

انجمن پژوهشگران ایران

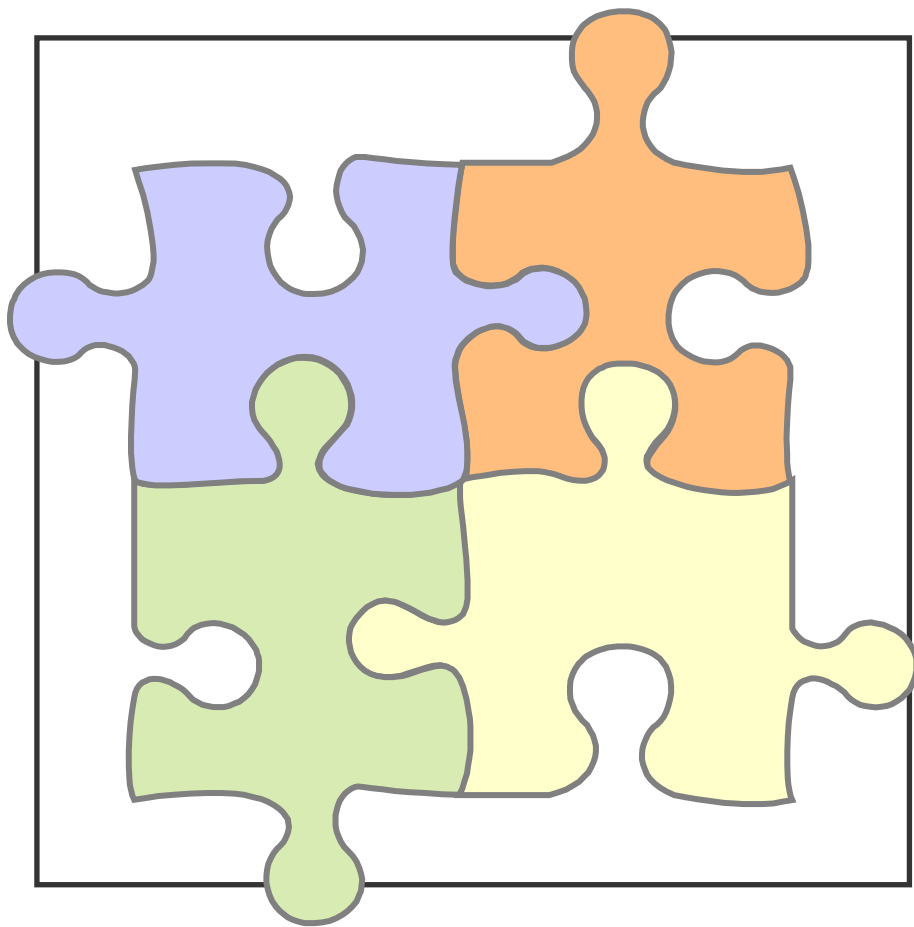
Associtaion des Chercheurs Iraniens

www.aciiran.com

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ABOUT ACI



INTRODUCTION

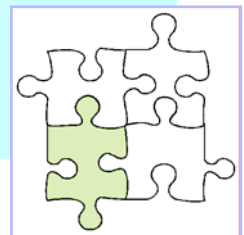


After seventeen years of continuous impartial study of issues facing the future of Iran, ACI believes that it is our duty to put the years of research and study to active and constructive use, in the light of Iran's precarious situation, and the speed with which the world around us is progressing.

We endeavour to provide an impartial and unbiased platform for discussion, research and dissemination, and are confident that ACI's published forecasts have so far proven accurate due to our systematic and analytical approach.

We hope to act as a cohesive force amongst all Iranians living inside and outside our country, to unite fragmented groups and individuals, and to secure channels for dialogue amongst all interested parties. We invite you to read the following pages in order to learn about our aims, activities, rationale and plans for the future.

