

المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان
National Institution for Human Rights



Thirteen Annual Report of the National Institution for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain

2025



**The Thirteenth Annual Report
of the National Institution for Human Rights
in the Kingdom of Bahrain**

2025

“... As we mark this cherished anniversary, rich in lessons of glory, the values of coexistence and national unity, we must draw inspiration from it to renew our collective resolve to redouble our efforts, so that we may keep pace with the times and continue the mission of preserving Bahrain’s historic renaissance and its cultural leadership across various fields and sectors, in keeping with the authentic approach laid down by the nation’s founders, and their unwavering commitment to establishing the foundations of the modern state, whose journey, filled with work and generosity, we witness today.”

From the royal address by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the occasion of the Kingdom of Bahrain’s National Day celebrations and the 26th Anniversary of the Accession to the Throne.

16 December 2025

(Vision)

The belief that the issue of human rights is a national constant, and that the recognition of public rights and freedoms – whether civil, political, economic, social or cultural, and whether these rights are individual or collective – is a commitment to the values of justice, equality and human dignity for all human beings, without discrimination.

“A culture of human rights is a way of life”

(Mission)

To work towards the development, promotion and protection of the human rights of citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain, by providing protection and support to individuals, empowering them to acquire the knowledge necessary to exercise their legitimate rights, and enabling them to identify their needs and learn how to claim and defend them through the dissemination of a culture of human rights by all available means.

“Together to achieve best practice in human rights”



حضرة صاحب الجلالة الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة
ملك مملكة البحرين المعظم، حفظه الله ورعاه

His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain



صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير سلمان بن حمد آل خليفة
ولي العهد رئيس مجلس الوزراء حفظه الله

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
The Crown Prince and Prime Minister

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INTRODUCTION

In view of the great significance of human rights, the importance of having policies relating to their protection, promotion and preservation in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the need to advance and uphold the principles of human rights, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Most Exalted Sovereign of the Kingdom, may God protect and preserve him, issued Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Human Rights Institution, as amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, so that the Institution may serve as a beacon of human rights awareness and a centre of expertise and advice, with the aim of further strengthening the framework of democracy and consolidating the foundations of the rule of law.

Pursuant to Article 21 of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Human Rights Institution, as amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, which stipulates that:

“The Council of Commissioners shall prepare an annual report on the Commission’s efforts, activities and other work, including a section setting out the level of progress achieved in the human rights situation in the Kingdom, as well as any proposals and recommendations it deems appropriate within the scope of its remit; it shall identify obstacles to performance and the solutions adopted to overcome them; and the Council of Commissioners shall submit its report to the King, the Council of Ministers, the House of Representatives and the Shura Council, whilst also making the report available to the public in parallel.”

The thirteenth annual report comprises five chapters, preceded by an introduction, a general summary and an introductory chapter, which is devoted to explaining the mechanism and procedures followed regarding the appointment of members of the Commission’s Council of Commissioners during the reporting period. This is followed by Chapter One, which outlines the human rights situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain by presenting the efforts and activities undertaken in the field of human rights protection in response to complaints received during 2025. Chapter Two is devoted to reviewing the Commission’s mandate in the field of promoting human rights, by highlighting its efforts and activities in engaging with the international human rights system and relevant international, regional and national human rights bodies, whilst also acknowledging its role in human rights training and education. Chapter Three addresses the activities undertaken to promote and protect the rights of the child. The fourth chapter of the report is devoted to the follow-up on the NIHR’s recommendations, whether contained in this report or in the 2024 Annual Report, whilst the fifth and final chapter addresses the advisory opinions submitted by the NIHR to the Kingdom’s constitutional authorities, including the Government and the Councils of Representatives and Shura.

The NIHR hopes that this report, along with its previous annual and special reports, serve as tools to strengthen the human rights situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in a manner consistent with the Kingdom’s obligations arising from regional and international human rights instruments, or those relating to the Universal Periodic Review through the Working Group of the Human Rights Council, leading to best practices in the enjoyment of various rights and public freedoms, and let us work together to make human rights a way of life.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

First: Recommendations of the National Human Rights Institution's Thirteenth Annual Report for 2025

General Recommendations Regarding Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Based on Complaints Received by the National Human Rights Institution During 2025

 The Right to Social Security • Update beneficiary data between relevant official entities • Enhance coordination among government agencies • Facilitate access to services and assistance	 The Right to Education • Adopt standardized admissions and assessment criteria in Muharraq Teacher Training College at the University of Bahrain • Prevent arbitrary decisions • Develop regulatory systems	 The Right to Health • Develop quality health care and specialized services • Establish quality standards for medical equipment, psychological support, and rehabilitation centers • Enhance preventive health services for chronic diseases • Facilitate access to health services
 The Right to Liberty and Personal Security • Activate detention and rehabilitation programs within prisons • Safeguard the rights of investigated individuals • Strengthen the implementation of legal safeguards • Promote fair trial standards	 The Right to Adequate Housing • Review and update housing application priorities • Enhance housing allowances • Support low-income families in paying utility bills	 The Right to Work • Support inclusion and reintegration of ex-offenders into the labor market, whether by establishing their own business or through government employment • Review related laws and remove obstacles in the recruitment process and file clearance • Enhance transparency in employment procedures
 The Right to Legal Identity • Enhance procedures for issuing and updating official documents • Improve the ease of access and communication with service recipients	 Guarantees of Fair Trial • Promote legal culture • Strengthen awareness of procedural rights • Support the right to defense	 The Right to Personal and Community Safety • Enhance efforts to strengthen public security • Ensure specialized training for law enforcement personnel • Support complaint and reporting mechanisms
 Embracing Diversity and Protecting Freedoms • Improve procedures for granting asylum, refugee status, and protection • Respect human rights and services • Support programs for integration, awareness, and rehabilitation	 The Right to Mobility • Develop systems to exchange information regarding travel bans • Prevent duplication of measures between agencies • Prepare a clear procedural guide for regulations and follow-up	 The Right to Communicate with the Outside World • Develop communication means to get in touch with family members • Ensure independent oversight of visits and calls • Support social and psychological communication • Address urgent humanitarian cases immediately

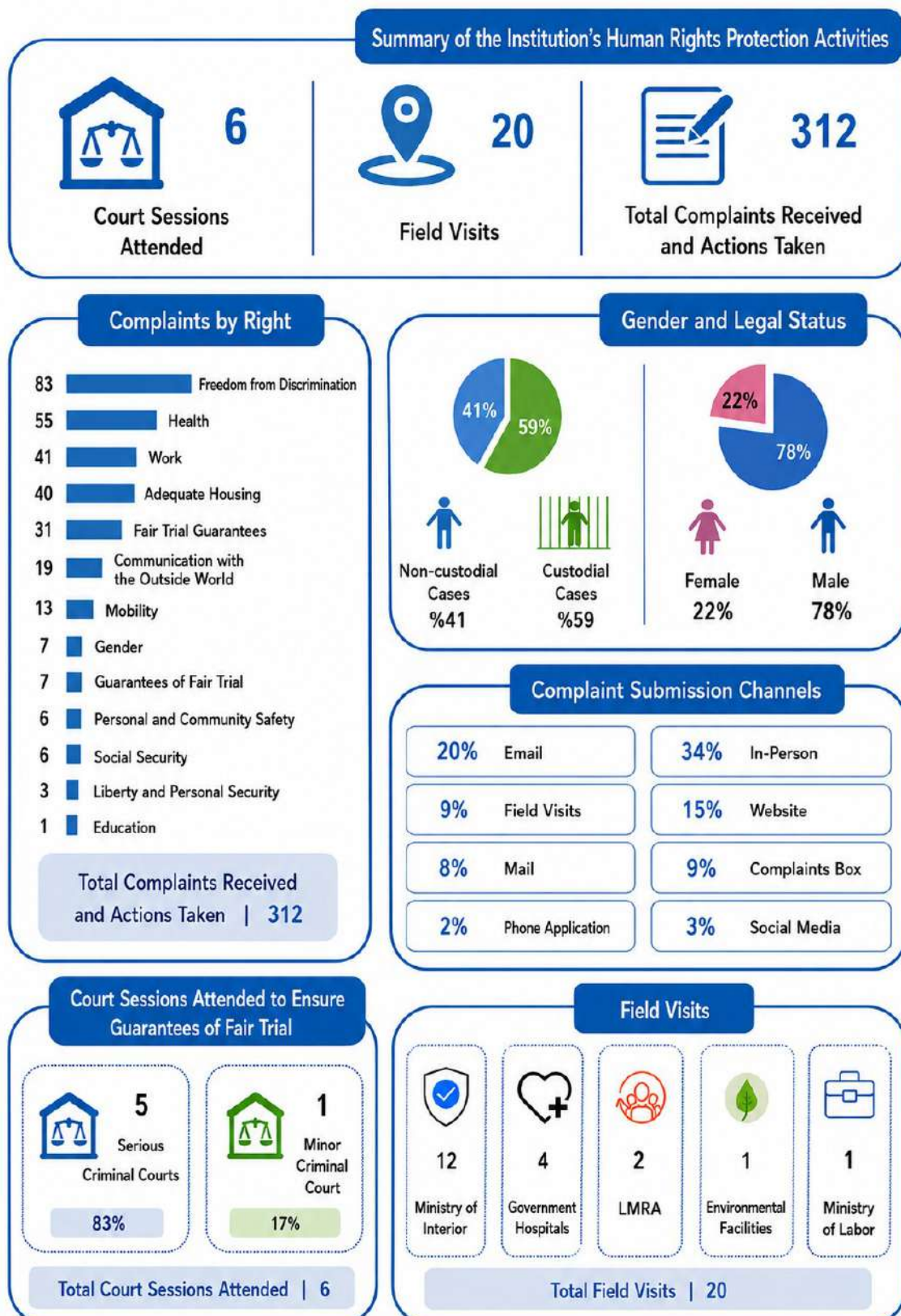
Recommendations concerning children's rights, based on complaints received by the National Human Rights Institution during 2025



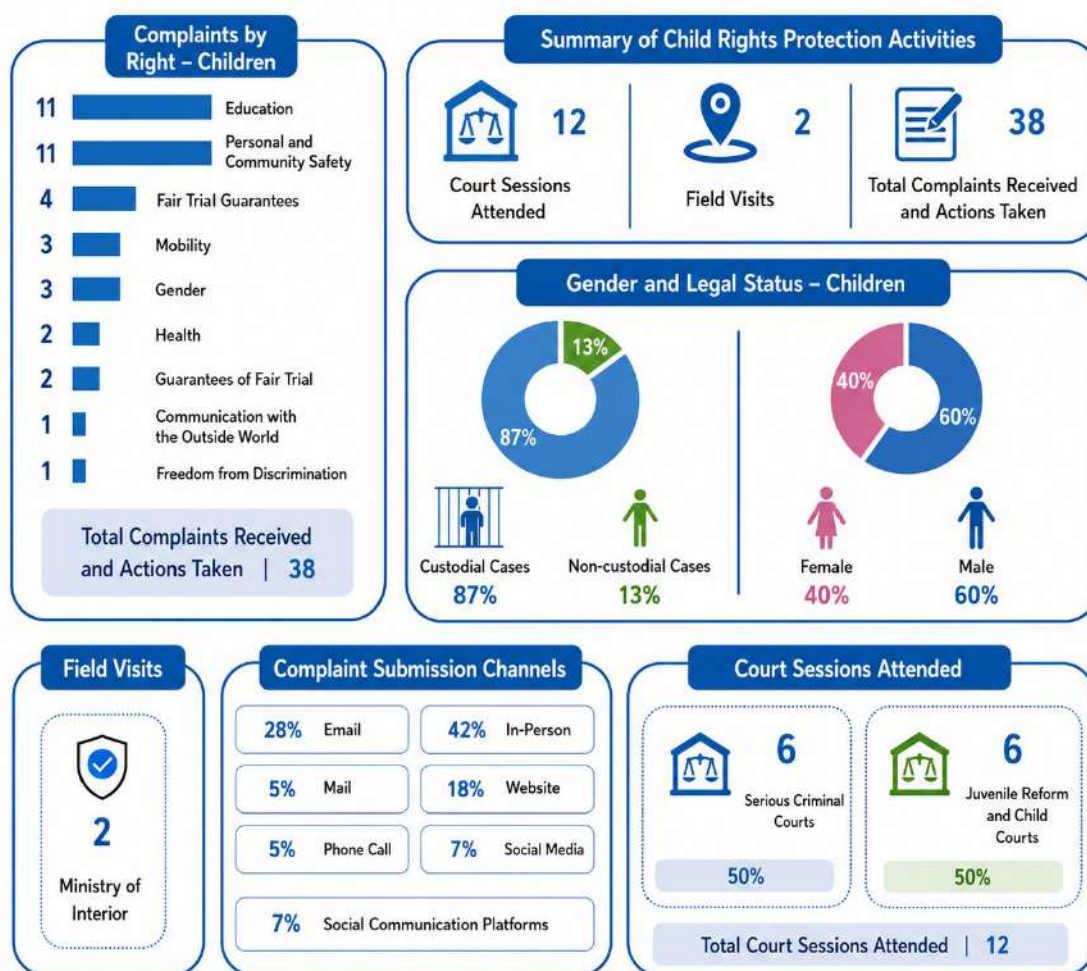
Note: The recommendations can be viewed in detail in Chapter Four of this report, entitled: Recommendations of the National Human Rights Institution

Second: The activities and efforts of the National Institution for Human Rights based on the complaints it received and monitoring cases related to the protection of human rights

(1) Efforts made in the field of all human rights



(2) Efforts made in the field of children's rights

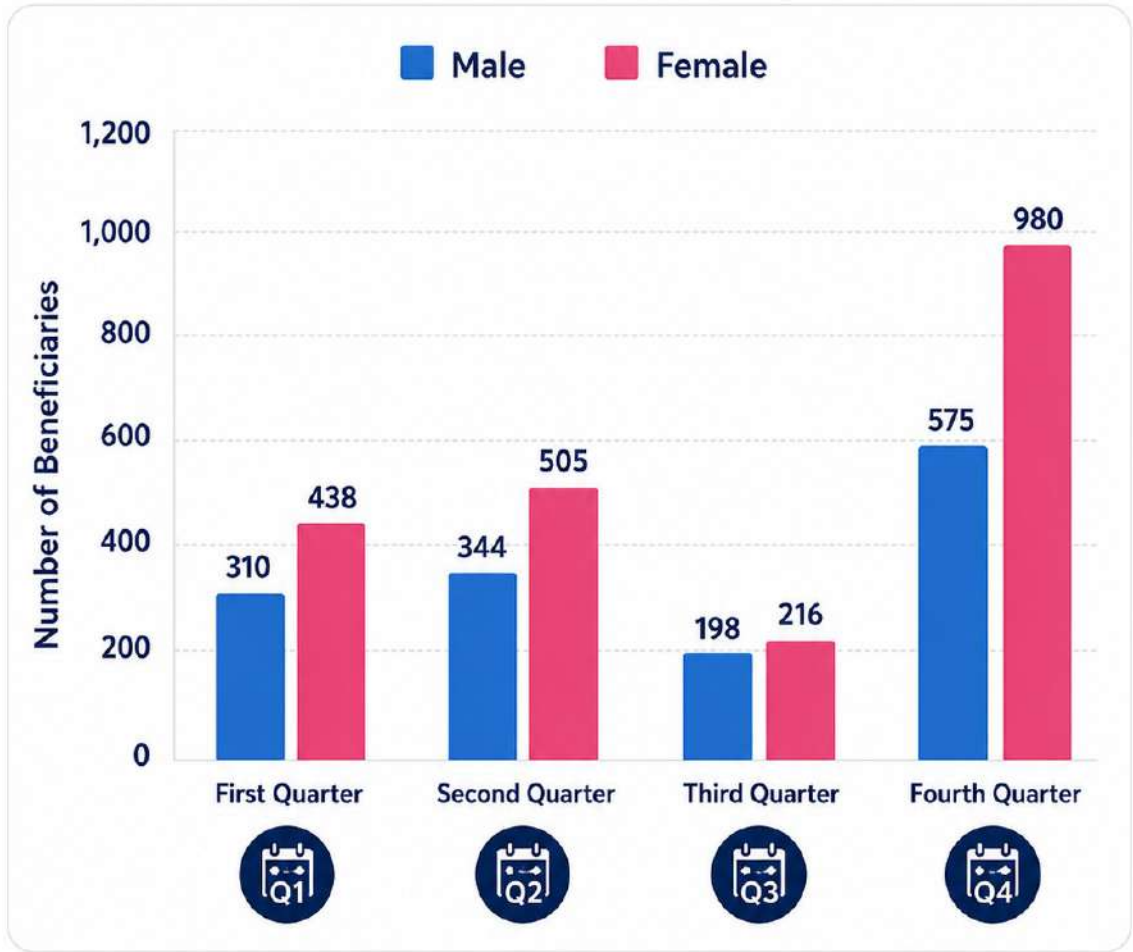


Third: Activities and efforts of the National Human Rights Institution in the field of promoting human rights

