

## **Statement by NIHR on Promulgation of Law No. (30) of 2018 on Personal Data Protection**

**Manama on July 28, 2018**

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has lauded His Majesty the King of Bahrain's ratification of the Law No. (30) of 2018 issuing Personal Data Protection Law, under which a Personal Data Protection Authority is set-out to provide legal protection for personal privacy, especially with the widespread use of electronic (digital) means in editing and handling documents and transactions, which may pose a threat to individuals' private lives.

The NIHR stressed that the promulgation of this pioneering law and the inclusion of comprehensive provisions on the protection of personal privacy reflects positively upon the principle of respect for and protection of the right to inviolability of private life, a right that is guaranteed by the Bahraini Constitution, where Article (26) stipulates that: "the freedom of postal, telegraphic, telephonic and electronic communication is safeguarded and its confidentiality is guaranteed. Communications shall not be censored or their confidentiality breached except in exigencies specified by law and in accordance with procedures and under guarantees prescribed by law". The Personal Data Protection Law, the NIHR added, is also in line with Article (17) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain has acceded by Law No. (56) of 2006, which states: "(1) No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honor and reputation, (2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks".

The NIHR affirms that the law is a pioneering legislative step at both regional and international levels as it complies with the UN policies to urge states to issue laws regulating the collection and preservation of personal information by using the computer, data banks and other means, whether by public authorities, individuals or private bodies, in addition to its inclusion of provisions concerning civil and criminal liability in case of violation.

The NIHR reaffirmed that, within its broad mandate, determined by its Incorporation Law in accordance with the Paris Principles, it is keen to follow-up on the fulfilment of the international instruments and relevant human rights resolutions ratified or acceded by Bahrain to ensure their effective implementation and respect by all the parties, to further promote and protect human rights in the national system.