Hossein Ladjevardi
President, ACI
May 2009

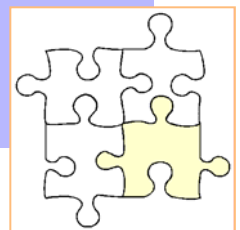


AIM AND OBJECTIVES

ACI is an intellectual forum that aims to offer a framework for the future of a democratic Iran. Our work centres on social, political, cultural, and economic planning. To this end, ACI :

- works to identify problems concerning Iran and Iranians worldwide;
- offers well-informed and expert solutions to improve and overcome them.

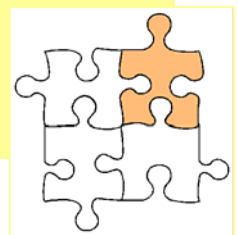
An integral part of our work is to disseminate our findings to the most important international public and private decision-makers, as well as to the public. We do this by organising regular international conferences, publishing our findings, issuing press releases and policy briefings, and providing experts for media coverage.



WHO WE ARE

Association des Chercheurs Iraniens (ACI) is an intellectual forum of Iranians worldwide. Our members hold a diverse range of opinions, expertise and experience, and come together with the single unifying aim of **creating a positive future for Iran**. Experts and scholars from Iran and the rest of the world have attended our conferences to discuss and examine issues in the hope of offering constructive solutions to the problems facing Iran. Each ACI conference acts as a focal point for discussion and deliberation on a specific theme.

ACI has the active participation of an international network of over 600 experts, scholars, and researchers and the ACI archives contain over 700 papers on a wide variety of subjects concerning Iran and Iranians.



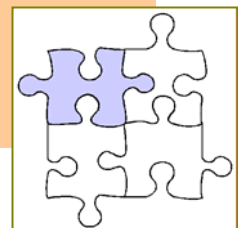
WHY

ACI was established in Paris in 1992, soon after the end of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Many Iranians were privately expressing concern at the time that the Islamic Republic was not capable of governing Iran effectively. Iran's reserves and resources were exhausted, the country was experiencing a dangerous population explosion with little social planning, and the future seemed bleak and out of control. Against this background, ACI was borne out of a desire to offer educated expert solutions and alternative plans for the future of Iran.

Our concern was that the changing world, and the speed with which change was occurring, were going to overtake us and leave Iran standing still. The communications revolution, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the events in South Africa, as well as the new emerging geopolitics of the world, all meant that a new and innovative approach needed to be found to secure the future of Iran. Yet, the Islamic rulers of Iran were set to drag the country back by 1400 years.

Iran's own unique geopolitical position, and its rich oil and mineral fields mean that Iran has never been free from outside interest. While understanding the importance of globalisation, we believe in Iran's right to national sovereignty, maintaining its territorial integrity and independence, in the globalised sense of the word.

Fear, distrust, and apathy have been the worst enemies of progress. Our first conference, organised in Paris in 1992, was attended by over 1000 people anxious for the future of their country, and excited at the prospect of an impartial organisation bringing together all schools of thought for the first time. ACI has worked tirelessly with Iranians to promote self-belief and confidence, to believe that we can bring about change, but we need to work together for this change to occur. Therefore, much of our work is based on developing networks and facilitating processes that encourage the rebuilding of trust amongst individuals and groups. Our belief is that by acting together we can bring about change to establish the democracy, equality, and justice we have been fighting for since the Constitutional Revolution of 1906.



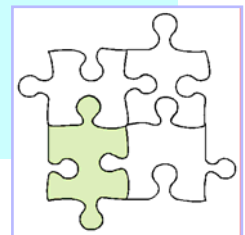
FUNDING

ACI receives no external funding from any public source. We are a member organisation and primarily fund our work from membership contributions and donations. All of our work is carried out by volunteers.

Conferences are made possible by donations and conference entrance fees. Costs are kept to a minimum in order to encourage wide participation and all speakers and researchers attend our conferences and seminars at their own expense. Accommodation is kindly offered to conference presenters by ACI members across Europe and America.

