

## **Statement by NIHR on World Day against Trafficking in Persons**

### **Manama on July 30, 2018**

On 30 July every year, all countries, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, celebrate the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2013. This resolution represents a global declaration of the need to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and the suffering of victims and to promote and protect their rights.

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) appreciates Bahrain's great role to combat trafficking in persons and its ranking as Tier 1 in the US Department of State's report on the classification of the most successful countries in combating trafficking in persons, among the efforts of the 187 governments documented by it in 2018. This classification represents a new and essential addition to the achievements of Bahrain's comprehensive development process, which reveals the tireless efforts and emphasizes the success of the leading initiatives that have been achieved to provide a safe environment for expatriate workers and pursue the best ways to combat trafficking in persons in the Bahrain, mainly the promulgation of the Law No. (1) of 2008 on Combating Trafficking in Persons, which is deemed as one of the most essential regional initiatives witnessed by the countries of the region in combatting trafficking in human-beings, due to the advanced concepts covered by it and its enacted deterrent penalties against anyone who commits the crime of trafficking in persons.

In addition, the NIHR commends the effective role of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons (NCCTIP) by developing plans, programs and mechanisms in support for the preservation and safeguarding of the rights of all parties through taking a set of measures in the area of combating trafficking in persons, including but not limited to the launch of the first comprehensive center for the protection and support of expatriate workers in Bahrain, which includes a shelter for assisting the victims and any person who is likely to become a victim, and the launch of the Flexible Work Permit, which was adopted by the UN as one of the international best practices, with a view to correcting the conditions of the irregular labor to avoid its exploitation, extortion or trafficking.

The NIHR reiterates that it works with its broad mandate emphasized by its Incorporation Law as per the Paris Principles relating to the status of the national institutions to follow up the extent of commitment to the international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the area of human rights. Furthermore, it calls for continued effective cooperation among all Government and non-government parties to work together to contribute to the building and development of this dear homeland in all areas.