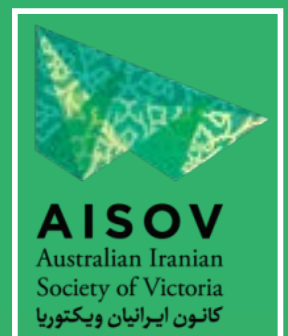




# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-23

Australian Iranian Society Of Victoria (AISOV)



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## Acknowledgement of the country



AISOV acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which we work. We pay respect to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing connections to land, sea and community, and extend respect to Traditional Owners throughout Victoria.

*we celebrate, value and include people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.*

## Acknowledgement of our Founders, Partners and Supporters

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Elders and Founders of our community for their pioneering efforts in establishing and nurturing the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV). Additionally, we would like to recognize and appreciate the<sup>S</sup> continuous involvement of the Senior Citizen Club, Australian Iranian Youth Society, and House of Persia in our endeavors.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to our esteemed partners and supporters, including The Hon Anthony Albanese PM, The Hon Daniel Andrews, Senator The Hon. Penny Wong, Parliament Of Victoria, Business Victoria, Department Of Home Affairs, Department Of Foreign Affairs, Australian Federal Police (AFP), Victoria Police, Manningham City Council, Whitehorse City Council, City Of Boroondara, Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC), Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), Ethnic Communities Council Of Victoria (ECCV), Afghan Australian Initiative (AAI), Partners In Wellbeing, North Eastern Public Health Unit (NEPHU), Hon. Natalie Hutchins, Senator John Pesutto, Senator Clair Chandler, Senator Ann-Marie Hermans, Senator Samantha Ratnam, Senator Keith Wolahan, Senator Nick McGowan, Vodafone, and numerous other organizations and individuals who, over the past twelve months, have generously provided both in-kind and monetary support in our ongoing efforts to stand by and uplift our community, especially during these challenging times for the Iranian community.

# President's Message

Last year marked a significant chapter of advocacy and empowerment for us. Right after the challenges posed by the pandemic, the mass nationwide movement of "Woman, Life, Freedom" and the uprising of our fellow Iranians in Iran, Australia, and globally touched the core of our identity and unsettled us deeply. Whilst we mourned the loss of innocent lives and our hearts broke for the imprisonment of brave souls; we celebrated the bravery and selflessness of those fighting for their rights. Their and our collective struggle continues. We continue to stand in solidarity from afar with the same brave souls, who continue to resist.

Acknowledging the hardships our community has endured, we organized free-of-charge workshops and events to bolster the mental well-being of our community. Concurrently, we fostered many connections with policymakers and activists, aiming to amplify the voice of the people of Iran. These endeavors not only aligned with our mission of promoting unity, cultural awareness, and social justice but also bound us together in our collective pursuit of justice and equality.

Looking forward, we're excited to build upon our accomplishments. We're delighted to announce that we've not only achieved our 2022-2023 goals but also stand ready to deliver even more robust, organized, and streamlined services to our members. Our goal is to pass on a resilient community

organization to the next generation, fortified by the lessons of the past and the promises of the future.

In line with our unwavering commitment to expanding human rights activities, we're planning to undertake this strategic Move of updating our constitution, subject to approval by special resolution of the members. This will empower us to embrace a broader spectrum of human rights initiatives, thereby reinforcing our community-centered endeavors.

As we navigate the path ahead, challenges may arise, but our determination remains unyielding. Reflecting on our accomplishments, it's unmistakable that our advocacy for justice and equality mirrors the broader efforts unfolding on the streets of Iran. While our actions may entail risks, our collective voice radiates as a beacon of hope. Together, we've played a pivotal role in a movement for change.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Management Committee and Members for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

With heartfelt gratitude for your steadfast support and shared aspirations.



**Afrooz Rahimian**

President, Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV)

# Strategic Planning Highlights

In 2021, the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) embarked on a transformative journey to be able to deliver a stronger, more organised and streamlined work, thanks to a significant collaboration with MosaicLab (ML). As a respected entity with a history of strategic planning, ML was the obvious choice to guide our Management Committee in the strategic planning process. We are deeply grateful to the community leaders and members who actively participated, generously sharing their insights and perspectives.

Through meaningful efforts, we have defined our Vision and Mission for the medium term. However, we understand that these aspects are not set in stone; they remain flexible and adaptable, open to evaluation and refinement. With our community evolving, we are committed to assessing our transition and adjusting our strategies to meet the changing needs.

In response to recent events in Iran, we have taken proactive measures in Advocacy and Human Rights. Our determination to advocate the rights and well-being of the people of Iran has powered our passion for these endeavours. We stand in solidarity with those affected, offering support through various means.

Looking ahead, we are expanding our mission to explicitly include "Human Rights

Activities." This reflects our solid dedication to advocating for human rights and supporting those who have been unjustly impacted. By incorporating this into our mission, we strengthen our commitment to creating a more equitable, just, and compassionate society. This pledge extends beyond our immediate community, as we strive to make a positive impact far and wide.



May 2022

Australian Iranian Society of Victoria

## STRATEGIC PLAN



# AISOV

Australian Iranian Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا

### VISION

AISOV supports and builds solidarity among all Iranians, and aims to preserve cultural values, enhance mutual respect, and create rapport with the broader society.

کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا بنیادی است برای حمایت و ایجاد همبستگی میان کلیه ایرانیان، که با هدف حفظ ارزش های فرهنگی، احترام متقابل و برقراری ارتباط موثر با جامعه فعالیت می کند.

### FOCUS AREAS

Focus areas show what the areas of our mission prioritise over the coming five years and cover what we will do to progress the vision as an organisation.

AISOV  
Australian Iranian Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا



1

TITLE

### Build solidarity and enhance mutual respect

DESCRIPTION

Build solidarity and enhance mutual respect within the Iranian community to celebrate our diversity.

ایجاد همبستگی و افزایش احترام متقابل بین جامعه ایرانی با ترویج ارزش های مشترک.

2

TITLE

### Develop networks and referral systems

DESCRIPTION

Identify and support the needs of diverse groups of Iranians through building partnership and referral networks.

شناخت نیازها و کمک به ایرانیان از طریق ایجاد شبکه های ارتباطی موثر و ارجاع به سازمان های مرتبط.

3

TITLE

### Build rapport to nurture culture

DESCRIPTION

Connect the community and build rapport with broader society by promotion of shared culture and language.

ترویج فرهنگ و ارزش های زبان مادری با برگزاری برنامه های اجتماعی، فرهنگی و آموزشی و معرفی آن ها به جامعه چند فرهنگی استرالیا.

# Focus Area 1: Build Solidarity and Enhance Mutual Respect

## "How to Communicate with Children and Adolescents about Crisis" Webinar

AISOV has been actively organizing a series of impactful workshops for our community, which play a vital role in fostering solidarity within the Iranian community in Victoria. These events have provided invaluable opportunities for our members to come together, share their experiences, and celebrate our shared heritage and culture. Through these interactive workshops, we have successfully built a strong sense of unity, respect, and understanding among participants.

Some of the noteworthy workshops we have conducted include:

On October 22, 2022, we organized a valuable webinar in Persian, titled "How to Communicate with Children and Adolescents about Crisis," featuring the expertise of a child and family psychologist and therapist. The experience of social crises can be incredibly challenging and complex, and children are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of such circumstances.

In an effort to support Iranian families and their children, we hosted a session that addressed parental concerns and taught effective strategies for engaging with children during crisis situations. The webinar aimed to empower parents to have meaningful conversations with their children and provide them with the necessary care during difficult times.

The session was held on Zoom and was provided free of charge to participants. We welcomed all interested individuals to join us and benefit from the expert insights and guidance offered by the child psychologist and therapist. The event served as a vital platform to assist families in navigating crises and fostering a supportive environment for their children's well-being.



# Harmful Impacts Of Gambling Webinar

On November 8th, 2022, we organized an enlightening online webinar focusing on the detrimental effects of gambling. The session was expertly led by Peter Jankowski, a respected member of the Australian Counsellors Association and The Alliance for Gambling Reform. With a wealth of experience, Mr. Jankowski delved into the complexities of addiction and its association with gambling behaviours.

