



Statement of the NIHR on the occasion of the World Day

To raise awareness about elder abuse

Manama - June 15, 2014

The United Nations celebrated on June 15, the World Day to raise awareness about elder abuse, the day is announced by the United Nations General Assembly under Resolution No. 66/127, dated December 19, 2011 is considered as an annual opportunity to loudly oppose to abuse some older generations subjecting them to suffering. Approximately 4% to 6% of the elderly are exposed to one form or another of abuse at home, which may cause serious physical injuries and long-term psychological effects to them .

The percentage of elder abuse is expected to increase as many countries are experiencing increase in the numbers of elderly people. The age group 60 years and older of the world's population will be increased by more than doubled, from 542 million in 1995 to roughly 1.2 billion people in 2025 .

The resolution of the United Nations General Assembly asserted the need to encourage governments to pay attention to capabilities-building in order to eradicate poverty among the elderly, and to take the issues of aging into account in poverty eradication strategies and national development plans. The resolution recommends Member States to establish appropriate mechanisms to monitor the programs and policies designed to protect the elder people equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

According to the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-kun on the occasion of the World Day to raise awareness about elder abuse: " Elderly people in all societies can be vulnerable to physical, psychological and financial abuse. Older women are at particular risk due to widespread discriminatory attitudes and practices .



On this World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, I call on Member States to enact and enforce stronger laws and strategies to address all aspects of this under-acknowledged social, public health and human rights issue. All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights, and have the right to age with dignity, respected by their families and communities, free of neglect, abuse and violence.

The NIHR commends the efforts of the Ministry of Social Development and the launch of the national strategy for the elderly that contribute to rationing and securing the rights of the elderly, preserving their rights, ensuring appropriate jobs and income for them. It calls on the concerned authorities to concert efforts to develop more strategies for the prevention of elder abuse, to enact laws and regulations to safeguard and protect their rights and dignity, and to support international efforts to create an international convention on the rights of the elderly.