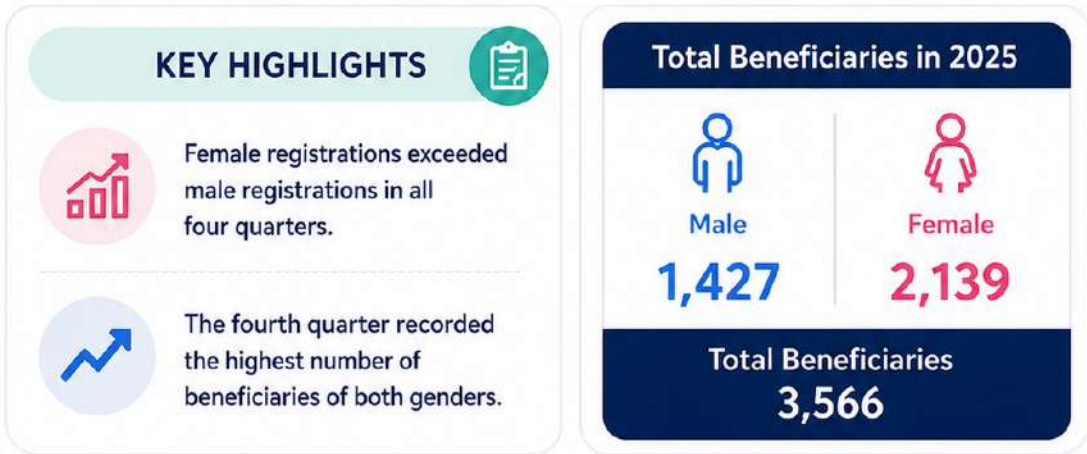
Events organized or co-organized by the National Human Rights Institution



Number of beneficiaries of the National Institution for Human Rights' activities for the year 2025



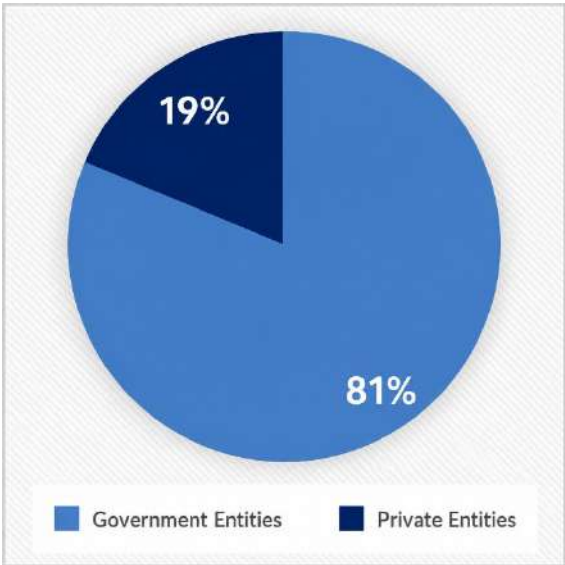
Total numbers represent the number of beneficiaries



Events organized or participated in by the National Institution for Human Rights for the year 2025



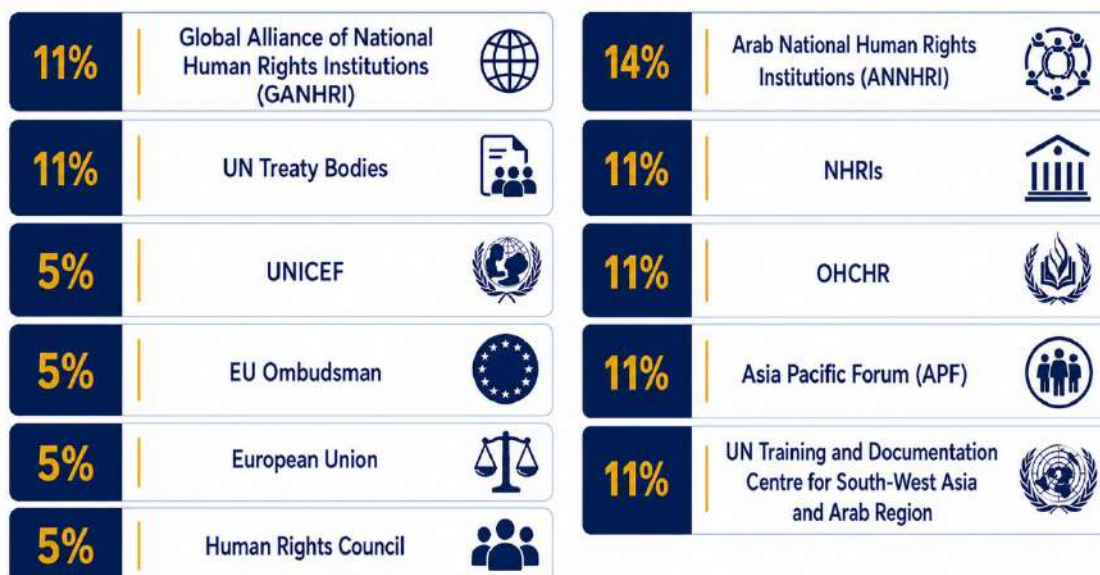
The National Institution for Human Rights cooperates with governmental and private bodies in the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2025



Key groups that were collaborated with to implement the activities of the National Human Rights Institution for 2025



National Institution for Human Rights' cooperation with entities outside the Kingdom of Bahrain for the year 2025



Fourth: Activities and efforts of the National Human Rights Institution in the field of promoting children's rights



Fifth: Engagement with the international and regional human rights system

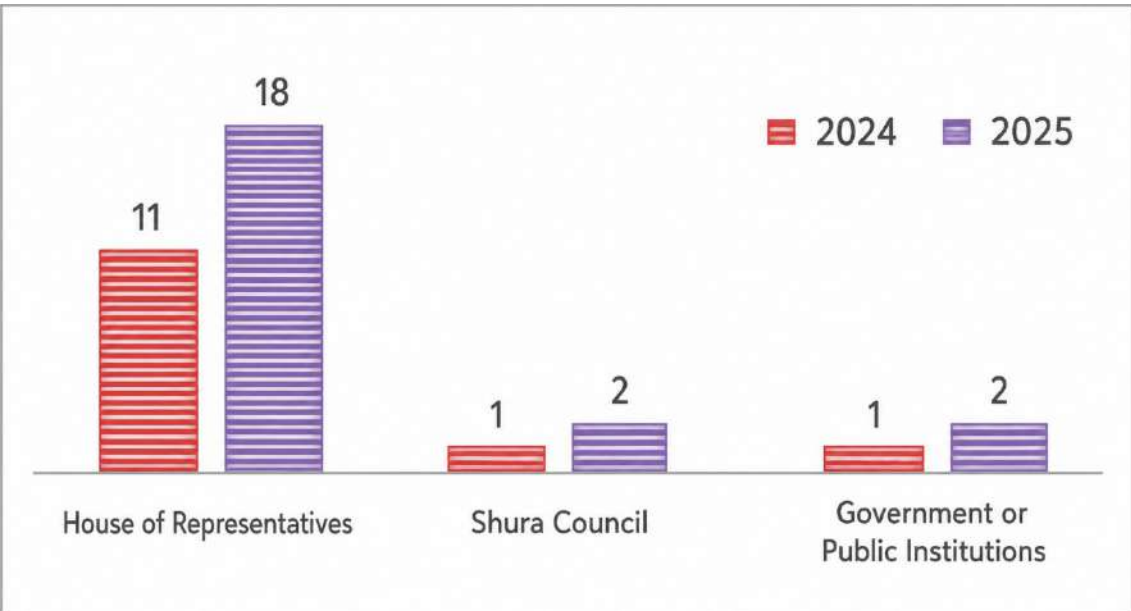
Parallel reports submitted by the National Human Rights Institution to international mechanisms



Participating in questionnaires received from international and regional human rights committees and bodies



Sixth: Advisory opinions provided to constitutional authorities and public institutions



The extent to which the advisory opinions provided by the National Institution for Human Rights are adopted by constitutional authorities and public institutions during the year (2025), after their approval by the Shura and Representatives Councils and ratification by His Majesty the King, may God protect and preserve him, and their publication in the Official Gazette.



Advisory opinions submitted by the National Institution for Human Rights to the Shura Council (2025) ¹



¹ [Law No. \(21\) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Juvenile Justice and Protection from Abuse Law issued by Law No. \(4\) of 2021](#)
[Law No. \(41\) of 2025 amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. \(47\) of 2002 concerning the Regulation of Press, Printing and Publishing](#)

Advisory opinions submitted by the National Institution for Human Rights to the House of Representatives (2025)²


 All observations and remarks were taken into account

5 Total Number

3


Traffic Law

Decree-Law No. (30) of 2025 amending certain provisions of Traffic Law issued by Decree-Law No. (23) of 2014.

Issued by Decree-Law


Decree-Law No. (30) of 2025

Amending certain provisions of Traffic Law issued by Decree-Law No. (23) of 2014.

2


Penal Code and Alternative Penalties Law

Draft law to amend certain provisions of the Penal Code and Alternative Penalties Law, Law No. (18) of 2017, issued by Decree-Law No. (96) of 2024.

Issued by Decree-Law


Law No. (20) of 2025

Amending certain provisions of Law No. (18) of 2017 on the Penal Code and Alternative Penalties.

1


Juvenile Justice Law for Children

Draft law to amend certain provisions of the Juvenile Justice Law for Children in conflict with the law, issued by Decree-Law No. (4) of 2021, Amended by Decree-Law No. (95) of 2024.

Issued by Decree-Law


Law No. (21) of 2025

Amending certain provisions of the Juvenile Justice Law for Children in conflict with the law, issued by Decree-Law No. (4) of 2021.

5


Penal Code

Decree-Law No. (31) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976.

Issued by Decree-Law


Decree-Law No. (31) of 2025

Amending certain provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976.

4


Criminal Procedures Law

Decree-Law No. (32) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Criminal Procedures Law issued by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002.

Issued by Decree-Law


Decree-Law No. (32) of 2025

Amending certain provisions of the Criminal Procedures Law issued by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002.

² [Law No. \(21\) of 2025 Amending Certain Provisions of the Juvenile Justice and Protection from Abuse Law issued by Law No. \(4\) of 2021](#)

[Law No. \(20\) of 2025 Amending Certain Provisions of Law No. \(18\) of 2017 Concerning Alternative Penalties and Measures](#)

[Decree-Law No. \(30\) of 2025 Amending Certain Provisions of the Traffic Law issued by Law No. \(23\) of 2014](#)

[Decree-Law No. \(32\) of 2025 Amending Certain Provisions of the Criminal Procedures Law issued by Decree-Law No. \(46\) of 2002](#)

[Decree-Law No. \(31\) of 2025 Amending Certain Provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. \(15\) of 1976](#)

Opinions presented by the institution and still within the legislative cycle of proposals and draft laws



INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER: THE NEW MECHANISM FOR APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE DECISION-MAKING BODY (COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS) AT THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

As part of efforts to strengthen the independence of the National Human Rights Institution and to consolidate the principles of transparency, pluralism and community participation in the composition of its governing bodies, the process of appointing members of the Council of Commissioners has undergone a qualitative development, namely the introduction of a new mechanism for selecting members of the Council of Commissioners, in accordance with the provisions of the Act establishing the National Human Rights Institution, the Paris Principles on the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and the general observations issued by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

This phase began with the issuance of Royal Decree No. (39) of 2023, amending certain provisions of Royal Decree No. (17) of 2017 concerning the regulations for the appointment of members of the Council of Commissioners, which established an independent committee to select Board members. This committee is responsible for announcing the opening of the nomination process, receiving and reviewing applications, and conducting the necessary interviews and consultations, culminating in the preparation of a list of candidates to be submitted to His Majesty.

In accordance with these new regulations, Decree No. (1) of 2025 was issued to establish the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners, which commenced its work by holding organisational meetings, announcing the opening of nominations for membership of the Board, and receiving, screening and classifying applications in accordance with the approved legal and objective criteria, prior to announcing the procedures and results it had reached.

This chapter addresses the stages of implementing the new mechanism for appointing members of the Council of Commissioners, beginning with the regulatory framework governing it, through to the formation of the Selection Committee, its work and meetings, and the nomination and selection procedures, and concluding with the issuance of the Royal Decree appointing the members of the Council of Commissioners for the years (2025–2029), followed by the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Commissioners and the formation of the organisation's leadership structure, thereby reflecting an advanced model for promoting transparency, participation and pluralism in the composition of the decision-making body of the National Human Rights Institution.

1- Royal Decree on the Regulations Governing the Appointment of Members of the Council of Commissioners³

Royal Decree No. (39) of 2023 was issued, amending certain provisions of Royal Decree No. 17 of 2017 concerning the regulations governing the appointment of members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution. Pursuant to this, a committee named the 'Committee for the Selection of Members of the Council of Commissioners' was established, and the amended Article 3 stipulates that:

"A Committee for the Selection of Members of the Council of Commissioners shall be formed, chaired by the Minister of the Royal Court and comprising a sufficient number of experts and human rights defenders, who may include one or more former members of the Council of Commissioners.

A decision shall be issued by the Minister of the Royal Court appointing the members of the committee, and the Chair shall select one of them to act as the committee's rapporteur."

Article 3 bis clarifies the working procedures of the committee for selecting members of the Council of Commissioners, stipulating that:

"The Committee shall announce the opening of nominations for membership of the Council of Commissioners; the announcement shall set out the conditions to be met by full-time and part-time members. The Committee shall be responsible for receiving, examining and shortlisting applications, and for conducting the interviews and consultations necessary to carry out its duties, in preparation for drawing up a list of candidates."

2- Decree No. (1) of 2025 establishing the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners⁴

On 11 May 2025, His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court, issued Decision No. (1) of 2025 appointing the members of the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution.

The decree states that the following persons are appointed as members of the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution:

1. Dr Faisal Radhi Al-Mousawi.
2. Dr Riyad Yusuf Hamza.

³ Royal Order No. (17) of 2017 setting out the regulations governing the appointment of members of the Council of Commissioners, published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. 3305, dated 18 March 2017, and amended by Royal Order No. (39) of 2023, published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. 3694, dated 17 August 2024: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/Download/RoyalOrder17-2017amendments39-2023-Ar.pdf>

⁴ Official website of the Bahrain News Agency: [Pursuant to Royal Decree No. \(17\) of 2017... Minister of the Royal Court issues a decision appointing members of the Selection Committee for the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution](#)

3. Amal Salman Al-Dosari.

4. Ghazi Faisal Al-Rahma.

The decision also states that Dr Khalifa bin Ali Al-Fadl, Deputy for Legal and Political Affairs at the Royal Court, is appointed as a member and rapporteur of the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution.

The decree stipulates that the committee may call upon any persons with relevant experience and expertise whom it deems appropriate, and invite them to attend its meetings to discuss matters with them and hear their views, or to provide it with information it deems necessary to carry out its functions, without such persons having the right to vote.

The committee may also form working groups to study and carry out certain tasks falling within its remit, in a manner that contributes to the achievement of the committee's aims and objectives.

3- First meeting of the Committee for the Selection of Members of the Council of Commissioners⁵



His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court, chaired the first meeting of the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution on 26 May 2025. During the meeting, His Excellency emphasised the Kingdom of Bahrain's steadfast civilised approach, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom, may God protect and

preserve him, in consolidating the principles of human rights and upholding the values of humanity, justice, brotherhood and peace, and by supporting all measures that promote respect for these rights and values, in line with the Kingdom's full commitment to all international conventions and laws.

During the meeting, the Committee discussed organisational matters relating to the receipt of nominations for membership of the Board of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution, and the criteria for selecting Board members, in accordance with the regulations and criteria set out in the National Human Rights Institution Act, the Royal Decree setting out the regulations for the appointment of members of the Council of Commissioners, and the Paris Principles on the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, endorsed by United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 48/134 of 20 December 1993.