Throughout the webinar, he explored various thought patterns, common misconceptions, and cognitive traps associated with gambling. Attendees gained valuable insights into the root causes of addiction and the ways in which negative thought patterns can contribute to compulsive behaviours. The discussion also emphasized the short-term allure of gambling and the long-term challenges it poses, transforming momentary pleasure into lasting pain.

The webinar successfully fostered a deeper understanding of the harmful impacts of gambling, equipping participants with practical tools for recognizing and addressing addictive behaviors. The Australian Iranian Society of Victoria expresses its sincere appreciation to Mr. Peter Jankowski for his invaluable contribution to this insightful event.

## روزهای پر استرس، قمار و تاثیرات منفی آن

- Why are we getting addicted to anything including gambling?
- Common false believes and Self Talk
- Common Phrases we all heard before
- Automatic Negative Thought
- Short term pleasure, long term pain

**Livestream**

Speaker

**Peter Jankowski**

*(Director at East Melbourne  
Psychotherapy and Hypnotherapy)*

**Tuesday, Nov 8**

**From 8:30pm -9:30pm**

Register Now

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/>



# Cake Baking for Cultural Celebration

The Baking and Decorating class with Neda was a great opportunity to learn new baking and decorating techniques for our participants. It was fun and very enjoyable experience for everyone. Learning how to make traditional desserts is a valuable experience that not only provides new baking techniques, but also helps to preserve cultural heritage.

Overall, this workshop provided an excellent opportunity for participants to learn new baking and decorating skills, as well as experience new cultural flavours. Participants have left the class with new knowledge and practical skills that they can apply in their own baking and cooking endeavours.



**FREE BAKING &  
CAKE DECORATING CLASS**

JOIN OUR FREE BAKING CLASS ON APRIL 9TH!  
HURRY! AND BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW, AS SPACE IS  
**LIMITED**

TO REGISTER, SIMPLY TEXT THE NUMBER LISTED  
ON THIS POST.

**Sunday 9th of April 4pm-6pm**  
**Call 0413714429 to register**  
**1/79 Mahoneys Rd, Forest Hill VIC 3131**

# Correctional Movement and Exercise Workshop

On April 16th, we successfully hosted a Correctional Movement and Exercise Workshop led by Mr. Mohammad Sadegh Zadeh. This interactive session focused on improving physical well-being through corrective movements, aligning with AISOV's commitment to community health and mutual respect. This exemplifies our dedication to providing valuable resources for our members' personal growth and well-being.



کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا برگزار می‌کند

**کارگاه حرکات اصلاحی و تمرینات تناسب اندام**

- تکنیک صحیح حرکات و تمرینات مورد نیاز بانوان و آقایان جهت فرم دهی و تناسب اندام
- پیشگیری از آسیب‌های ورزشی
- حرکات اصلاحی و توانبخشی جهت کاهش دردهای مزمن مفصلی و بهبود کارایی عضلات
- تمرینات خاص قبل، حین و بعد از دوران بارداری بانوان و مادران گرامی

در راستای پیشگیری از عارضه های ستون فقرات و مفصل (زانو، لگن، شانه، گردن و ...)

این کارگاه در چند بخش با حضور محمد صادق زاده کارشناس ارشد فیزیولوژی ورزش و مربی فیتنس و حرکات اصلاحی برگزار خواهد شد.

**TEXT 0413714429 TO REGISTER**

یکشنبه ۱۶ آوریل ساعت ۱۰ تا ۱۲  
1/79 Mahoneys Rd, Forest Hill VIC 31

# Letter Writing Workshop

## Mastering the Art of Official Correspondence



On May 28th, we successfully hosted an extensive Letter Writing Workshop, led by Ms. Shirin Khalifi, aimed at empowering our community members with essential skills for crafting effective and professional correspondence. The workshop delved into the nuances of formal letter writing, providing valuable insights into administrative communication conventions and etiquettes.

Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in interactive sessions, refining their abilities to compose official letters, requests, and documentation with precision and clarity. Through this enlightening event, our goal was to equip the community with the expertise to confidently navigate the intricacies of official correspondence. We take pride in offering our members valuable tools to enhance their communication skills, further solidifying our dedication to fostering mutual respect and understanding within the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria.

# Business Victoria Seminar

## Navigating Business and Investment Visa holders in Victoria



A promotional poster for a seminar. At the top left, a red tag says "FREE". The main title in Persian is "سمینار" (Seminar). Below it, the subtitle reads "آشنایی با راهکارهای جذب مشتری و خدمات رایگان دولت ویکتوریا" (Introduction to customer attraction strategies and free government services in Victoria). The date and time are "4TH یکشنبه 4TH JUNE 2023 16:00 TO 18:00 PM". Logos for Business Victoria and the Victorian Government are present. The speakers listed are "پيام فضلی" (Peyman Fazel), "Nick Yan" (Director of Business Migration), and "Jie Lio" (Senior Business Migration Officer). A registration link is provided at the bottom: "TO REGISTER Text +61 8 1379 6439".

On June 4th, we conducted an informative workshop led by Business Victoria, focusing on aiding business owners and immigrants with Business and Investment Visas in Victoria. The event provided a chance for attendees to connect with senior executives and government representatives from the Business and Migration sector. A lively Q&A session offered insights into government-provided free services to bolster businesses. Topics included strategies for expanding customer bases and effectively utilizing social media platforms. This highly sought-after workshop reached full capacity, leaving participants equipped with valuable insights and tools to enhance their business endeavors and seize opportunities in Victoria. Our partnership with Business Victoria underscores our dedication to empowering the community and supporting their success in Australia.



# Mind, Genes, and Meditation Session

We recently hosted the enlightening Mind, Genes, and Meditation Workshop on July 30th. Dr. Arzoo Onsori, a distinguished educator and genetics and Reiki researcher, led this captivating event, delving into the intriguing realm of epigenetics. Participants gained an understanding of the significant impact of thoughts on genetic expression and explored how meditation and mindfulness can profoundly affect both mental and physical well-being.

In line with our commitment to supporting and enhancing the well-being of the Iranian community, this workshop emphasized the importance of self-awareness and mindfulness in cultivating a balanced lifestyle. Attendees departed the session armed with invaluable insights into positively influencing their genetic expression through conscious thoughts and actions. The workshop's impact resonated with the community, fostering empowerment and a deeper appreciation for the intricate link between mental and physical health.



# Navigating Menopause with Confidence

## Empowerment and Self-Care Workshop



On August 6th, we successfully hosted the "Navigating Menopause with Confidence: Empowerment and Self-Care" workshop. This enriching session was conducted via Zoom and live-streamed on Facebook, providing participants with transformative insights into embracing health and well-being during the menopausal journey. Ms. Maryam Jahangirifard, a PHD candidate from Monash University, expertly guided the workshop, equipping attendees with effective self-care strategies and valuable tools for navigating this significant life transition.

Tailored to women experiencing premenopause or menopause, as well as those seeking insights into women's health and well-being, the event fostered a sense of community and support. The engaging discussions and shared experiences among participants were heartening, as they approached menopause with newfound confidence and resilience. As an organization dedicated to promoting unity and empowerment, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide this invaluable resource to our community members.



## The "Melbourne Poetry Night Group"



The "Melbourne Poetry Night Group" continues to hold their gatherings consistently at AISOV's office, with an average attendance of approximately 20 to 30 members per session, which occur on the last Sunday of every month. This dedicated platform provides us all with the opportunity to bring together enthusiasts of poetry, culture, and literature in Farsi, creating an hour of shared camaraderie and mutual appreciation. We extend our special thanks to the members of this group for their efforts in running these sessions seamlessly and for their valuable contribution to the community.



## Focus Area 2: Develop Networks and Referral Systems



The 'You, Me and MPs: Leadership in Action' workshop, conducted jointly by Eastern Community Legal Centre and Parliament of Victoria, was held at Box Hill Town Hall on Saturday, 8 July 2023. This engaging event aimed to strengthen community engagement and leadership by providing participants with a unique opportunity to interact with members of parliament, gaining valuable insights into parliamentary processes and learning effective advocacy skills for their communities. Through practical, interactive sessions and a Q&A panel featuring legislative members, the workshop fostered a sense of empowerment and encouraged participants to take an active role in shaping the future of their communities.



