, including monarchists and separatists
- Human rights defenders, activists and lawyers
- Journalists and other media workers dealing with anti-regime topics or perceived as such by the Iranian authorities
- Individuals perceived by the Iranian authorities as encouraging desertion
- Individuals perceived to have committed blasphemy and/or apostasy, including converts
- Individuals perceived to have committed any of the acts punishable under hadd punishments
- Christians frequenting house churches and Christian proselytisers
- Persons with diverse SOGIESC (also referred to as LGBTIQ persons)



List of commonly encountered profiles of applicants for international protection [2]

Further guidance is provided on potential **risk-impacting circumstances** which may affect the probability of granting refugee status to profiles such as:

- Members and sympathisers of opposition parties and movements seen as critical by the Iranian authorities while respecting the foundations of the Islamic Republic
- Protesters and their family members
- Journalists and media workers (perceived as) critical of the Iranian authorities while respecting the foundations of the Islamic Republic
- Deserters from armed forces
- Atheists
- Individuals perceived to have transgressed Islamic norms or laws when considered to have committed other acts than the ones punished under hadd punishments
- Kurds, including Faili Kurds and Yarsan Kurds
- Baluches
- Christians, other than those frequenting house churches and Christian proselytisers
- Baha'is
- Women and girls



3.1. Political dissent and opposition

- The Iranian authorities are reported to view the **activities of wide categories of individuals as political dissent**.
- The Islamic Republic employs a range of **strategies to suppress dissent** such as domestic and international **surveillance**.
- **Intimidation and harassment** of political activists, journalists, and opposition figures are prevalent, with threats and violence often extending to the families of dissidents.
- **Arbitrary arrests and imprisonment** are routine, with detainees frequently subjected to **torture and denial of medical care**.
- The **death penalty** is wielded by Iranian authorities as a tool of political repression against dissidents.
- **Censorship** is another tool, with the government exercising strict control over the media.
- High-profile activists, journalists, and human rights defenders may be monitored outside the country and arrested upon their return.

3.1.2. Protesters

Background

Since the foundation of the Islamic Republic, several large-scale protests with respective agendas such as economic grievances, contestation of election results, and denunciation of human rights violations, were violently repressed by the Iranian authorities. Following the death of Mahsa Amini in September 2022, nationwide protests erupted highlighting discrimination against women and ethnic minorities.



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Persecution

Mass arrests, killings, beatings, death penalty, torture, expeditious trials and executions, arrests of children with some subjected to torture, sexual assault and denial of due process. The severity and/or repetitiveness of other acts that protesters could be subjected to and whether they occur as an accumulation of various measures, should also be considered (restriction of freedom of movement).

Level of risk

Risk-impacting circumstances such as: visibility including being know to the authorities; frequency of participation in demonstrations; political background; geographical area of activities; ethnic and religious background; gender.

Nexus

(Imputed) political opinion.

3.1.3. Human rights defenders, activists, and lawyers

Background

In Iran, human rights defenders, activists, and lawyers face increasing restrictions and pressure, especially following the 'Women, Life, Freedom' protests.



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Persecution

Arbitrary arrest, detention, criminal prosecution, torture, flogging, ill-treatment in detention. The severity and/or repetitiveness of other acts that human rights defenders, activists, and lawyers could be subjected to and whether they occur as an accumulation of various measures, should also be considered (harassment, interrogations, suspension from legal practice, travel ban, exile, etc.).

Level of risk

A **well-founded fear of persecution** would in general be substantiated for human rights defenders, activists, and lawyers.

Nexus

(Imputed) political opinion.

3.1.4. Journalists and other media workers (perceived as) critical of the Iranian authorities

Background

The Iranian Constitution guarantees the freedom of press if it does not violate the fundamental principles of Islam or the rights of the public. However, censorship is imposed on newspapers, magazines, and online platforms and Iran is regarded as one of the world's most repressive countries for journalists. The situation deteriorated notably after the 2022 protests.



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Persecution

Executions, arbitrary arrests, imprisonment, unfair trials.

The severity and/or repetitiveness of other acts that journalists and other media workers could be subjected to, and whether they occur as an accumulation of various measures, should be also taken into account (surveillance, intimidation, interrogations, tight control, etc.)

Level of risk

For journalists and other media workers dealing with anti-regime topics or perceived as such by the Iranian authorities, **well-founded fear of persecution** would in general be substantiated.

For others, risk-impacting circumstances, such as: visibility, including being known to the authorities; links with Western countries; ethnic and/or religious background; gender.

