



### **Statement by NIHR on World Press Freedom Day**

Manama, 3 May 2018

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, which is observed annually on 3 May and which is celebrated this year under the theme “Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law,” the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) expresses its pride in the prominent position of press in the Kingdom of Bahrain, where the journalists and media professionals exercise their rights to information seeking and propagation and express their views in a climate of freedom and transparency within the framework of the state of institutions and law, by taking into account the supreme interest of the country and citizens and observing professional and ethical standards, as per Article 23 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which stipulates that “the freedom of opinion and scientific research is guaranteed, and everyone has the right to express and disseminate his/her opinion verbally, in writing or otherwise, in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated by law, without prejudice to Islamic rules and the unity of the people, and in such a way that does not provoke discord or sectarianism”.

In view of the important and effective role of the press, which lies in its ability to influence public opinion through new types of media tools that have imposed themselves on the scene, the NIHR calls for greater commitment to professional responsibility and the establishment of the culture of self-censorship in media practice, praising at the same time the climate of freedom and openness witnessed by the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The NIHR emphasizes that it works within its wide mandate which is confirmed by its establishment law in accordance with the Paris Principles to follow-up and monitor compliance with the international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain concerning the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.