*Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)*

**ODVV's written submission in response to the call for inputs on "Resettlement as a human rights issue" distributed by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination**

ODVV echoes the concerns expressed by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing that the right and other human rights are violated due to displacement and especially forced displacement due to violence and conflict.

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's suggestion for drafting **guidelines at the international level to ensure that resettlement and relocation are carried out in compliance with the international human rights framework and are consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals.**

We would provide answers to two question of the distributed Questionnaire

1. **Is there any group particularly at risk of resettlement or particularly vulnerable to negative resettlement outcomes in your country or in the experience of your organization or company?**

We draw the special attention of the special rapporteur to the large-scale displacement of Afghan refugees into neighboring countries and mainly into Iran following the Taliban take over, and the domestic conflict, violence and the policies of the new Afghanistan administration that many Afghans find very difficult to cope with. In addition to the policies, there has been many Afghans who contacted our organization, in desperate need to leave the country, because of the threats to their lives or the lives of their family members. The threatening situation forced many Afghans to move illegally into Iran and could not be avoided.

We urge the Special Rapporteur to draw international attention to the reality, that under conflicts, such as the situation of Afghan people**, the refugees and asylum seekers and the hosting counties require immediate international help and support in his report on resettlements.**

Iran which has been hosing one of the largest communities of refugees for decades, is struggling with the detrimental consequences of a new range of comprehensive unilateral economic sanctions since May 2018 – following the unilateral withdrawal of the United Sates from the multilateral and long debated Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The destructive sanctions impose a huge burden on the country's economy and violate almost all economic, social and cultural rights including the right to life, to health, to food, to education, to an adequate living standard, to suitable housing and decent work, to peace and sustainability, to development and achievement of all sustainable development goals, for all the population while the marginalized and vulnerable groups – including Afghan refugees and asylum seekers - bear the most burnt.

At the moment, the official figures prove the residence of about 5,400,000 registered Afghan refugees in Iran, while the unofficial estimations, calculate the number to be much higher. The significant number place a huge burden on the host country in terms of provision of social services including identification services, healthcare, livelihood and education.

Iran has also been facing complexities with the huge community of unregistered, illegal asylum seekers who poured into the country following the Taliban reaching power in 2021, when thousands of people were fleeing into Iran each and every single day.

1. **Does your country, organization or company have a recent experience with resettlement that posed particular challenges and what were those? In retrospect, what should have been done differently?**

We believe that a totally different international response is urgently required. The international community needs to pay more attention to the situation of Afghan refugees, equal to the way it has decided to support Ukraine refugees. We consider the international response given to the Afghan refugees to be very weak and insignificant in nature, hardly addressing the complications that the large community is facing in neighboring counties including Iran.

While the hosting country requires global support to prevent the flood of multifold-number of Afghan refugees form pouring into Europe, the UNHCR budget cuts have led to less support for Afghan refugees in comparison to time before the Ukraine war.