⁵ Official website of the Bahrain News Agency: [Minister of the Royal Court chairs a meeting of the Selection Committee for members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution](#)

4- Announcement of the opening of nominations for membership of the Council of Commissioners

On 26 May 2025, the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution announced the opening of nominations for membership of the Board. The nomination period runs from Tuesday 27 May 2025 until Tuesday 10 June 2025. Applications must be submitted via email to applications@nihr.org.bh, accompanied by an up-to-date CV, a valid identity card and the necessary supporting documents.⁶

In addition to the conditions and regulations set out in Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Human Rights Institution, and Royal Decree No. (17) of 2017 setting out the regulations governing the appointment of members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution, candidates for membership of the Council of Commissioners (as full-time or part-time members) must meet the following conditions:



- 1- Be a Bahraini national.
- 2- Be at least thirty full calendar years of age.
- 3- They must have knowledge of and an interest in human rights issues, and have made clear contributions in the field of human rights.
- 4- They must be of good character, reputation and conduct.
- 5- Hold an academic qualification.

In addition to the above conditions, candidates for full-

time membership of the Council of Commissioners must meet the following requirements:

- 1- They must not be engaged in any other work or profession whilst carrying out their duties as a member.
- 2- Hold a higher academic qualification.
- 3- He must be proficient in one of the official languages of the United Nations, in addition to Arabic.

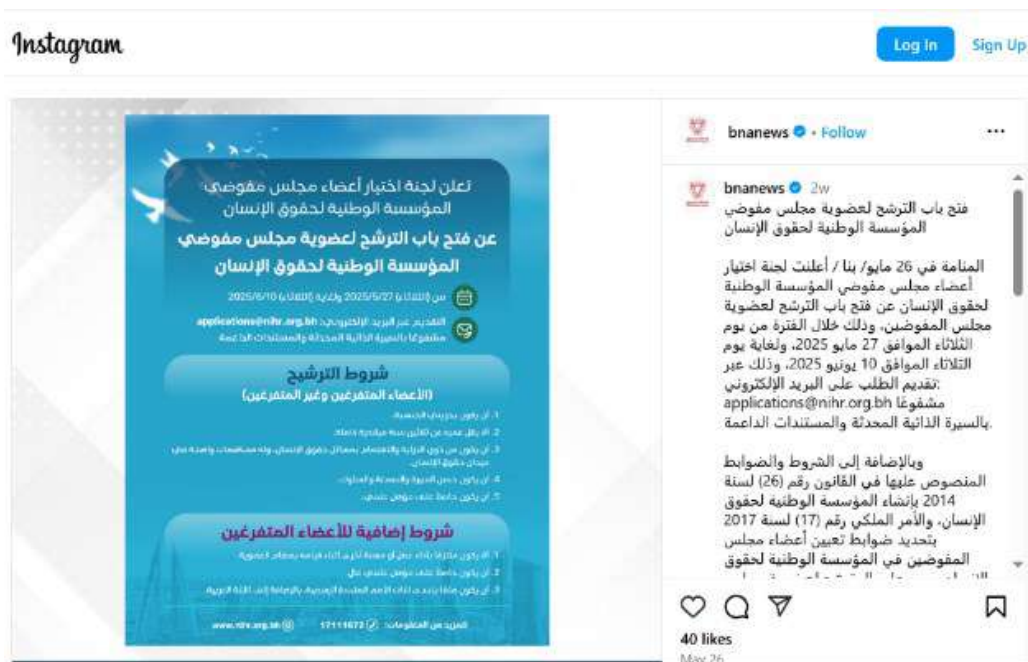
It should be noted that, when selecting members of the Council of Commissioners, consideration will be given to representing the diverse sections of society without discrimination on the basis of gender, origin, religion, belief or disability, whilst ensuring appropriate representation of women and minorities. Care will also be taken to ensure that the composition includes an appropriate number of specialists in legal and human rights fields,

⁶ Official website of the Bahrain News Agency: [Applications are now open for membership of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution](https://www.bna.bh/en/News/1477)

as well as other disciplines relevant to the work of the National Human Rights Institution.

The legislation governing membership of the Council of Commissioners can be viewed by visiting the website www.nihr.org.bh. For further information, please call 17111672. Please note that any application submitted after the specified deadline, or which does not meet all the membership requirements, will not be considered.

The announcement regarding the opening of nominations for membership of the Council of Commissioners was widely publicised by the Bahrain News Agency on its official website www.bna.bh and on Instagram⁷. It was also featured in all daily newspapers and on social media platforms.



The announcement was also published on the National Human Rights Institution's website and Instagram account to reach the widest possible audience:

⁷ Official Instagram account of the Bahrain News Agency: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DKHZvBMIPRG/?igsh=Z2Q0anpseTdhZHd4>

1- ألا يكون ملتزماً بأداء عمل أو مهنة أخرى أثناء قيامه بمهام العضوية.

2- أن يكون حاصلاً على مؤهل علمي عالٍ.

3- أن يكون ملحقاً بإحدى لغات الأمم المتحدة الرسمية، بالإضافة إلى اللغة العربية.

علمًا بأنه سيؤخذ بعين الاعتبار عند اختيار أعضاء مجلس المفوضين تمثيل مختلف أطراف المجتمع دون تمييز على أساس الجنس، أو الأصل، أو الدين، أو العقيدة، أو الإعاقة، مع الحرص على تمثيل المرأة والأقليات تمثيلاً مناسباً، كما سيُراعى أن يضم التشكيل عدداً مناسباً من المختصين في المجالات القانونية والحقوقية وغيرها من التخصصات ذات الصلة بعمل المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان.

ويمكن الاطلاع على التشريعات المنظمة للعضوية في مجلس المفوضين من خلال زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني: www.nihr.org.bh.

ولمزيد من المعلومات يمكن الاتصال على هاتف رقم 80001144، علمًا بأنه لن يُنظر في أي طلب يُقدَّم بعد انتهاء المدة المحددة، أو لا يستوفي كافة شروط العضوية.

#بنا #البحرين #وكالة_أخبار_البحرين #bh
#Bahrain #bna #bnaews

May 26 • See translation

أعضاء مجلس مفوضي المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان عن فتح باب الترشح لعضوية مجلس المفوضين، وذلك خلال الفترة من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق 27 مايو 2025، ولغاية يوم الثلاثاء الموافق 10 يونيو 2025، وذلك عبر تقديم الطلب على البريد الإلكتروني: applications@nihr.org.bh الذاتية المحدثة والمستندات الداعمة.

وبالإضافة إلى الشروط والضوابط المنصوص عليها في القانون رقم (26) لسنة 2014 بإنشاء المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان، والأمر الملكي رقم (17) لسنة 2017 بتحديد ضوابط تعيين أعضاء مجلس المفوضين في المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان، يجب على المترشح لعضوية مجلس المفوضين (كعضو متفرغ وغير متفرغ) أن تتوافر فيه الشروط الآتية:

- 1- أن يكون بحريني الجنسية.
- 2- ألا يقل عمره عن ثلاثين سنة ميلادية كاملة.
- 3- أن يكون من ذوي الدراية والاهتمام بمسائل حقوق الإنسان، وله مساهمات واضحة في ميدان حقوق الإنسان.
- 4- أن يكون حسن السيرة والسمة والسلوك.
- 5- أن يكون حاصلاً على مؤهل علمي.

وبالإضافة إلى الشروط المذكورة أعلاه، يُشترط في المترشح لعضوية مجلس المفوضين كعضو متفرغ ما يلي:

Posts

nihrbh

12 bnnews

لنفتح باب الترشح لعضوية مجلس مفوضي المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان عن فتح باب الترشح لعضوية مجلس مفوضي المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان

المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان

الترشيح

شروط اختيارية للعضوية

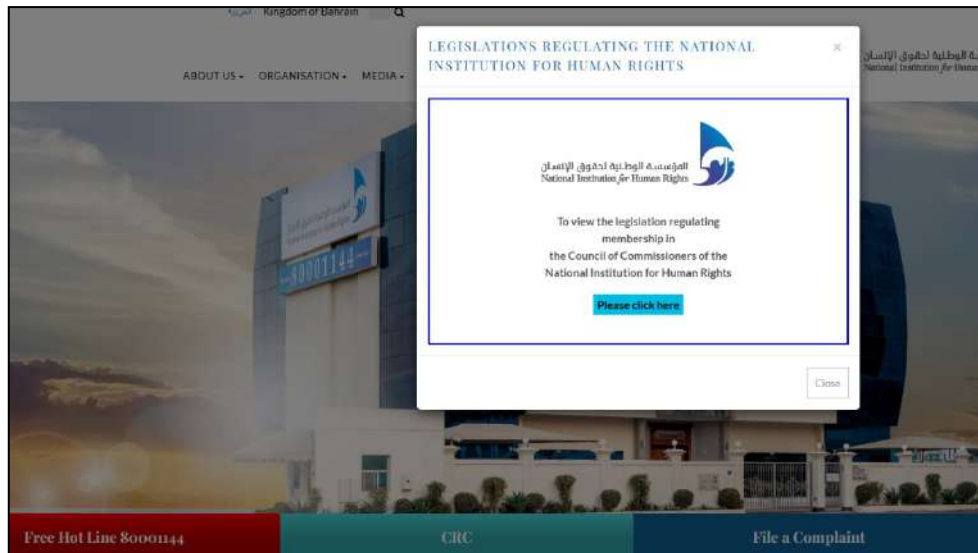
nihrbh Repost from @bnnews

فتح باب الترشح لعضوية مجلس مفوضي المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان

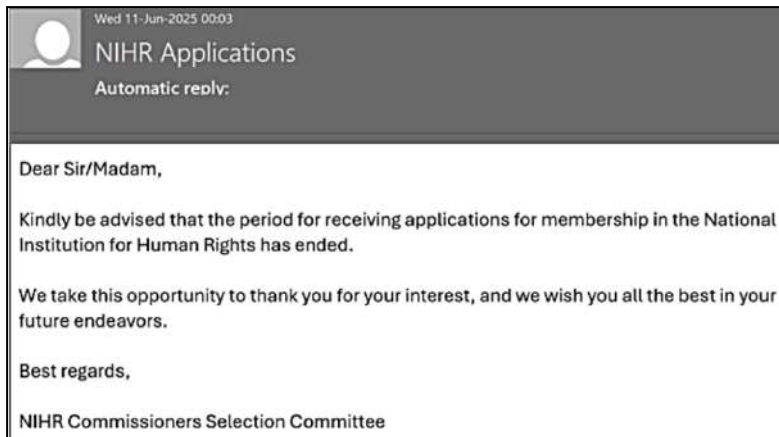
المنامة في 26 مايو/ بنا / أعلنت لجنة اختيار

A pop-up notice was also displayed automatically upon accessing the Commission's website (in both languages) [at www.nihr.org.bh](http://www.nihr.org.bh), to enable those seeking information to easily and conveniently access the legislation governing membership of the Council of Commissioners:





Upon expiry of the specified deadline, an automated reply was set up on the email address designated for receiving applications, stating that the deadline had passed: (Please note that the automated reply system only accepts English)



5- Second meeting of the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners⁸

His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court, chaired the second meeting of the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution on 15 July 2025.



During the meeting, His Excellency commended the willingness shown by a number of citizens to stand as candidates for membership of the Council of Commissioners of the National

Human Rights Institution, emphasising that the keen interest shown by a number of concerned citizens and human rights defenders, representing various sections of society, is part of their commitment to actively participating in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom, may God protect and preserve him, in order to consolidate the principles of human rights and uphold the values of humanity, justice, brotherhood and peace, and in line with the Kingdom of Bahrain's full commitment to all international laws and conventions.

His Excellency emphasised that the Committee had adhered to the highest standards of transparency in sorting and classifying all applications received, and in ensuring that they met the eligibility requirements and criteria, in accordance with the conditions, regulations and standards set out in the Royal Decree establishing the National Human Rights Institution, and Royal Decree No. (17) of 2017 setting out the regulations governing the appointment of

⁸ Official website of the Bahrain News Agency: Minister of the Royal Court chairs the second meeting of the Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution

<https://www.bna.bh/.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2bDhzm56qmZhA%2fQgbHPQOcbp8%3d>

members of the Council of Commissioners, and in accordance with the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, endorsed by United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. (48/134) of 20 December 1993, as well as the General Observations drawn up by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which are considered an interpretative legal reference for the Paris Principles.

His Excellency noted that the final list of names proposed for membership of the Council of Commissioners, will be submitted to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom, may God protect and preserve him, for the issuance of a Royal Decree appointing the members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution for the period (2025–2029).

6- Announcement by the Selection Committee for Council of Commissioners regarding the procedures it has undertaken⁹



The Selection Committee for Members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution announced, on 15 July 2025, that it had received 112 applications for membership of the Council of Commissioners during the period from Tuesday 27 May 2025 to Tuesday 10 June 2025, noting that

47 per cent of applicants were men and 53 per cent were women, of whom 19 per cent hold a PhD and 41 per cent hold a Master's degree.

The Commission confirmed that work is underway to prepare the final list of proposed candidates for membership of the Council of Commissioners, in preparation for its submission to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom, may God protect and preserve him, for the issuance of a Royal Decree appointing the members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution for the years (2025–2029).

⁹ OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE BAHRAIN NEWS AGENCY: IN PREPARATION FOR SUBMISSION TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING... SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: WORK IS UNDERWAY TO PREPARE THE FINAL LIST OF PROPOSED NAMES FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE YEARS (2025–2029)

<https://www.bna.bh/.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2bDu9uQjAzPNHS8%2btHjktYotw%3d>

The Committee noted the clear interest shown by concerned citizens and human rights defenders from various sectors of society, pointing out that the high number of applications for membership from highly qualified academics underscores the widespread interest and keen desire to participate effectively in the Council of Commissioners.

During the previous period, the Committee worked to sort and categorise all applications received and to ensure they met the eligibility requirements and criteria; Applications that did not meet the membership requirements were excluded, in accordance with the conditions, regulations and criteria set out in the law, as well as the general observations drawn up by the Accreditation Sub-Committee of the World Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which are considered an interpretative legal reference for the Paris Principles.

7- Royal Decree appointing members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution

On 12 August 2025, Royal Decree No. (26) of 2025 was issued appointing the members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution¹⁰, which states:

The following persons are hereby appointed as members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution:

Firstly: Full-time members:

1. Ali Ahmed Alderazi.
2. Dr. Malallah Jaffar Alhammadi
3. Mr. Mohamed Juma Fuzai
4. Dr. Maha Saleh Al Shehab

Second: Part-time members:

5. Dr. Hamad Ebrahim Alabdulla
6. Mr. Daniel Haron Cohen
7. Mrs. Rawdha Salman Alaradi
8. Ms. Shaikha Hamdi Alshaiba
9. Dr. Shaima Abdulla Mohammed
10. Mr. Abdulla Khalifa Althawadi
11. Ms. Muna George Koro

Their term of office shall be four years.

This decree shall come into force from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

¹⁰ Royal Decree No. (26) of 2025 appointing members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution: <https://www.lloc.gov.bh/PDF/O2625.pdf>

8- Election of the Chair and Deputy Chair¹¹

The Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution held its first procedural meeting on Sunday, 17 August 2025, chaired by Dr. Malallah Jaffar Alhammadi in his capacity as the eldest member, in accordance with the provisions of the Law establishing the National Human Rights Institution No. (26) of 2014, as amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016.

The election of the Chair and Deputy Chair took place in succession, with Engineer Ali Ahmed Alderazi being elected as Chair of the Commissioners, whilst Dr Malallah Alhammadi was elected as Deputy Chair.



During the meeting, members of the National Institution's standing thematic committees were selected and their chairs elected, and the Child Rights Commissioner was appointed. The results were as follows:

- General Rights and Freedoms Committee: Chaired by Mr. Mohamed Juma Fuzaia and comprising Dr. Maha Saleh Al Shehab and Mr. Daniel Haron Cohen.
- Detention & Facilities Visitation Committee: Chaired by Dr. Malallah Jaffar Alhammadi, with Mr. Abdulla Khalifa Althawadi and Ms. Muna George Koro as members.
- Complaint, Monitoring & Follow-up Committee: Chaired by Mrs. Rawdha Salman Alaradi, with Dr. Hamad Ebrahim Alabdulla, Dr. Shaima Abdulla Mohammed and Ms. Shaikha Hamdi Alshaiba as members.

During the meeting, Dr. Maha Saleh Al Shehab was also appointed as Child Rights Commissioner at the National Human Rights Institution.