# Multicultural Leaders Event

We were delighted to participate in the Multicultural Leaders Event, a significant occasion held at the Parliament of Victoria on May 11th, 2023. This event provided a powerful platform to enhance cultural rapport and understanding by bringing together leaders from diverse cultural and multifaith communities. Senator John Pesutto, State Opposition Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia, along with distinguished figures including Peter Walsh MP, Georgie Crozier MP, David Southwick MP, and Trung Luu MP, extended a warm invitation, highlighting the invaluable contributions of multicultural communities to Victoria's strength and prosperity. Their presence underscored the importance of unity in our multicultural society.

Throughout this impactful forum, we witnessed a shared dedication to collaborative efforts between political leaders and multicultural communities for a better future. This inclusive approach resonates deeply with our belief in the strength of diversity and its potential to enrich our community.

Senator Pesutto specifically highlighted the importance of engaging with organizations like ours, expressing his eagerness to hear more from us. He emphasized that there will be future similar events aimed at bringing together community leaders and political representatives. This encouraging feedback reinforces our commitment to participating actively in these opportunities. This event marks a significant step towards an inclusive society where differences are celebrated and united to create a stronger and more vibrant Victoria.



# Focus Area 3: Build Rapport to Nurture Culture

## Nowruz Celebration

Commemoration of Woman, Life, Freedom

The Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) hosted a significant Nowruz event on March 2023, 21, at the Parliament of Victoria, drawing attention from diverse communities, activists, and politicians. The solemn occasion, held for the third consecutive year, served as a heartfelt commemoration of Iranian culture and traditions, focusing on the Women, Life, Freedom theme. The event witnessed a remarkable turnout of approximately 100 guests, including esteemed leaders of communities, passionate activists, politicians, and representatives from various organizations.

The event at the Parliament of Victoria provided a unique opportunity for AISOV to bring together a diverse group of individuals who shared a common interest in supporting Iranian culture and advocating for the rights and freedom of women in Iran. Among the distinguished attendees were the Mayor of Manningham, representatives from the Australian Federal Police (AFP), and guests from prominent community organizations. The event also saw the presence of parliamentary representatives, including Hon. Natalie Hutchins, who conveyed a message from Premier Daniel Andrews, and Leader of Opposition, John Pesutto, both of whom extended their support to the community. Additionally, Senator Claire Chandler, Shadow Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, sent a statement expressing her solidarity with the event's theme, which was read by the event's Master of Ceremonies. The participation

of these esteemed politicians underscored the significance of the event and highlighted the strong bonds forged between AISOV and various stakeholders in the community.

As a testament to the event's significance, it garnered attention from Radio Neshaat and Iran International, which broadcasted the proceedings, amplifying the voices and messages conveyed during the event to a broader audience. The Nowruz event, with its notable attendees and powerful performances by Iranian artists, was a testament to AISOV's commitment to nurturing and celebrating Iranian culture while fostering solidarity and advocacy for human rights, especially the rights of women in Iran.



I extend my warmest wishes to all celebrating Nowruz and looking forward with hope to a coming year of peace, happiness and renewal.

People all over the world who value human rights, women's rights and the rights of all people to live in peace and safety, are wishing for a new year which brings those rights to life for the people of Iran.

The Women, Life, Freedom movement which has emerged from Iran over the last six months has brought the world's attention to the oppression of the people of Iran, especially Iranian women and girls.

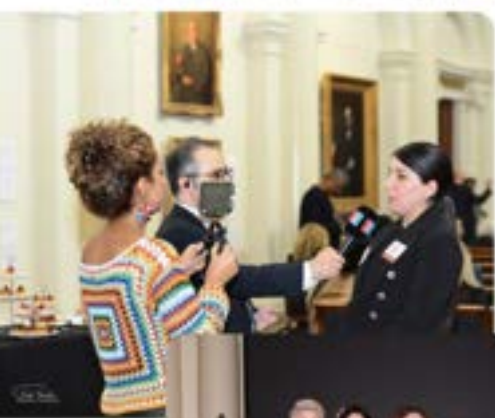
The incredible courage demonstrated by Iranian people, led by women and girls who have so bravely spoken up in protest and defiance, has inspired millions of people here in Australia and all over the world.

Today, we stand with the people of Iran in support of Women, Life, Freedom and what we hope is the long-awaited renewal of women's rights and human rights in Iran.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Nowruz and a safe and prosperous new year.

Senator Claire Chandler

42 Bridge Street, Richmond, TAS 7025 | 03 6260 2018  
Senator.Chandler@aph.gov.au | senator@chandler.com.au | SenatorChandler







# Cancellation of Mehregaan Celebration

## A Gesture of Solidarity and Empathy

Regrettably, we have canceled the Mehregaan celebration online event due to the ongoing situation in Iran and in solidarity with those who have lost their lives during the protests. As an organization dedicated to fostering solidarity and empathy, we believe it is essential to acknowledge the gravity of the current events in Iran and honor the memory of those affected. While we had eagerly anticipated celebrating Mehregaan together, the prevailing circumstances demand our attention and compassion. Our thoughts are with the people of Iran during this challenging time, and we remain committed to supporting the Iranian community in Australia and advocating for human rights and justice. Together, we stand united, hopeful for a brighter future where cultural celebrations can be enjoyed in a more peaceful and inclusive environment.



# R U OK Day Online Event

## Fostering Mental Health and Connection

Our R U OK Day online event on 8th September was a resounding success, with over 2000 views. The event aimed to promote mental health awareness and strengthen community connections during challenging times.

The lineup featured esteemed guests who shared valuable insights on mental health. Ms. Tabassom Ostad discussed "Self-Compassion," while Mr. Pedram Akbari introduced the book "Lost Connections." Mr. James Grima from Men's Health led a compelling discussion on support groups for men, and Mr. Hanif Jaber Pour highlighted the importance of seeking help. The event also included a soothing meditation session led by Ms. Arezou Onsoni.

We were honored to host a diverse audience and various organizations. The event exemplified our commitment to supporting mental health and fostering meaningful connections within the Iranian-Australian community and beyond. Through such initiatives, we strive to create a compassionate environment where individuals can feel empowered to seek help and connect with others during challenging times.

امروز در استرالیا روز احوالپرسی است. روزی که به ما یادآوری میکند تا از احوال اطرافیانمان با خبر شویم و بپرسیم که آیا واقعا حالشان خوب است؟ یک مکالمه ساده میتواند جان افراد را نجات دهد پس دریغ نکنیم.

اغلب ما قدرت یک لمس دوستانه، یک لیکنند، یک کلمه پرمهر و یک گوش شنوا و یک نشان کوچک از اهمیت دادن را نادیده میگیریم. کاش بدانیم که هر کدام از این کارها میتواند یک زندگی را تغییر دهد.

کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا به همین مناسبت امشب برنامه آنلاینی برای شما تدارک دیده است. در این برنامه با این عزیزان خواهیم بود:

- ♦ در ستایش کمک خواستن" با آقای حنیف جابری پور
- ♦ دکتر نکیسا ملکوتی در مورد ایونت Carers Saturday cuppa and chat
- ♦ "خوددوستی" با خانم تبسم استاد
- ♦ معرفی کتاب "روابط از دست رفته" با آقای پدram اکبری
- ♦ خانم سحر فلیزاده با سوال و جواب با شما در رابطه با سلامت روان در استرالیا
- ♦ توضیحاتی در رابطه با گروههای حمایت از آقایان با آقای James Grima
- ♦ مدیریتش با خانم آرزو عنصری

اگر سوالی از هر کدام از مهمانان عزیز برنامه دارید لطفا در لایو فیس بوک بپرسید تا در برنامه به شما پاسخ داده شود.

زمان: پنجشنبه هشتم سپتامبر ۲۰۲۲  
ساعت: ۷ تا ۸ شب به صورت لایو در فیسبوک  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا  
لینک برنامه:

<https://fb.me/e/3KWYAVQpJ>

# ADVOCACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES

At the heart of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) lies a strong commitment to advocating for human rights and social justice. Throughout the year, we have tirelessly worked to make a difference in the lives of those facing challenges, particularly in Iran. Our advocacy initiatives have been driven by a profound belief in the importance of standing in solidarity with the oppressed and striving for a more just and equitable world.

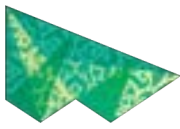
Through strategic partnerships, we have united our efforts to amplify the voices of those affected by human rights violations. These collaborations have allowed us to participate in meaningful discussions and advocate for change at local and international levels. Moreover, our active engagement with various organizations has strengthened our resolve to foster an inclusive and compassionate global community.