ACI's publications are made possible through generous donations by benefactors who are individually acknowledged in each book. Conference videos are made possible by ACI's video director who bears all costs personally. We have on occasion had to develop creative solutions to lack of financial resources available to us. For example, we came to an unusual arrangement with the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, whereby we received a discount in the cost of hiring the conference hall in return for two of our members providing carpets on loan to the SOAS Gallery.

None of our work would ever be possible without the generosity and enthusiasm of our volunteers, members, and supporters.



CONTACTS

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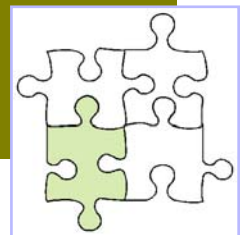
Berlin – Germany

TBC – enquiries through London Office

Zurich – Switzerland

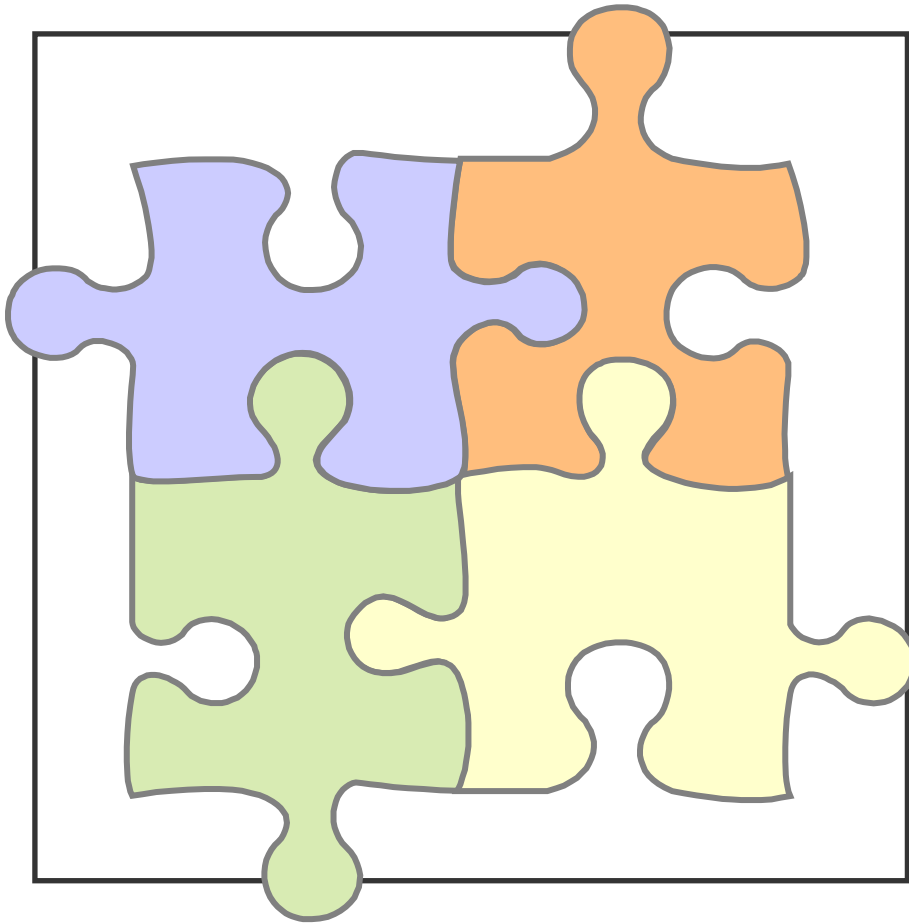
TBC – enquiries through London Office

www.aciiran.com



HUMAN RIGHTS

<http://www.aciiran.com/hr.htm>



ASYLUM

<http://www.aciiran.com/asylum.htm>

We are familiar with the realities and the problems facing the international community due to the large presence of asylum seekers. While we understand that financial deals with weak regimes are the most beneficial form of trade, it is clear that if economic and political support for despotic regimes continues, the problem of asylum will only increase. There should be no doubt that eradicating the root cause of flight is the only satisfactory solution. These can be identified in the behaviour of despotic regimes of the asylum seekers' home countries and international engagement for financial gain.