¹¹ Link to the news item: in Arabic:

<https://www.nihr.org.bh/Organisation/CommissionerSchedule/sched1/17Aug2025.aspx>

In English:

<https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/Organisation/CommissionerSchedule/sched1/17Aug2025.aspx>

6TH FORMATION التشكيل السادس
2029 - 2025

الهيكل التنظيمي لمجلس المفوضين Council of Commissioners Structure

الرئيس
Chairman



المهندس علي أحمد الدرازي
Eng. Ali Ahmed Alderazi

لجنة زيارة أماكن الاحتجاز والمرافق Detention & Facilities Visitation Committee



الدكتور مال الله الحمادي
Dr. Malallah Alhammadi
Vice-chairman - نائب الرئيس
رئيس اللجنة - Head



السيد عبدالله الذواذي
Mr. Abdulla Althawadi
Member - عضو



السيدة منى كورو
Ms. Muna Koro
Member - عضو

لجنة الحقوق والحريات العامة General Rights and Freedoms Committee



المستشار محمد فزيع
Mr. Muhammed Fuzai
Head - رئيسة اللجنة



الدكتورة مها آل شهاب
Dr. Maha Al Shehab
مفوض حقوق الطفل
Child Rights Commissioner



السيد دانيال كوهين
Mr. Daniel Cohen
Member - عضو

لجنة الشكاوى والرصد والمتابعة Complaint, Monitoring & Follow-up Committee



السيدة روضة العرادي
Mrs. Rawdha Alaradi
رئيسة اللجنة - Head



الدكتور حمد العبدالله
Dr. Hamad Ahabdulla
Member - عضو



السيدة شيخة الشيبه
Ms. Shaikha Alshaiba
Member - عضو



الدكتورة شيما محمد
Dr. Shaima Mohammed
Member - عضو

اللجان النوعية الدائمة

-

Standing Committees

CHAPTER ONE: THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN THE MANDATE OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION REGARDING COMPLAINTS IT HAS RECEIVED AND MONITORED (PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS)

Introduction

This chapter will comprise two sections. The first concerns the Commission's role in monitoring the human rights situation, through the presentation of an analytical and systematic review of the complaints received or monitored by the Commission, relating to a range of fundamental rights, whilst seeking to assess the actual enjoyment of these rights on the ground, by comparing actual practices with the legal obligations enshrined in national legislation and international standards and instruments. This enables the identification of gaps and shortcomings in the protection and enjoyment of the relevant rights and freedoms, using the following methodology:

- **Legal framework:** A review of the relevant provisions of the Constitution and national laws, applicable international conventions and standards, as well as international human rights treaties, conventions and protocols to which the State has acceded or by which it is bound, in order to interpret the scope, limits and safeguards of the right.
- **Data collection:** Data is collected from several reliable sources, including complaints received by the call centre and the institution's complaints unit, reports from civil society organisations and international governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as data and reports monitored from these institutions and organisations, and material published in various media outlets and on social media.
- **Classification of complaints:** Complaints are classified according to the type of right to which they relate. Complaints concerning the following rights will be addressed – each in a separate section:
 - The right to the highest attainable standard of health (the right to health).
 - The right to education.
 - The right to social security.
 - The right to work.
 - The right to an adequate standard of living (the right to housing).
 - The right to liberty and personal security.
 - The right to physical and mental integrity.
 - The right to a fair trial.
 - The right to nationality.
 - The right to communicate with the outside world.
 - The right to freedom of travel and movement.

- The right to enjoy various rights and freedoms – the substitution of punishment with alternative sanctions or measures, or inclusion in an open prison programme.
- **Analysis of practices and challenges:** by comparing reported incidents with legal legislation and international obligations; identifying procedural and substantive challenges that limit the enjoyment of the right; and identifying field and procedural observations, including the actions of protection agencies and legislative or operational weaknesses.
- **Recommendations:** To provide concise and actionable recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right, including legislative improvements, procedural reforms, the strengthening of mechanisms for monitoring violations, and the implementation of training and capacity-building programmes.

The second section will then address the role of the national institution in conducting field visits and attending court hearings to ensure fair trial guarantees.

SECTION ONE: THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION IN MONITORING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

Introduction:

This section addresses the complaints received by the Institution during 2025, by reviewing the rights associated with the complaints submitted to it through the various approved communication channels, in addition to what has been documented and followed up through the monitoring and investigation work carried out by the Institution. The section also includes a brief overview of the efforts and measures taken by the State to support each of the rights under consideration, alongside an outline of the main challenges to their enjoyment.

The section also addresses the relevant international normative frameworks and national legislation pertaining to each right, identifying the subject matter of the complaints received in relation to it, and reviewing the NIHR's role in handling and responding to them and following up on the procedures involved, through correspondence addressed to the relevant official bodies and the responses received in this regard. It also outlines the measures taken by the Institution to verify the facts and monitor the mechanisms for addressing complaints, culminating in an analytical assessment of the content of each complaint and the human rights issues it raises, organised into twelve sections as follows; it should be noted that recommendations relating to each right will be addressed in Chapter Four, which is dedicated to recommendations.

Point 1: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to the highest attainable standard of health (the right to health)

Introduction:

This section analyses complaints received through the NIHR's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Health and government hospitals, as well as medical reports and relevant official responses, and details of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to providing the required health services, as this is a fundamental human right that guarantees every individual the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health without discrimination. This right is not limited to access to treatment and medical care alone, but extends to include the availability of quality health services, essential medicines, preventive care, mental health care and a healthy environment, in accordance with the national legislative framework and international standards.

In recent years, this right has seen significant progress in strengthening free or subsidised health services, developing the health sector's infrastructure, and increasing government spending on medical services, in line with the provisions of the Bahraini Constitution and the Sustainable Development Goals. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the area of the right to health are:

- The provision of primary, secondary and curative healthcare services through a network of government health centres and hospitals.
- The development of hospitals and specialist centres, such as the Bahrain Cancer Centre and the Mohammed bin Khalifa Specialist Heart Centre.
- Investing in digital transformation, the development of preventive health services and the governance of the health sector.
- Strengthening public health programmes, vaccination and preventive care.
- Developing health legislation, regulating medical services, human organ transplantation and health oversight.
- Implementing the National Genome Project to enhance the prevention of genetic diseases and improve the quality of diagnosis and treatment.
- The use of artificial intelligence and robotics in healthcare to improve the efficiency of medical services.¹²

In terms of financial resources, the tables in the State General Budget Act for the financial years 2025–2026 show that the health sector is among the government sectors with the highest expenditure, with allocations for the health sector amounting to 260 million Bahraini dinars for 2025, and 364 million Bahraini dinars for 2026, allocated as follows:¹³

- 2 million Bahraini dinars allocated to the Supreme Health Council in 2025, and 2 million Bahraini dinars in 2026.
- 26 million Bahraini dinars allocated to the Ministry of Health in 2025, and 26.2 million Bahraini dinars in 2026.
- 147.2 million dinars allocated to government hospitals in 2025, and 148.8 million dinars in 2026.
- 73.4 million dinars allocated to primary healthcare centres in 2025, and 74.3 million dinars in 2026.
- 1.6 million dinars have been allocated to the Health Insurance Fund (Shifa) in 2025, and 1.6 million dinars in 2026.
- 3.1 million dinars have been allocated to the National Authority for the Regulation of Health Professions and Services in 2025, and 3.1 million dinars in 2026.
- 44.8 million dinars have been allocated to King Hamad University Hospital in 2025, and 45.4 million dinars in 2026.
- 25.8 million dinars have been allocated to the Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa Specialised Heart Centre in 2025, and 26.2 million dinars in 2026.
- 35.6 million dinars have been allocated to the Bahrain Cancer Centre in 2025, and 36 million dinars in 2026.

¹² For further information: please visit the official website [of the Ministry of Health](#)

¹³ [Tables from the General Budget Approval Act for the financial years 2025–2026, Table No. \(3\)](#)

- 200,000 dinars have been allocated to cover the costs of treating accident injuries and emergency cases for citizens abroad in 2025, and a further 200,000 dinars in 2026.

The budget reports also indicated that total expenditure on the health sector from 2008 to 2026 exceeded 5.3 billion Bahraini dinars, reflecting the priority given to health within government spending.¹⁴

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges associated with promoting and protecting this right for persons both with and without restrictions on their liberty. Despite the legislative and institutional efforts made, and in light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or addressed, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- Increasing pressure on health services as a result of population growth and rising demand for healthcare.
- The need to strengthen mental health services and psychosocial rehabilitation, particularly for persons deprived of their liberty.
- Challenges associated with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity.
- Ensuring equal access to health services for all groups, including migrant workers and the most vulnerable.
- Keeping pace with technological and digital developments in the health sector and strengthening the pool of specialist medical staff.
- The need to facilitate access for persons deprived of their liberty to certain treatment services not available in correctional and rehabilitation centres or government hospitals.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflects cases that have been received, identified and addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, it provides practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of the right to health, including: the availability of health services, their accessibility, the quality of care provided, and the continuity of service provision. This is in line with General Comment No. 14 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which identifies the elements of this right as: availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality.¹⁵

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to health, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

¹⁴ [Al-Bilad newspaper](#)

¹⁵ [General Comment No. 14 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The protection of the right to health is based on a comprehensive framework of international and national legal norms. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹⁶ enshrines the right to an adequate standard of living, including health and medical care, whilst the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Law No. (10) of 2007 – stipulates in Article 12 that everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. It also sets out the measures that Member States are required to take to ensure the full realisation of this right, including working to reduce mortality and infant mortality rates, improving environmental and occupational health, and preventing, treating and combating all diseases, as well as ensuring medical services for all patients.

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)¹⁷ also address the State's responsibility to provide healthcare to persons deprived of their liberty, and the requirement that they enjoy the same standard of health services as those available in the community, whilst ensuring the provision of comprehensive medical services within correctional and rehabilitation institutions.

As for relevant national legislation, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain¹⁸ guarantees that every citizen has the right to healthcare, that the State is responsible for public health, and that it ensures the provision of means of prevention and treatment. Furthermore, the Public Health Act of 2018 and its implementing regulations of 2021¹⁹ provide for comprehensive reforms to

¹⁶ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25(1), states that: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services..."

¹⁷ [The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners \(the Nelson Mandela Rules\)](#), p. 8, Rule 24(1), which states that: "The State shall be responsible for providing health care to prisoners. Prisoners should receive the same standard of health care as is available in the community, and they should have the right to access essential health services free of charge and without discrimination on the basis of their legal status; and Rule (25), which states that: 1. Every prison must have a healthcare services department responsible for assessing, promoting, protecting and improving the physical and mental health of prisoners, paying particular attention to prisoners with special healthcare needs or suffering from health problems that hinder their rehabilitation. 2. The health care service shall consist of a multidisciplinary team comprising a sufficient number of qualified personnel working with full clinical autonomy, and shall include adequate expertise in psychology and psychiatry. Every prisoner must have access to the services of a qualified dentist, in accordance with Rule 27(1), which stipulates that: 'All prisons shall ensure immediate access to medical care in emergency cases. Prisoners whose conditions require specialist care or surgery shall be transferred to specialist institutions or to civilian hospitals.'

¹⁸ Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Article 8: "A. Every citizen has the right to healthcare; the State shall be responsible for public health and shall ensure the means of prevention and treatment by establishing various hospitals and health institutions." B. Individuals and bodies may establish hospitals, clinics or treatment centres under State supervision, in accordance with the law."- <https://www.lloc.gov.bh/FullAr/Constitution.docx>

¹⁹ Public Health Act No. (34) of 2018, <https://www.lloc.gov.bh/PDF/K3418.pdf>, Decree No. (13) of 2021 promulgating the implementing regulations for the Public Health Act promulgated by Act No. (34) of 2018 <https://www.lloc.gov.bh/Legislation/HTM/RHEL1321>

promote community health and protect the health of individuals and society by establishing strict standards for environmental and food safety, combating communicable and non-communicable diseases, and providing the necessary preventive care. It also requires the relevant authorities to provide preventive and curative services to all sections of society without exception, whilst specifying the scope of preventive services that the State is obliged to provide, such as national vaccination programmes and periodic health checks, which also cover inmates of correctional and rehabilitation centres to ensure that infectious diseases do not spread.

Furthermore, the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act²⁰ and its implementing regulations²¹ directly guarantee the right of all persons deprived of their liberty to receive the necessary free medical care without neglect or discrimination, and oblige the relevant authorities to take measures to protect and safeguard this right.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to health and ensuring the provision of health services to different sections of society.

Section Two: Complaints Data

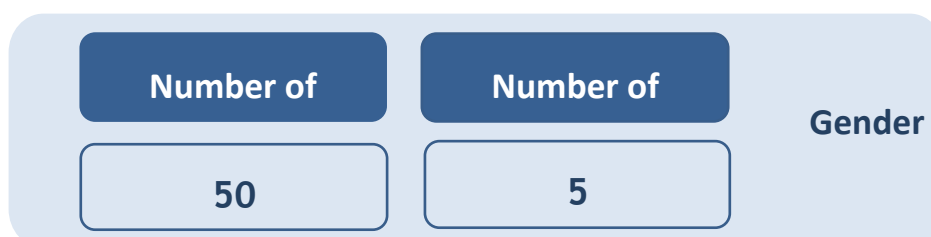
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to health



A total of 61 complaints were received in 2024, whilst 55 were received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



²⁰ Article (28) of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act No. (18) of 2014, as amended by Decree-Law No. (6) of 2024, which stipulates that: “Government health institutions shall provide free healthcare to inmates and those in pre-trial detention ...”,

²¹ Article (2) of the Executive Regulations issued pursuant to Decision No. (131) of 2015, as amended by the provisions of Decision No. (49) of 2024, which stipulates that: “Every centre shall have a comprehensive medical clinic providing free medical care to inmates and remand prisoners...”

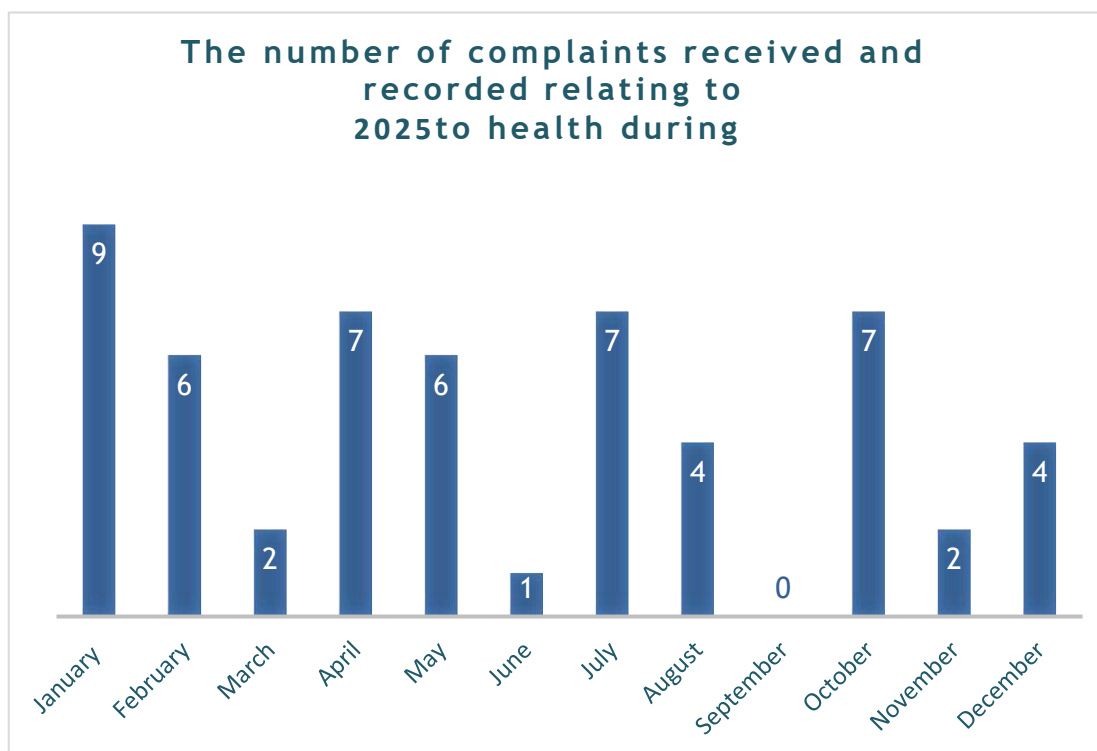
- **Subjects of complaints:**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to health conditions, totalling 55 complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Failure to receive treatment or healthcare.	33
Failure to dispense medicines or failure to receive medicines deposited at correctional and rehabilitation centres.	2
Unavailability of certain treatment services at the centre's clinic or in state hospitals.	2
Requests for medical examinations.	1
Request for referral to specialist doctors.	3
Request to substitute prescribed medicines with other medicines.	1
Monitoring the health status of certain patients.	4
Request for follow-up medical appointments or dates for surgical procedures.	1
The need to provide urgent medical care for certain patients.	3
Some inmates are on hunger strike due to health problems they are suffering from.	1
A request for information regarding the death of an inmate at the centre whilst playing football, and an enquiry as to whether first aid was administered to him prior to his death.	1
A shortage of designated parking spaces for people with disabilities in the A&E department at Salmaniya Medical Complex. ²²	1

²² See the "Visits" section, where, following the field visit conducted by the Organisation to the Salmaniya Medical Complex in February 2025, it was recommended that consideration be given to increasing the number of parking spaces for people with special needs, provided that these are managed by the administration of the Salmaniya Medical Complex and are free of charge. The response to this recommendation stated that government hospitals would contact the company responsible for the car parks to request an increase in the number of spaces, noting that parking spaces for people with special needs are subject to a 50 per cent discount and cannot be provided free of charge.