In addition to formal partnerships, our members have actively contributed to human rights campaigns through letter-writing initiatives, petitions, and online awareness campaigns. By harnessing the collective power of our community, we have successfully shed light on pressing human rights issues and garnered support for positive action. As we continue on this journey, we remain dedicated to using our platform to empower voices for change

and championing the cause of human rights with unwavering determination. Below are some of the advocacy and human rights activities we have undertaken:

- We took proactive action by sending letters to the Prime Minister, urging him to address the alarming human rights violations and political unrest in Iran. His response not only acknowledged our efforts but also expressed genuine concern about the situation. This meaningful exchange with the Prime Minister has further strengthened our resolve to persist in advocating for human rights and supporting those affected by the events in Iran. As an organization dedicated to fostering solidarity, we remain steadfast in our mission to amplify the voices of those facing challenges, striving to create a more just and equitable world for all. Our commitment to empowering our community and standing in solidarity with the people of Iran remains resolute.





**AISOV**  
Australian Iranian  
Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا

**Address:** 79 Mahoney Rd, Forest Hill VIC 3131

**Phone:** 98942644

**Website:** [www.aisov.org.au](http://www.aisov.org.au)

**Email:** [info@aisov.org.au](mailto:info@aisov.org.au)

**Date:** 09/10/2022

The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

### **Re Recent assault on the democratic rights of the Iranian people by the tyrannical regime in Iran**

Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) is the Victorian peak body representing Australian Iranians in Victoria. We have been in operation since the late 1980. We are writing to you on behalf of our community whose hearts are broken by the news of the brutal and barbaric killings of innocent people in Iran whose only crime is the longing for the basic liberties that we are very fortunate to be enjoying here.

As you may be aware, few weeks ago, Mahsa Amini; a 22-year-old young Kurdish Iranian woman was arrested for reportedly not wearing her hijab properly. Mahsa died in three days later in custody and as a result of the injuries sustained whilst in custody of the so-called morality police. Masah's death released the collective anguish of many Iranians mostly brave women; who'd endured 40 plus years of the Iranian regime's oppression.

As we watch the bravery of our fellow brothers' and sisters in Iran our hearts are broken. But as Australian-Iranians, we are determined to stand in solidarity with them and despite the heartbreak, our determination to keep the flame alive will not yield. To keep going we need your help and assistance more than ever before. We seek support in relation to the following:

- Formal acknowledgement by the Prime Minister of the Iranian peoples' struggle for freedom and human rights and denouncement of violence inflicted on people during the protests.
- Monetary assistance to enable us to promote the plight of the Iranian in Iran.
- Specific support for the mental health of our community members confronted daily by news of brutal treatment and killings of Iranians particularly some of their loved ones from afar.
- Whilst we appreciate the Federal Government protocols and risk assessment may not support our request, we urge the Australian Government to consider expelling regime's diplomats and their associate family members from Australia. We were encouraged by the humanitarian support offered to those fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukrainian and respectfully request that the same considerations are extended to those within our community who have been living in limbo or languishing in various detention centers for the past decade or so to be granted permanent residency.

We stand ready to provide further particulars in relation to the above at your request. With our sincere thanks in advance, we look forward to your kind and urgent reply.

Afroz Rahimian  
AISOV President

*A. Rahimian*



11 November 2022

Ref: MC22-009714

Ms Afrooz Rahimian  
President  
Australian Iranian Society of Victoria  
info@aisov.org.au.

Dear Ms Rahimian

Thank you for your letter of 9 October 2022 on behalf of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria, regarding the death of Ms Mahsa Amini and the ongoing protests in Iran. I am replying on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP.

The Australian Government condemns the deadly and disproportionate use of force against protestors in Iran, following the tragic death of Ms Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman whose Kurdish name was Jina. We most recently raised our concerns regarding the brutal crackdown on protestors directly with the Iranian Embassy in Canberra on 2 November 2022.

Australia supports calls led by the Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for a prompt, impartial investigation into Ms Amini's death by an independent body, which ensures her family has access to truth and justice, with those responsible held to account.

We are alarmed by reports that hundreds of people have been killed and many more injured, including dozens of children, as a result of the heavy-handed measures Iranian authorities have implemented to crack down on ongoing protests. Australia supports the right of the Iranian people to protest peacefully and calls on the Iranian authorities to exercise restraint in response to ongoing demonstrations.

On 26 October and 9 November 2022, the Prime Minister publicly condemned the crackdown by the Iranian authorities, called on Iran to respect the rights of peaceful protestors, and expressed support for Iranian women and girls.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, released a joint statement with Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, the Minister for Finance, Minister for the Public Service, and Minister for Women, on 27 September 2022, condemning the violent crackdown in Iran and expressing support for Iranian women and girls. The Minister for Foreign Affairs made additional public statements on Twitter, expressing concern, on 29 September 2022, 10 October 2022, 21 October and 3 November 2022.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs also met with representatives of the Iranian community in Australia and Amnesty International following protests in Canberra on 27 September 2022, and delivered a video statement to a 20 October meeting of women foreign ministers, chaired by Canadian Foreign Minister Joly, regarding the horrific situation in Iran.

Australia, with Canada and New Zealand, made a statement to the United Nations (UN) Security Council's Arria-formula meeting on 2 November 2022, expressing our deep concerns with the human rights situation in Iran and Iran's unacceptable excessive use of force in response to the protests. The Australian Government has also made our views clear through a number of other multilateral statements.

Regarding the potential expulsion of Iran's Ambassador to Australia, the Australian Government considers embassies and diplomatic staff to be essential for maintaining official channels of communication between governments.

Iranian nationals who arrived in Australia on a valid visa, who wish to seek protection and are found to engage Australia's non-refoulement obligations may be granted permanent protection provided they are also able to fulfil the relevant visa criteria, which includes the health, character and security requirements that apply to all Australian visas. Each case is assessed on its individual merits and Protection visa decisions are not based on broad assumptions about the safety in particular countries.

Australia stands with Iranian women and girls in their struggle for equality and empowerment, and we call on Iran to cease its oppression of women. We are committed to promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, and ending violence against women and girls worldwide.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Gemma Huggins  
Assistant Secretary  
Middle East Branch

**SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG**  
Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dear Afrooz

We have all been moved by the bravery of the Iranian people and appalled by the brutality of the Iranian regime towards its own citizens.

It has long been the case that Australia and our partners have limited direct influence on Iran.

But we are at the forefront of international efforts to put pressure on Iran, helping build coalitions of countries to call out Iran's human rights violations at every opportunity, and working to get Iran removed from the UN Commission for the Status of Women.

Australia co-sponsored and advocated for the Human Rights Council resolution for the establishment of an independent fact-finding mission to investigate human rights violations in Iran.

We have joined partners in sanctioning three Iranian individuals and one business involved in the supply of drones to Russia for use against Ukraine.

We have imposed Magnitsky-style human rights sanctions on six individuals and two entities, including Iran's Morality Police, over their involvement in the Iranian regime's abhorrent, flagrant and continued human rights violations.

We also consistently put our views directly to Iran. The Foreign Minister, Senator Penny Wong, has written to Iran's Foreign Minister. We have summoned the Chargé on numerous occasions. Our Ambassador has made representations in Tehran, including directly to the Deputy Foreign Minister.

But the regime is paranoid and it is ruthless. That's why we don't name specific individuals being persecuted in Iran - because it can make things worse for them, and it can put their family and friends at risk.

So we have to be deliberate and strategic about what we can do to put pressure on the regime to uphold human rights, while making sure nothing we do leads to any harm.

The Foreign Minister's recent statements on Iran are available below:

Joint Statement of the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada and New Zealand on the Execution of Protesters in Iran - 16 December 2022

Targeted sanctions in response to Iranian and Russian human rights violations and invasion of Ukraine - 10 December 2022

Joint Statement Through the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse on Standing with the Women and Girls of Iran - 9 December 2022

Australia condemns violent crackdown in Iran - 27 September 2022

Yours sincerely

**OFFICE OF SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG**



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

27 October 2022

Ref: MC22-009576

Mr Afrooz Rahimian  
info@aisov.org.au

Dear Mr Rahimian

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 October 2022 regarding the death of Ms Mahsa Amini and ongoing protests in Iran. I am replying on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong.

