



Communiqué by the National Institution for Human Rights on the International Day of Non-Violence

Manama-2 October 2013

The United Nations Organization observes the International Day of Non-Violence on 2nd October each year. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 61st Session by Resolution No. 61/271 dated 15 June 2007, which date coincides with the anniversary of the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the founder of the non-violence strategy philosophy and one of the advocates of the conception that non-violence is the greatest power available to mankind.

The day is seen as an occasion to disseminate the message of non-violence through education and public awareness. The resolution reaffirms the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence. It takes into account that non-violence, tolerance and full respect of all human rights and basic freedoms for all, democracy, development, mutual understanding, cultural diversity are interrelated and interdependent matters. Non-violence was also emphasized in the United Nations Charter through promotion of tolerance, good neighborly and non-use of armed force. The United Nations endeavours to achieve these objectives in actual life through the enhancement of human rights, resolution of conflicts by peaceful means, elimination of violence against women, building of bridges among different cultures and combat of hatred and extremism everywhere.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) calls upon the community to adopt a policy of non-violence in various forms and to embrace the principle of dialogue and understanding as a means for resolving all society-besetting issues. It is through such policy, respect of others, dissemination of the culture of peace, tolerance and can be achieved and surrounding events wisely overcome The NIHR also calls upon local, regional



and international organizations and associations to double their voluntary social role to disseminate the culture of non-violence and to integrate it as a respected and appreciated human value. This can be achieved through activities and functions conducive to communicating the message of observing heavenly religions that prevent torture and violence and by circulating the essence of relevant international treaties and conventions.