

## **Statement by NIHR on International Day For Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

**Manama on March 21, 2019**

The world celebrates the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March each year, the day adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1966, based upon its belief in the importance of lasting peace based upon the right to equality and non-discrimination regardless of race, sex, language, religion, creed or political difference, where racial discrimination has been prohibited in all basic international instruments on human rights. States must eliminate discrimination in all its forms through taking special measures to eliminate the conditions that may cause or perpetuate racial discrimination.

This year's theme is entitled "Mitigating and Combating Rising National Populism and Ethnic Extremist Ideologies", where existing racist movements are spreading, fueling racial discrimination. This year's theme emphasizes that all human-beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and have the capacity to contribute constructively and equally to the development and well-being of their societies.

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) seizes this occasion to pay tribute to the Kingdom of Bahrain's outstanding balance of achievements in the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination under the Reform Project of His Majesty the King, since Article (4) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain states that: "Justice is the basis of government. Cooperation and mutual respect provide a firm bond between citizens. Freedom, equality, security, trust, knowledge, social solidarity and equality of opportunity for citizens are pillars of society guaranteed by the State". Accordingly, we should work to promote the culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence among all components of the people and respect for others, renounce violence and fight Intolerance in all its forms.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has also acceded to a number of international conventions relating to combating racism and racial discrimination, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1965.

Based upon the NIHR's terms of reference stated by its Incorporation Law No. (26) of 2014 modified by the Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, which aim at enhancing and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the NIHR cooperates with all relevant bodies, in order to promote the policy of equality and elimination of racial discrimination, through providing advisory opinions as well periodic and parallel reports, studying legislation and ensuring their conformity with international human rights standards, in addition to receiving complaints and providing legal assistance.