It should be recognised that even building iron walls, disregarding international standards in assessing asylum claims, removing rights of appeal or enforced deportations would not be a successful deterrent in the long term if the issue were not resolved at its root.

Iranian asylum seekers are no exception and their numbers are alarmingly on the increase. Over seventy percent of Iranians are below the age of thirty. None of the Islamic Republic's factions, reformist or hardline, have the answers to the needs of Iran's young population. The Islamic Republic's factional infighting will not and cannot produce the solutions to poverty, unemployment, social problems, or lack of national and international credibility.

In the face of numerous repeated international censures the Islamic Republic attempts to offer traditions and cultural differences as an acceptable defence for its abusive and unacceptable behaviour. Firstly, cultural differences are not an excuse for violation of rights. Secondly, these cultural differences allude to the regime's ideology and not the wishes and practices of the Iranian people.

According to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

At European immigration courts **ACI** has successfully argued that Iranian women who are victims of domestic violence form a social group, that religious converts classed as apostates are not fundamentally safe and that the discrimination experienced by Iran's various ethnic groups is the same as the persecution mentioned in the 1951 Convention. In addition, we are working towards improving and amending the existing immigration rules and regulations to reflect the changing world.

WOMEN

<http://www.aciiran.com/zanan1.htm>

ACI is proud to nominate the “Women’s Movement in Iran” for the 2008 UN Human Rights Prize coinciding with the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration Of Human Rights.

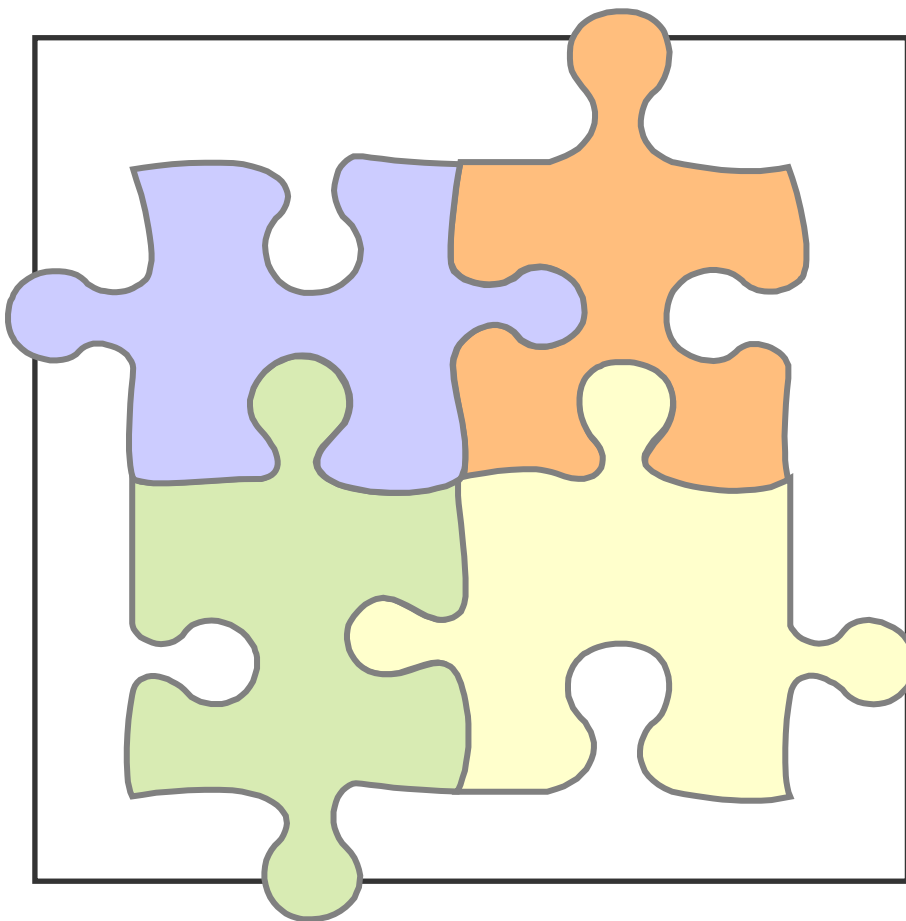
The UN Human Rights Prize was first awarded on the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1968. One of the first recipients of the Prize that year was the attorney and first Iranian female Senator, Dr Mehrangiz Manouchehrian.

