

المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان
National Institution for Human Rights



National Institution for Human Rights



www.nihr.org.bh



39636643



@nihrbh



@nihrbh



nihrbh



nihrbh



INTRODUCTION

With the development of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the launch of His Majesty the King's reform scheme, and the establishment of the foundations of a modern democratic state, Bahrain has become among the countries moving towards progress and development in the field of human rights, seeking to promote and develop human rights. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain issued, Royal Order No. 46 of 2009 as amended by Royal Order No. 28 of 2012 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), which is tasked with promoting, developing and protecting human rights, in addition to establishing human rights values and disseminating awareness thereof, and ensuring that they are exercised freely and independently, through working in accordance with the Paris Principles adopted by UN General Assembly's Resolution No. 48/134 of 1993 as a legal reference in the establishment of NIHR. The Paris Principles are a set of internationally recognized principles on the formation of national institutions for human rights, and their respective powers and procedures.

In order to achieve its goals and reach the desired results with respect to the protection and development of human rights, NIHR undertakes a number of functions, including: receiving and studying complaints relating to human rights, referring them to the competent authorities and effectively following them up, or enlightening the concerned bodies regarding the procedures to be followed and assisting them in finding suitable actions; studying the legislation falling within the areas of human rights and recommending the amendments it deems appropriate in this regard; and issuing and publishing reports about the development of the Kingdom's efforts in the field of human rights and relevant national conditions.

NIHR has adopted a strategic vision and an action plan (2013-2016) based on five themes, namely:

- (I) Development of NIHR's engagement in efforts aimed to protect human rights;
- (II) Promotion of efforts in the field of legislative development and review;
- (III) Launch of an extensive national program for human rights education;
- (IV) Launch of a specialized program to promote citizenship rights and support the values thereof; and
- (V) Reinforcement of cooperation at the national, regional and international levels.

Royal Order No. 7 for the year 2013 and Royal order No. 14 for the year 2014 was issued to reconstitute the NIHR to include members of personalities known for their competence and integrity. They are to be selected from among the advisory and academic bodies, civil society organizations, trade unions, social, economic and professional organizations, and personalities interested in human rights issues. Women and minorities are fairly represented. Besides, three permanent committees were formed, namely: Complaints, Monitoring, and Follow-up Committee, Civil and Political Rights Committee, and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Committee.

To promote the practice and experience of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of human rights, NIHR has been awarded legal personality and financial and administrative autonomy to enable it to exercise its functional duties freely, neutrally and independently.

“Human rights culture is a lifestyle”

To believe that the human rights issue is of the national constants, and recognize that civil, political, economic, social and cultural, as well as individual or collective, rights and public freedoms represent a commitment to the values of justice, equality and human dignity of all human beings without discrimination.

MISSION

“Let us come together to create a better practice of human rights”

Work on developing, promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, through providing protection and support for citizens and residents, enabling them to gain various knowledge with regard to the exercise of their legitimate rights, and determining their needs and how to claim and defend them. This can be achieved by spreading the culture of human rights by all means available.

The National Institution For Human Rights (NihR), through Its Institutional Framework, Endeavours To Attain The Following Objectives:

- 1- Spread the culture of human rights and defend them by all means available.
- 2- Educate individuals on the fundamental rights guaranteed to them under national legislation and international conventions.
- 3- Strengthen and empower individuals through various training programs to increase knowledge and awareness of fundamental rights and how to exercise them in a manner that ensures that all individuals enjoy them.
- 4- Expand the network of communication with organizations specializing in the field of human rights at the national level, regional and international levels.
- 5- Receive complaints and monitor and document human rights violations.
- 6- Provide and afford the necessary information and legal assistance services for victims of human rights violations.
- 7- Write and issue annual and ad hoc reports.



SERVICES

SERVICES PROVIDED BY NIHR:

NIHR provides several services related to human rights and public freedoms, whether for individuals, official state institutions or civil society organizations.

(I) DISSEMINATE CULTURE AND AWARENESS RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS

A. SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

To raise awareness of all types of rights and public freedoms of the individual, NIHR works to hold symposia, workshops, seminars and conferences covering all human rights issues, particularly the categories most deserving of care (rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly). These events also introduce the UN mechanisms of human rights, and discuss important relevant topics and concepts such as democracy, rule of law, discrimination and torture.

Moreover, these cultural events concerned with human rights represent an opportunity for all different segments of society to exchange views in order to find the best ways to exercise fundamental rights and ensure their protection from any direct or indirect violation.

B. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

NIHR works to promote the culture of human rights among different categories according to national and international standards through training programs and specialized courses aimed to transform knowledge of human rights into practical skills. The most important target groups include:

- Judges and members of the public prosecution.
- Members of the Legislative Authority (Representatives and Shura Councils).
- Public officials concerned with the drafting of legislation or developing and implementing policies.
- Public officials responsible for drafting and submitting reports to the agencies of international conventions on human rights.
- Law enforcement officials, including staff of the Bahrain Defence Force, the public security forces and the National Guard.
- Officials in penal institutions.
- Workers in the field of journalism and audio-visual media.
- Civil society institutions in all specialties within the field of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- Universities and schools.
- Private companies and employment offices.

(II) COUNSELLING

NIHR provides recommendations, suggestions and reports on a consultancy basis to all government and non-governmental agencies, whether on its own or at the request of such agency, on any issue relating to the promotion, protection or development of human rights pursuant to Article (3), paragraphs A, C, D and E, and Article (4) of its founding law.

1- COUNSEL ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

NIHR studies the legislation in force in the Kingdom and recommends the amendments it deems appropriate in this regard, particularly with respect to the conformity of such legislation with the Kingdom's international obligations. NIHR may also make recommendations to issue new legislation related to human rights.

Cooperation with both chambers of the Legislative Authority and their committees with regards to human right issues.

2- COUNSEL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS:

NIHR plays a role in enlightening the executive authority to accept international conventions, and informs them of the nature of the obligations resulting from the accession or ratification of the an international convention. NIHR also provides counsel on the conformity of national laws with the standards contained in the said convention or whether there is a need to undertake additional legislative initiatives. Additionally, NIHR works to provide recommendations and suggestions on how to harmonize national legislation with international conventions.

3- COUNSEL ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS:

Through its control over the referendum and elections, NIHR works to provide its advisory opinion for the best practice of democracy in political affairs. It also has a key role on how citizens exercise their political rights, as represented in the establishment of political associations and the exercise of their functions in accordance with its founding law as well as their relationship with the executive authority. Moreover, NIHR has an important role in the dissemination of political culture and principles of citizenship and their relationship to human rights pursuant

to the provisions and principles of the National Action Charter and the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, while taking into consideration the internationally recognized concepts contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

4- COUNSEL ON ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS:

NIHR monitors any behaviour or bureaucratic pattern which violates the full enjoyment of human rights or affects them, either directly or indirectly. NIHR works on clarifying the reasons that have led to such behaviour and proposes the appropriate solutions to stop it or minimize its effect.

5- COUNSEL ON JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS:

NIHR monitors the judicial proceedings to ensure compliance with international standards during investigations and trial. It monitors defences and substantial requests during investigations, such as subjection to physical or moral coercion, breach of the accused's guarantees and the response of the Public Prosecution thereto, delay of the trial without justification, availability of Constitutional and legal guarantees during the trial in accordance with the applicable standards, or any other procedures contrary to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act and address such procedures through the recommendation it offers to the competent body at the judicial authority.

(III) PREPARATION OR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PREPARATION OF INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

NIHR prepares parallel reports for some of the international conventions that oblige states parties to submit regular reports to the committees established under these conventions to oversee the implementation thereof. Among the most important conventions that require reporting are the following:

- 1- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- 2- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- 3- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- 4- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- 5- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the “Torture Convention”).
- 6- Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 7- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- 8- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 9- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICCPED).

In cooperation with official authorities, the NIHR participates in preparing national reports in accordance with human rights related conventions.

(IV) RECEIPT OF COMPLAINTS AND MONITORING OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

NIHR receives complaints, reports and assistant application from all individuals and entities with respect to violations against rights and public freedoms. It studies and refers them to the competent authorities and follows up them effectively, or enlightens the concerned parties regarding the procedures that should be followed and helps them to take them, or assists in settling them with the concerned bodies.

NIHR also monitors any violations of human rights, collects, analyses and reports relative data in order to stop them, and recommends taking a corrective action thereon.

Complaints received and human right violations monitored by the NIHR are handled in accordance with a clear and specific mechanism which is published and disseminated to the public.

(V) FIELD VISITS

In the context of its work to promote and protect human rights in the Kingdom, NIHR conducts field visits regularly to places of detention, penal institutions, correction facilities and all relevant places. It does so in coordination with the competent ministries, in order to verify the truth of complaints it receives, propose appropriate solutions, make recommendations to improve the services provided in these places in a way that serves human rights, and follows up and monitors sit-ins, strikes and protests.


