



NIHR's Statement on the Occasion of the World Health Day

Manama on 7 April 2017

On the 7th April every year, the UN celebrates the World Health Day in commemoration of the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. The World Health Day offers a unique opportunity to mobilize action efforts on a specific health issue of interest to people around the world.

The World Health Organization (WHO) identified the theme of “depression” to be the title of its campaign for the World Health Day 2017, since depression is a serious and widespread disease that afflict a wide range of people of different ages, causes them psychological pain and affects their ability to perform even the simplest daily tasks, and sometimes has devastating consequences on their relations with their families and friends and their ability to earn their living. Regrettably, staying without proper treatment for depression may lead the depressed person to think of committing suicide.

The right to health is considered one of the most fundamental human rights, since it is not just limited to having access to healthcare and lack of disease and disability, but extends to individual's physical, mental and social integrity.

The Constitution of Bahrain guarantees the right to health, as per Article (8) Paragraph (a), which stipulates that “every citizen has the right to healthcare, and the State shall be concerned with public health and shall ensure means of prevention and treatment by establishment of various hospitals and health institutions”. Paragraph (b) of the same Article further stipulates that “individuals and authorities may establish hospitals, clinics or treatment



institutions under supervision of the State and in compliance with law". The legislator in the Kingdom of Bahrain has given particular attention to the right to health through the enactment of several legislations related to the enhancement and protection of this right, particularly the Decree No. 5 of 2013 to establish the Supreme Council of Health, which acts to develop the national health strategy in Bahrain and follow-up the implementation thereof with the concerned ministries, institutions and bodies.

For its part, the NIHR celebrates this occasion with the UN and the world, and commends Bahrain's accession, by virtue of Act No. 10 of 2007, to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in which Article (12) Paragraph (1) stipulates that "the State Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of every human-being to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health".

In this context, the NIHR uses its wide mandate, emphasized by its Establishment Law in accordance with the Paris Principles, in the area of enhancement and protection of human rights, side by side with all official and civil bodies, in order to find out appropriate legislations and non-legislative measures necessary to protect and promote the right to health, and follow-up and monitor the extent to which the government abide by international conventions and treaties that have been ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain with regard to the right to health, to ensure their enforcement and that everyone has access to the right to health without any discrimination

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