Request to exempt patients from parking charges in the A&E department at Salmaniya Medical Complex. ²³	1
Request to receive rehabilitation treatment outside the Kingdom of Bahrain.	1
Total	55



- **Response and follow-up:**

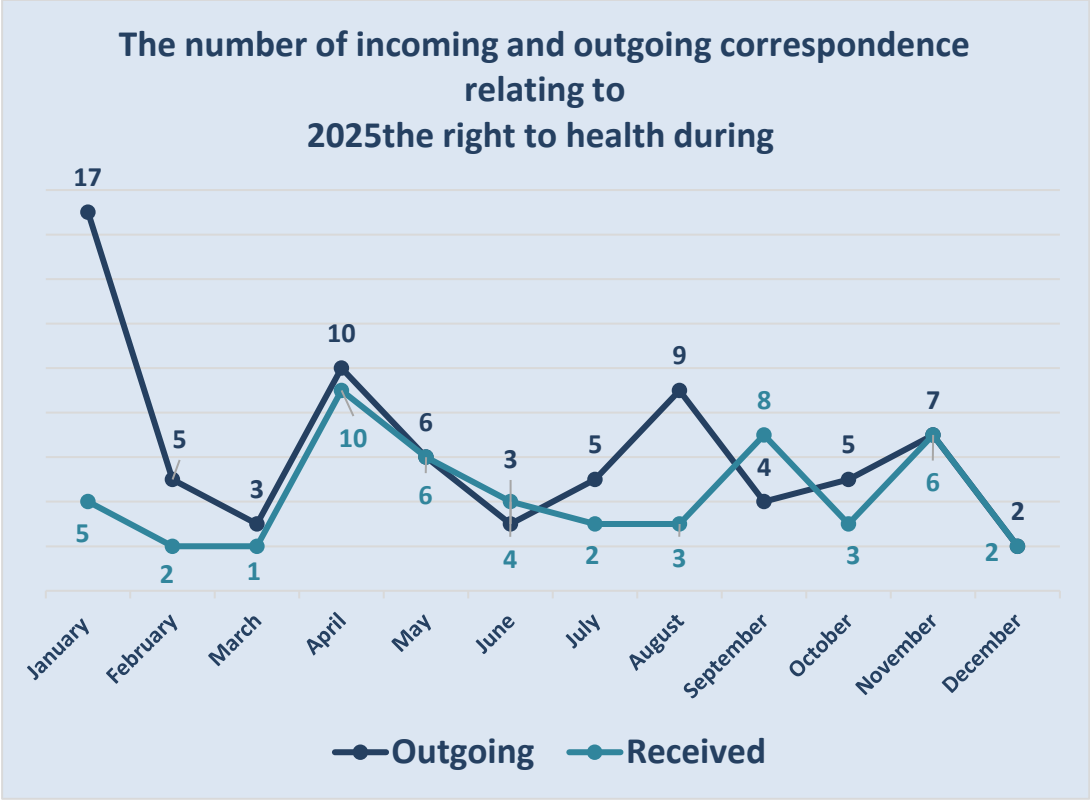
The NIHR examined and followed up on the complaints to reach appropriate solutions. Following the preparation of a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were undertaken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and liaising with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	76
Replies received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	52

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the NIHR and the competent authorities to address the complaints.

²³ The Foundation aims to examine and follow up on this matter with the relevant authorities by drawing up a set of recommendations and proposals designed to facilitate access to healthcare services for patients and their families, thereby reducing the financial burden on them.

As part of the Organisation’s commitment to strengthening mechanisms for receiving and following up on complaints, and to ensuring direct communication with complainants, the Complaint, Monitoring & Follow-up Committee met with two complainants who had submitted complaints via on behalf of two inmates regarding complaints related to the right to health, at their request, thereby enabling the NIHR to follow up on their complaints with the relevant authorities.



Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its oversight role and its monitoring of complaints and reports relating to the right to health, during the period covered by this report the Organisation wrote to the relevant authorities to verify the measures taken regarding a number of health cases involving persons deprived of their liberty, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which the necessary healthcare was being provided to them in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR sent a total of nine letters to the Ministry of the Interior, as set out in the following table:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	What has been done
2	Follow-up on the health status of a resident suffering from osteoporosis.	The response stated that treatment had been provided at the centre’s clinic.

3	Provision of daily living essentials for residents suffering from health conditions (foot injury, slipped disc).	The organisation is awaiting a response.
1	Replacement of a resident's punishment due to her health condition.	The response stated that the request had been referred to the relevant department for review and for the necessary action to be taken, provided that all the relevant requirements in this regard are met.
1	Request for information regarding the death of an inmate at the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre (Ju).	The response provided detailed information on the circumstances of his death and the measures taken by the centre's management in this regard.
2	An inmate had not received a number of medicines deposited for him by his family at the property office of the remand centre.	The response stated that the medicines had been delivered to the inmate.

The Authority also liaised with government hospitals through 66 correspondence letters to follow up on a number of healthcare-related cases, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
40	Failure to receive treatment and healthcare.	A response was received to 30 correspondence items, including detailed medical reports on the health status of each inmate and the medical measures taken in their regard, as well as the scheduling of follow-up appointments to monitor their health and provide the necessary treatment, whilst the institution is still following up on 10 correspondence items.

4	Failure to dispense medication.	A response was received to one (1) letter stating that the medication had been delivered to the inmate, whilst the institution is following up on the responses to three (3) letters.
3	Unavailability of certain treatment services at the centre's clinic or in government hospitals.	The organisation is following up on the responses with the relevant authority.
3	Conducting medical tests	A response was received in correspondence no. (1) stating that the necessary tests had been carried out, which confirmed that she had hepatitis, accompanied by a detailed medical report on her health condition and the medical procedures undertaken in her case, whilst the NIHR is following up on the response in correspondence no. (2).
6	Referral to specialist doctors	A response was received to five (5) letters, containing detailed medical reports on the health status of each inmate and the medical measures taken in their regard, in addition to the scheduling of appointments to monitor their health and provide the necessary treatment, whilst the institution is awaiting a response to one (1) letter.
5	Provision of follow-up appointments / surgery dates	The response included a detailed medical report for each case, along with the scheduling of follow-up appointments or surgical procedures, as well as the provision of the necessary treatment.
3	Emergency medical care	The response, in two letters, stated that two inmates had been urgently referred for a medical examination, which revealed dry skin on the left shin and a boil on the upper right thigh, A follow-up appointment was booked at the surgery and

		infectious diseases clinics, and the necessary treatment was provided, whilst the organisation is following up on the response to one letter.
2	A hunger strike due to health problems they are suffering from.	The response included a detailed medical report on the inmates' health conditions, and a date was set for one of them to undergo surgery, whilst the other received appropriate treatment and healthcare. They were also informed of the health risks associated with the hunger strike and advised to end it for their own safety; one inmate complied and ended the hunger strike, whilst the other's health condition is being monitored and treatment provided.

The Institution also wrote to **the Ministry of Health** in one letter, as follows:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Access to rehabilitation treatment outside the Kingdom of Bahrain	The NIHR is following up on the response.

It is clear from the above that the NIHR has dealt with 52 enquiries relating to requests and queries regarding the provision of healthcare. It has followed up on these cases with the relevant authorities, and this follow-up has shown that a number of patients have received their prescribed medication, some cases were referred to consultants and specialists depending on the nature of each case, and some patients were referred for treatment outside the Centre's clinic and in government hospitals, in addition to laboratory tests, MRI scans and surgical procedures being carried out as medically necessary.

The Organisation also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which affirm the right of every individual to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as the 'Nelson Mandela Rules', which oblige states to provide healthcare to persons deprived of their liberty that is equivalent to that available to the general public.

In parallel, the NIHR reviewed national legislative frameworks, ranging from the Constitution—which guarantees the right to healthcare—to the Public Health Act

and the Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority Act, with the aim of ensuring that the measures taken by the competent authorities have effectively contributed to promoting public health and guaranteeing the provision of medical care —both curative and preventive—to all groups without neglect or discrimination, including inmates of correctional and rehabilitation centres.

As part of its oversight role, the Commission continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to healthcare after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons, including those deprived of their liberty, enjoy the necessary health services in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the right to health.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Commission concludes as follows:

1- Availability and scope of health services

The information indicates that basic health services are available within correctional and rehabilitation centres, reflecting an established level of service provision, with a referral system in place to government hospitals or private medical centres in certain specialist cases. However, some specialist services (such as dental prostheses) are not provided free of charge, and the inmate bears the financial cost. This may affect the full enjoyment of the right to health, an issue the Organisation is seeking to address with the relevant authorities to find alternative solutions that ensure the continuity of specialist treatment for all inmates.

2- Timeframes for the provision of healthcare

There have been repeated complaints regarding relatively long delays in accessing certain services, which may necessitate the further development of appointment scheduling mechanisms, particularly with regard to specialised medical disciplines or surgical appointments. In some cases, these delays may lead patients to resort to protest actions, such as hunger strikes, which could have a negative impact on their health; this matter is being monitored in conjunction with the relevant authorities.

3- Quality and adequacy of healthcare

The medical responses provided show that many cases received the necessary care, including examinations, treatment and follow-up, whilst some observations were made regarding the ongoing need to strengthen the presence of specialists within the clinics of correctional and rehabilitation centres (such as ophthalmology, internal medicine, and neurology). Although consultants from government hospitals make regular weekly visits, the continuous presence of specialist doctors within the centre helps to speed up the provision of healthcare services to inmates, improve appointment scheduling mechanisms, and enhance the quality and adequacy of the medical care provided to them.

4- Continuity of care

The relevant authorities continue to monitor health conditions, and there is ongoing coordination with the institution to ensure the continuity of care in accordance with the medical circumstances of each individual case.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the continuous development of health services.

Second requirement: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to education

Introduction:

This requirement addresses the analysis of complaints received through the NIHR's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant bodies, including the Ministry of Education and the University of Bahrain, and also based on the relevant official responses and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities in addressing them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to providing the required educational services, as this is a fundamental right that guarantees every individual equal opportunities for learning and the development of their knowledge and abilities, thereby enhancing their active participation in society and contributing to the achievement of development and social justice, as well as the consolidation of the values of citizenship and human rights. This right includes ensuring that education is accessible to all without discrimination, and providing free, high-quality education at the basic and compulsory levels, alongside support for technical and higher education and vocational training, in accordance with the national legislative framework and international standards.

In recent years, this right has seen significant progress in strengthening its provisions. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the field of the right to education, particularly in relation to higher education, are:

- The development of a comprehensive national strategy for higher education and scientific research, aimed at enhancing the international competitiveness of national educational institutions.
- Supporting higher education and scientific research through the development of academic and institutional partnerships for the University of Bahrain, Bahrain Polytechnic and the Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari College of Teachers, thereby contributing to improving the quality of education and enhancing competitiveness in international rankings and indicators.
- To increase the number of students admitted and the number of branches at Bahrain Technical College (Bahrain Polytechnic).
- Expanding apprenticeship and vocational training programmes and linking education to the labour market.²⁴

²⁴ For further information on the government's efforts relating to higher education, please visit the [Al-Ayam newspaper](#) website.

- Strengthening and expanding professional training and development programmes for both new and experienced teachers through the Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari College of Teachers, including continuing professional development and educational leadership programmes, as well as offering specialised programmes in the fields of special needs education and the development of advanced teaching skills, as well as providing opportunities for certain citizens to enrol in international higher education programmes.²⁵

The State General Budget tables for the financial years 2025 –2026 confirm that the education sector is a priority area for government spending, as it is a fundamental pillar of human and economic development in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Expenditure allocated to the education sector amounted to approximately (354.1 million Bahraini dinars) for 2025, and (355.5 million Bahraini dinars) for 2026. These allocations covered bodies associated with the education system, including the Ministry of Education, the Education and Training Quality Authority, and the higher education sector, as well as a number of universities such as (the University of Bahrain, Bahrain Polytechnic, the Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari College of Education, and the Abdullah bin Khalid College of Islamic Studies). The bulk of these funds was allocated to recurrent expenditure relating to the operation of educational institutions, salaries for teaching and administrative staff, and the continuity of educational services, alongside allocations for project expenditure aimed at the construction, development and maintenance of schools and educational facilities, and the implementation of development projects in the education sector, reflecting the State's commitment to supporting and developing the educational process.²⁶

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces certain challenges associated with promoting and protecting the right to education, despite the legislative and institutional efforts made. In light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or addressed, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- The continuing need to align educational outcomes with the rapidly changing labour market and the requirements of digital transformation, thereby enhancing the readiness of students and national workforce for the skills of the future.
- Continuing to develop the use of technology in the educational process and ensuring digital equity of opportunity among the various groups benefiting from educational services.

It should be noted that the complaints data reflects cases that have been received, identified or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, it provides practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of fundamental dimensions of the right to education, including: the availability of educational

²⁵ For further information on the efforts of the Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari College of Teachers, please visit the [University of Bahrain's](#) website.

²⁶ [Tables from the Law on the Approval of the General Budget of the Kingdom of Bahrain for 2025–2026.](#)

institutions and services; ease and accessibility of enrolment without discrimination; and the extent to which they are accepted in terms of the suitability of their content and quality, as well as their adaptability to meet the needs of different individuals and groups. This is in line with General Comment No. 13 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which sets out the fundamental interrelated characteristics of this right as: availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability.²⁷

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to education, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The protection of the right to education is underpinned by a comprehensive framework of international and national legal norms. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (²⁸) affirms the right of every human being to education, whilst the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognises, in Article 13, the right of every individual to education, States Parties to the Covenant undertake to make primary education compulsory and available free of charge to all, to generalise secondary education in its various forms, including technical and vocational education, and to make higher education accessible to all on an equal basis according to merit and by appropriate means, in particular by progressively introducing free access to it.

Furthermore, Article 14 of the same Convention stipulates that States Parties shall ensure that primary education is compulsory and free of charge within two years of their accession to or ratification of the Convention, alongside the adoption of a detailed implementation plan leading to the gradual realisation of the principle of compulsory and free primary education, within a reasonable timeframe specified in that plan.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain²⁹ guarantees the right to education in Article 7, emphasising the State's role in providing educational and cultural services to citizens.

²⁷ [General Comment No. 13 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning the right to education](#)

²⁸ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26(1), states: "Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be made available free of charge, at least at the primary and basic levels. Primary education shall be compulsory. Technical and vocational education shall be made generally available. Higher education shall be made accessible to all on the basis of merit..."

²⁹ [The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain](#), Article 7, stipulates that: "A. The State shall promote science, literature and the arts, encourage scientific research, and guarantee educational and cultural services for citizens. Education shall be compulsory and free at the initial stages specified by law and in the manner set out therein, and the law shall establish the necessary plan to eradicate illiteracy. b. The law shall regulate aspects of religious and national education at the various stages and types of education, and shall, in all of them, seek to strengthen the character of the citizen and their pride in their Arab identity. c. Individuals and bodies may establish private schools and universities under the supervision of the State

At the level of national legislation, Law No. (27) of 2005 on Education³⁰ establishes that education is a right guaranteed to all citizens, setting out its general objectives in terms of the all-round development of the individual's personality in all religious, national, scientific and cultural aspects. It also regulates the stages of education, particularly basic education, emphasising its compulsory and free nature, the State's duty to provide it, and the responsibility of parents to ensure their children enrol in it. Furthermore, it defines the responsibilities of the Ministry of Education, which include drawing up educational plans to advance both the general and technical education systems, preparing study plans and curricula, supervising public and private educational institutions; encouraging private education to contribute to the expansion of education within the framework of the Kingdom's general policy; regulating matters relating to study missions and scholarships; and defining the Ministry's role in literacy and adult education, whilst paying particular attention to religious and national education and the Arabic language.

