



June 09

A real hope

If you've been watching the news recently, you can't fail to have noticed the coverage surrounding the presidential elections in Iran on the 12 June.

Several days of violent unrest on the streets of Tehran followed President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's landslide victory.

Heavy restrictions have been placed on the world press, but the impact of disillusionment in the political process is still apparent as people continue to protest and call for a re-count of the vote.

Press reports have been full of phrases that show the damage done by a loss of hope.

Cedar Home, just outside Beirut, Lebanon strives to be different from so much of what the world offers and provide lasting change, new starts and real hope to those it cares for. It provides a Christian home and family life for girls who have lost at least one parent and where the other parent is unable to care for them.

Chadi Melki, the Director, recently wrote to us to tell us about some of the activities the home runs for the girls, including a programme of outings for girls who have improved in school. When they get their reports, those girls who have improved the most (not necessarily those who have achieved the highest grades) are taken out on a special 'well done' outing. Similarly, once a month all the girls are taken out for dinner – either a picnic or restaurant. These times are special and important as none of the girls are able to live with their families and so these help to build relationships of friendship and fun.

Cedar Home strives to not just be about school but also preparing their girls for the rest of life too including marriage and university – their motto of 'creating a better chance for a better future, for each and every girl we serve' runs through everything they do.