



Statement by NIHR on the US Department of State Report 2020 on Combating Trafficking in Persons

Manama on June 27, 2020

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) welcomes the report issued by the US Department of State for the year 2020 on trafficking in persons, which praised Bahrain's efforts in enhancing the work environment and providing appropriate conditions to assist victims in accessing and obtaining justice and prosecuting and condemning those involved in such crimes, in addition to its constant keenness to develop and upgrade the procedures and programs applied in this area.

The NIHR commends the Kingdom of Bahrain for obtaining the first class (Tier 1) in the classification of the most advanced countries in the fight against trafficking in persons for the third year in a row, which reveals Bahrain's commitment to all standards for eliminating trafficking in persons as stipulated in the American legislation, as well as its ongoing efforts to fully implement those standards.

The NIHR believes that the report was based on the facts that revealed Bahrain's efforts to protect human rights thanks to the unlimited support by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, and his directives to adopt the best practices to combat the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, through a well-established legal and institutional structure that applies and enforces the law to protect the victim and punish the perpetrator.

The NIHR values the great role of the Coordination Committee chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, by setting out initiatives, strategies and programs aimed at combating this global phenomenon, which has caused Bahrain to obtain this prominent position. At the same time, it commends the efforts of the Labor Market Regulatory Authority in dealing with cases of trafficking in persons, providing a safe environment for migrant workers and developing efforts to combat trafficking in persons in accordance with best practices emanating from international laws supported by the national legislation.

The NIHR states that it is working with its wide mandate emphasized by its Incorporation Law in accordance with the Paris Principles, to follow up the government's commitment to the international agreements and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of human rights and ensure that they are implemented and respected by all in order to promote and protect human rights, especially combating all forms and shapes of trafficking in persons.