



Statement by the NIHR on World Children's Day

Manama on November 20, 2019

Countries in the world, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, celebrate the World Children's Day on the 20th of November each year. This coincides with the annual anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 by the UN. The celebration of this Day emphasizes the importance of strengthening international interdependence to improve the well-being of children around the world by building an appropriate environment for their living and a bright future for children.

This year's celebration coincides with the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, where the UN calls on the entire world to unite and take effective measures to implement the provisions of this Convention that has received the largest number of ratifications in history.

On this occasion, the NIHR affirms that the Kingdom of Bahrain has paid great attention to childhood. Article (5) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain stipulates that: "The family is the basis of society, deriving its strength from religion, morality and love of the homeland. The law preserves its lawful entity, strengthens its bonds and values, under its aegis extends protection to mothers and children, tends the young and protects them from exploitation and safeguards them against moral, bodily and spiritual neglect. The State cares in particular for the physical, moral and intellectual development of the young". In this regard, several laws have been enacted to safeguard the rights of the child, including Law No. (37) of 2012 on the Rights of the Child, Decree-Law No. (22) of 2000 on Family Custody and Law No. (17) of 2015 on Protection against Family Violence. The Kingdom of Bahrain has also provided specialized centers to protect children from abuse and violence and to develop national strategies to ensure the protection of their rights.

On this occasion, the NIHR states that it will work with its broad mandate emphasized by its Incorporation Law in accordance with the Paris Principles, to follow-up and monitor the commitment to international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child through cooperation with all relevant bodies to ensure that they are enforced and respected by all.