The Australian Government condemns the deadly and disproportionate use of force against protestors in Iran, following the tragic death of Ms Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman whose Kurdish name was Jina. We most recently raised our concerns regarding the brutal crackdown on protestors directly with the Iranian Embassy in Canberra on 13 October 2022.

Australia supports calls led by the Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for a prompt, impartial investigation into Ms Amini's death by an independent body, which ensures her family has access to truth and justice, with those responsible held to account.

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Australia signed on to a joint statement at the 51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council on 30 September 2022, denouncing the excessive use of force by the Iranian authorities. On 20 October 2022, the Minister for Foreign Affairs delivered a video statement to a meeting of women foreign ministers, chaired by Canadian Foreign Minister Joly, where we discussed the horrific situation in Iran. The Australian Government has also made our views clear through a number of other multilateral statements.

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T +61 2 6261 1111

DFAT.GOV.AU  
#DFAT

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Yours sincerely

Gemma Huggins  
Assistant Secretary  
Middle East Branch

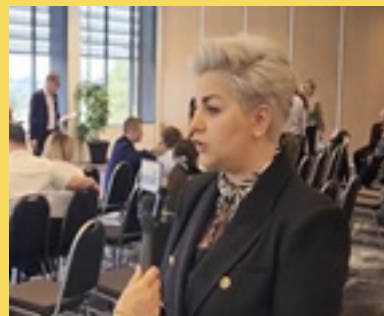
• We have also received a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, acknowledging our letter on 10th October 2022. The Australian Government's condemnation of the use of force against protestors in Iran and its support for a prompt and impartial investigation into Ms Mahsa Amini's death align with our concerns about human rights violations. We are encouraged by the Government's efforts to denounce violence in Iran and promote gender equality, resonating with our vision for a more just and equitable world. Thank you for standing with us as we support the people of Iran during these challenging times.



- We had the honor of receiving a second letter from Minister Penny Wong on 20th of January 2023, stating that Australia and its international partners remain committed to addressing the human rights violations in Iran and standing in solidarity with the Iranian people. The letter outlined the strategic efforts undertaken by Australia to exert pressure on the Iranian regime while safeguarding the safety of those affected. It reaffirmed Australia's commitment to advocating for human rights and highlighted the joint statements and actions taken with global partners to address the concerning situation in Iran. Minister Wong's correspondence serves as a testament to the ongoing dialogue and collaboration between our community and the Australian government in seeking justice and promoting human rights principles in Iran.

- We initiated a letter-writing campaign to many phone service providers in Australia during the crackdowns in Iran, which resulted in internet disruptions and difficulties for Iranians to communicate with their loved ones. Our heartfelt plea urged these providers to extend their support by offering free or discounted rates for calls to Iran. As a positive outcome, the owners of Vodafone, TPG, Kogan, and several others graciously responded, offering free phone calls to Iran until the 21st of October.

- We participated in a memorial service of Mahsa Amini's event organized by Manningham Council to raise awareness about violence against women in Iran. With the honorable presence of Mayor and Senator Keith Wolahan, we gathered peacefully to honor the bravery of Iranian women. Representatives from various Iranian groups were also in attendance. We deeply appreciate Manningham Council's meaningful gesture in organizing this event, and Senator Wolahan expressed his commitment to supporting Iranians in his speech. Together, we stand united in advocating for a safer and more equitable society for all.



- In our ongoing pursuit of upholding human rights and fostering a sense of community, we took the initiative to send a letter to Minister Andrew Giles, who serves as the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services, and Multicultural Affairs of Australia. In the letter, we expressed our concerns about the challenges faced by Iranian community members who are residents of Australia, particularly those who arrived as asylum seekers. We firmly believe that every individual should be afforded dignity, safety, and a sense of belonging in their adopted homeland.

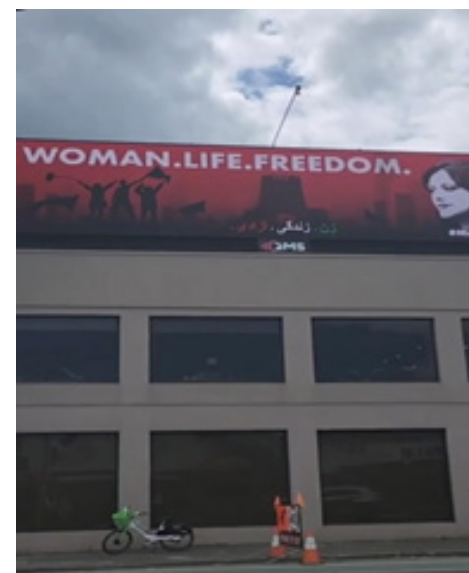
As advocates for human rights, we strive to create an inclusive environment where every member of our community feels heard and supported. While we have not received a reply yet, we are determined to follow up and continue our efforts in addressing the pressing issues and promoting the well-being of those who have sought refuge in Australia.

Our commitment to advocating for human rights remains unwavering as we endeavor to build a better future for all members of our community.



- In our dedication to supporting Iranian artists and activists, we have actively shared their events, galleries, performances, and activities. Our aim has been to amplify their voices, promote their work, and raise awareness about the situation in Iran among both the Iranian community and a wider audience. Through these efforts, we've sought to empower our community members to become advocates for the people in Iran and to inspire engagement and solidarity from individuals outside our community.

By offering a platform to Iranian artists and activists, our goal is to cultivate a deeper understanding of their perspectives and challenges. We firmly believe that art and activism possess the ability to transcend cultural barriers and resonate with universal values like justice, freedom, and human rights. Through our support and promotion, we strive to contribute to a heightened sense of empathy and global awareness, ultimately working towards





- We engaged in a meeting with Ms. Zoe Williams at the Department of Home Affairs on November 2022 ,21. During this meeting, we provided comprehensive explanations about the ongoing situation in Iran and presented several crucial requests to her and the Australian government. Our primary focus was on expediting visa processing, particularly for asylum visas, to offer support to Iranian nationals residing in Australia. Additionally, we put forward the idea of creating a new subclass visa tailored specifically for Iranians who face insecurity returning to their homeland.

In our discussions, we also highlighted the necessity for heightened backing from Australian politicians and media in addressing recent developments in Iran. We stressed the importance of creating more platforms for Iranians' voices to be heard, along with increased attention from Australian authorities towards the conditions in Iran. Our requests encompassed advocating for the rights of political prisoners, preventing the execution of protesters, and taking measures to enhance the security of organizers and participants in gatherings held in Melbourne.



- We collaborated on a joint submission presented to the Australian Senate Committee on Human Rights regarding human rights violations in Iran. This submission was a collective effort by various associations, including the Australian Iranian Societies of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, and Canberra. The submission focused on highlighting the ongoing human rights abuses in Iran and urged the Australian government to take action in response to these violations. Through our joint efforts, we aimed to raise awareness and advocate for the protection of human rights in Iran, reflecting our commitment to supporting the Iranian community and standing in solidarity with those affected by these injustices.





•In response to Iran's appointment as Chair of the U.N. Human Rights Council 2023 Social Forum, we have promptly reached out to the United Nations expressing our deep concerns. Given Iran's troubling history of human rights abuses, including severe punishments for expressing opinions on social media, we cannot ignore the potential consequences of this appointment. Our communication to the United Nations outlines the worrisome rationale behind this decision and urges immediate action to prevent Iran from assuming such a crucial role. We firmly emphasize our plea for decisive measures to uphold the principles of human rights and ensure that nations with questionable human rights records are not given authoritative positions within the U.N. Human Rights Council. Our unwavering stance reflects our dedication to advocating for a just and equitable world.





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Phone: 98942644

Website: [www.aisov.org.au](http://www.aisov.org.au)

Email: [info@aisov.org.au](mailto:info@aisov.org.au)

Date: 16 May 2023

United Nations Secretary-General  
United Nations Headquarters  
405 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017  
United States of America

**Subject: Urgent Appeal to Stop Iran Regime from Chairing U.N. Human Rights Council Forum**

Dear United Nations Secretary-General,

On behalf of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV), we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the recent appointment of the Islamic Republic of Iran as Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Council 2023 Social Forum. As an organisation dedicated to promoting human rights, social justice, and democracy, we find this decision profoundly troubling. We urgently appeal to you to take immediate action to rectify this situation and prevent the Iranian regime from assuming such a significant role within the United Nations.

