



## NIHR'S STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Manama-25 November 2013

At its 54th Session in 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, under Resolution No. 48/104 on the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The first article of the Declaration defines 'violence' 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".

The resolution also recalls the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment .

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the UN's resolution invites governments, international organizations and NGOs to organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem of violence against women .

In his message on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that "violence against women and girls directly affects individuals while harming our common humanity. In response to this global challenge, I launched my UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign in 2008. Since then, partners around the world have joined our drive to protect the human rights of women and girls to live free from violence We make a special effort to organize and combat violence against women, an egregious human rights violation".



The Kingdom of Bahrain ratified the accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by Decree-Law No. 5/2002. Through the Supreme Council for Women, the Kingdom is currently reconsidering its reservations, provided that the lifting thereof shall not conflict with Islamic Law. Moreover, the Legislative Authority pays attention to the enactment of strict laws to combat domestic violence .

On this occasion, the NIHR stresses the need to combat violence against women as an integral part of human rights, and calls for enacting laws to criminalize violence and develop long-term strategies aimed at raising community's awareness of the issue of violence .

NIHR invites civil society institutions and non-governmental organizations to organize awareness programs and activities and legal courses to shed light on violence against women and promote community's awareness of all rights and duties, thus contributing to the protection of women from abuse and violence to which they may be exposed .