



## **Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on occasion of the anniversary of the United Nations World Health Day**

07 April 2013

Coinciding with the anniversary of the United Nations World Health Day, April 7 of each year, the National Institution for Human Rights expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude for the efforts of the executive authority demonstrated in the development of the health sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to ensure providing more health care in implementation of the state's constitutional obligations towards its citizens.

For its part, the National Institution for Human Rights, along with the United Nations and the world, celebrates this occasion which sheds the light, this year, on the theme of «high blood pressure». The right to health is an integral part of human rights, which was furthered by the constitution of the World Health Organization, the agency in charge of health in the United Nations system, stating in its preamble that: «enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being».

Right to health care is one of the duties of the State that must be guaranteed to its people as it is a pillar of development and human rights. This concept was reinforced by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, in which article 25 stated that: «Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care». It was also confirmed by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), issued in 1966 in the first

paragraph of Article 12 stating that: «States Parties to the Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”. The Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to the covenant on September 27, 2007 by Law No. (10) for the year 2007.

Bahraini Constitution, published in 2002 and amended in 2012 pointed out to the right to health as a human right in Article 8 / A, which stipulates that: «Every citizen has the right to health care. The state cares about public health and provides means of prevention and cure by building different types of hospitals and health institutions. »

Accordingly, the National Institution for Human Rights, which was established by Royal order No. 46 in 2009 and amended by the Royal Order No. 28 of 2012, calls on this occasion for the necessity of concerting all efforts by the government, civil society organizations and the various bodies of the United Nations in order to effectively cooperate for the concentration on health and development of health systems to ensure the enjoyment of the highest physical and mental health standards and exercise strict control over the means taken in it. Also to help ensure global health security by detecting emerging threats to health and urgently deal with them to fight together to achieve justice in access to health care and the realization of human rights principles.

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