

A statement of the National Foundation for Human Rights (NIHR) on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Manama, November 23, 2011

On November 25 every year, the world commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, based on the UN General Assembly's Resolution No. (54 /134), dated 17 December 1999, marking this day as the International Day for the Elimination of violence against Women, and the importance of celebration by organizing The UN called for the importance of celebrating this day through activities that aim to raise public awareness of the problem of violence against women. The UN resolution defines violence against women in line with Article I of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, issued on 17 December 1999, which regards violence against women as *“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”*.

Perhaps the initiative launched by the HN Secretary-General, Mr. "Ban Ki-moon, referred to as the “End violence against women” campaign, lasting from the United Nations' directions to take all 2008 until 2014, genuinely reflects women, possible measures to eliminate all forms of violence against especially when linked to the UN's Millennium Development Goals, which are scheduled to be met by 2015. A woman is also regarded as one of the main development objectives through gender-equality and guaranteeing primary education and other goals that focus basically on women, without overlooking the role of men in the development process in the world.

For its part, the NIHR celebrates this occasion along with the United Nations and the world, stressing at the same time the importance of protecting the rights of women and provision of appropriate safeguards to ensure they are not exposed to assault affecting her real role in society negatively. Violence against women will be of particular importance in the national plan for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain during the events the NIHR is planning to implement.

The NIHR also highlights the importance of what has been achieved in Bahrain for women in light of the reform project launched by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in 2000, which saw the establishment of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) in 2001 as a reference to all official authorities regarding women's affairs, specializing in giving opinion and deciding on matters related to the status of women directly or indirectly. The SCW also deals with all women's issues and works on ensuring that the availability of national legislations to protect women against violence, in addition to receiving complaints in on relevant matters. In this context, the SCW works on ensuring that national legislations are in compliance with international conventions on women ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain through cooperation with various authorities in the State.

In the same context, the NIHR is working with all Government and non-Government bodies concerned with women's issues in order to ensure the introduction of legislation appropriate to the Bahrain community which prevents the occurrence of any violence against women, in accordance with the definition of violence against women previously mentioned. The NIHR also receives any complaint in regarding any form of violence against women, in line with the Royal Order No. 46 -2009, which created the NIHR, which stipulates that the NIHR " shall promote the development and protection of human rights, consolidation and dissemination of awareness of their values, in addition to contributing to guaranteeing the exercise of such rights. "