Nexus

(Imputed) political opinion



3.3. Individuals perceived to have committed blasphemy and/or apostasy, including converts and atheists [1]

- Christianity is categorised under ‘**political-security crimes**’ and is seen by the Islamic Republic as a ‘Western religion’.
- Most Christian converts meet in private places, which are known as **house-churches** in Iran. Authorities **raid** them and **arrest** their members.
- Christians are **not allowed to preach their religion to other Iranians** or invite them to their churches.
- Iranian authorities **do not allow conversion from Islam to another religion**. A Muslim in Iran can be subject to arrest, assault, or **death penalty** in case of conversion to another religion. **Conversion** to Christianity is seen as **apostasy**.
- According to Human Rights Watch, ‘**apostasy**’ is **punished by death** based on the Iranian law.



3.3. Individuals perceived to have committed blasphemy and/or apostasy, including converts and atheists [2]

- In Iran it is not legal or recognised to be identified as an **atheist** or as **non-religious person**. Numerous individuals in younger generations consider themselves atheists.
- **Blasphemy** is **punished by death** under the Iranian Penal Code. According to the *hudud* punishments, insulting the Prophet and Islamic sanctities is **punished by death**.

3.3. Individuals perceived to have committed blasphemy and/or apostasy, including converts and atheists.



<https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-interviewing-applicants-religion-based-asylum-claims>

Persecution
Death penalty, arrest, imprisonment, prosecution.
The severity and/or repetitiveness of other acts that individuals considered to have committed blasphemy and/or apostasy could be subjected to and whether they occur as an accumulation of various measures, should be also taken into account (social stigma, hatred, violence, harassment, confiscation of property, etc.).

Level of risk
A well-founded fear of persecution would in general be substantiated for individuals considered by the Iranian authorities to have committed blasphemy and/or apostasy, including converts.
For atheists, risk-impacting circumstances, such as: nature and visibility; home area and residence; perception of Islamic codes in the family; political background; ethnic background; gender.

Nexus
Religion



3.6.1. Christians

- **Christians by birth** are a recognised religious minority.
- **Proselytising** in Iran **is considered as a crime** against the internal and external security of the State and is ‘punishable by death’.
- **Christians by birth who wish to worship in the national language (Persian) meet in private places, which are known as house-churches.**

3.6.1. Christians



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Persecution

Some beliefs and practices are punishable by death (such as practising in Persian and inviting converts), arrest, imprisonment and prosecution (proselytising or visiting house churches).

The severity and/or repetitiveness of other acts that Christians could be subjected to and whether they occur as an accumulation of various measures, should also be considered.

Level of risk

Risk-impacting circumstances such as: visibility of the applicant; being known to the authorities, link to foreign actors, gender.

Nexus

Religion; (imputed) political opinion



3.7. Women and girls [1]

- Following the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, authorities imposed a series of **restrictions** on **women and girls' rights**.
- **Hijab** or black chador (veil) became mandatory by the decree of the former Supreme Leader, as of the age of **nine years old**, at times at the age of seven. Non-compliance with hijab rules is punished under the Penal Code. Example of Mahsa Amini.
- The marriage law allows men to marry four wives at the same time while women are allowed to marry only one husband.
- Iran also allows men an unlimited number of temporary marriages, which is known as *sigheh* for an arranged period.



3.7. Women and girls [2]

- The law in Iran forbids forced marriage, however, the law ‘**does not consider the marriage of a girl under the age of 15 to be forced**’.
- In 2023, Human Rights Activists (HRA) recorded **363** cases of **violence against women** in Iran including **rape** and **sexual assault, murder, honour killings** and **acid attacks**.
- Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (**FGM/C**) has been practised in Iran on girls as young as **six-week to ten years old**.
- **Trafficking of women and girls** – due to lack of legal framework to protect women from being trafficked, and due to socio-economic factors, women and girls are often sexually exploited.



3.7. Women and girls [3]

- **There is no law** in the country on **domestic violence** to ‘prevent abuse and protect survivors’.
- **Honour-related violence** is **widespread** in Iran. It includes **women and girls** who often **refused forced marriages**, who were **victim of rape**, who got **divorced**, who had **sexual relationships**, or were **engaged in adultery**.
- **Access to justice** – according to an expert, **women** are **treated differently** in many aspects of Iranian law and the judicial system, solely on account of their **gender**’.
- Courts in Iran are generally presided by **clerics** and, in matters of family disputes, **the judges often decided in favour of the husband**.
- **Chastity & Hijab Bill** has reportedly been **approved** by the **Guardian Council**.
- **Morality Police** continue targeting **women** and **girls** for **hijab** non-compliance.

3.7. Women and girls

Background

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Iranian government has imposed significant restrictions on the rights of women and girls, which have deeply impacted their lives.



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Persecution

Death penalty, torture, corporal punishments, domestic violence including domestic servitude, forced and child marriage, honour killings and FGM practices, trafficking in human beings and related executions in case of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The severity and/or repetitiveness of other acts that women and girls could be subjected to and whether they occur as an accumulation of various measures, should be also considered.