ACI believes that the “Women’s Movement in Iran” deserves international recognition because: -

- women have been at the forefront of social change in Iran over the last 100 years. The achievement of many civil and political rights is a credit to women’s unwavering struggle for equality in the face of grave danger and oppression, particularly over the last 30 years;
- of what has been achieved but also for the peaceful, creative and constructive methods that have been used to overcome legal and institutional discrimination in the last thirty years;
- the Iranian women have successfully transformed their fight for equality and justice into a wider movement for social justice and equality that has brought Iranian women and men together signalling a new era in the struggle for human rights in Iran;
- of women’s continued courage and dedication, their fearless approach to changing culture and breaking taboos and traditions, and standing up to the increasing use of violence and persecution against them.

We invite all Iranian and international human rights groups, agencies and organisations to show their solidarity with Iranian women’s struggle for justice and equality by supporting this nomination.

RESEARCH / SURVEYS



SURVEYS

<http://www.aciiran.com/survey1.htm>

ACI firmly believes that overcoming obstacles to democracy, social justice and observance of human rights is not possible without careful planning. As such, any step towards planning a future for Iran must be taken in full knowledge of the beliefs and thinking of its people. This is just as important as information made available through national census and statistics.

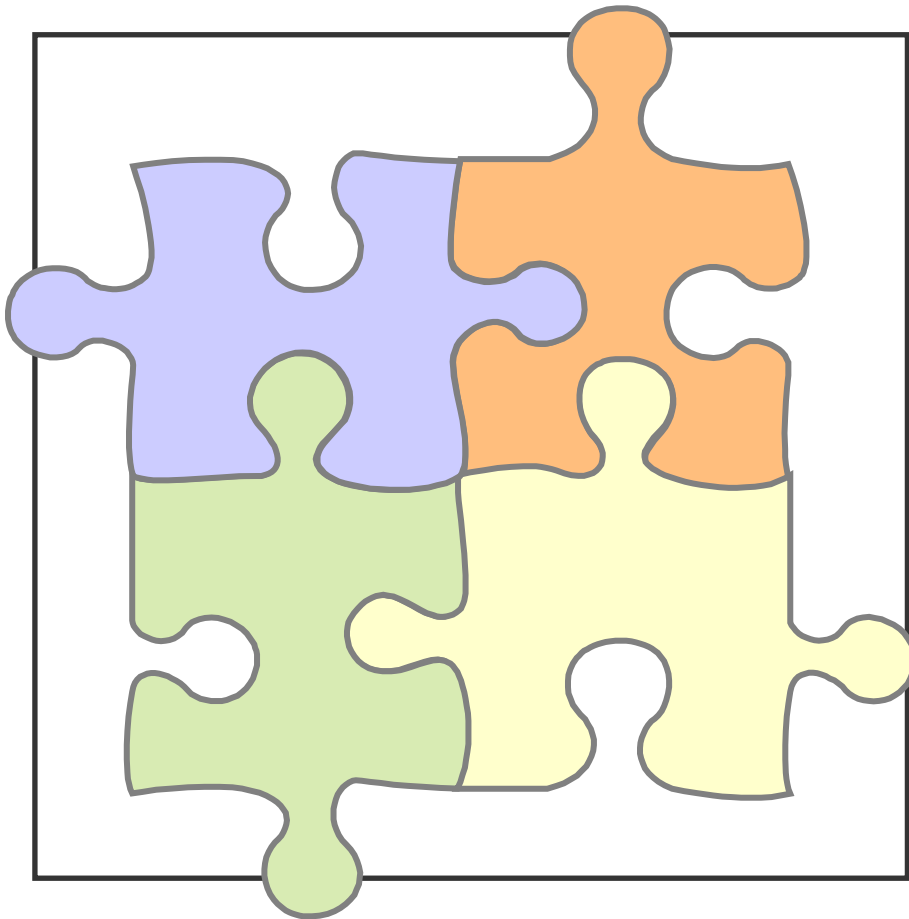
As such, ACI has carried out three surveys to date:

