



COI QUERY

Country of Origin	IRAN
Title	Situation of individuals with disabilities
Reference period	January 2023 to 27 January 2026
Topic(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Legal framework2. Treatment by society3. Availability and access to healthcare, social support, and assistance services
Date of completion	27 January 2026
Query Code	Q5-2026
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	N/A



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All sources used are referenced and cited in the bibliography section. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned COI methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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Cite as: EUAA, Country of Origin Information Query, Iran, Situation of individuals with disabilities, 27 January 2026, [url](#)



COI QUERY RESPONSE – Iran

Situation of individuals with disabilities

1. Legal framework

The Law to Protect the Rights of the Disabled, adopted by the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran¹ on 11 March 2018, ‘was created to assist and support people with disabilities by enabling their access to crucial services’, according to the Center for Human Rights in Iran.²

A February 2024 Persian-language article by Iran Human Rights³ [informal translation], described that according to the provisions of the Law, citizens with disabilities must enjoy support such as medical and rehabilitation services, housing, employment, accessibility to traffic and mobility, and administrative and employment support.⁴

Sources noted that despite the passing of this law in 2018, the implementation of the law has remained limited.⁵

2. Treatment by society

Information on how persons with disabilities are treated by society was scarce among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints of this query. However, the following information may be relevant.

A December 2025 news article by the Turkish news source Evrim Ağacı described that families in Iran with disabled family members struggled to care for and required ‘great personal or financial sacrifice,’ which has ‘led to widespread social isolation, with stigma and patronizing attitudes’ towards persons with disabilities.⁶

A January 2025 report on the state of rights of persons with disabilities in Iran by the civil society organisation, Volunteer Activists⁷, affirmed that societal stigma and a lack of awareness have further exacerbated difficulties faced by individuals with disabilities.⁸ The

¹ Iran, قانون حمایت از حقوق معلولان (Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), n.d., [url](#)

² Center for Human Rights in Iran, English Translation: Iran’s “Law to Protect the Rights of the Disabled”, 28 January 2020, [url](#)

³ Iran Human Rights is a non-partisan and politically independent organisation, based in Oslo, focused on promoting and defending human rights in Iran. See: Iran Human Rights, About us, n.d., [url](#)

⁴ Iran Human Rights, افراد دارای معلولیت در ایران؛ بدون حمایت دولت و خانگی (People with disabilities in Iran: Without government support and living at home), 13 February 2024, [url](#)

⁵ Iran Human Rights, افراد دارای معلولیت در ایران؛ بدون حمایت دولت و خانگی (People with disabilities in Iran: Without government support and living at home), 13 February 2024, [url](#); Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 32

⁶ Evrim Ağacı, Iran Faces Disability Crisis As Millions Left Behind, 1 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷ Volunteer Activists is an institute, based in Amsterdam, dedicated to fortifying civil society in Iran and the MENA region. See: Volunteer Activists, About us, n.d., [url](#)

⁸ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 17



same source noted that prejudices towards persons with disabilities were ‘widespread, often exacerbated by their limited visibility in daily life due to the challenges they face’.⁹ Further, sources noted that in some cases, families chose to hide family members with disabilities from public view.¹⁰

According to the non-profit organization Iran 1400, women with disabilities in Iran experienced higher rates of domestic abuse, faced restricted access to justice, and were often deprived of necessary medications by caregivers or institutions.¹¹ Corroborating information could not be found.

3. Availability and access to healthcare, social support, and assistance services

Sources described that 11.5 % of the population of Iran (around 9.8 million) were living with a disability,¹² in which ‘only 1.6 million disabled citizens’ were supported by Iran’s Welfare Organisation, ‘leaving over 8 million without formal assistance amid strained resources’.¹³

Persons with disabilities in Iran faced systemic ‘barriers’,¹⁴ including exclusion from education, inaccessible public infrastructure, unsuitable housing designs,¹⁵ inadequate access to healthcare, limited educational opportunities, and insufficient government support.¹⁶ Iran Human Rights added [informal translation] that due to the inattention of government officials and policymakers, the Iranian disabled community were suffering in terms of access to social spaces, educational and training facilities, employment and equal opportunities.¹⁷

According to Iran Human Rights, citizens with disabilities, one of the largest social groups in Iran, have been exposed to various forms of discrimination and social deprivation for years, and were subject to deprivation of government protections and violations of their rights.¹⁸ Volunteer Activists noted that navigating public spaces and public transportation were not suitable for persons with disabilities,¹⁹ state-provided support, including nursing care, was