Level of risk

Risk-impacting circumstances such as : political profile; ethnic and/or religious background, perception of traditional gender norms in the family, home area and residence, socio-economic situation, family status.

Nexus

Membership of a particular social group; (imputed) political opinion; religion.



SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION



Death penalty or execution - Article 15(a) QD/QR



- Iran is among the leading practitioners of the death penalty globally. Death penalty is envisaged under the Iranian Penal code and can be imposed for offences, such as drug trafficking, financial corruption, vandalism, and peaceful exercise of freedom of expression.
- Execution of minors is permissible beginning at 9 years old for girls and 13 for boys.
- Since 2010, the Revolutionary Courts have handed down death sentences resulting in at least 4 541 executions.
- Other Criminal Courts handle criminal charges that carry the death penalty, such as murder and rape, as well as cases related to adultery and LGBTIQ persons.
- More than 800 persons were executed in Iran in 2023, constituting a sharp increase in comparison with the previous years, partially due to the rise of executions linked to drug-related offences. Ethnic minorities, and especially the Baluches, were overrepresented in the total number of executions.

If there is a reasonable degree of likelihood of death penalty or execution, subsidiary protection under Article 15(a) QD/QR shall be granted, unless the applicant is to be excluded in accordance with Article 17/QR QD.



Torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment - Article 15(b) QD/QR

- Arbitrary arrests, judgements and detentions along with violations of fair trial and due process, and sentences based on vague laws were reported.
- Despite legal safeguards prohibiting and punishing their use to obtain confessions, torture and ill-treatment, including sexual assault and rape, as well as denial of medical care were reported to be used in detention.
- The Iranian Penal Code stipulates corporal punishments for a wide range of offences, including death penalty, crucifixion, limb amputation, blinding, stoning, retributive ‘eye for an eye’ punishments, flogging, etc.
- Criminal gangs are involved in trafficking in human beings that take various forms, and in trafficking of human organs and blood in criminal markets.

Grossly unfair or disproportionate prosecution or punishment, prison conditions which are not compatible with respect for human dignity, corporal punishments, a real risk of violent crime, such as violence related to trafficking in human beings, trafficking of human organs, and drug trafficking, would meet the requirements under Article 15(b) QD/QR.



ACTORS OF PROTECTION



Actors of protection



State protection is generally **not considered available** for:

- Women facing domestic or honour-related violence, and gender-based violence, including harmful traditional practices.
- Kurds, especially for those who served the IRGC and Basij.
- Individuals perceived to have transgressed Islamic norms of laws.
- Atheists and converts from Islam to another religion.
- Individuals with diverse SOGIESC.

No parties or organisations that control a region or larger area within the State and are able to provide protection were identified in Iran.



**SOCIO-ECONOMIC
INDICATORS AND
INTERNAL
PROTECTION
ALTERNATIVE**



Socio-economic indicators - Tehran

- Iran's **food security** is threatened by water shortages, economic downturn, depreciation of the Iranian rial and trade restrictions.
- Approximately 30 % of Iran's population lived below the **poverty** line. About 6 % of the population endured extreme poverty.
- **Housing** is largely a privatised sector, and the cost of housing is persistently high.
- The situation with **water supply and sanitation** in Iran has improved.
- Severe **energy crisis**, resulting in power outages lasting up to eight hours.
- **Primary healthcare** is free of charge in Iran. Sources report good results, such as vaccination coverage and reduction of child mortality.
- Although **employment** saw a moderate growth in recent years, the labour market could not reach its pre-pandemic level.



Internal Protection Alternative - Tehran



- IPA in Tehran would be reasonable for **single able-bodied men and married couples without children**, including when they do not have a support network.
- In the case of **families with children**, internal protection alternative may be reasonable, including without a support network, where the best interests of the child/ren have been duly assessed.
- **Other profiles of applicants** would in general need a support network in the area of potential IPA.

Although the situation related to settling in Tehran could entail certain hardship, it can still be concluded that such applicants would be able to ensure their basic subsistence, housing, shelter and hygiene, and access to basic healthcare.