The appointment of the Islamic Republic of Iran as Chair of the U.N. Human Rights Council 2023 Social Forum is deeply disturbing. Iran's track record of human rights violations is well-documented, with recent events further highlighting their repressive nature. We are appalled by the execution of Yousef Mehraz and Sedroolah Fazel Zare solely for using social media to express their criticism of religious matters. Such acts are a clear violation of freedom of expression and an affront to the principles of human rights.

Furthermore, the Iranian regime's election to the U.N. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adds to our grave concerns. This is a regime known for its systematic torture of protesters, the poisoning of innocent schoolgirls, and its sponsorship of terrorism worldwide. It is deeply troubling that while the United States and its allies successfully prevented Russia's election to this commission, a similar stance was not taken against Iran. This inconsistency undermines the credibility of the United Nations and sends a distressing message to victims of human rights abuses.

We urgently implore the United States and all member states to condemn the appointment of the Islamic Republic of Iran as Chair of the U.N. Human Rights Council 2023 Social Forum. This appointment must be reversed immediately to uphold the principles of human rights and honour the memory of countless victims who have suffered under the Iranian regime's brutal oppression.

It is crucial that member states, including the United States, take decisive action against Iran's appointment. We urge the United States to field alternative candidates, call for a vote to register international opposition, or at the very least, dissociate themselves from the election. No country, especially one with a history of intolerance and systematic human rights violations, should hold positions of leadership in critical U.N. bodies when they flagrantly violate the principles enshrined in the U.N. Charter.

We commend the United States for its efforts in spearheading the campaign to remove Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women in December 2022. However, we are deeply disappointed by your government's support of Iran's election to the U.N. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. We believe that consistency in taking a principled stance against human rights abusers is crucial to maintaining the credibility of the United Nations and its commitment to upholding human rights worldwide.

As concerned members of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria, we urgently request that you convene a meeting of the Economic and Social Council to address this pressing matter. It is imperative that the appointment of Iran as Chair of the U.N. Human Rights Council 2023 Social Forum be revoked, and that Iran be removed from the U.N. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Only through such actions can the United Nations send a strong message that it remains committed to protecting human rights and ensuring justice for all.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this pressing issue. We trust that you will take the necessary steps to rectify this situation and uphold the principles of human rights that the United Nations stands for.

Sincerely,  
Afrooz RAHIMIAN  
President  
Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) Inc.

Copied:

- United States Secretary of Foreign Affairs
- United Nation Office of the Human Rights High Commissioner
- United Nation Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- United Nation Office of for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development

# Interview with Radio Neshat

## A Dialogue on the Women's Life Freedom Movement

On November 2022 ,27, Radio Neshat featured an engaging discussion with Afroz Rahimian, the President of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV). The conversation centered around AISOV's dedicated involvement in advocating for the Women's Life Freedom movement and its vital role in amplifying the voices of Iranian women.

During the interview, Afroz Rahimian outlined AISOV's multifaceted efforts to support and uplift the Women's Life Freedom movement, highlighting the significance of being a platform for these brave voices. She discussed various activities, such as workshops, events, and collaborations, that AISOV has initiated to bring attention to the movement's objectives. The conversation delved into strategies to effectively communicate the challenges and aspirations of Iranian women, shedding light on the importance of solidarity and international awareness.

The interview further underscored AISOV's commitment to being a conduit for the concerns and aspirations of Iranian women, aligning with its mission to promote unity, understanding, and progress within the community. Afroz Rahimian's insights demonstrated AISOV's dedication to being a force of positive change and empowerment for women in Iran and beyond.

**RADIO  
NESHAT**



[www.radioneshat.com](http://www.radioneshat.com)

گفتگو با خانم افروز رحیمیان، رئیس کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا



**شکلها و رسانه های فارسی زبان استرالیا**

Australian Persian language organizations and media

• We furthered our commitment to supporting fellow community members seeking asylum by organizing an enlightening online session in collaboration with ECLC and the Refugee Legal Centre. This session took place on Wednesday, May 2023 ,3, and was dedicated to providing crucial insights into the conversion process of Temporary Protection Visas (TV) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV) to Permanent Visas.

Hosted on Zoom, the virtual gathering allowed participants to delve into essential aspects of Refugee Legal's work, offering an overview of changes to the TV/SHEV regime, exploring eligibility criteria for a Resolution of Status (RoS) Permanent Visa, and understanding associated benefits, including family reunion.

Our unwavering commitment to supporting our community led us to facilitate this session, empowering individuals with the knowledge necessary to navigate the intricate process of obtaining permanent residency. This collaboration with the Refugee Legal Centre exemplified our dedication to ensuring that our fellow Iranians have access to accurate and up-to-date information, reinforcing our role as a reliable source of guidance and support.

As we continuously prioritize the well-being and empowerment of our community members, we are pleased to have provided this valuable resource and eagerly anticipate further collaborative

**Refugee Legal:**  
Defending the rights of refugees

**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**FAIRNESS**  
**JUSTICE**

**Conversion of Temporary Protection Visa (TPV)/Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) to a Permanent Visa**

**Free Online Information session for the Iranian community, presented by Refugee Legal Centre**

Wednesday, 3 May 2023  
7.30 - 9pm

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88144341308>  
pwd=MYJkNlYdQenVnSU8rYm50MzFKU2lkUTQ9

**Meeting ID: 881 4434 1308**  
**Passcode: 016363**

**This session will cover**

- Key areas of Refugee Legal's work
- Overview of the changes to the TPV/SHEV regime
- Who is eligible for a Resolution of Status (RoS) Permanent Visa?
- Benefits of a Permanent Visa
- Family reunion

**For more information please contact:**

1300 32 52 00 (1300 ECLC 00)  
eclc@eclc.org.au  
www.eclc.org.au

**Interpreter available**

• In July 2023, we had the honor of participating in a meeting at the Parliament of Victoria with Senator Nicholas McGowan. The meeting served as a platform to address the concerns of the Iranian community both in Australia and Iran. During the session, we passionately advocated for the protection of political and human rights activists in Australia, urging for renewed attention to the Senate's 12 recommendations on human rights violations in Iran. We also brought attention to the challenges faced by rejected asylum seekers and highlighted issues pertaining to migrant investors' visas. Senator McGowan expressed his solidarity and willingness to support and establish closer ties with the Iranian-Australian community. We are grateful for the Senator's support and look forward to utilizing his office facilities for future gatherings to strengthen connections and effectively address the needs of our community. The meeting at the Parliament of Victoria was a significant step towards fostering collaboration and advocating for human rights and justice.



SENATOR  
**NICK MCGOWAN**  
**LIBERAL**

ش دیدارهای کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا با نمایندگان محلی، مقامات ایالتی و دولتی استرالیا  
2023

# ACTIVITIES WE HAVE INVOLVED IN

## A YEAR OF IMPACT AND EMPOWERMENT

- We have collaborated with ECCV alongside various non-profit organizations, multicultural groups, and faith-based entities, in a collective effort to address the pressing issue of gambling harm in our community. A joint open letter was sent to Prime Minister Albanese and Premier Andrews, highlighting the distressing impact of gambling, particularly evident in the staggering 2.5\$ billion lost by Victorians on electronic poker machines in the past year. The letter underscored the urgent need for political action, urging both the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments to implement bans on pokies in suburban pubs, clubs, and RSLs, as well as on gambling ads online and on TV. We stand united with other concerned groups in advocating for substantial change to alleviate the adverse effects of gambling on vulnerable members of our society.



- We actively participated in the Community Capacity Strengthening Workshop Program (CCSWP) facilitated by the North Eastern Public Health Unit. Through a series of diverse workshops, including "Navigating Healthcare Finances," "Navigating the NDIS," "Mental Health First Aid," and "Media Training," our engagement aimed to bolster our community's capacity and skills. These workshops empowered our members with essential strategies to manage healthcare expenses, insights into accessing disability support services, mental health awareness and support, and enhanced communication skills for impactful advocacy. We remain committed to enhancing our community's capabilities and fostering meaningful engagement through initiatives like the CCSWP.