Law No. (4) of 2026 concerning private educational institutions³¹ was also enacted to establish a legal framework regulating the operation of these institutions. It addresses various aspects related to them, including defining the objectives on which they must be based, regulating the conditions and licensing procedures necessary for their establishment and operation, and setting out the approved curriculum, as well as the financial regulations with which these institutions must comply. The Act also defines the remit of the Ministry of Education with regard to granting licences and carrying out supervisory, monitoring and inspection functions, to ensure that these institutions comply with approved educational policies and standards, in line with the Kingdom's general policy and in a manner that enhances the quality and sustainability of the educational process.

As for the institutional framework governing the right to education, the Higher Education Council was established by Law No. (3) of 2005, as amended by Decree-Law No. (31) of 2020³², to set out the objectives for higher education institutions, whilst specifying the powers entrusted to it in formulating the Kingdom's general policy on higher education, examining the difficulties it faces, and to propose measures to address them, without neglecting the Council's mandate to monitor higher education institutions and oversee their programmes and supporting services.

With a view to improving the quality of education and training in the Kingdom, Decree No. (83) of 2012, regulating the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance in Education and Training (³³), provided for the reorganisation of the Education and Training Quality Authority in a manner that strengthens its decision-making independence and raises the standard of educational and training institutions. Its provisions established a national authority responsible for

and in accordance with the law. d. The State shall guarantee the sanctity of the role of science."

³⁰ [Law No. \(27\) of 2005 on Education](#)

³¹ [Law No. \(4\) of 2026 on Private Educational Institutions](#)

³² [Law No. \(3\) of 2005 on Higher Education, as amended by Decree-Law No. \(31\) of 2020 Decree No. \(83\) of 2012 regulating the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance in Education and Training](#)³³

ensuring that these institutions adhere to international standards, by working to improve the quality of performance at all stages of education, including general education, higher education and vocational training, as well as embedding the principle of transparency through the publication of periodic reports reflecting the reality of educational performance, thereby enabling parents and the public to assess the standards of these institutions, whilst also focusing on improving educational outcomes in line with the requirements and evolving needs of the labour market, The decree also granted the Authority broad powers enabling it to carry out periodic reviews and comprehensive evaluation visits to educational institutions, and to manage the National Qualifications Framework by classifying national qualifications of various academic and vocational types to verify their academic and practical quality, In addition, it oversees the preparation and administration of national examinations that assess pupils' performance at different stages of education. The decree also clarifies the Authority's legal status , noting that it enjoys legal personality and financial and administrative independence, and is subject to the supervision of the Council of Ministers, thereby strengthening its role in supporting decision-making in the Kingdom's education sector.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to education and ensuring the provision of educational services to all sections of society.

Section Two: Complaints Data

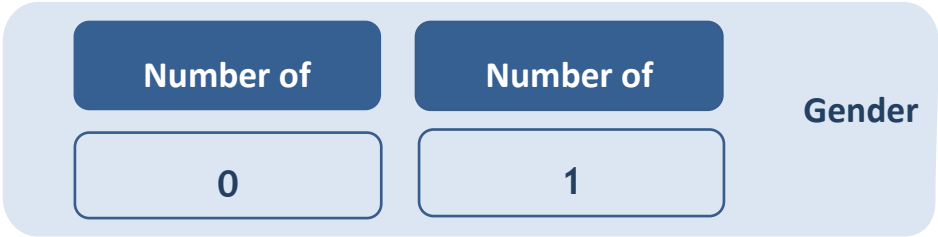
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to education



Nine (9) complaints were received in 2024, whilst one (1) complaint was received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms. This reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure the provision and enhancement of the quality of educational services.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

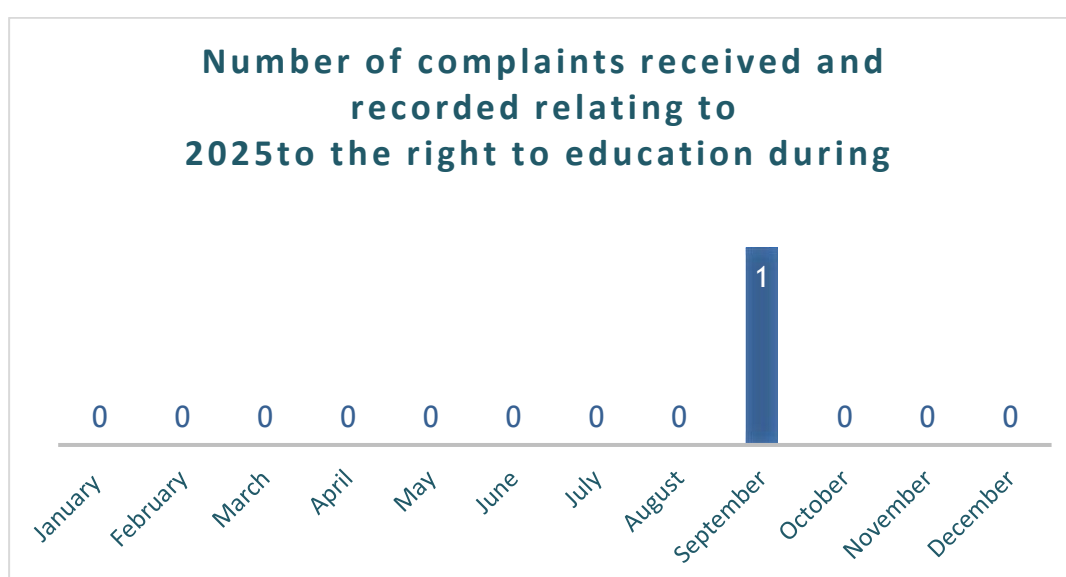
- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



- **Subjects of complaints**

The NIHR received one complaint relating to the right to education, the subject of which was as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Two applications by a woman to enrol at the Teachers' College in 2024 and 2025 were rejected, despite her having obtained her general secondary school certificate with a cumulative grade of 98.5 per cent and having passed the personal interview, without any reasons for the rejection being given.	1
Total	1



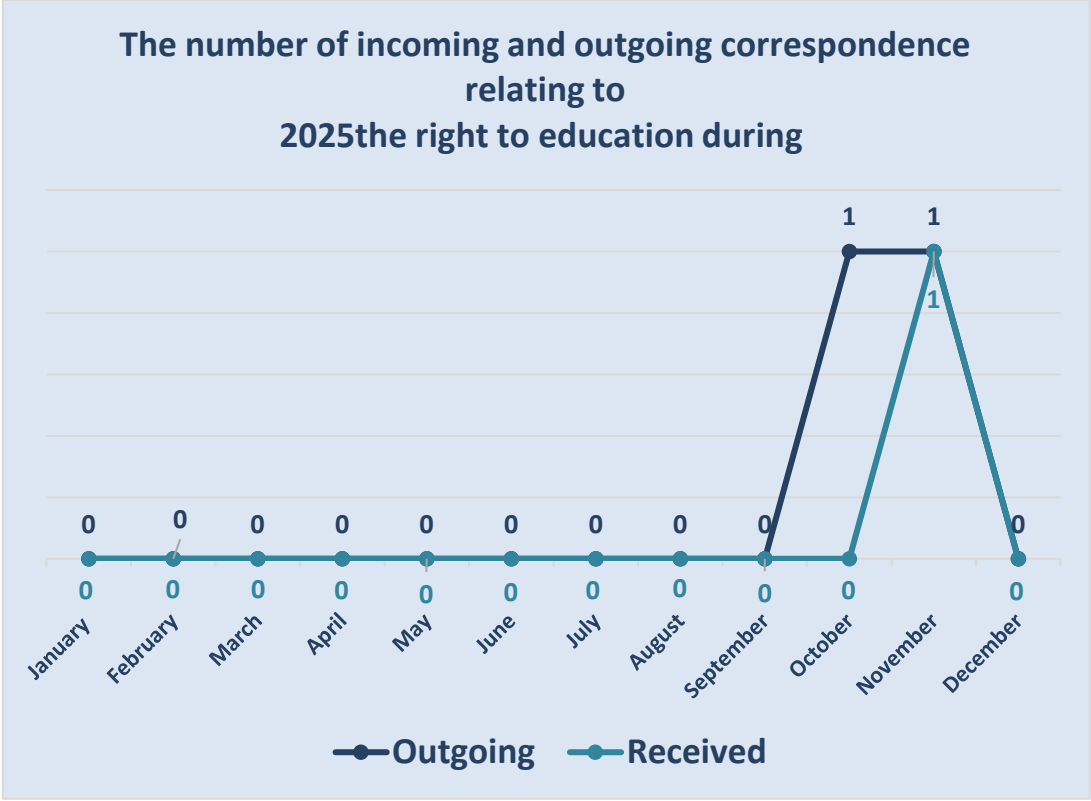
- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined the complaint received and followed it up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with them directly, depending on the nature of the complaint and the type of right at stake.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	2
Responses received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	1

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the NIHR and the competent authorities to address the complaints.

As part of the Organisation’s commitment to strengthening mechanisms for receiving and following up on complaints, and to ensuring direct communication with complainants, the Complaint, Monitoring & Follow-up Committee met with the complainant and her family at their request to discuss the details of the complaint, thereby enabling the Organisation to follow up on the complaint with the relevant authorities.



Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its oversight role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to education, the NIHR, during the period covered by this report, contacted the relevant authorities to verify the measures taken regarding the aforementioned case, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which the necessary educational services were being provided to her in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

Although decisions on whether to accept or reject student applications fall outside the NIHR’s direct remit, the NIHR contacted the competent authorities as part of its responsibility to ensure compliance with approved educational standards, thereby safeguarding the fundamental right to education and enhancing the quality of its provision in accordance with relevant national legislation and international standards.

The NIHR has sent one (1) letter to the University of Bahrain, as set out in the following table:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Enquiry regarding the criteria and regulations governing student admission procedures at the College of Education, University of Bahrain, in terms of (the required percentage or minimum cumulative grade point average, aptitude test, personal interview, priorities or required specialisations), or any other criteria taken into account in the decision to accept or reject an application.	The response stated that admission to the College of Education falls within the remit of the Ministry of Education.

The NIHR also wrote to **the Ministry of Education** in one letter, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Enquiry regarding the criteria and regulations governing student admission procedures at the College of Education, University of Bahrain, in terms of (the required percentage or minimum cumulative grade point average, aptitude test, personal interview, priorities or required specialisations), or any other criteria taken into account in the decision to accept or reject an application.	The institution will respond in one (1) letter.

It is clear from the above that the Organisation dealt with a complaint regarding the rejection of applications for admission to the College of Education at the University of Bahrain; as the complainant had not received a reasoned response explaining the grounds for the rejection, the Organisation followed up on her case with the relevant authorities to ascertain the transparency of the criteria and procedures followed—such as the required grade point average, aptitude tests and subject priorities—and other criteria, to ensure their consistency with the standards set out in international instruments and relevant national legislative frameworks, foremost among which are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which affirm the right of everyone to higher education on an equal footing

and in accordance with merit, to ensure the exercise of this right without discrimination.

As part of its monitoring role, the Commission continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding educational services after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, to verify that all persons, including those deprived of their liberty, enjoy the necessary educational services in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the right to education.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Commission concludes as follows:

1- Transparency of admission criteria in higher education

The information relating to the complaint indicates a need to strengthen the principle of transparency, as the most significant challenge lies in the failure to disclose the mechanism for allocating weightings among the various assessment criteria – such as the cumulative grade point average, aptitude tests and personal interviews – which limits the ability to understand the basis on which a decision to refuse admission was made. Furthermore, the failure to state specific reasons for rejection undermines the principle of transparency and gives rise to a sense of a lack of equal opportunities, which the NIHR seeks to address by clarifying the criteria and procedures followed for admission to ensure their consistency with the principle of equal opportunities in higher education based on merit.

2- Institutional coordination between bodies and the definition of responsibilities

Follow-up on the complaint revealed an overlap in procedural roles between the bodies responsible for admissions applications to the Teachers' College, which led to a lack of clarity for the applicant regarding the relevant administrative authority, which may confuse applicants and prolong administrative procedures; this calls for enhanced joint coordination to ensure that they are accurately directed to the relevant department to have their enquiries dealt with efficiently.

3- Continuity of follow-up

The competent authorities continue to monitor the educational situation, and there is ongoing coordination with the institution to ensure the continuity of education provision in accordance with the nature of the situation.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the continuous development of educational services.

Third requirement: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to social security

Introduction:

This requirement addresses the analysis of complaints received through the organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Industry and

Commerce, the General Organisation for Social Insurance, and the Bahrain Defence Force, as well as the relevant official responses and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to providing the required social security services, which are rights aimed at securing individuals' basic needs and protecting them from social and economic risks such as disability, unemployment, old age, illness or loss of income, as it works to provide financial support to help individuals meet their basic living requirements, in accordance with the national legislative framework and international standards.

In recent years, this right has seen a marked development in the strengthening of its components and the expansion of the scope of social protection for the most vulnerable groups, including low-income families, widows, orphans, divorced women, people with disabilities, those unable to work, abandoned women, the elderly, families of prisoners, children, unmarried young women, through the development of various programmes and initiatives aimed at providing them with livelihood, housing and food support. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the field of the right to social security are:

- the provision of monthly social assistance to eligible individuals in accordance with the Social Security Act;
- Paying allowances and supplements to people with disabilities, the elderly and low-income families.
- Providing direct government support through programmes for living expenses, food and housing allowances.
- Providing all forms of care and social, academic, vocational and psychological rehabilitation for people with disabilities.
- Supporting and implementing programmes and initiatives aimed at children and young people aged 7–18, based on a comprehensive and integrated approach that takes into account their developmental needs.
- Supporting economic empowerment and social rehabilitation programmes for productive national families through the 'Khatwa' programme.
- Developing social care and residential services, and supporting civil society organisations working in the social sector.³⁴
- Establishing the 'Citizen Account' to enhance direct financial support for citizens and improve their standard of living.³⁵
- Strengthening social protection for the most vulnerable groups within the framework of sustainable development plans and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030.

In terms of financial resources, the tables in the State General Budget Appropriation Act for the financial years 2025–2026 show high allocations for the social protection sector, amounting to 772 million dinars for 2025 and 771 million dinars for 2026, distributed as follows:

³⁴ For further details, please visit [the Ministry of Social Development's website](#), Social Development Services

³⁵ Local newspaper, [Al-Bilad](#)

- 22 million dinars for 2025 and 23 million dinars for the National Social Fund.
- 22 million dinars for 2025, and 22 million dinars for 2026 for the Social Security Fund.
- 298 million dinars for 2025, and 298 million dinars for 2026 for cost-of-living allowances for pensioners.
- 16 million dinars have been allocated for 2025, and a further 16 million dinars for 2026, for food subsidies.
- 54 million dinars for 2025 and 53 million dinars for 2026 to support the housing programme (housing allowance).
- In addition, 4 million dinars have been allocated for 2025, and a further 4 million dinars for 2026, to support the housing programme (reduction in housing instalments).
- 312 million dinars for 2025 and 311 million dinars for 2026 are earmarked for the Citizen's Account.
- 21 million dinars for 2025, and a further 21 million dinars for 2026, allocated to liabilities and contributions to pension schemes.
- The government's contribution to the unemployment insurance scheme amounted to 22 million dinars for 2025 and 22 million dinars for 2026.
- As for the Alimony Fund, 250,000 dinars have been allocated for 2025, and a further 250,000 dinars for 2026.³⁶

The Ministry of Social Development confirmed that the total annual budget for cash benefits overseen by the Ministry amounts to approximately 197 million Bahraini dinars per year.³⁷

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges associated with promoting and protecting the elements of the right to social security. Despite the legislative and institutional efforts made, and in light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or addressed, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- The impact of global economic changes on social protection systems, and the resulting increased pressure on social support programmes and services.
- Striking a balance between ensuring the financial sustainability of social support and protection programmes and responding to the growing needs of beneficiaries.
- Addressing the repercussions associated with the rising cost of living and inflation, and their impact on low-income households.

It should be noted that the complaints data reflects cases that have been received, identified and addressed; whilst it may not necessarily represent the full picture, it provides practical indicators that help to understand the key challenges in this area.

