



## NIHR's Statement on the Occasion of the World Press Freedom Day

Manama on May 3, 2017

On 3 May every year, the UN celebrates World Press Freedom Day, to commemorate the adoption of the historic Windhoek Declaration at a meeting of African journalists that was organized by UNESCO and held in Namibia on May 3, 1991. The Declaration states that the freedom of press can only be achieved by ensuring a free, independent and pluralistic media environment, which is a precondition to ensure the security of journalists in the performance of their duties and the performance of prompt and accurate investigation in crimes against freedom of press.

On this international occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) expresses its pride in the prominent position of press in the Kingdom of Bahrain, under the Reform Project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, may God protect him, and at the same time stresses the principle of freedom of the press, opinion and expression as stipulated by international charters, in order to build fair societies for all and enhance peace and the culture of dialogue and acceptance of the other, together with the rule of law, which is an integral part of a democratic society.

The World Press Freedom Day, which is celebrated this year under the theme of "Critical Minds for Critical Times: The Media's Role in Advancing Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies", is deemed a unique opportunity to celebrate the basic principles of press freedom and to highlight the basic role of the freedom of expression and freedom of information in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, especially in light of the recognition by the Sustainable Development Plan

2030 that was adopted unanimously by the UN Member States in September 2017 of the role of the media in promoting good governance and development.

The freedom of expression is considered a basic human right, as stipulated by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas without any media and regardless of frontiers”.

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