(VI) PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL PLANS

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights recommends that each State consider the desirability of drawing up a national action plan identifying steps whereby that State would improve the promotion and protection of human rights. When drawing up its own action plan, each State should determine priorities in the field of human rights and identify the appropriate tools that would be used to implement the said plan.

A national action plan to improve human rights in the Kingdom cannot be drafted without concerted efforts between the executive authority, NIHR and civil society institutions. Therefore, the role of NIHR focuses on providing help, along with the relevant authorities, to draw up national action plans for human rights in the Kingdom as well as the mechanism for implementing this plan in accordance with a clear strategy, specific objectives and set periods of time.

Brief
Biographies of the Chairman, members of Council of
Commissioners and the Secretary-General of the
National Institution for Human Rights





The Council of Commissioners of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) comprises not more than fifteen members, including the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, who are well known for their competency and integrity. They are selected from amongst consultative and academic circles, civil society organizations, trade unions, and from community, economic and professional associations. They must have demonstrated keen interest in human rights issues. Women and minorities are adequately represented on the Council of Commissioners.

**ROYAL ORDER NO. (7) OF 2013
RE-FORMING THE NATIONAL
INSTITUTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain,
After reviewing the Constitution, and Royal Order No. (46) of 2009 amended by Royal Order No. (28) of 2012 on the Establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights, and Royal Order No. (16) of 2010 Appointing members of the National Institution for Human Rights,

Herby Order the following: Article 1

The National Institution for Human Rights shall be re-formed as follows:

- 1- Mr. Ahmed Abdulrahman Mahmood Alsaati
- 2- Ms. Jameela Ali Salman Nusaiif.
- 3- Ms. Maria Anthon Elias Khoury
- 4- Dr. May Sulaiman Mohamed Al Otaibi
- 5- Mr. Abduljabbar Ahmed Qareeballah Al Tayeb
- 6- Dr. Abdulaziz Hassan Ali Abul
- 7- Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Isa Alderazi
- 8- Dr. Fawzeya Saeed Abdulla Al Saleh
- 9- Mr. Fareed Ghazi Jassim Raffia

Their term of office shall be four years, renewable.

Article 2

This Order shall come into force from the date of issue and be published in the Official Gazette.

Signed:

**Hamad bin Isa AL Khalifa,
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

Issued at Riffa Palace
On: 19th Rabea Al Awwal, 1434 H
Corresponding to: 31st Januaray 2013

ROYAL ORDER

ROYAL ORDER NO. (14) OF 2014 APPOINTING NEW MEMBER AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain,
After reviewing the Constitution, And Royal Order No. (46) of 2009
Amended by Royal Order No. (28) of 2012 on the Establishment of the
National Institution for Human Rights, And Royal Order No. (7) of 2013
Re-forming the National Institution for Human Rights,

Herby Order the following: Article 1

Dr. Bader Mohamed Adel Mohamed shall be appointed as member of the
National Institution for Human Rights. His term will continue to end of
the current members' term.

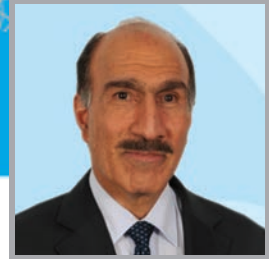
Article 2

This Order shall come into force from the date of issue and be published
in the Official Gazette.

Signed:

**Hamad bin Isa AL Khalifa,
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

Issued at Riffa Palace
On: 17th Rabea Al Akher, 1435 H
Corresponding to: 17th February 2014



H.E. Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Ali Abul

Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights

Email: aha@nihr.org.bh

Academic Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in the International Relations – United States of America -1990.
- Master in Political Sciences - United States of America - 1985.
- Master of Business Administration in International Trade - United States of America – 1984.
- Bachelor of Economic Planning - The Arab Syrian Republic - 1979.

Current Positions:

- President of the National Institution for Human Rights – January, 2013.
- Member of the Shura Council for the third legislative term - Since 14th December, 2010.

Other Positions:

- Former Member of the National Commission concerned with the recommendations of the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (2011 - 2012).
- Former Representative in the House of Representatives for the Second Legislative Term (2006 - 2010).
- Secretary - General of the Commercial Arbitration Centre of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (2003-2004).