³⁶ [Tables from the General Budget Approval Act for the financial years 2025–2026.](#)

³⁷ For further details, please visit [the Al-Ayyam newspaper website](#)

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of the right to social security, including the availability of social insurance services, their coverage of various risks and social emergencies, the adequacy of the assistance provided, its accessibility and availability, as well as the continuity of its provision and its link to other rights. This is in line with General Comment No. 19 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which identifies the elements of this right as: availability (social security system), social risks and emergencies, adequacy, accessibility, and the relationship to other rights.³⁸

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to social security, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The protection of the right to social security is based on an integrated system of international and national legal norms. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights³⁹ affirms the right of every individual to social security as a member of society, whilst the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognises, in Article 9, the right of every person to social security, including social insurance. Furthermore, the international standards⁴⁰ issued by the International Labour Organisation stipulate that the State must guarantee a minimum level of social protection covering old age, disability, unemployment, sickness and the loss of a breadwinner, in order to ensure a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of human dignity.

As for relevant national legislation, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain⁴¹ guarantees the State's commitment to providing the necessary social security for citizens in cases of old age, illness, incapacity to work, orphanhood, widowhood or unemployment, and also guarantees social insurance and healthcare services.

³⁸ [General Comment No. 19 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning the right to social security](#)

³⁹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 22, states: "Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realisation, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organisation and resources of each State, the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality, and Article 25(1), which affirms the right to a livelihood in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood or old age".

⁴⁰ [International Labour Organisation Convention No. 102](#) concerning Minimum Standards of Social Security, which brings together the nine branches of social security – medical care, sickness, unemployment, old age, work-related injuries, family benefits, maternity, disability and survivors' benefits.

⁴¹ [The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain](#), Article 5(c): "The State shall ensure the necessary social security for citizens in the event of old age, sickness, incapacity to work, orphanhood, widowhood or unemployment; it shall also provide them with social insurance and healthcare services, and shall endeavour to protect them from the clutches of ignorance, fear and destitution."

Furthermore, the Social Security Act of 2006⁴² a comprehensive legislative framework that reflects the State's commitment to extending the social protection net to the most vulnerable groups. The Act establishes the right of those without sufficient income or a breadwinner to receive social assistance, with the aim of promoting the values of social solidarity and protecting families from the risks of poverty. This applies to specific groups, including (widows, orphans, divorced women, people with disabilities, those unable to work, abandoned women, the elderly, families of prisoners, and unmarried sons and daughters), whilst establishing eligibility criteria and standards to ensure that support reaches those who are genuinely entitled to it, thereby guaranteeing a minimum standard of decent living for all citizens and residents of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom's legislative framework also ensures the protection of workers' rights through several key pillars. The first of these is the Social Insurance Act, promulgated by Decree-Law No. (24) of 1976, which regulates the insurance rights of workers in the private, cooperative or mixed sectors against old age, disability and death, as well as insurance against work-related injuries. Secondly, the Law Regulating Pensions and Retirement Benefits for Government Employees, issued by Decree-Law No. (13) of 1975, which provides social and financial protection for employees in the public sector and public institutions and bodies, thereby ensuring their family stability after retirement. Thirdly, the Unemployment Insurance Act, issued by Decree-Law No. (78) of 2006, which aims to provide temporary financial protection by granting jobseekers unemployment benefit and providing those who have been unfairly dismissed with compensation, thereby safeguarding their dignity whilst they seek suitable employment opportunities.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to strengthening the right to social security and ensuring the provision of relevant services to various sections of society.

Section II: Data on complaints

(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to social security

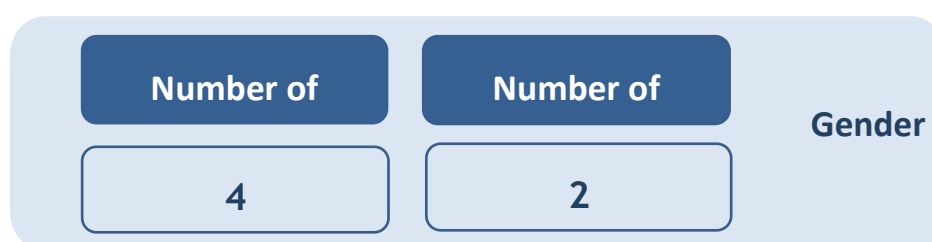


A total of six (6) complaints were received in 2024, and the same number was received in 2025. This numerical consistency and the proportionality of the number of complaints received or recorded over the two years indicate relative stability in the nature of the challenges faced by beneficiaries, and also highlight individuals' awareness of their insurance and social rights.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

⁴² [Social Security Act No. \(18\) of 2006](#), as amended by [Act No. \(18\) of 2013](#), and further amended by [Act No. \(32\) of 2021](#)

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



- **Subjects of complaints**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to social security in 2025, totalling six (6) complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
An individual faced financial difficulties that led to the closure of his company and left it with financial liabilities, resulting in him losing his source of income and becoming unemployed. He stated that he had submitted an application to the relevant authority to wind up the company, but was informed that he was required to pay a fee of (1,000) Bahraini dinars as liquidation fees. He was only able to pay (200) dinars, whilst he was unable to pay the remaining sum of (800) dinars due to a lack of financial means at present, which prevented him from completing the liquidation procedures and, consequently, from obtaining the certificate of cancellation of the commercial register required to claim unemployment benefit and social assistance from the relevant authorities.	1
The General Social Insurance Authority refused to refer a beneficiary of the Royal Pardon to the medical committees at the Ministry of Health to assess his health condition and determine whether he was eligible for retirement on medical grounds, The details of his complaint state that he became blind whilst serving a custodial sentence at a correctional and rehabilitation centre, which – according to his statement – prevented him from exercising his statutory insurance rights.	1
Social Security (cost-of-living allowance) payments to a woman were suspended without any explanation being given.	1
Rejection of an individual's application to have new years of service added to his previous period of service with a private company, after he had received his full pension entitlements for that previous period of service from the General Organisation for Social Insurance, in addition to a review of the Organisation's suspension of deductions from the pension sum previously paid to him.	1

The Ministry of Development and Social Affairs' rejection of a request from a woman suffering from a herniated disc (disc prolapse) in several vertebrae in her back, seeking to be classified as a person with a disability so that she could be granted two hours' rest and benefit from the allowances granted to that category.	1
Failure to rectify the legal status of an individual whose employment with a government body was terminated following the completion of a custodial sentence at a correctional and rehabilitation centre; it was noted that, upon checking with the General Organisation for Social Insurance, it transpired that he was still registered as an employee with that body, and that when he attempted to travel via the King Fahd Causeway, he was asked to provide a travel authorisation from his employer, as he was registered with them as an employee of his former employer.	1
Total	6



- **Response and follow-up:**

The organisation examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and actions were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

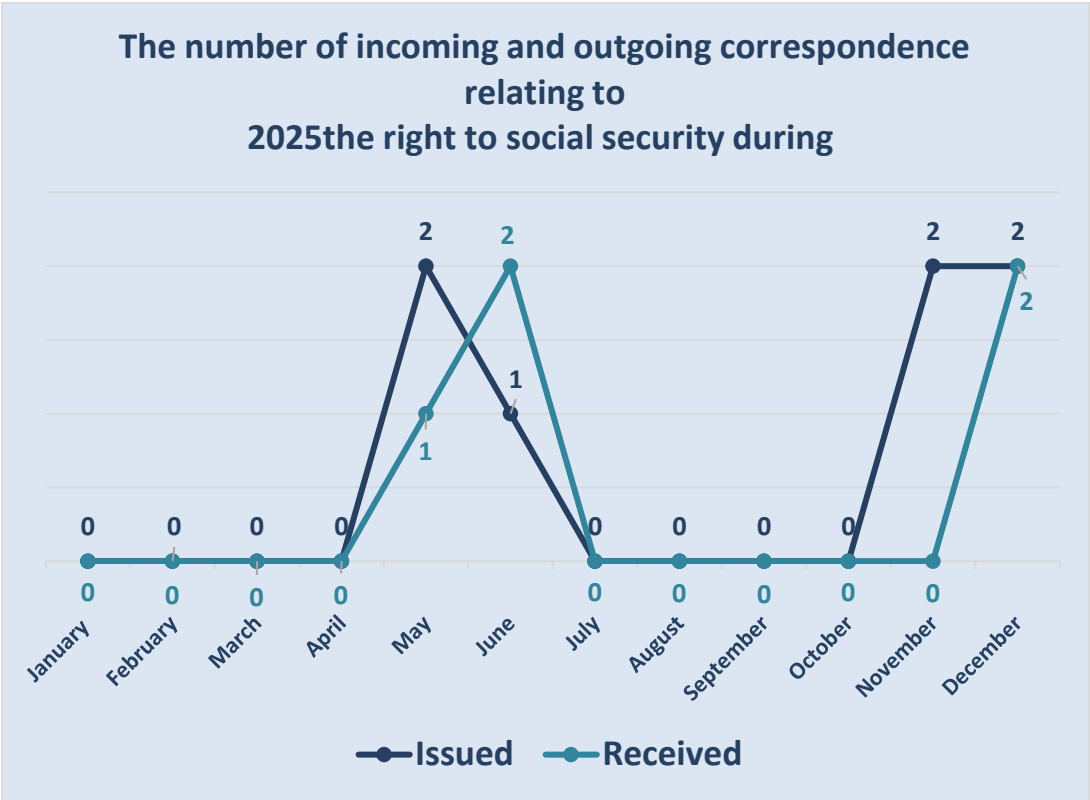
Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	7
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Responses received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.

5

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the NIHR and the competent authorities to address the complaints.

As part of the Organisation's commitment to strengthening mechanisms for receiving and following up on complaints, and to ensuring direct communication with complainants, the Complaint, Monitoring & Follow-up Committee met with three complainants regarding their complaints relating to the receipt of social assistance, at their request, thereby enabling the Organisation to follow up on their complaints with the relevant authorities.



Section 3: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its oversight role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to social security, during the period covered by this report, the Institution wrote to the relevant authorities to verify the procedures taken in a number of cases involving persons whose liberty is restricted, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which the necessary social services and assistance are being provided to them in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR sent two letters to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, as set out in the following table:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	Action taken
2	To consider the possibility of finding a suitable mechanism to settle the outstanding amount owed by a company owned by an individual who faced financial difficulties leading to its closure and the accumulation of financial liabilities, thereby enabling him to complete the company's liquidation procedures and obtain a certificate confirming the cancellation of the commercial registration, with the aim of enabling him to submit it to the Ministry of Labour to claim unemployment benefit, as well as to obtain financial support from the Ministry of Social Development.	The response, contained in two (2) letters, stated that the Ministry had contacted the individual concerned and advised him of the procedures to be followed for closing and settling the commercial registrations held in his name without paying the aforementioned fee for renewal of the registration, in accordance with the applicable regulations and procedures; consequently, the business had been legally wound up.

The NIHR also wrote to the General Organisation for Social Insurance in two letters, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Enquiry regarding the reasons for the failure to refer an individual (who was covered by the Royal Pardon and became blind whilst serving a custodial sentence) to the relevant medical committees, and clarification of his eligibility for medical retirement or for any appropriate insurance settlement commensurate with his health condition.	The response stated that the Authority was unable to refer his application to the medical committees pursuant to Article 143 of Social Insurance Law No. 24 of 1976; however, his insurance entitlements could be paid out and he could be granted a lump-sum compensation once the approved legal procedures had been completed.

1	A further letter was sent to explore the possibility of finding other legal alternatives that take into account the health condition of the person mentioned above.	The response stated that, in accordance with Article 37 of the Social Insurance Law, entitlement to a non-occupational disability pension is conditional upon termination of service due to disability, which has not been met in the case in question; consequently, the person concerned is not entitled to a retirement pension. The only possible insurance settlement, in accordance with clause (6) of Article (38) of the same Act, is the payment of a lump-sum compensation.
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The Corporation also wrote to **the Bahrain Defence Force** in two letters, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
2	To consider the possibility of amending the legal status of an individual who previously worked for a government body, so that he may update his details with the Kingdom's official authorities, secure a suitable employment opportunity, and benefit from the services provided by the Social Insurance Organisation and other official bodies.	The Corporation is following up on the response to two (2) letters.

The NIHR also wrote to **the Ministry of Social Development** in one letter, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Enquiry regarding the reasons for the suspension of social security benefits (cost-of-living allowance) for a woman, and consideration of resuming payments following her submission of supporting documents.	The reply stated that the complainant receives all types of social support and assistance allocated to her in accordance with the regulations and procedures on a regular

		basis without any significant interruption.
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It is clear from the above that the Organisation dealt with four incoming communications relating to requests or enquiries regarding entitlement to social security benefits, and followed up these cases with the relevant authorities to ascertain the complainants' eligibility for social assistance and services. This follow-up revealed procedural flexibility in some cases, such as enabling one complainant to legally wind up his company without incurring any financial burden, thereby facilitating the exercise of his remaining rights, and ensuring the continued provision of social assistance to one woman, whilst other cases demonstrated the soundness of the legal procedures followed by the competent authorities, alongside the provision of the necessary legal guidance to complainants regarding their rights and obligations.

The Organisation also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 22, which recognises the right of every individual to social security, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which emphasise the need to provide social protection that guarantees a decent standard of living for individuals and their families in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability or old age.

In parallel with this, the Institution reviewed the national legislative frameworks, starting with the Constitution – under which the State guarantees social security services to citizens – through to the Social Insurance Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act and other laws governing this right, with the aim of ensuring that the measures taken and decisions issued are in line with this legislative framework, thereby safeguarding the rights of those benefiting from these services.

As part of its supervisory role, the Institution continues to follow up on any responses or new developments received after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, to verify that all persons enjoy social services and assistance, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards, thereby strengthening the protection of the right to a decent standard of living and safeguarding human dignity and fundamental rights.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Organisation concludes as follows:

1- Procedural flexibility and facilitating access to social services

The information indicates that certain authorities, such as the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Social Development, demonstrate procedural flexibility in dealing with humanitarian cases, which has helped complainants to regularise their legal status and exercise their other guaranteed rights.

2- Compliance with the national legislative framework and international standards

Some of the responses provided by the General Organisation for Social Insurance show that most of the measures taken regarding insurance claims were in line with the provisions of national legislation (the Social Insurance Act) and relevant international standards, and no errors were found in the application of the law or procedures that would undermine the essence of the right to social security. The importance of informing complainants of the applicable legal provisions and the available alternatives was emphasised, to enable them to exercise their right to social assistance.

3- Strengthening data links between national systems

Through the complaints it has received and monitored, the Organisation has noted the importance of updating the legal and employment status of certain individuals in the relevant national systems, particularly for those who have completed custodial sentences, as delays in updating these records may, in some cases, result in outdated data continuing to appear in the systems of certain official bodies, which may affect an individual's ability to exercise their other rights, such as the right to freedom of movement, or lead to missed opportunities to take up new employment.

4- Ongoing follow-up

The competent authorities continue to follow up on the cases referred to them, and there is ongoing coordination with the Organisation to ensure the continuity of social services provision in accordance with the requirements of each individual case.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the continuous development of social services.

Fourth requirement: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to work

Introduction:

This requirement addresses the analysis of complaints received through the NIHR's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, and also based on the relevant official responses, and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to providing appropriate working conditions, as this is a fundamental right that guarantees individuals the opportunity to earn a living with dignity and under fair and safe conditions. This right encompasses freedom of choice of employment, equality of opportunity in employment, protection against unemployment, and access to fair pay, as well as the enjoyment of a suitable working environment that safeguards human dignity. It also extends to include vocational training, career development, and the provision of social protection for workers, in accordance with the national legislative framework and international standards.

In recent years, this right has seen significant progress through the promotion of employment opportunities, the development of national skills, support for the private sector, and the improvement of the working environment, in accordance

with the provisions of the Bahraini Constitution, Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the field of the right to work are:

- Implementing national policies and programmes to employ citizens in the public and private sectors.
- Supporting vocational training and skills development, and enhancing skills in line with the needs of the labour market.
- Strengthening legal protection for workers by developing labour legislation and safeguards relating to wages, working hours and occupational safety.
- Supporting entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises, and encouraging innovation.
- Developing and strengthening unemployment insurance schemes.
- Promoting the participation of women and people with disabilities in the labour market.
- Expanding programmes on digital transformation, technical skills and artificial intelligence to develop national talent.
- Launching initiatives to support wages, career development and professional certification through the Labour Fund (Tamkeen).

The Labour Fund 'Tamkeen'⁴³ is one of the leading national institutions supporting the right to work, as it contributes to making Bahraini citizens the ideal choice for employment by developing national talent in line with the requirements of the future labour market, and by supporting the private sector. Tamkeen's Plan for 2026⁴⁴ has unveiled a wide range of programmes and initiatives aimed at supporting employment, training and professional development, as well as promoting the growth and sustainability of organisations.

