



Statement by NIHR on International Day of the Girl Child

Manama on October 11, 2019

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) is participating in the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child, held on the 11th of October each year to address the unique issues and challenges facing girls. This day is a valuable opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of contributing to the enhancement and empowerment of girls around the world and to give them the chance to demonstrate their potentials and achieve their future aspirations at the time in which girls in most countries are subjected to violence, trafficking and forced marriage.

The United Nations has set the theme this year as “Girl Force: Unscripted and Unstoppable”, to emphasize that girls have the power to change the world if they are empowered and supported during the years of upbringing and adolescence, since investing in providing girls with the necessary resources and strength will bring about a more just and prosperous future being partners in the promotion and protection of human rights with all parties of the community.

The NIHR commends the achievements made in the national legislature by adding provisions that ensure the rights of the child in general and the rights of the girl child and girls in particular, in accordance with the Constitution and the relevant international treaties and covenants. The Decree-Law No. (16) of 1991 was promulgated on the Accession of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 1989. In addition, the Law No. (19) of 2004 was issued approving Bahrain’s accession to the 2 Optional Protocols on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts, the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography annexed to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2002, the Decree-Law No. (5) was promulgated approving accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which include articles that focus on the right of girls to reproductive health, particularly with regard to family planning services and the protection of the reproductive function, where Article (12-1) thereof stipulates that: “State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of healthcare in order to ensure, on the basis of equality between men and women, their access to healthcare services, including family planning ones”. The efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain were also addressed to achieve an integrated umbrella of protection for the rights of the child in general and the rights of the girl child in particular through the Law No. (37) of 2012 on the Promulgation of the Child Law.



The NIHR stresses that it is working within its wide mandate stipulated in its Incorporation Law pursuant to the Paris Principles to follow-up and monitor the adherence to the international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain on the promotion and protection of the rights of the girls. It also calls on all to cooperate and work together to consolidate and support the rights of girls through the adoption of more laws and the development of national, regional and international plans and strategies to achieve the 5th Sustainable Development Goal 2030 to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.