

Statement by the NIHR on Universal Children's Day

Manama on November 20, 2018

Under the theme of “Children are Taking Over and Turning the World Blue”, countries all over the world, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, celebrate the Universal Children's Day on 20 November every year, which coincides with 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 theme highlights the importance of creating a world in which all children are enrolled at schools, safe from harm and able to realize their potentials, since there are about 262 million children and young people around the world who have been deprived of their right to education.

The issue of the protection and promotion of the rights of the child is of great importance in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which reflects the keenness of the wise leadership on childhood, which was translated into the promulgation of the Child's Law No. 37 of 2012. In addition, Bahrain's membership to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for the period 2017 - 2021 is a clear evidence of Bahrain's efforts to ensure the rights of the child. Furthermore, Bahrain is one of the leading countries in the provision of specialized centers for child protection against violence, which provide social awareness programs on the protection of children's rights to all segments of the society.

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has played an active role, since its establishment till now, in the promotion and protection of human rights in general and the rights of children in particular, thanks to its Incorporation Law, which has given it several powers, mainly the dissemination of the culture of human rights and introducing it through a number of available means, in addition to receiving complaints, providing legal assistance and monitoring, and carrying out declared and undeclared field visits, with a view to contribute to the promotion, development and protection of human rights in general and children's rights in particular.

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 the commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the two protocols thereto, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain has acceded, to ensure that it is enforced and respected by all.