

Apply For Assistance Iranian Artists Support Project (IASP)

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IASP Application

If you are an **Iranian artist at-risk** needing assistance, please read the [Application Guide](#) for Iranian Artists At-risk below to determine whether you qualify for assistance from the Artistic Freedom Initiative.

To apply, Iranian at-risk artists are required to complete our IASP application form. AFI makes an overall assessment of each applicant's needs. Please provide all the information and documentation requested in the application form to enable us to assess your application properly. All information will be treated confidentially. You will be contacted and informed of the assessment result as soon as the application has been processed.

Please read the Application Guide for Iranian Artists At-risk and submit your application using the online form.



Photo Credit: AP

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Deadlines

Applications and submissions are typically considered any time throughout the year, on a rolling basis. Candidates meeting AFI – IASP qualifications will be considered by the AFI Selection Committee at least two (2) times per month. Decisions will be announced approximately two (2) weeks after each Selection Committee meeting.

Emergency Applications

Emergency applications can be considered out of cycle if an applicant's circumstances do not permit waiting for the next Selection Committee meeting.

Before you apply for an emergency application, you must ensure that you have documentary evidence to prove the urgency.

Note: Applications to participate in an annual business / academic / professional conference, general insecurity, instability, or civil conflict that affects the whole population of a country or region do not qualify as urgent.

1. Imminent Danger

The following conditions must be met to be qualified as an imminent danger:

- **There must be a threat of death or serious physical harm.** "Serious physical harm" means that a part of the body is damaged so severely that it cannot be used or cannot be used very well.
- **The threat must be immediate or imminent.** This means that you must believe that death or serious physical harm could occur quickly, for example, before AFI could review your application on its regular timeline.

2. Medical Emergency

Basis of urgency must be to obtain emergency medical care or to accompany a relative suffering from an immediate, life-threatening medical condition.

3. Urgent Art Business

Purpose of the request is to attend to an urgent artistic business matter where the situation could not be predicted in advance, and if missed, the artist will suffer a significant loss of opportunity if an emergency evaluation of the application is not provided.

Application Review

In the cases of publicly known candidates or crises, verification can be relatively straightforward, while other cases require extensive investigation and investment of resources. For particular types of reported threats, including anonymous intimidation or situations involving detainment, imprisonment, and/or physical violence, verification is undertaken with particular sensitivity to the security concerns of the applicant. All applicants for IASP are screened against a database containing the names of individuals, groups, and entities on major global sanctions, money laundering, and law enforcement watch lists.

Application Instructions

A complete application package must be submitted online.

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Who Are Considered Artists?

AFI construes the term “artist” broadly. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Actors
- Cartoonists
- Fictionwriters
- Filmmakers
- Graphic designers
- Journalists
- Musicians and Composers
- New media artists
- Painters
- Performance Artists
- Photographers
- Playwrights
- Poets
- Publishers of Art
- Visual Artists
- Non-fiction writers

Eligibility Criteria

Artists from Iran and in any artistic discipline may qualify. Applications are reviewed for artistic merit, the quality/potential of the applicant’s work for visa and immigration purposes, and the severity of the threats. Preference is given to artists who can show the following:

1. [Nationality and Residence](#)
2. [Artistic Production](#)
3. [Persecution and Censorship](#)

1. Nationality and Residence

The following persons are considered to be Iranian and eligible for consideration under the Iranian Artists Support Program (IASP):

- All persons born and residing in Iran except those who hold citizenship or another permanent status in another country.
- Those who are at least 18 years old whose parents are Iranians, regardless of whether they have been born in Iran or outside of Iran, and have resided at least five (5) continuous years in Iran, except those who hold citizenship or another permanent status in another country, and who have been displaced or in exile for more than three (3) years.
- All foreign nationals who have obtained Iranian nationality AND renounced or lost their foreign nationality, except those who hold citizenship or another permanent status in a third country or who have been displaced or in exile for more than three years.

Please note that, for this project, AFI gives priority to individuals still living in Iran or who have recently fled. AFI does not consider applications from individuals who have been displaced or in exile for more than three (3) years or who hold citizenship or another permanent status in another country.

2. Artistic Production

At-risk artists must be able to demonstrate a record of artistic productions or performances – artwork created through actions executed by the artist or other participants.

Note: *There is no generally agreed definition of what constitutes an artwork, and its interpretation has varied greatly throughout history and across cultures. AFI considers all branches of visual art, including but not limited to painting, sculpture, and architecture, as well as theatre, dance, and other performing arts, literature, music, film, and other media, such as interactive media, to be included in a broader definition of the artworks.*

3. Persecution and Censorship

Applicants must demonstrate that they are either:

- At the risk of persecution as a direct consequence of their art – this can be shown through a past history of physical harm, fear of future physical harm, incarceration, or prosecution;
- Unable to express themselves freely through their art and are facing or have recently faced immediate, severe, and targeted threats to their artistic practice (1) in Iran and by the government; or (2) in their current country of residence, if outside of Iran, and the government of the current residence is unable to provide protection.

Mandatory Application Materials

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Who Are Considered Artists?

If you would like to apply for AFI's Iranian Artists Support Project, you must submit the following required materials online:

Completion of the Online Application.

1. **Current CV or resume** including the following information:
 1. Current position (location, tenure dates, professional title & responsibilities);
 2. Previous positions (in chronological order: location, tenure dates, professional title & responsibilities);
 3. List of recent exhibitions, performances, productions, publications, etc.;
 4. Other relevant work (including artist presentations, grants/honors/awards, artistic/professional affiliations).
2. **An Artist Statement of Artistic Endeavour.** *Please discuss your artistic background and process. Please note that artist statements are generally a maximum of one page.*
3. **An Artist Statement of the Current Situation.** *Please explain why you are applying to Iranian Artists Support Project and include a clear account of the threats or risks you have faced. Please note that personal statements are generally a maximum of one page.*

**All applications will be reviewed on a first-come-first-served basis, except Emergency Applications, which will be reviewed before the regular applications.*

***If an application is missing a complete version of any of the mandatory application materials outlined above, your application will be rejected, and you will be required to resubmit.*

****If you have submitted an online application and meet the AFI project qualifications, you will be contacted for more information and asked to submit portfolio materials.*

Please direct any questions to IASP@artisticfreedominitiative.org.

Iranian Artist Support Project Application

Iranian Artists at Risk

[Apply For Assistance \(IASP\)](#)

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What to prepare?

Throughout this application form, you will be required to provide:

- your personal and professional information;
- an Artist Statement of Artistic Endeavor; and,
- an Artist Statement of the Current Situation.

** This application form and all materials related to your AFI – IASP application will be treated confidentially and will not be shared beyond the Artistic Freedom Initiative organization without your explicit permission.*

IMPORTANT: This application cannot be saved. Please prepare your Artist Statements of Artistic Endeavour and Current Situation in advance and be ready to submit the application upon completing all required fields.

[START APPLICATION](#)