

NIHR's Statement on the Occasion of International Day for Tolerance

Manama on 16 November 2016

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) is inspired by the noble message delivered by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, may God protect him, to both citizens and non-citizens in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance, in which he said, "The world celebrates the International Day for Tolerance, an occasion that reminds us of our Bahraini authentic values that we inherited from father to son long centuries ago, through which we learned brotherliness and coexistence, and which remind us of our glorious past, prosperous present and bright future". He further stated that, "The tolerance celebrated by the world and commemorated by Bahrain is an authentic part of the culture of the people of Bahrain, who were and are still a vivid example of such noble values, which have never been far from the identity of this indigenous people with its various unique components".

On this occasion, the NIHR hopes that this day will be an opportunity for everyone, including peoples, nations, governments, civil societies and national and local civil institutions, to adopt the concept of tolerance in their activities, programs and plans, for a better world, outweighed by the opportunities for peace, cooperation, dialogue and acceptance of the other, in which the spaces of exclusion and intolerance are reduced. Everyone should understand tolerance, a value that exists in every doctrine, belief, religion and culture, not only as deterrent to wars and violence, but also as motivation to creativity, innovation, renovation and discovery.

In this regard, the UN celebrates the International Day for Tolerance on the 16th of November every year, since the UN General Assembly has invited the Member States in 1996 to celebrate this day, aiming to achieve peace and a decent human life in different cultures and religions, through mutual respect and appreciation among people, considering that tolerance is the strongest basis of peace and reconciliation and the firm ground to establish advanced civil societies, which belief in peaceful life for everyone together on one and same ground.

This action comes in the wake of UN General Assembly's Resolution No. 48/126 of 1993, which declared the year 1995 as the UN Year of Tolerance, based upon an the UNESCO General Conference's initiative dated 16 November 1995, in which the Member States adopted the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the follow-up action plan of the UN Year of Tolerance.

* * *