

## **NIHR's Statement on Occasion of the anniversary of founding the Supreme Council for Women**

On the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding the Supreme Council for Women, the National Institution for Human Rights hereby expresses its deep appreciation for the prominent role played by the Supreme Council for Women through the concern given by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of HM the King, for supporting and empowering the Bahraini woman in all fields.

The NIHR lauds the efforts exerted by Supreme Council for Women in dealing with the issues of the woman and enabling her in all areas and fields and this has apparent effect on promoting the position achieved by the Bahraini Woman under the reformatory regime of the His Majesty the King of Bahrain, may God protect him, which are added to the record of the leading national gains.

The achievements made by the Supreme Council for Women have placed the woman on the way towards progress and modernity as well as translating the stipulations of the Bahraini Constitution that call for the principles of complete and real equality opportunities for everyone in civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights considering the woman as an effective and complementary element for the man in order to build the homeland and achieve prosperity thereof.

Thereupon, NIHR stresses its complete support for everything that enhances the position of and respect for the Bahraini woman , allowing her to enjoy all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and aspects without contradicting Islamic Sharia, the essence of religion and applicable traditions and customs.

It is worth mentioning that international charters and conventions referred to all levels of rights; for instance article (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human rights issued in 1948 stipulates, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood". The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that the Kingdom of Bahrain has joined thereto according to Law No. (56) of 2006 stipulates article (3) thereof "The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure equal rights for men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights set forth in the present

Covenant", in addition to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to by virtue of Decree by Law No. (5) of 2002, which stipulates in article (2) thereof: " States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women .....".

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