



an attempt to elevate family institution and strengthen its bonds drawing upon the capacities of the shrine. Hasna is a network of people helping the center in promoting the tradition of marriage and starting a family. In the first phase of this national program, the volunteers of the shrine helped in mediating among couples via building networks, providing skills and knowledge, etc. The program sought to invest in and train the volunteers in the shrine so that they can act as mediators to facilitate marriage and help decrease the divorce rate.

◆ 8,000 Female Servants in Shrine

The large number of pilgrims in Imam Reza shrine calls for precise planning and management so that pilgrimage goes on smoothly. Statistically, women and children make up over %50 of pilgrims in the shrine, which tend to stay in porticos relatively longer than male pilgrims do. Therefore, providing services to the female pilgrims necessitate more finesse. As a result, some 8,000 female servants, between the ages of 20 to 50, are providing services to pilgrims in women porticos in different shifts.

◆ Women Volunteers Center

Female and Family Volunteers Center started in Iran in 2016, and has been active in matters related to women and family. The women center simultaneously launched volunteer centers across the country in different provinces, which acted as its executive arms. The volunteer centers are divided into two sections of 'Razavi Volunteers Center' and 'Martyrs Family Center'. Each of them has its own major and minor agendas. Razavi Volunteers Center is mostly concerned with family affairs via making discourse, improving skills, paving the way, creating networks and leading active organization with respect to family, as well as providing accessible

counseling services.

◆ Training Muslim Women in Razavi University of Islamic Sciences (RUIS)

In order to create an opportunity for elite women to play an effective role in the field of Islamic humanities, the women section of RUIS started in 2017 under the auspices of Imam Reza shrine in higher education. The facility administered the first admission examination for PhD candidates in three fields of Law and Quranic Sciences, Hadith, Philosophy and Islamic Theology simultaneously in Mashhad and Qom on December 29 and 2017, 30. The first scientific interview was conducted among the 37 candidates who passed the written test, and 14 female candidates were accepted into the doctoral program.

◆ 6,000 Female Students in Imam Reza International University (IRIU)

A decade into scientific and educational activities, the women section of IRIU has created a suitable scientific, cultural and educational environment compared to other university campuses for women in the country. It is a dynamic and developing facility and has become a leading and central university for nurturing the talents of faithful, expert and revolutionary women in order to respond to the needs of the country. Currently, more than 6,000 female students are studying in bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in about 60 fields of study in the facility.

◆ 'Daughter of Moon', National Coming of Age Ceremony

Holding special religious ceremonies for 9-year-old girls is one of the key opportunities to increase religious knowledge and education. Different organizations such as the Ministry of Education, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, and Municipality organize various programs for this group

