

Internet Sources on Iranian Women

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In the early part of summer 2000, we surveyed the Internet for web sites that could be useful for research on women and gender issues in Iran. There are, of course, sites that offer general information and news on Iran, and that sometimes cover women and gender issues. These include: www.avand.net; www.neda.net; and www.apadana.com. However, what follows is a compilation of sites that pertain specifically to women. They are listed in alphabetical order.

Al Zahra University

Internet address: www.azzahra.ac.ir

The official homepage for Al Zahra University, the university for women in Tehran. It includes other Iranian sites, like networks, organizations, news-based sites and newspapers and other Iranian universities. In English and Persian.

Association of Iranian Women (AIW)

Internet address: www.aiwusa.org

The Association of Iranian Women (AIW) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that campaigns for the improvement of women's rights. "AIW reports on violence against women and works to eliminate gender discrimination. The AIW was established in January of 1993 to educate and empower Iranian women throughout the United States. The Association works towards building a network committed to the idea of advocating women's rights. Through the help of volunteers, the Association promotes opportunities with which Iranian women in the U.S. help themselves."

The web site contains articles about women and entries on history, programs, publications and briefs. In English.

Avaye Zan (Women's Voice)

Internet address: www.tvse/womensvoice

AvayeZan is a magazine for Iranian women, published since 1991 in Norway and Sweden. Its editors are Mina Poya, Sholeh Irani. It includes interviews with Iranian women and articles about feminism and women's issues in Iran, women's rights, and women' health. Articles appear in Persian and English.

Badjens

Internet address: www.badjens.homepage.com

Bad Jens is an English-language feminist online newsletter mainly addressing readers outside Iran. It hopes improve links between activists/academics inside and outside the country. This web site includes publications, announcements, news-clips and responses. Articles address women and cinema in Iran, the Majles elections, and sexual violence. Interviews on women's issues are also included.

Center for Women's Participation

Internet address: www.women.or.ir

The Center for Women's Participation started its activities in 1998, simultaneously with the start of President Khatami's Presidential term, to organize women's participation in society, identify their problems, provide appropriate solutions, and better their situation. Mrs Zahra Shojaie was assigned by President Khatami as the president of CWP and is also a member of his Cabinet. CWP is the upgraded equivalent of Office for Women's Affairs, established in 1993 by the decree of the former President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This web site addresses issues related to Iranian women from the point of view of the current Iranian government. It includes information on the CWP (objectives, duties, organization chart, CWP's president), a newsletter (with latest news about women in Iran), and a women's data base. In English and Persian.

Forough Farrokhzad

Internet address: www.foroughfarrokhzad.org/

This web site offers information on the late poet's life (time line, picture album, audio album and letters), her work (selected works, collected works, sketches, drawing, painting, film, theater) and published materials about Forough Farrokhzad (books, analysis of poems, discussion, papers). In English and Persian.

Homan

Internet address: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/heights/3470/page2.html

Homan is a non-profit organization for Iranian lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. It thus contains information and news about Iranian gays, along with an events calendar. The group also accept membership through this web site. In English.

Iran Gohar

Internet address: www.iranonline.com/irangohar

Iran Gohar is an on line newsletter from Irvine, California, published by Mahvash M. Takestani. It is usually published every two months. In Persian.

Iranian Women's Studies Foundation

Internet address: www.iwsf.org

The Iranian Women's Studies Foundation (IWSF) is an independent, non-profit organization that aims to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on issues related to Iranian women, to disseminate information on Iranian women's achievements, and to establish a network of communication among communities of Iranian women the world over. According to the web site, the main activity of the IWSF consists of annual international conferences wherein a theme related to Iranian women is approached through scholarly presentations, art exhibitions, and artistic or dramatic performances. The site contains announcements about conferences. There are also many useful related links to other web sites. In English.

Payam-e Hajar

Internet address: www.nasim.net/hajar/

An online magazine from Iran, whose editor is the well-known Azam Taleghani. In Persian.

Women in Iranian Cinema

Internet address: www.nima3.com

This is a link on the nima3 web site. It contains information and news about women in the cinema profession. It includes articles, interviews, films, and biographies.

Women's Network

Internet address: www.kvinnet.org

It is a web site from Sweden about Iranian women's rights. In English, Swedish and Persian.

Zan

Internet address: www.zan.org

ZAN (Woman) is an interactive directory/ anthology of the arts and ideas of Iranian women. It is an up-to-date web site with the latest news in its news link. Zan includes a very good link for networking. There is a partial list of academics, artists, authors, business/professional, lawyers, medical professionals, organization, organizations and publications. The site also includes a schedule for some events in advance. In English.

Zanan

Internet address: www.angelfire.com/ok2/gooya2/zan.html

An online monthly from Iran, it contains short versions of each issue of the well-known women's magazine. In Persian.

Below are three sites of a more general nature on women that also may be relevant.

Association for Middle East Women's Studies

Internet address: amews.aucegypt.edu/

AMEWS is an affiliated organization of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Inc. AMEWS was founded over fifteen years ago by scholars interested in promoting quality research in the field of Middle East women's studies. It is an academic web site. It includes amendments to bylaws, a selected backlist of book reviews and a selected backlist of newsletter contents. In English. Note: the web site address will soon change, most likely to UCLA.

Islamic Countries' Women's Sports

Internet address: <http://www.avand.net/Sports/wsports/wshome.htm>

The Islamic Countries' Women Sports Solidarity Council (ICWSSC) embarked upon its activities in September 1991 to pursue the following main objectives: Establish and strengthen solidarity among women of Islamic countries; Develop and expand women's competitive sports within the frame work of Islamic precepts. It also disseminates sport culture among the young. The web site contains organization, congresses, exhibitions and publications. In English.

Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan

Internet address: www.rawa.org

RAWA was established in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1977 as an independent political organization of Afghan women fighting for human rights and for social justice in Afghanistan. The founders were a number of Afghan woman intellectuals under the leadership of Meena who in 1987 was assassinated in Quetta, Pakistan. RAWA's objective was to involve an increasing number of Afghan women in social and political activities aimed at acquiring women's human rights and contributing to the struggle for the establishment of a government based on democratic and secular values in Afghanistan. This web site includes information about RAWA, on their martyred leader, their publications, standpoints, social activities, patriotic songs, photo gallery, report from Afghanistan, on Afghan women, RAWA documents, RAWA events, movie clips and poem links, mostly in English They have a publication online called Payame-e-Zan (Women's Message). In Persian/Dari, and in English.

Women's Issues - 3rd World

Internet address: Women3rdworld.about.com

This is a comprehensive web site about women in developing countries, with up-to-date information and news. It contains links on many countries like Afghanistan, Iran, Middle East countries, African countries, Latin American and Asian countries. Topics include health, honor killings, child marriages, indigenous women, refugees, religions, violence and women, women's study, education. There are also links to organizations, magazines and statistics related to women issues. In English.

Finally, we end with two more general sites on Iran where one can usually find articles or news about women in Iran.

www.gooya.com

This allows you to access many web sites related to Iran. They are grouped as follows: new links, news, sport, radio and TV, dialogue, academic, daily newspapers, periodicals, political organizations, non political organizations, government, personalities, women, religion, history, service, providers and ethnic. It also includes links for voice chats and art (general art, literature, painting, film, photography, music, news and periodical). This web site is comprehensive and very useful.

www.iranian.com

This web site often contains articles on women issues, such as a Nov. 1999 essay by lawyer Mehrangiz Kar on the legal status of Iranian women.