- We were privileged to attend the remarkable Great Iftar Dinner, co-hosted by the Afghan Australian Initiative (AAI) and Initiatives of Change Australia (IofC). This inspiring event brought our community together with our Hazara friends and esteemed leaders, fostering meaningful conversations on social justice, racism, and refugee rights. The impactful speeches from notable figures like Ms. Cassandra Fernando MP, Dr. Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP, Hon Jason Wood MP, Mr. Bwe Thay, and Ms. Shabnam Safa left us motivated to continue our collective efforts for positive change. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the dedicated organizers for creating such a memorable and enlightening evening.



• On the 27th of November 2022, the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) embarked on a significant engagement with Rear Admiral Justin Jones, the esteemed Commander of the Joint Agency Task Force Operation Sovereign Borders. This productive meeting also featured Ms. Zoe Williams, State Director of Victoria and Tasmania at the Department of Home Affairs. The discussions focused on Australia's maritime security policies and its resolute commitment to safeguarding borders and protecting lives at sea.



During the session, community leaders representing various backgrounds and residing in Australia actively participated in an informative question-and-answer session. The dialogue shed light on Australia's recent initiatives to reinforce border protection, including the deployment of additional aerial and naval assets to its northern waters. This exchange of insights strengthens the collaborative efforts between AISOV and the Joint Agency Task Force, demonstrating a shared dedication to maritime security and the protection of Australia's borders.



- On World Refugee Day, we proudly participated in the 2023 Victorian Multicultural Commission's Refugee Awards held at the Immigration Museum. The event served as a poignant tribute to the exceptional accomplishments and resilience of individuals who have triumphed over adversities. Furthermore, the captivating Iranian dance performances by Samira Dance Studio added a cultural layer to the occasion, emphasizing the importance of artistic expression in cultivating connections and promoting mutual understanding. As we commemorate this momentous day, we reassert our dedication to aiding refugees and commemorating the diverse mosaic of cultures that contribute to the vibrant fabric of Victoria.



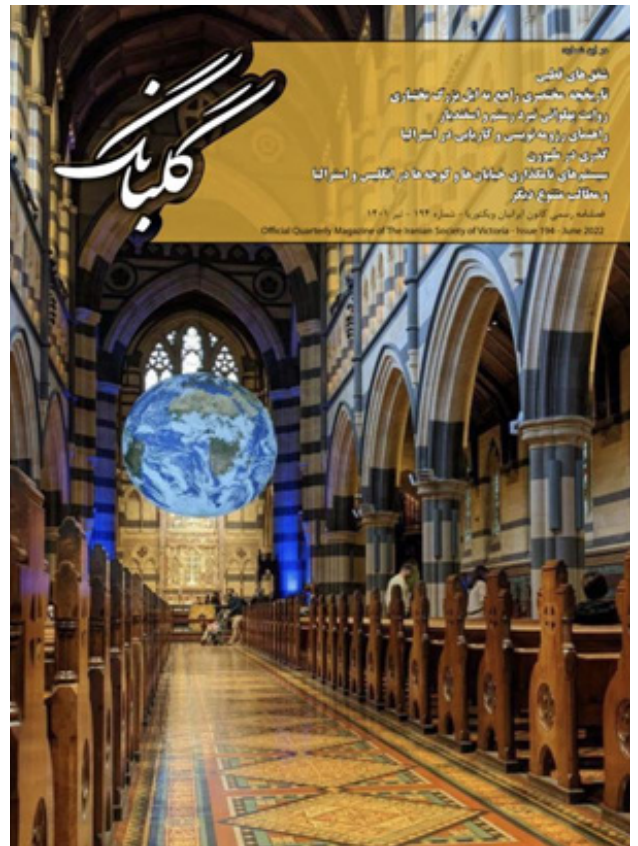
# "GOLBANG" MAGAZINE

## CELEBRATING CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY VOICES"

Golbang Magazine, the official newsletter of the Iranian Society of Victoria, serves as a vital communication channel, fostering connections with our esteemed members. Published periodically, this colorful and informative magazine reflects the news and events of the past few months, providing insights into the cultural programs, seminars, and other initiatives organized by our society. Tailored for Persian speakers residing in Victoria, Golbang Magazine contains a wealth of useful and diverse content, including stories, poems, and practical information.

With a dedicated team of 13 members, led by the passionate and experienced coordinator, Reza Davari, who has been an invaluable member of AISOV for the last three years, we successfully released three editions last year (196, 195, 194). Issue 194 of Golbang was particularly significant, focusing on the Women, Life, Freedom movement in Iran and offering a platform for meaningful discussions within our community.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Golbang team for their unwavering commitment to producing an enriching magazine that celebrates the voices of our community. Golbang Magazine stands as a testament to the unity and collaboration within the Iranian Society of Victoria, and we look forward to its continued success in strengthening our community bonds.



در این شماره

پیشینه شعار زن زندگی آزادی

تاریخچه پرچم ایران

زن زندگی آزادی از نگاه هنرمندان

آگاهی؛ آزادی زنان و حقوق

ایرانیان استرالیا همگام با خیزش سراسری مردم ایران

نگاهی به جنبش‌های آزادی‌خواهی در ادبیات پارسی «قیام کاوه دادخواه»

دیوار نگاره‌های ایرانی ملیورن و ...

فصلنامه رسمی کنون ایرانیان ویکتوریا- شماره ۱۹۵- دی ۱۴۰۱- ویژه‌نامه زن زندگی آزادی

Official Quarterly Magazine of The Iranian Society of Victoria- Issue 195- January 2023

# کتابخانه



# Social Media- Instagram and Facebook

Expanding Our Digital Reach: Thriving on Social Media Platforms

We are excited to announce our successful foray into the digital realm, where we're connecting, engaging, and empowering our vibrant community. Our new official website has been launched as a hub of valuable resources, updates, and information tailored to meet the diverse interests and needs of our cherished audience.

Taking a proactive approach to social media, we've been attuned to the preferences of our followers. Over the past year, we've shared a remarkable 110 posts, each designed to resonate with our audience on a daily basis. This consistent effort, featuring average of 2 stories every day, has yielded impressive results, capturing considerable attention and interaction from the very start.

One of our proudest achievements has been the marked increase in community engagement. Our follower count has nearly doubled in just a year, a clear sign of the organic growth of connection within our community. The lively conversations and interactions taking place on our posts underscore the value and relevance of the content we share.

At the core of our social media strategy is a commitment to sourcing credible and reliable content. By doing so, we've established ourselves as a trustworthy source of information, reflected in the authentic interactions we've nurtured and the exciting partnerships we've attracted.

As we look ahead, our dedication to utilizing social media's potential remains unwavering. We're committed to amplifying our mission, reaching even greater heights. By continuing to listen, learn, and engage, we're leveraging our digital presence to drive positive change, raise awareness, and promote unity. In this virtual space, we're creating an environment that reflects the diversity and vibrancy of our community, bridging gaps and forging connections.

Join us in this journey by visiting our official Facebook page (@AISOV) and exploring our website ([www.aisov.org.au](http://www.aisov.org.au)). Together, we're fostering transformation, celebrating cultures, amplifying voices, and building enduring connections. Your participation is the driving force behind the meaningful impact we're achieving, and making a meaningful impact in the lives of all those we serve.

Connect with us on our official Instagram page (@aisovictoria) and Facebook pages (AISOV & Australian Iranian Society Of Victoria and [کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا](#)), as well as our website ([www.aisov.org.au](http://www.aisov.org.au)), to become a valued member of this dynamic online community. Here, voices are heard, cultures are celebrated, and positive change is cultivated. Join us and be part of something truly inspiring!

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOGNITION

## Empowering Communities Through Remarkable Leadership: Sahar Gholizadeh's Recognition on the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

We are proud to celebrate the remarkable achievement of Sahar Gholizadeh, the voluntary President of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria, who has been honored with the prestigious Leading through Disaster award on the Victorian Honour Roll of Women 2022. This esteemed recognition underscores Sahar's unwavering commitment to community service, innovative leadership, and exceptional dedication, particularly in times of adversity.