- (1999) the socio-political future of Iran,
- (2004) The Youth and Iran's Political Future; and
- (2007) Iranian Identity and the future of Iran .

Information on the survey results is available through ACI's London Office.:

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PROJECT 'TRUST'



PROJECT TRUST

'IRAN IN THE 21ST CENTURY'

A series of studies on the widespread socio-cultural problems facing Iran today

ACI is planning a series of seminars and roundtables to examine the socio-cultural problems facing Iran today. We believe that to be effective in developing new solutions we need to understand the historical and cultural context which has led to:

- lack of self-belief in individuals
- lack of confidence and self-belief at societal level
- lack of self-reliance
- disillusionment and mass hopelessness
- mass depression
- indifference towards the future
- indifference towards society and ...

ACI invites experts, researchers and all those with knowledge and expertise to participate in these roundtables to further our understanding of such issues. We are interested in studies, which may shed light on the social, historical and political antecedents to issues we have outlined above - studies which examine the current social context and those which propose innovative new ways forward. Our aims in holding these roundtables are to develop new thinking about the politics of change, and to identify new ways of working which may contribute to this change.

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PAST CONFERENCES

www.aciiran.com/past.html

Seminar - 'Iranian Social and Cultural Issues'	Nov '92 Paris
Conference - 'Economy and Oil'	June '93 Paris
Conference - 'The Persian Gulf - Past, present, future'	July '93 Paris
Seminar - 'Changes in the Iranian Cinema and looking to year 2000'	Nov '93 Paris
Debate - 'Problems of Overpopulation - Cairo World Conference'	Sept '94 Paris
Debate - 'Satellites and the Politics of Iranian Radio & Television'	Oct '94 Paris
Conference - 'Socio-political thinking in Iran':	Feb '95 London
'Nationalistic Movements and changes on the threshold of year 2000'	Feb '95 London
'The leftist Movement and changes on the threshold of year 2000'	Feb '95 London
'Monarchy and changes on the threshold of year 2000'	Feb '95 London
'Religion and changes on the threshold of year 2000'	Feb '95 London
Debate - 'Examination of Women's Issues in connection with the Peking World Conference'	Sept '95 Paris
Conference - 'National Identity'	Oct '95 Washington D.C.
Conference - 'Issues of the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and its Consequences on the threshold of year 2000'	Feb '96 London
Conference - 'The Establishment of Democracy and the Structure of Civil Society in Iran on the threshold of year 2000'	Feb '96 London
Seminar - 'Iranian Foreign Policy in connection with Afghanistan'	Oct '96 London
Conference - 'Overpopulation and Environmental Pollution'	Nov '96 Berlin
Conference - 'Government & Religion'	Feb '97 London
Conference - 'Media, its effects and influences'	May '97 London
Conference - "'An Examination of the Iranian Political Culture on the threshold of Year 2000"	Sept '97 Berlin
Conference 'Women, Youth and the Revolution'	Feb '98 London
Conference 'Civil Society in Iran - possibilities & obstacles'	Apr '98 Berlin
Seminar 'Iranian Foreign Policy and Recent developments in Afghanistan'	Sept '98 Paris
Conference 'Civil Society, Velayat Faghih and National Identity'	Sept '98 London
Consequences after Twenty years of the Iranian Revolution	Feb '99 London
Conference 'Iranian Music - Past, Present, Future'	Sept '99 Cologne
