

Fundamental Human Rights Principles Governing the Transitional Period

Definitions

- **Transition period:** The period between the end of the Islamic Republic and the establishment of a government elected by the people within Iran's political geography.
- **Collective rights:** Rights that belong to a particular group on the basis of its identity, characteristics or shared interests. These rights may include those of groups identified by their collective characteristics, such as ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious or faith-based affiliation, as well as organised groups such as trade unions, political parties, organisations based on sexual and gender identity, large organisations and others.
- **Political prisoner:** A person who is imprisoned not on the basis of ordinary criminal offences recognised and punishable under criminal law, but on various political, ideological or civil grounds, including particular religious or faith-based beliefs, opposition to government policies, peaceful political or civil activity, membership of political or civil parties or groups, or cooperation with parties opposed to the established government, regardless of the charge brought against them, including security-related charges, *moharebeh* (enmity against God), *baghy* (armed rebellion) or other charges.
- **Transitional institutions:** Institutions that temporarily assume responsibility for maintaining order and administering the affairs of the country during the transition period.

Preamble

We, the undersigned, believe that a peaceful, democratic and just political transition requires adherence to fundamental human rights principles.

The following minimum principles are proposed as a basis for initial understanding and consensus on human rights among political and civil movements and organisations opposed to the Islamic Republic during the transition period.

The purpose of these principles is to safeguard the human dignity and fundamental rights of all individuals and groups throughout the transition period.

1. Unconditional Commitment to the Foundations of Human Rights

The transition process must be guided by an unconditional commitment to the International Declaration of Human Rights, comprising the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, as well as other international human rights treaties and declarations, particularly the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the *Declaration on the Rights of Persons*

Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

2. Immediate Suspension and Abolition of the Death Penalty

During and after the transition period, the right to life must be respected, and the issuance or enforcement of any sentence involving the deprivation of life must be suspended.

The death penalty must be abolished from the country's legal system.

3. Release of Political Prisoners

All political prisoners must be released immediately.

No one may be subjected to arrest, torture or discrimination on the basis of their political views, affiliation or orientation, or their religious or ideological beliefs.

4. Equality Before and Under the Law

In recognition of Iran's ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious and other forms of diversity, all members of society must enjoy equal citizenship rights without any discrimination based on gender, ethnic affiliation, religion, language, political beliefs, sexual orientation or socio-economic background.

This equality must extend beyond individual rights to include collective rights.

All discriminatory laws must be repealed, and new legislation must be drafted in accordance with the International Declaration of Human Rights.

5. Guarantees of Civil and Political Freedoms

Fundamental civil and political freedoms—including freedom of expression, religion, conscience and belief, assembly and strike, as well as the freedom to establish and operate political parties, civil organisations, professional associations and independent trade unions—must be guaranteed and respected.

The rights of followers of different religions, as well as those of non-religious people, must be respected during this period.

Furthermore, during the transition period, all individuals, political groups, social groups and communities must be free to advocate peacefully, while respecting the rights of others, for any form of governance and distribution of power, including decentralisation, federalism and other models, without facing any form of obstruction or attack.

6. Freedom of the Media

During the transition period, the free flow of information, the right to free access to information, and the freedom and safety of journalists, media outlets and those working in the information sector must be guaranteed.

7. Commitment to Holding Free, Fair and Inclusive Elections

The transitional institutions must ensure that elections at every level—national or local—are free, fair and transparent, and are held within a reasonable timeframe in the presence of independent international observers.

All political parties and organisations must enjoy full freedom to engage in political activities during this period.

8. Popular Sovereignty and the Constitutional Drafting Process

The final political structure of the future government must be determined through a democratic and inclusive constitutional drafting process involving the presence and participation of elected representatives of the people and different sectors of society, and must be submitted to a public referendum.

While rejecting any form of dictatorship, this process must be based on the principle of popular sovereignty and the people's right to freely determine their own destiny.

9. Inclusive Participation in Transitional Institutions

The transitional governing structures—including interim administrative bodies, institutions responsible for conducting elections and the Constituent Assembly—must guarantee the participation of women, ethnic communities, religious minorities, sexual and gender minorities, and marginalised social groups in proportion to their respective populations and in accordance with the principle of meritocracy.

These structures must reflect the diversity and pluralism of Iranian society.

10. Separation of Religion and State

During the transition period, it must be guaranteed that religion will have no role in the country's policymaking, lawmaking, executive administration or judicial affairs.

11. Independence of the Judiciary

During the transition period, the full independence of the judiciary and the defence rights of defendants—including protection against arbitrary detention, the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, the right of access to an independent lawyer and the right to a fair trial before a competent court—must be guaranteed.

The transitional institutions must establish a temporary criminal-law framework based on human rights principles and international covenants in order to prevent arbitrary punishments and violations of defendants' rights.

12. Prohibition of Revenge and Collective Punishment

During the transition period, all forms of retaliation or prosecution based on political or ideological affiliation, as well as collective punishment, are prohibited.

Justice must be administered on the basis of fair proceedings and the principle of individual responsibility.

13. Transitional Justice and Accountability for Human Rights Violations

To address serious human rights violations committed during the period of the Islamic Republic, the necessary transitional justice mechanisms must be established to uncover the truth, ensure fair trials, provide reparations to victims and guarantee non-recurrence of human rights violations, in accordance with international standards.

The perpetrators and those who ordered government crimes must be held accountable before competent judicial institutions.