



Statement by the NIHR on the International Day for Tolerance

Manama on November 16, 2017

On 16th November every year, the UN celebrates the International Day for Tolerance, upon the call on by the UN General Assembly to its Member States to celebrate this day, with the aim of achieving peace and a decent life for people with different cultures and religions through mutual respect and appreciation among human beings. Tolerance is considered the strongest foundation for peace and reconciliation and the strong ground built on great foundations for the building of advanced civil societies that believe in a peaceful coexistence on one land.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) shares the UN's call on to celebrate this occasion and to uphold the principles of tolerance contained in the UNESCO Declaration, and affirms that the concepts of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence have been experienced by all sectors of the Bahraini society in the past decades, which have been and are still the source of strength and stability for the Kingdom of Bahrain, and which are consistent with what is going on in the Bahraini society as well as the values of tolerance and coexistence that have been learned by the Bahraini citizens.

The NIHR further praises the Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is an important document calling for pluralism that categorically rejects religious coercion and condemns acts of violence, abuse and incitement in the name of religion. It also emphasizes that it is the responsibility of governments around the world to respect and protect religious minorities and religions in general. The NIHR hereby refers to the launching of King Hamad International Center for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in Los Angeles, California, last September, which aims to promote religious freedoms for all and living in a world that believes in peaceful coexistence, and works to promote a culture of dialogue and understanding between religions and combat the speech of hatred and intolerance.

This year, the UN has launched a campaign entitled "Together" to promote tolerance, respect and dignity worldwide, through the promotion of mutual understanding between cultures and peoples, in confirmation of the Charter of the UN as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as it is tolerance that builds nations.

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