



Statement by NIHR on the Occasion of World Press Freedom Day

Manama – 3 May 2025

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, the Kingdom of Bahrain joins countries around the world in commemorating this important day, observed annually on May 3. The day serves as a significant opportunity to reaffirm the fundamental principles of press freedom, assess its state across the globe, encourage respect for media freedom, and inspire journalists to continue their vital role in advancing democracy and protecting human rights.

This year, the United Nations has adopted the theme "Freedom of Expression in the Face of the Artificial Intelligence Surge" to mark World Press Freedom Day. This comes in light of the rapid development of artificial intelligence technologies and their increasing use in journalism and media. The theme reflects the profound transformations reshaping the media landscape — transformations that offer many opportunities but also present serious challenges and risks. Chief among these are the potential misuse of AI to spread false or misleading information and to fuel hate speech across digital platforms, posing threats to press freedom and the integrity of media content.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights commends the Kingdom of Bahrain's ongoing efforts to promote press freedom and safeguard the rights of journalists. The Kingdom has established a legislative framework that upholds freedom of opinion and expression, ensuring that journalists can perform their duties in a safe environment that fosters independence and professionalism. Furthermore, Bahrain has supported independent media and expanded spaces for media diversity, underscoring its firm commitment to freedom of expression and its drive to cultivate a modern media landscape backed by advanced technological infrastructure.

The National Institution for Human Rights emphasizes the importance of enhancing cooperation among governments, media institutions, and civil society organizations to ensure the protection of journalists and the preservation of their rights. It also calls for the responsible use of artificial intelligence in a manner consistent with human rights principles and stresses the need for commitment to accurate, fact-based, and verifiable information to reinforce the credibility of media content. A free and responsible press is a cornerstone of public service and a fundamental pillar for upholding the principles of accountability, justice, equality, and human rights.

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