



Statement by NIHR on the occasion of Bahrain's advanced ranking in "Combatting Trafficking in Persons"

Manama, July 2, 2018

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) welcomes the US Department of State's report for 2018 on the trafficking in persons, in which the Kingdom of Bahrain ranked Tier 1 for the most successful countries in combating trafficking in persons, among the 187 governments documented in the report.

The NIHR is proud of this international achievement, which reflects Bahrain's advanced position. The Kingdom of Bahrain's is the first country in the Middle East and North Africa Region to acquire this position, which confirms Bahrain's commitment to international conventions, specifically human rights.

The NIHR highly appreciates the role played by the Coordinating Committee under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander, First Deputy Prime Minister, may Allah protect him. Through His Royal Highness's guidance in setting up initiatives and programs to combat trafficking in persons, this prominent position was achieved by the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is a reflection of the political leadership's direction on the implementation, protection and maintenance of human rights.

The NIHR also praises the efforts of the Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) in dealing and working with trafficking cases to provide a safe environment for expatriate workers, while developing anti-trafficking efforts, which is an honorable contribution to the strengthening of the global status of the Kingdom of Bahrain and is another proud national achievement under the reform era of His Majesty the King, may Allah protect him.

In its supervisory role in monitoring the performance of the executive authority and its diligent follow-up on relevant human rights situations in accordance with its responsibilities affirmed by its Incorporation Law, the NIHR considers that the Kingdom of Bahrain has obtained this advanced ranking based on several actions taken to combat trafficking in persons in line with the standards set forth in international laws for the protection of victims of trafficking in persons:

- I. Launching the flexible work permit, adopted by the UN as one of the best international practices, with a view to correcting the situation of irregular labor to prevent their exploitation, extortion or trafficking.



- II. Launching a comprehensive center for the protection and support of migrant workers, which includes a shelter for victims and assists anyone who is likely to become a victim.
- III. Launching a fund to support victims of trafficking in persons with a view to improving their humanitarian and financial situation through its various programs.
- IV. Adopting tripartite contract for domestic labor, which regulates the relationship between the employment office, the employer and the domestic worker.
- V. Launching the National Referral System for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, the first of its kind in the region, aimed at strengthening measures to combat trafficking in persons, clarifying and regulating the role of different agencies and their mechanisms in dealing with any trafficking situation or any case suspected of being transformed into a trafficking situation.
- VI. Issuing judicial convictions in the area of trafficking in persons.
- VII. Cooperating with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the GCC countries and working towards the establishment of a regional training and capacity-building center to combat trafficking in persons in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The NIHR hereby works with its wide mandate asserted by its Incorporation Law in accordance to the Paris Principles to follow up on the commitment to international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the area of human rights to ensure that they are being enforced and respected by everyone to promote and protect human rights.