

## **NIHR's Statement on the Formation of a Sharia Committee to Review the Draft Family Law**

Manama on 24 April 2017

On the occasion of issuance of the High Royal Order No. (24) of 2017 by His Majesty the King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, may God protect him, to form a Sharia committee to review the draft Family Law, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) expresses its deep appreciation for the formation of this committee, which comprises of elite members of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and a number of Sharia judges, whose work is concerned with studying the draft Family Law, reviewing the provisions thereof and ensuring they are in accordance with Islamic law. The committee shall submit its report to the Royal Court, including its findings and recommendations.

The NIHR believes that the formation of this committee is in itself one of the most important guarantees to maintain the family structure, ensuring the conformity of all articles and provisions of the draft Law to Islamic law. The NIHR also believes that the absence of a unified family law contributes to the suffering of the family, especially with the absence of a legislative organization for the Jafri sect, compared with the application of the family provisions in the Sunni sect, which contributes to solve a lot of problems.

In this sense, the NIHR stresses that it shall follow-up the work of the committee closely and that it is fully prepared to provide complete support to it in order to come up with a unified law that will serve both sects and preserve the family

structure under the Islamic regulations and in compliance with relevant international conventions.

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