Country: Islamic Republic of Iran

Committee: UNICEF

Agenda Item: Practicing Freedom of Religion With a Special Emphasis on Forcible Imposition of Religion on Young Children

Iran is the second-largest country in Western Asia. Iran is bordered to its east by Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan and to its west by Iraq, Armenia, and Türkiye. Iran is a multi-ethnic country that is home to numerous ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups. Iran holds in the region of 10% of the world’s oil reserves. Iran has one of the most advanced economies in the Middle East thanks to its abundant sources of petroleum and other natural sources such as natural gas, chromium, coal, etc. The estimated GDP per capita is $12,400. The spoken language of the country is Persian. Tehran is the capital of Iran, which is also the largest city in the country. Utterly, 85 million people are residing in Iran. The Persian Empire is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. Arab Muslims vanquished the Persian Empire in the seventh century, which was consecrated in the Islamization of Iran. This became a massive part of Islamic culture, literature, art, and philosophy in the aftermath. In the 20th century, Persian Constitutional Revolution took place and led to the establishment of a parliament in Iran. Iran attempted to put its fossil fuel supply under governmental control from Western firms. It caused a greater autocratic rule under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Later on the Iranian Revolution, and the contemporary Islamic Republic was instituted in 1979 by Ruhollah Khomeini. 99.6% of the population are the Muslim. 86% of the Iranian adult population is educated. The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken an active role in the United Nations since 1950.

There are tremendous amounts of beliefs and religions all around the world. According to that, there are different models for states and religion, which are secularism, theocracy, multiculturalism, etc. Iran is a theocracy on the account of the votes of the Iranian people in a national referendum in 1979, it is also a result of the country’s culture and traditions. Iranian parents have the opportunity to lead their child, who is unable to think rationally, to the right path in accordance with their adherence to a belief. This will help the children to experience upbringing in their traditional way with religion, values, and culture. It is also supported by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Iran acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and entered into force in 1976. Iran ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994.

Religious freedom may be maintained at educational institutions by organizing programs for students, which are explaining not only one religion or belief but also other religions and beliefs that are allowed in the state. Parents must be given a seminar about how to approach their children while nurturing them with cultural values.