



# *New Year, New Iran!* Facilitator Guide

## English Guide

### Facilitator's Role

Thank you for being a facilitator. This manual is to help your group have a thoughtful discussion and start to build bonds within the diaspora communities. You do not need to follow this manual verbatim. Your job is to help guide these informal conversations. You will:

- Help the group set discussion rules
- Ask the discussion questions to the whole group
- Keep a timer for discussions
- Remind members of the discussion rules
- Make sure answers are being translated for members who are not multilingual

Remember, the “facilitator” does not need to be one person. Different people can help facilitate and we encourage this!

### Introduction (25 minutes)

The introduction is just to explain why we are here and set up rules for the discussions. Before starting, ask what languages do people speak in this group. Get some volunteers to help translate for monolingual members. After this has been done you can begin.

When talking or Facilitator can read this:

*“Welcome everyone! Thank you for coming. As a safety precaution it is alright for us not to introduce ourselves. If you feel comfortable introducing yourselves to others we encourage you to use just your first name.*

*We are here today to discuss two main things: How can we better support our sisters and brothers in Iran? And what do we want the New Iran to look like? First we need to make some rules for how these discussions will proceed.*

*Here are three rules that we recommend:*

- *Listen more than talk. Keep your answers to less than 1 minute at a time.*



- *Treat each other with respect. No name calling and encourage each other to speak.*
- *Pause so others can translate what you say. If you can speak multiple languages then repeat your answer in the other language.*

*What are some other rules people would like to add?"*

The facilitator should let people suggest rules and write those down in a notebook. After rules have been suggested, the facilitator should repeat the rules and ask if everyone agrees to the rules.

If your event has few people (less than 10 attendees) then there is no reason to break up into smaller groups. If your event has more than 10 people, split up into smaller groups of between 5-8 people per small group. You can assign people randomly to different groups by counting off. For example if you want three groups, then have people count themselves in order from 1 to 3 and repeat until every person has a number.

Remind everyone that they can access this facilitator guide and the questions at [www.envsioniranshahr.org/fqd](http://www.envsioniranshahr.org/fqd)

## Discussion on Supporting the Protests

When everyone has organized into their small groups, the facilitator will read out the first set of questions. Facilitator can say:

*"Here are some questions for our first discussion:*

- *What do you think protestors inside Iran need to be successful in creating change?*
- *What have your family and friends inside Iran said that they need the outside world to do?*
- *What are some tangible actions we can take to pressure the Islamic Republic from outside Iran?*
- *As members of the Iranian diaspora, how can we build a unified opposition to the Islamic Republic?*

*If you all finish these questions, feel free to pose new questions to your group."*

The group or groups will begin discussing their thoughts, with each group member getting a chance to speak. After about 30 minutes have the groups merge again into one and have each group summarize their discussion for the rest of the attendees. If there is time, continue the discussion with the full group. This should take about 30 minutes.



The facilitator should participate in a group. However, keep track of the time and remind everyone how much time is left. Also remind the groups that everyone should be allowed to speak if they want to.

## Discussion on Alternatives to the Islamic Republic

The facilitator will read out the second set of questions. Facilitator can say:

*“Here are some questions for our second discussion:*

- *Why do you think the Islamic Republic has failed?*
  - *What have family and friends inside Iran said about this?*
- *What do you think are the barriers to making political and social change in Iran?*
  - *What have family and friends inside Iran said about this?*
- *What do you think are the opportunities for making political and social change in Iran?*
  - *What have family and friends inside Iran said about this?*
- *What values would you want a new government of Iran to have?*
  - *What have family and friends inside Iran said about this?*
- *Describe the style of government you would like to see replace the Islamic Republic?*
  - *What have family and friends inside Iran said about this?*

*If you all finish these questions, feel free to pose new question to your group.”*

The group or groups will begin discussing their thoughts, with each group member getting a chance to speak. After about 30 minutes have the groups merge again into one and have each group summarize their discussion for the rest of the attendees. If there is time, continue the discussion with the full group. This should take about 30 minutes.

The facilitator should participate in a group. However, keep track of the time and remind everyone how much time is left. Also remind the groups that everyone should be allowed to speak if they want to.

## Closing

*“Thank you for participating in these informal conversations. You will receive an email from Envision Iranshahr with a survey on how to improve these events. Have a safe and Happy New Year! Let us work towards a new Iran that puts Woman Life Freedom front and center!”*