

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) considers the continuation of the Kingdom of Bahrain Tier 1 in Combat Trafficking in Person' status, an achievement added to the country's outstanding record in this area

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The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) reviewed the US State Department's 2019 report on the classification of countries in the field of combating trafficking in persons, which highlighted Bahrain's presence for the second consecutive year among the category of countries most developed and successful in combating trafficking in persons (TIER 1 Status).

The NIHR believes that the information contained in the report is based on facts that reflect the Kingdom's continued efforts in protecting human rights through adopting the best practices to combat the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. The report also confirms the success of the policies and measures adopted by various official bodies in combating this serious violation of human rights, reflecting His Majesty King Hamad's vision, directives, and unlimited support to their work.

The NIHR commends the distinguished role played by the Government Executive Committee, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, in developing initiatives, strategies, and programs aimed at combating this global phenomenon, which have enabled Bahrain to continue to enjoy the Tier 1 prominent position, and to become a model for best practices in this field.

The NIHR also commends the efforts made by the LMRA in dealing with cases of trafficking in persons in accordance with the best international practices and international and local legislation, as well as for its work to provide a safe environment for expatriate workers.

Within the context of its monitoring role, stipulated in its establishment law, and based on its relentless follow-up of the human rights situation, the NIHR considers that the Kingdom's continued pursuit of its unique international status as a pioneering country in the MENA region, reflects the implementation of a number of key initiatives to combat trafficking in persons and protect its victims.

In this regard, it is especially important to mention that the opening of an office for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which was one of the most important initiatives of cooperation between Bahrain and the Organization; the launch of the first Center for the Protection and Support of Expatriate Workers, which includes a shelter for victims and the provision of assistance to any potential victim; and the launch of a Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, which aims at improving their humanitarian and financial situation.

The Kingdom has also adopted the Triple Domestic Contract, which regulates the relationship between the employment office, the employer, and the domestic worker. The employment offices in the Kingdom have all committed to its implementation. The Kingdom has also introduced the National Referral System for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, which is the first of its kind in the region. This system aims to strengthen measures to combat trafficking in persons, promote awareness of the role of different actors and mechanisms to deal with any actual or potential trafficking cases, continue the awareness program, issue convictions for parties guilty of trafficking in persons, in addition to establishing the Regional Center for Training and Capacity-building. The NIHR also follows up on the advanced stages of the national strategy to combat trafficking in persons and its action plan, striving to contribute to them.

The NIHR affirms its commitment to continue to work with all relevant authorities in the Kingdom to promote and protect civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights, making Bahrain a regional example.

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