



NIHR Statement on World Press Freedom Day

Manama, 3 May 2026

The Kingdom of Bahrain, alongside countries around the world, celebrates World Press Freedom Day on the third of May each year, reaffirming its commitment to supporting freedom of opinion and expression and to fostering a free and responsible media environment. These are fundamental rights and key pillars for promoting transparency and accountability in society.

This year's theme, "Shaping a Future of Peace", underscores the vital role that free and independent journalism plays in supporting societal stability and advancing sustainable development particularly in light of current challenges, most notably the spread of misinformation and the rapid evolution of modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, and their impact on the flow and credibility of information.

In this context, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) commends the efforts undertaken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to develop the legislative and regulatory framework governing journalistic work, foremost among them the Press and Electronic Media Law following its royal ratification. This represents a significant step toward strengthening legal guarantees for freedom of opinion and expression, in line with the Constitution and relevant international conventions.

Within the scope of its mandate, the Institution affirms its continued role in monitoring and assessing the Kingdom of Bahrain's compliance with international agreements and treaties related to freedom of opinion and expression and press freedom. It emphasizes the importance of ongoing efforts to promote a supportive media environment based on a balance between freedom of expression and professional responsibility, ensuring the protection of journalists and enabling media outlets to perform their role in a professional and independent manner.

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