

## The Feasibility of Granting Political Rights to Religious Minorities with an Emphasis on the Iranian Legal System

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### Abstract:

Religious minorities are those citizens of the Islamic State who adhere to Islam and are granted citizenship rights within a contractual framework. Using an analytical method, this study tries to explain the distinction of this minority in political rights. It bases its analysis on the theory of citizenship rights, necessitating a linkage between citizenship and the right to political participation. The study refutes the competing hypothesis based on the differentiation between types of human dignity, considerations related to the principle of "Nafye Sabil" (denial of dominance), and the contract of protection (Ahd Dhimma). It proves its hypothesis that differences in citizenship rights, except where democratic considerations necessitate adherence to the majority's general will in society management or where there are valid concerns about the minority's loyalty, do not form distinctions in political citizenship rights. Minorities, as citizens, have the right to nationality and the right to vote. In elected positions subject to Shari'a, they can compete for election, and for both rights, they can have political organization. Therefore, it is suggested that some provisions of electoral laws and parties be amended.

### Keywords

Human rights; citizenship rights; religious minorities; political Rights; the Constitution; The Theory of Citizenship Rights.

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