

Gender transition surgery spreading in Iran



Reference

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Title

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Caption

September 22, 2025 - Tehran, Iran: A staffer is hanging an information board about body transition on the wall at Dr. Shahryar Cohanad's office. Iran is one of the few Muslim countries that allows gender-affirming care, and subsidizes it. Foreigners travel to Iran for transition surgery, and transgender Iranians undergo the operations, in spite of Iran's history of the operations and the grim reality for most L.G.B.T.Q. Iranians. Gay men and lesbians are subject to punishment by public flogging and the death penalty. As a result, the United Nations Human Rights Council found, many gay and lesbian Iranians who are not trans are "pressured into undergoing gender reassignment surgery without their free consent." Iran's discount prices are also drawing transgender individuals from Australia, the United States, Britain and Europe, according to medical tour operators and surgeons and many patients come from neighboring countries, like Iraq, where such treatments are strictly forbidden. "In the United States, the cost of surgery is around \$45,000, and in Thailand, it's approximately \$30,000," according to the website of one operator, IranMedTour. "However, the cost of gender confirmation surgery in Iran is lower, with prices less than \$12,000." Other companies advertise procedures at government hospitals for as low as \$4,500. (Arash Khamooshi / Polaris) (FOTO:DUKAS/POLARIS)

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