⁹ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 11

¹⁰ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 11; Iran 1400, Disability in Iran: From Charity to Citizenship, 30 July 2025, [url](#)

¹¹ Iran 1400, Disability in Iran: From Charity to Citizenship, 30 July 2025, [url](#)

¹² Evrim Ağacı, Iran Faces Disability Crisis As Millions Left Behind, 1 December 2025, [url](#); Iran International, Disabled Iranians face ‘critical’ economic hardship amid soaring inflation, 7 November 2025, [url](#)

¹³ Evrim Ağacı, Iran Faces Disability Crisis As Millions Left Behind, 1 December 2025, [url](#)

¹⁴ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 17; Evrim Ağacı, Iran Faces Disability Crisis As Millions Left Behind, 1 December 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵ Evrim Ağacı, Iran Faces Disability Crisis As Millions Left Behind, 1 December 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 17

¹⁷ Iran Human Rights, حقوق شهروندان دارای معلولیت؛ عدم پایبندی حکومت ایران به قوانین داخلی و معاهدات بین‌المللی (Rights of citizens with disabilities; Non-compliance of the Iranian government with domestic laws and international treaties), 10 February 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸ Iran Human Rights, افراد دارای معلولیت در ایران؛ بدون حمایت دولت و خانه‌نشین (People with disabilities in Iran: Without government support and living at home), 13 February 2024, [url](#)

¹⁹ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 9



‘virtually nonexistent’,²⁰ and employment was also limited, with an estimated 60 % of Iranians with disabilities unemployed.²¹

Sources specified that financial support from the government was insufficient to meet the needs for a decent standard of living.²² A November 2025 article by Iran International stated that conditions had become ‘extremely critical’, with ‘government support far below subsistence levels’. The same source, quoting disability rights activist Behrouz Morovati, reported that a person with a severe disability would receive a stipend, subsidy, and livelihood allowance of around thirty million rials per month [approximately EUR 24], in a country where the estimated poverty line is at 300 to 700 million rials [approximately EUR 235 to 550], illustrating ‘how impossible it has become for people with disabilities to meet basic needs’.²³ Morovati further stated that the government had not fully implemented Article 27 of the law, which requires monthly disability payments to amount to at least 20 % of the annual minimum wage, and that approximately 300 000 eligible individuals were still awaiting assistance.²⁴

On access to healthcare, according to the January 2025 report by Volunteer Activists, individuals with disabilities ‘often faced barriers’ when accessing hospitals and medical clinics, as many facilities lacked essential access features such as ramps and elevators. Individuals with low vision avoided visiting healthcare providers alone due to building inaccessibility and inadequate staff assistance, and individuals with hearing loss reported that the absence of sign language interpreters prevented them from accessing healthcare services independently. The same source stated that medical equipment ‘often’ did not adequately meet the needs of patients with disabilities, services for individuals with mental disabilities were ‘scarce’ and lacked sufficient professional expertise, and the high cost of healthcare further limited access for individuals with disabilities, especially due to their low or non-existent income.²⁵ Numerous documented cases of abuses have occurred and there were issues of ‘systemic failures in oversight and accountability’, underqualified staff, overcrowding and poor sanitation in care facilities.²⁶ Corroborating information could not be found.

According to Iran’s Minister of Education between 5 000 and 6 000 children with disabilities were unable to enter mainstream schools, as reported in the Evrim Ağacı.²⁷ However, Iran Wire in January 2024 reported that the Iranian deputy education minister stated that approximately 30 000 children with disabilities were unable to attend primary schools.²⁸

²⁰ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 9

²¹ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 11

²² Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 14; Iran International, Disabled Iranians face ‘critical’ economic hardship amid soaring inflation, 7 November 2025, [url](#)

²³ Iran International, Disabled Iranians face ‘critical’ economic hardship amid soaring inflation, 7 November 2025, [url](#)

²⁴ Iran International, Disabled Iranians face ‘critical’ economic hardship amid soaring inflation, 7 November 2025, [url](#)

²⁵ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 12

²⁶ Volunteer Activists, From marginalization to equality? Report on the state of disability rights in Iran, January 2025, [url](#), p. 14

²⁷ Evrim Ağacı, Iran Faces Disability Crisis As Millions Left Behind, 1 December 2025, [url](#)

²⁸ Iran Wire, 30,000 Iranian Disabled Children Are Left Out of School, Official Says, 26 January 2024, [url](#)

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