

NIHR's Statement on the Occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Manama on 21 March 2017

The United Nations celebrates the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that falls on March 21 of every year, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in its Resolution No. 2142 (d-21) issued on 26 October 1966. The UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination on 1 December 1965, which entered into force on 4 January 1969.

The theme of this year's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is entitled: "Racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration".

According to a recent report issued by the special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and the related intolerance to the Human Rights Council, racial and ethnic profiling is defined as "the use by police, security, immigration or customs officials of generalizations based on race, ethnicity, religion or natural origin, rather than individual behavior or objective evidence, as the basis for suspicion in directing discretionary law enforcement actions. It is most often manifest in police officers' decisions about whom to stop for detailed search, identity verification, investigations and searches or to determine whether an individual is involved in criminal activity". Refugees and migrants thus constitute certain targets of racial profiling and incitement to hatred.



For its part, the NIHR celebrates this occasion alongside with the UN and the whole world. At the same time, it stresses the importance of respect for human dignity and equality of all and that everyone has the right to exercise human rights without discrimination, with the need to ensure those rights for all, since the development goals aspired by the world's nations cannot be achieved without the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

In this context, the NIHR works with its broad mandate under its Establishment Law pursuant to Paris Principles, in the area of promotion and protection, together with all official and civil authorities, in order to promote, develop and protect human rights, consolidate their values and raise awareness of them, contribute to ensuring the exercise of all rights without discrimination and monitor the compliance of the law enforcement officials in Bahrain with the international conventions and treaties ratified by Bahrain in the area of human rights to ensure their effectiveness and respect by all.

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