EXCLUSION



Exclusion



The need to examine possible exclusion issues in the context of Iran may arise, for example, in cases of applicants being former or current (non-exhaustive list):

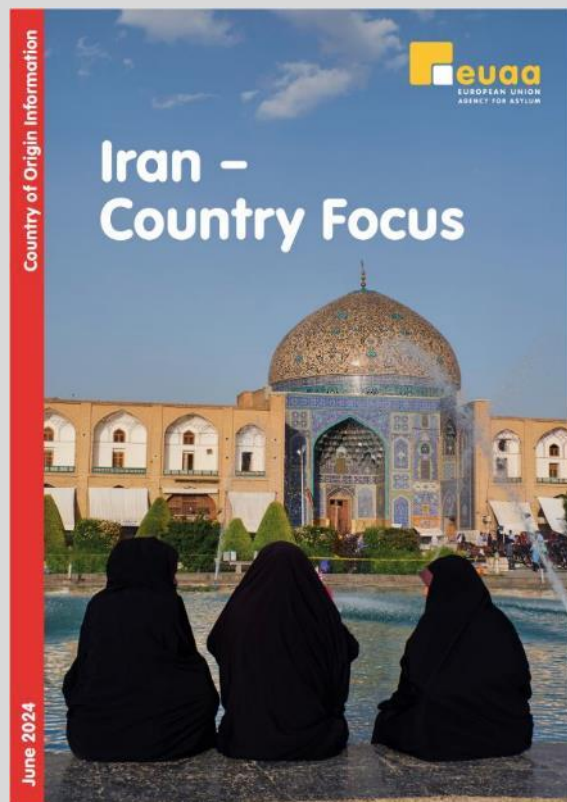
- Members of the Iranian government institutions, such as government officials and members of political or administrative institutions, of a certain rank or level.
- Members of the Iranian military, security and police forces, including the IRGC, Basij, morality police, Quds forces and intelligence services.
- Persons who participated in or provided support to activities of Iranian proxies or non-state actors in regional conflicts, such as those in Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Syria.



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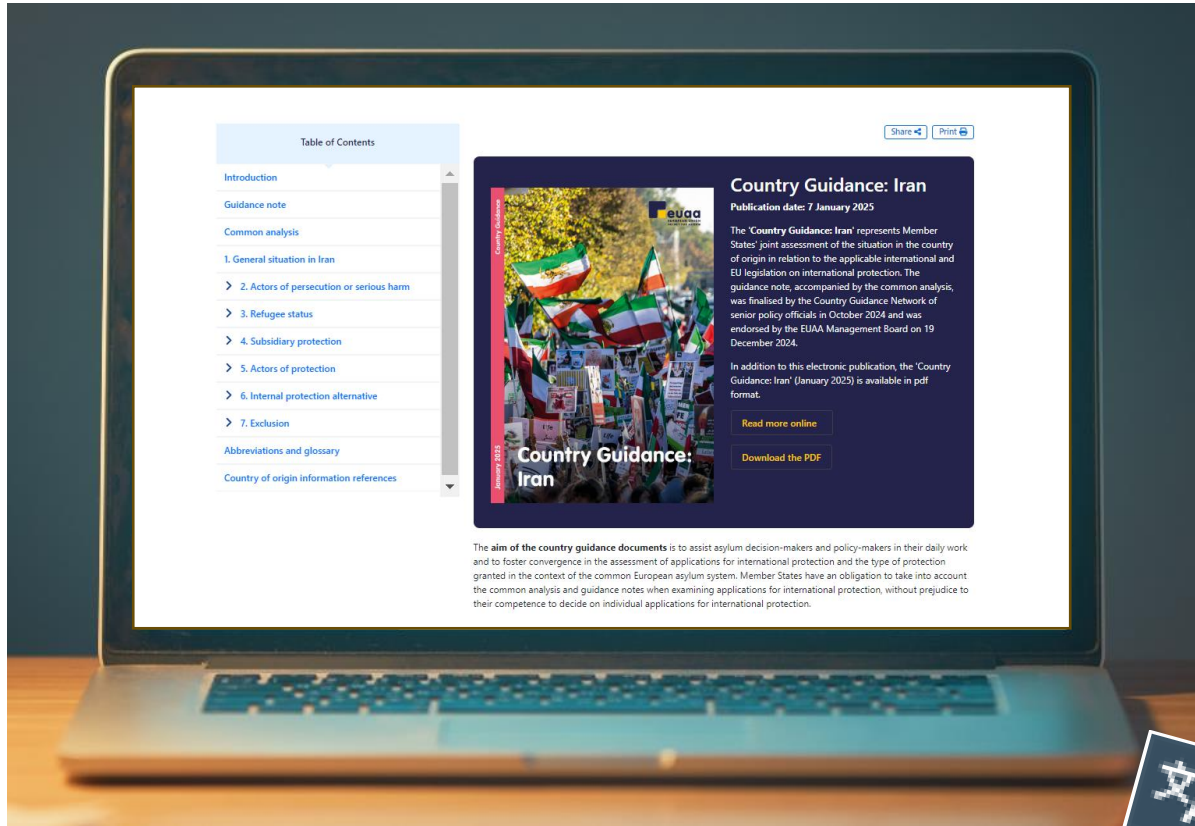
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Date of completion	17 October 2024
Query Code	Q72-2024
Contributing EU+ COI unit	The Persian content of this query was reviewed by the Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Denmark

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Country Guidance: Iran (January 2025) ★★★★★

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