Seminar 'Iran – The year that passed'	Nov '99 Berlin
Seminar 'Iran – The year that passed'	Nov '99 London
Conference 'Iranians Living Outside Iran – A Study of Iranian Migrant Community in the Last Twenty Years'	Feb 2000 London
The Plans and Role of the Opposition in the Future of Iran	June 2000 Berlin
The Future of Iran, a study of Social, Economic, Political problems and Iranians Seeking Asylum	Feb 2001 London
11 September, the New World Order and the Future of Iran	Nov 2001 Berlin
Iran after the Islamic Republic	Feb 2002 Zurich
An Assessment of the Consequences of Twenty Five Years of Revolution	Feb 2004 London
Iran Kojast, Irani Kist?	June 2004 Stockholm
An Assessment of the Political and Cultural Position Of The Iranian Media Broadcasting Into Iran	Dec 2004 London
The Affect of the Iranian Mass Media outside Iran on The Future Socio-Political Developments in Iran	May 06 USA
The Evolution of the Iranian Labour Movement and Its Role in the Future of Iran	June 06 Stockholm
Violence against Women – Round Table	June 06 Stockholm
The Future of Iran - "Devolved power, Federalism ...?"	December 06 Cologne
A Series of Studies on the Widespread Socio-Cultural Problems Facing Iran Today	February 08 – Paris
A Celebration of Iranian Women – International Women's Day 2008	March 08 - London
A Series of Studies on the Widespread Socio-Cultural Problems Facing Iran Today	February 08 – Paris
A Celebration of Iranian Women – International Women's Day 2008	March 08 - London

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

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CALL FOR PAPERS

4/5 September 2009, London – “Baluchestan” - Assessing Needs and Aspirations in cultural, social economic and political fields

25 November 2009, London – ‘Violence isn’t just physical!’ To mark UN International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women

Geopolitics & Economy — An assessment of change within the region

Military Strategy of Iran - past, present, and future

Industry of Iran - past, present, and future

Iran and Terrorism

Healthcare in Iran - past, present, and future

Script and Languages of Iran - past, present and future

Theatre in Iran - past, present, and future

PUBLICATIONS

www.aciiran.com/publications.htm

BOOKS

Iran on the Threshold of Year 2000
The Geo-political future of the Persian Gulf
Economy and Oil
Iran's Socio-Political Future VOL I & II
National Identity
State and Religion
Transition to Democracy?
11 September, the New World Order and the Future of Iran

Available soon – “Violence isn’t just physical”

VIDEOS

Videos of our conferences are available per conference or per panel
Visit: www.aciiran.com/publications.htm or
Call London Office: +44 20 7328 8415

LAST WORD

- **Recognising the need for the establishment of civil society, democracy and equality**
- **Recognising Iran's need for independence and national sovereignty**
- **Recognising the importance of Iran's territorial integrity**
- **Recognising the rights of all Iranians to equality and self determination**
- **Recognising Iran's sensitive and important geopolitical position**
- **Recognising Iran's wealth in its vast mineral and oil resources**
- **Recognising Iran's strength in its human resources**
- **Recognising that neither the reformist nor the hardline factions within the Islamic Republic are capable of finding solutions for the future of Iran**
- **Recognising the significance of an interdependent globalised world**
- **Recognising the need for new and innovative approach to planning for Iran's future**

**ACI invites the cooperation of all those
interested in the future of Iran**