H.E. Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Isa Al-Derazi

Vice -Chairman

Email: aad@nihr.org.bh

Academic Qualifications:

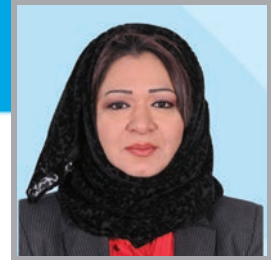
- Master of English Language - University of Warwick - United Kingdom - 1988.
- Bachelor of English Language and Literature - University of Basra - 1979.
- Higher Diploma in Education - University of Bahrain- 1982.

Current Positions:

- Vice – Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights - Chairman of the Complaints, Monitoring and Follow – up Committee 2014.
- Member of the Commission of the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees.
- Lecturer - Ahlia University – Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Member of Bahrain Human Rights Society.

Other Positions:

- Member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights.
- Former Member of the National Commission assigned to follow - up the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry’s Report (2011-2012).
- Former Journalist in the Gulf Mirror Newspaper - Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Former Secretary - General of the Bahrain Human Rights Society.



H.E. Mrs. Jameela Ali Salman Nassif

Commissioner

Email: jan@nihr.org.bh

Academic Qualifications:

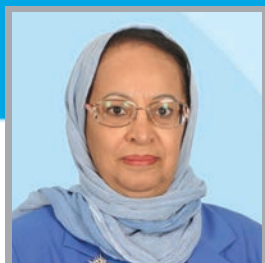
- Bachelor of Law - University of Cairo - the Arab Republic of Egypt - 1993.

Current Positions:

- Member of the National Institution for Human Rights - Chairwoman of the Committee on Civil and Political Rights - 2014.
- Member of the Shura Council for the Third Legislative Term as of 14th December, 2010.
- Member of the Higher Committee for Media and Communication.
- Vice - President of the Commission for Human Rights - Shura Council.
- Member of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development - Since November, 2009.
- Lawyer and Counselor since 1996. She has pleaded before the Court of Cassation and the Constitutional Court and practiced her work through her own office.

Other Positions:

- President of Bahrain Bar Society (2007-2011).
- Member of the Coordination Committee for the implementation of the initiatives of Jurisdiction Development Draft (2009).
- Former Member of the National Commission assigned to follow - up the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry's Report (2011 - 2012).
- Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments (2010-2012).



H.E. Dr. Fawziya Saeed Abdulla Al-Saleh

Commissioner

Email: fss@nihr.org.bh

Academic Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry - University of London – Britain – 1984.
- Master in Organic Chemistry - University of Manchester – Britain – 1978.
- Bachelor in Chemistry - Beirut University – The Lebanese Republic – 1973.

Current Positions:

- Member of the National Institution for Human Rights - Chairwoman of the Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights – 2013.
- Member of the Supreme Council for Women – Since 2010.

Other Positions:

- Former Member of the Shura Council (the First Legislative Term 2002 - 2006 and the Second Legislative Term 2006 - 2010).
- Member of the Executive Committee of Inter - Parliamentary Union (IPU) - (2003 - 2004).
- Member and Founder of the Bahrain Society for Child Development, Chairwoman of the Scientific and Health Committee, and Founder of the Child Center for Information Technology affiliated to the Society.



H.E. Dr. May Suleiman Mohammed Al-Otaibi

Commissioner

Email: mso@nihr.org.bh

Academic Qualifications:

- Doctorate in the Communication Strategy - Kingdom of the Netherlands -2008.
- Master in the Communication Strategy - Kingdom of the Netherlands -2006.
- Master in the Television Media - American University in Cairo - Arab Republic of Egypt-1992.
- Bachelor of Education - American University - Beirut- The Lebanese Republic - 1972.

Current Positions:

- Member of the National Institution for Human Rights – Since January, 2013.
- Chairman of Bahrain Bayan School – Since 2010.
- Member of the Board of Trustees - Bahrain Institute for Political Development – Since 2009.
- Executive Director -Mayasem for Communication Strategy.
- Chairman of the American University Association of Beirut – Bahrain - Since 2008.
- Head of Commissioners on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Other Positions:

- Member of the Arab Thought Forum - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - 2008.



H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdul Rahman Al Saati

Commissioner

Email: ass@nihr.org.bh

Current Positions:

- Member of the National Institution for Human Rights - Since January, 2013.
- Representative of the Legislative Authority in the National Consensus Dialogue - Since February, 2013.
- Vice - President of Legislative Committee of the House of Representatives - Since 2012.
- Member of the Advisory Committee of the Faculty of Information at the University Kingdom - Since 2012.
- Member of the World Social Media Club - Bahrain Branch - Since 2012.
- Member of the House of Representatives - Since 2011.
- Head of the Bahraini Parliamentary Bloc - Since 2011.
- Representative of the Conference of Business Owners Union & Business Youth Union in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries - Bahrain Kingdom - Since 2011.
- One of the Founders and Directors of Al-Ayam Daily Newspaper and Member of the Board of Directors - Since 1989.

