

## **Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on the occasion of the world day to raise awareness about elder abuse**

15 June 2013

Coinciding with the United Nations celebration of the World Day to raise awareness about elder abuse on June 15 of each year, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution No. 127/66, the National Institution for Human Rights considers this day as an annual opportunity where the world speaks louder opposing elder abuse and subjecting them to suffering for the purpose of attracting attention to elder men and women, to fulfil their needs and to ensure their living in their communities with dignity, where make several contributions through voluntary work, transfer of expertise and knowledge to other generations, help their families to bear their part of responsibility and advance development.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain referred to the principle of equality for everyone to enjoy all the rights, in Article 18, which stipulates that (people are equal in human dignity, and citizens are equal before the law in public rights and duties, without discrimination on grounds of sex, origin, language, religion or creed). The Kingdom of Bahrain, formed the National Committee for the elderly under the Ministerial Decree No. 79 for the year 2011 whose competence is (to propose general policy and executive plans to take care of the elderly and reintegrate them into society and to implement these plans with the competent authorities, including providing them with financial, health, psychological and social security.).

On the other hand, the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 65/182 issued on December 21 / December 2010 established an open-membership working team to study the existing legal frameworks on elderly and how that can be developed. The General Assembly also issued resolution 67/139, which requested the Working team to consider the possibility of putting a



comprehensive international convention to promote and protect the rights of elder persons and preserve their dignity during its next meeting in August 2013

as the National Institution for Human Rights emphasizes the importance of supporting the Kingdom of Bahrain for these efforts and adopt a clear stance of creating such an important agreement.

The elder abuse problems represents a violation of human rights that are not sufficiently reported globally, and there are no prevalence rates or estimates of this phenomenon except in some developed countries which range between 1% and 10%. Although the magnitude of the problem is still unknown, the social and moral importance is obvious. It requires a multi-faceted global response focuses on the protection of rights of the elderly.

It is expected to increase the number of cases of elder abuse globally because many countries are experiencing a rapid increase in the number of elderly people who may not fully get their needs fulfilled due to lack of resources. The forecasts indicate that the age group 60 years and above of the world's population will see an increase of more than double by the year 2025 where it will reach about 1.2 billion people.

National Institution for Human Rights calls on all parties concerned to ensure the participation of elder persons in the development and having primary health care in all available health services in addition to the importance of developing and implementing extra strategies to prevent elder abuse and enact laws and legislation to protect their rights and dignity. Supporting international efforts to establish the rights of the elderly on an international agreement is equally important

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