Sahar Gholizadeh, a registered nurse with a strong background in community health and education, has consistently exemplified exceptional leadership and compassion. Throughout the challenges posed by the COVID19- pandemic, Sahar's selfless efforts became a beacon of hope for many within the Australian Iranian community. Through her adept use of technology and social media, Sahar cultivated robust community connections, delivering vital health information and resources to those who needed them most. Her tireless outreach extended to vulnerable segments of society, including senior citizens, victims of family violence, asylum seekers, and those adversely affected by the pandemic's economic fallout. Sahar's proactive support and referrals to essential services

showcased her unwavering dedication to helping others navigate these trying times. Today, she continues to advocate for the rights and liberties of Iranian women, dedicating this well-deserved recognition to the courageous Mahsa Amini. Sahar Gholizadeh's impactful contributions stand as a testament to the spirit of community empowerment and exemplary leadership within the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria.



# Management Committee 2022-2023

## Office Holders:

Afrooz Rahimian (President),  
Sedi Smith (Vice-president),  
Sahar Gholizadeh (Treasurer),  
Sahar Amirian (Secretary)

## Management Committee Members:

Adam Beik  
Rana Ebrahimi  
Mahshid Babzartabi  
Pedram Akbari

## Sub-Committee:

Reza Davari  
Kam Razmara  
Rasteen Panahandeh,  
Lobat Nezami

*We express our sincere gratitude to the dedicated members of the Management Committee, whose tireless efforts and leadership have been instrumental in guiding our organization towards its goals. Your commitment and hard work are truly appreciated.*



**AISOV**  
Australian Iranian  
Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا

## اعضا هیئت مدیره کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا 2022-23



**سحر قلیزاده**

خزانه دار کانون ایرانیان  
ویکتوریا



**سحر امیریان**

دبیر کانون ایرانیان  
ویکتوریا



**صدی اسمیت**

نائب رئیس کانون  
ایرانیان ویکتوریا



**افروز رحیمیان**

رئیس کانون ایرانیان  
ویکتوریا



**رعنا ابراهیمی**

عضو هیئت مدیره کانون  
ایرانیان ویکتوریا



**پدرام اکبری**

عضو هیئت مدیره کانون  
ایرانیان ویکتوریا



**مهشید بابزرتابی**

عضو هیئت مدیره کانون  
ایرانیان ویکتوریا

[WWW.AISOV.ORG.AU](http://WWW.AISOV.ORG.AU)

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Embracing Hope and Celebrating Success: A Positive Outlook for the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria

Over the past years, the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria has demonstrated resilience and determination in the face of challenges, leading to promising outcomes and a brighter future ahead. While our total assets experienced a temporary decline from 61,995.97\$ in 2021 to 37,085.41\$ in 2022 and further to 26,146.25\$ in 2023, we have taken proactive steps to address the situation.

As an organization deeply committed to serving our community, we relied on government grants to support our essential activities and initiatives. However, we understand that the exceptional circumstances brought about by the pandemic might have shifted funding priorities. In response, our passionate board members have tirelessly engaged in multiple grant writing sessions, aiming to meet the new government guidelines and secure the necessary funding to further our mission in the coming months. We are also eagerly awaiting the results of two other grant applications.

Adversity often presents an opportunity for growth and unity. Despite the impact of the ongoing situation in Iran, we chose to stand strong with our community during hardship, which led us to forgo our traditional Nowruz and Fire Festival events.

However, this experience has allowed us to foster closer bonds with our community members and explore innovative ways to support one another.

At the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria, we firmly believe in uplifting our community and paving the way for a brighter future. We have organized numerous free online and in-person training sessions, empowering individuals to overcome challenges and embrace new possibilities together.

The heart of our strength lies in our members, and we are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking achievement for AISOV. For the first time in our history, we represent a broad spectrum of Iranians within our organization. The unwavering support from our members has been a testament to our shared vision, and we are excited to declare a remarkable milestone—a %150 increase in paid membership compared to previous years.

As we look ahead with hope and determination, we remain dedicated to creating a thriving community that cherishes diversity, seizes opportunities, and celebrates success together. With the continued support and involvement of our cherished members, we are confident that the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria will emerge stronger and more impactful than ever before. Together, we are building a future filled with promise and endless possibilities.

**AUSTRALIAN-IRANIAN SOCIETY OF  
VICTORIA INC.**

ABN 65 724 518 911

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

	<b>As At 30 June 2022</b>	<b>As At 30 June 2023</b>
	\$	\$
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		
Cash at Bank - Cheque Account	34,386.44	26,146.25
Cash at Bank - Humanitarian Fund Account	2,516.87	-
Security Deposits	182.10	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>37,085.41</u>	<u>26,146.25</u>
<b><u>Non-current Assets</u></b>		
Equipment, Furniture & Fittings - at Cost	25,488.27	25,488.27
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(25,488.27)</u>	<u>(25,488.27)</u>
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>37,085.41</u>	<u>26,146.25</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>37,085.41</u>	<u>26,146.25</u>
 <i>Represented By:</i>		
<b><u>Accumulated Fund</u></b>		
Balance at the Beginning of the Year	59,297.00	34,385.89
Surplus/(Deficit) Resulting from Operations During the Year	<u>(20,616.64)</u>	<u>(8,239.64)</u>
<b>Balance at the End of the Year</b>	<u>38,680.36</u>	<u>26,146.25</u>

**AUSTRALIAN-IRANIAN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

ABN 65 724 518 911

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2022</b>	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2023</b>
	\$	\$
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Advertising Revenue	-	-
Grants and Subsidies	9,818.18	7,500.00
Interest Received	-	-
Membership Fees	953.17	3,205.50
Sponsorships	-	-
Surplus from Events	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>10,771.35</u>	<u>10,705.50</u>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Organisation Charges (Strategic Plan)	12,408.00	-
Deficit from Events	5,893.04	11,531.95
Equipment, Furniture and Fittings	-	-
Volunteer Expenses (Training, Gifts, Volunteer Grant, meeting)	2,718.43	722.06
Printing & Postage & Golbang	447.00	279.00
Insurance	6,201.32	2,627.31
Office Supplies	-	-
Post Office Box Rent	147.42	-
Rent	355.90	1,779.50
Telephone, Internet & Website Expenses	<u>3,216.88</u>	<u>2,005.32</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>31,387.99</u>	<u>18,945.14</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) Resulting from Operations</b>	<u>(20,616.64)</u>	<u>(8,239.64)</u>

# TO OUR MEMBERS

"AISOV's Management Committee extends its heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment and support in our mission to build a collective, integrated, and recognized identity within the Iranian community and beyond in Victoria. We recognize that this journey is a long-term exercise, but with your dedicated involvement, AISOV is resolute in continuing to build upon the strong foundation we have established."

## Looking Ahead

### Some of Our Plans for Next Year

The Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) is proud to announce some of our plans for the upcoming year. We have a number of exciting projects in the works, all of which are focused on building a stronger future for our community.

#### Our Signature Initiative: The Bench of Friendship

One of our most important initiatives is our "Bench of Friendship." This initiative is designed to foster well-being in local and global communities. We have already begun a campaign inviting healthcare industry professionals to volunteer their expertise. In subsequent phases, we intend to extend our efforts to encompass the realms of disability and mental health, partnering with NDIS service providers and counselors to support those grappling with the post-pandemic landscape and other challenges.

#### Our Commitment to Human Rights

AISOV is also committed to human rights. We have plans to amplify our advocacy endeavors, building upon meaningful connections forged with

policymakers and activists. We are steadfast in magnifying our impact and advancing a world characterized by equity and justice. This year, we will further bolster our human rights commitment by revisiting and updating our constitution to encompass a broader spectrum of human rights activities.

### Celebrating Iranian Culture

We are also excited to host a number of events that celebrate Iranian culture. In September, we will be holding a festival at Piazza Italia that will honor the lives influenced by the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement in Iran. We will also be hosting the Mehregaan event, which will feature a mix of performances, poetry readings, and more.

### Supporting Refugees

AISOV is committed to supporting refugees. We will be intensifying our efforts to uplift and support our fellow refugees. Our focus remains on shaping a united, inclusive, and culturally dynamic society that embraces diversity and fosters mutual understanding.

### Nowruz and Chaharshanbe Soori

We also have plans to organize our fourth consecutive Nowruz event at the Parliament of Victoria and are also

considering the upcoming Nowruz public event and "Chaharshanbe Soori." Stay tuned for updates on these events as we continue to foster unity, cultural exchange, and community engagement.

These are just some of our plans for next year. We are excited to continue working with our members, allies, and volunteers to build a stronger future for our community.

**We hope you will join us  
in our journey!**



Australian Iranian Society Of Victoria (AISOV)

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