Other Positions:

- Member of the National Commission assigned to follow - up the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry report (2011 - 2012).
- President of Gulf Human Rights Association "COGIR" (2012).
- Office Manager of "Al Khaleej" Newspaper in Bahrain (1983 - 1989)
- BBC correspondent in Bahrain (1987 - 1989).
- Editor at Gulf News Agency (1978 - 1989).
- Member of the Bahraini Association of Journalists, the Arab and international publishers and distributors Associations, the International Advertising Association, and the International Public Relations Association - Gulf Branch.



H.E. Mr. Farid Ghazi Jassim Rafee

Commissioner

Email: fgr@nihr.org.bh

Academic Qualifications:

- Bachelor in Law - Cairo University (1990).

Current Positions:

- Member of the National Institution for Human Rights – January, 2013.
- Lawyer practicing law, legal consultations and arbitration and pleading before the Court of Cassation and the Constitutional Court, and an Authorized Independent Member in the Chamber for Dispute Resolution and practicing his work through his own office.
- Member of the Advisory Council of the GCC Supreme Council since 3rd June, 2007.

Other Positions:

- Former Member of the National Commission on the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry's Report (2011 – 2012).
- Former Representative of the House of Representatives elected for the Legislative Term (2002 – 2006).
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Bar Society for three electoral cycles (1996 - 1998), (1999 - 2011) and (2001 - 2003) and served as a Vice- President of the Society.
- Member of the International Bar Association Union (IBA) - London - United Kingdom.
- Member of the Institute of International Arbitration (CIArb) - London - United Kingdom.



H.E. Ms. Maria Anthon Khoury

Commissioner

Email: mak@nihr.org.bh

Academic Qualifications:

- Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Indiana University - United States of America - 1987.
- Bachelor of Psychology and Sociology - Northwestern University - United States of America- 1982.

Current Positions:

- Member of the National Institution for Human Rights - Since January 2013.
- Member of the Commission of the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees.
- Director of the Media and Public Relations in Orbit Holding Company - Bahrain- Since January, 2011.

Other Positions:

- Director of Sales, Marketing and Media in Orbit - Bahrain - June, 2007.
- Director of Investment in the Bahrain Radio and Television Corporation - January, 2006 - June, 2007.
- Director of Marketing and Promotions in the Bahrain Radio and Television - 1990 - December, 2005.



H.E. Dr Bader Mohamed Adel Mohamed

Commissioner

Email: bma@nihr.org.bh

Academic Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in Law (Public Law), mastering Administrative Law, Cairo University -2008.
- Master Degree in Public Law and Administrative Sciences, Cairo University, 2002.
- Bachelor Degree in Law, Cairo University, 2000.

Current Position:

- Member of the National Institution for Human Rights -Since February 2014.
- Assistant Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Bahrain.
- Coordinator of Practical Training Programs and e-learning, Faculty of Law, University of Bahrain-Since 2009.

Other Positions

- Member of the Committee for the implementation of the University of Bahrain's Strategy, 2009 - 2014 regarding the Professional Development of Faculty Members (2010).
- Member of Committee on study the Articles of the behavioral offences regulations, University of Bahrain (2011).
- Member of Committee on behavioral offences, Faculty of Law, UoB (2010).
- Member of Committee for Quality Assurance, Faculty of Law, UoB (2010).
- Lawyer at Bahrain Law Courts (2001-2004).



H.E. Chancellor Dr. Ahmed Abdulla Farhan

Secretary-General

National Institution For Human Rights

Email: aat@nihr.org.bh

Academic Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in Public International Law from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, July 1999.
- Master Degree in Law (Higher Studies Diploma in Criminal Law, Higher Studies Diploma in Public Law) from Ain Shams University, Cairo, June 1991.
- Bachelor of Law from the United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, in January 1984.

Current Positions

- Secretary-General of the National Institution for Human Rights, since 2011.
- Member of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Board, since November 2011.
- Member of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), since 1999.
- Member of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, since May 2012.
- Accredited Arbitrator at the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre, since 2003.
- Accredited lecturer at the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (Human Rights International Law; Constitutional Law; Parliamentary Law), since 2006.
- Accredited lecturer at the Bahrain Institute of Public Administration (BIPA) (Administrative Law; Constitutional Law; Human Rights), since 2008.