Among the most notable outcomes and support programmes during 2025 were:

- More than 44,300 support opportunities for Bahrainis in the private sector in the areas of employment and professional development.
- More than 20,800 opportunities related to employment and entry into the labour market.
- More than 23,500 opportunities in skills enhancement and career development programmes.

⁴³ **The Labour Fund (Tamkeen)** is a public institution in the Kingdom of Bahrain dedicated to supporting the private sector and enhancing its competitiveness by developing national talent, promoting the employment of Bahrainis, and financing and developing organisations and entrepreneurs, thereby contributing to sustainable economic growth and the achievement of the objectives of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030. Tamkeen also offers training and skills development programmes, wage subsidies, project financing, consultancy and business development services, with the aim of making Bahraini nationals the first choice in the labour market and enhancing the productivity of the private sector. <https://www.tamkeen.bh>

⁴⁴ [The annual plan of the 'Tamkeen' Labour Fund for 2026](#)

- More than 8,600 applications for support from organisations through productivity growth and expansion programmes.
- More than 3,900 organisations have benefited from wage support programmes.
- The launch of a range of initiatives relating to digital empowerment and technical skills support, alongside training in the field of artificial intelligence.

As regards the allocated budget, Tamkeen's annual plan indicates that substantial funds have been earmarked to support the labour market and develop national talent, including:

- Allocating the largest portion of Tamkeen's budget to programmes for the development of Bahraini talent, and to support employment and professional development, with talent development programmes accounting for approximately 39 per cent of the allocations for new applications.
- Allocation of around 22 per cent of the budget to programmes supporting organisations, expansion and growth.
- Allocating 12 per cent to initiatives to develop the ecosystem and the labour market.
- Funds were also allocated for loans, wage support and unemployment insurance schemes.⁴⁵

The 2025–2026 State Budget emphasised support for citizen employment programmes and the promotion of job opportunities, with government initiatives and various support programmes aiming to employ around 25,000 Bahrainis annually.⁴⁶

A comparison of labour market indicators between [2024](#) and [2025](#) revealed continued positive results in the areas of employment and training, albeit with varying degrees of achievement relative to the stated annual targets. In 2024, 27,147 citizens were employed, achieving 136 per cent of the target set out in the Economic Recovery Plan of 20,000 Bahrainis per year, whilst in 2025, the number of Bahrainis employed in the private sector stood at approximately 26,963, representing 108 per cent of the annual target of 25,000 Bahrainis. Despite the relative decline in the achievement rate, employment figures remained high and continued to exceed the set targets, reflecting the sustainability of employment efforts.

As for training, 2025 saw a marked improvement compared with 2024, with the number of beneficiaries of training programmes rising from 19,859 citizens in 2024 – representing a 199 per cent achievement rate of the annual target – to 22,508 citizens in 2025, representing a 150 per cent achievement rate of the new target of 15,000 Bahrainis per year. This reflects a real increase in the number of trainees and an expansion of training programmes, despite the lower percentage of achievement resulting from the raising of the annual targets for 2025.

Bahrain also continues to invest in developing the legislative and regulatory framework for the labour market, strengthening social protection for workers, and

⁴⁵ [Local newspaper, Akhbar Al-Khaleej](#)

⁴⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DHgdwqxsF8W/>

improving the quality and sustainability of jobs, given that the right to work is one of the fundamental pillars of economic and social development in the Kingdom.⁴⁷

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges associated with promoting and protecting this right, despite the legislative and institutional efforts undertaken. In light of the analysis of data and cases that have been monitored or addressed, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- **With regard to the labour market:**
 - Aligning the skills of the national workforce with the changing requirements of the labour market.
 - Promoting decent employment opportunities for graduates from various disciplines.
 - Challenges relating to automation and digital transformation and their impact on certain traditional jobs.
 - Ensuring a safe and balanced working environment that protects the rights of both workers and employers.
 - Promoting equality and non-discrimination in the workplace.
- **With regard to unemployment rates:**
 - The fall in the unemployment rate [to 5.2 per cent in 2025](#), down from [6.2 per cent in 2024](#), reflects a marked improvement; however, ongoing challenges in the labour market necessitate intensified efforts to ensure the promotion of suitable employment opportunities and support for job stability.
 - According to government data published on the Bahrain Open Data Portal, the unemployment rate for Bahrainis stood at approximately [3.23 per cent for men and 10.03 per cent for women](#) in the latest statistics published for 2024, whilst the overall rate in previous years ranged [from around 3.9 per cent to 6 per cent](#).
 - The number of jobseekers registered with the Ministry of Labour [in 2025](#) exceeded [15,433 thousand](#).
- **With regard to unemployment benefit:**
 - [The number of unemployment benefit recipients](#) in 2024 ranged from 20,908 to 21,715 per quarter, whilst in 2025 the figure ranged from 20,436 to 21,642 during the same periods.

It should be noted that the data on complaints reflect cases that were received, recorded and dealt with; whilst they may not necessarily represent the full picture, they do provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this area.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of the right to work, including: the availability of suitable employment opportunities

⁴⁷ [The “Tamkeen” Labour Fund](#)

and vocational training programmes; access to these opportunities without discrimination or barriers; the acceptability of working conditions in terms of respect for workers' dignity and fundamental rights; and the quality of work in terms of fair wages and decent working conditions. This is in line with General Comment No. 18 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁴⁸, which sets out the elements of this right as: availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality.

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to work, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The protection of the right to work is based on an integrated system of international and national legal norms. This framework is embodied in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, where Articles 6, 7, 8) lay down the fundamental rules governing this right, emphasising the individual's freedom to choose their work and the need to establish fair working conditions that guarantee fair remuneration and equality in pay without discrimination, as well as providing a safe working environment and ensuring the right to rest and leave.

The Kingdom of Bahrain's accession to the International Labour Organisation pursuant to Decree No. (9) of 1977⁴⁹, and the subsequent ratification of ten specific conventions, reflected a legal commitment to harmonise national legislation with international standards relating to labour rights. These conventions have formed a comprehensive legal framework that guarantees the protection of workers' dignity and the promotion of a fair and safe working environment. Through a series of laws enacted between 1981 and 2012, the Kingdom has enshrined the principles of social justice by prohibiting forced labour, combating discrimination in the workplace, and establishing rigorous controls for labour inspections, and occupational safety, as well as establishing rules to protect vulnerable groups such as children, women and persons with disabilities, and setting a minimum age for employment. This reflects the Bahraini legislature's commitment to making labour rights a fundamental pillar of the Kingdom's comprehensive human rights framework.

At the national level, Article 13 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain⁵⁰ guarantees the right to work, recognising it as both a duty and a right of every

⁴⁸ [General Comment No. \(18\) issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)

⁴⁹ [Decree No. \(9\) of 1977 concerning the approval of the Kingdom of Bahrain's accession to the International Labour Organisation](#)

⁵⁰ [The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain](#), Article (13), stipulates that: "A – Work is a duty incumbent upon every citizen, required by dignity and necessitated by the public good; and every citizen has the right to work and to choose the nature of that work in accordance with public order and morality. B – The State shall ensure the provision of employment opportunities for citizens and the fairness of the conditions of employment. (c) No person may be subjected to forced labour except in cases specified by law for reasons of national necessity and in return for fair remuneration, or in execution of a court order. (d) The relationship

citizen, with the freedom to choose the nature of their work. It also obliges the State to provide employment opportunities and ensure fair working conditions, prohibits forced labour except within the limits specified by law, and regulates labour relations in a manner that achieves social justice.

Furthermore, the Private Sector Labour Law No. 36 of 2012⁵¹ regulates the contractual relationship between employees and employers in the private sector. It establishes a comprehensive legal framework setting out the rights and obligations of each party towards the other, ensuring that employees enjoy appropriate rights, privileges and protective measures, such as the regulation of working hours, the determination of leave, wage regulations, termination of employment, and the provision of legal protection against unfair dismissal, thereby enhancing the stability of the employment relationship.

In the public sector, the Civil Service Law, promulgated by Decree-Law No. (48) of 2010⁵², regulates the right to work for employees in government bodies. It establishes the legal frameworks for appointment based on merit and equal opportunities, and guarantees employees' rights regarding salaries, allowances, promotions and leave. It also includes regulatory frameworks to protect employees from arbitrary administrative decisions, thereby ensuring a stable working environment that strikes a balance between the duties of public service and employees' rights.

Furthermore, the Unemployment Insurance Act, issued by Decree-Law No. (78) of 2006⁵³, is closely linked to the right to work, as it aims to provide social protection for jobseekers or those who have been unfairly dismissed. The effectiveness of this Act is not limited to providing financial support—whether through the provision of unemployment benefits to first-time jobseekers or compensation for those unfairly dismissed—but also extends to the provision of vocational training and rehabilitation programmes, with the aim of integrating beneficiaries into the labour market. This contributes to enhancing economic and social stability and ensuring the continued enjoyment of this right and a decent standard of living whilst seeking new employment or during transitional periods between jobs.

The Kingdom of Bahrain's efforts to promote the right to work are embodied in the 'Tamkeen' Labour Fund, established under Law No. (57) of 2006⁵⁴, which aims to make Bahraini citizens the optimal and most suitable choice for employment. This legal and regulatory framework focuses on improving the quality of available job opportunities, and increasing the productivity of the national workforce by providing advanced training programmes, wage support

between workers and employers shall be regulated by law on economic grounds, taking into account the principles of social justice."

⁵¹ [Law No. \(36\) of 2012](#) promulgating the Labour Law for the Private Sector, as amended by [Law No. \(31\) of 2014](#), [Law No. \(37\) of 2015](#), [Decree-Law No. \(59\) of 2018](#), and [Decree-Law No. \(16\) of 2021](#)

⁵² [Decree-Law No. \(48\) of 2010](#) promulgating the Civil Service Act, as amended by [Decree-Law No. \(69\) of 2014](#) and [Decree-Law No. \(23\) of 2019](#)

⁵³ [Decree-Law No. \(78\) of 2006](#) enacting the Unemployment Insurance Act

⁵⁴ [Act No. \(57\) of 2006](#) establishing the Labour Fund, as amended by [Act No. \(19\) of 2015](#) and [Act No. \(14\) of 2024](#)

and incentives for private sector organisations to recruit and develop national workers.

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority, established under Law No. (19) of 2006⁵⁵, plays a pivotal regulatory role in organising the labour market in the Kingdom, particularly with regard to expatriate workers. It is responsible for issuing work permits, regulating the entry and residence of foreign workers, and supervising employers' compliance with the relevant legal requirements. Its remit extends to implementing oversight and protection mechanisms, foremost among which are the wage protection system and the handling of labour complaints, thereby contributing effectively to curbing illegal practices and ensuring the protection of workers' rights.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to work and ensuring decent working conditions for all sections of society.

Section Two: Complaints Data

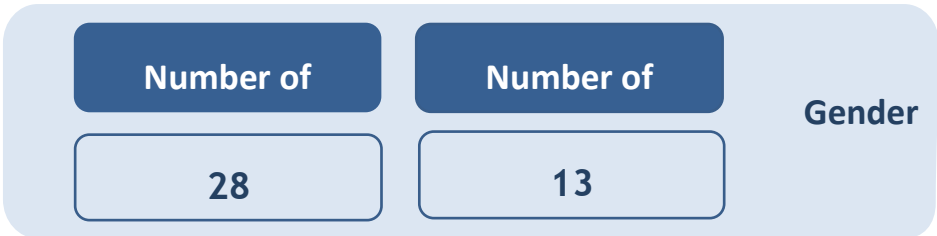
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to work



A total of 27 complaints were received in 2024 and 41 in 2025. A comparison of the two years reveals an increase in the number of complaints and a greater variety of issues raised, which may be attributed to several factors, including a rise in individuals' legal awareness of national redress mechanisms and their labour rights, as well as the persistence of certain challenges associated with the labour market, such as limited or unstable employment opportunities, and the complexity of certain administrative procedures relating to employment or benefits. This reflects the ongoing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures taken to ensure the protection of employment-related rights, whether employment-related, financial or procedural.

(2) Key characteristics of complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



- **Subjects of complaints:**

⁵⁵ [Act No. \(19\) of 2006](#) on the regulation of the labour market

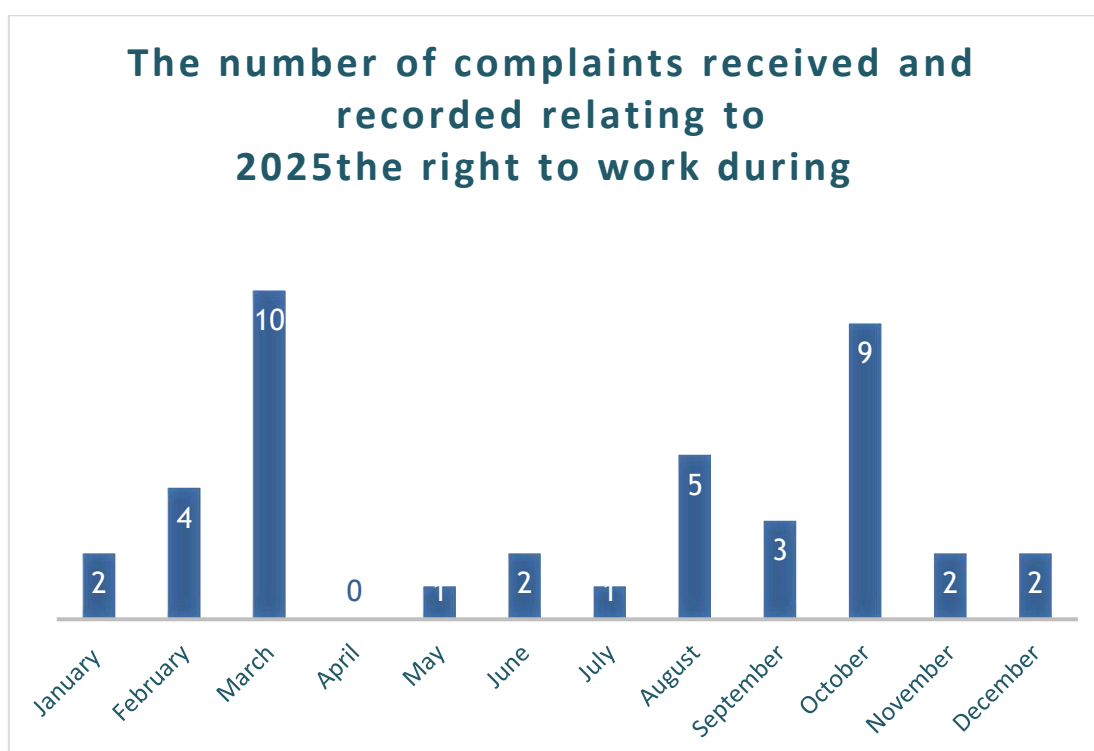
The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to work and other associated rights, totalling 41 complaints. The subjects of these complaints varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Thirteen workers were subjected to unfair dismissal by a private company in Bahrain	13
Suspension of unemployment benefits and closure of jobseekers' files following their inability to attend job interviews due to health reasons, emergencies or circumstances beyond their control, or because they were not notified in advance of the interview dates by the relevant officials at the Ministry, whether by telephone or text message.	3
Three (3) individuals were unable to secure suitable employment opportunities.	3
The failure of some employers to pay financial entitlements, such as wages, commissions and end-of-service benefits, to foreign workers.	2
A woman was unable to obtain a certificate of good conduct, preventing her from taking up a job opportunity with the Ministry of Education.	1
Failure to pay financial entitlements to a doctor and a number of staff working at a private medical centre, despite their continued regular performance of their duties.	1
Suspension of compensation payments and closure of a jobseeker's file because she was registered on the Ministry of Labour's website as having 'refused training', even though the refusal had come from the training provider, and she had attended the introductory briefing on the matter and expressed her wish to join the training programme.	1
A letter from a Member of Parliament requesting that the cases of jobseekers whose files had been closed be reviewed and that the legality of their registration as having 'refused' job or training opportunities be verified. ⁵⁶	1

⁵⁶ See the 'Visits' section, where, following the field visit conducted by the Foundation to the Ministry of Labour in December 2025 to hold a meeting with ministry officials to discuss the situation of these jobseekers, information was exchanged and the challenges they faced were outlined. These discussions resulted in the formulation of a number of recommendations, reflecting the commitment of both the Organisation and the Ministry to overcoming obstacles and improving conditions in a manner that safeguards the rights of jobseekers. The Organisation continues to monitor the implementation of these recommendations in coordination with the Ministry to ensure that jobseekers enjoy the rights guaranteed to them under national legislation and relevant international standards.

A request for clarification of the policy governing the nomination of jobseekers for vacancies advertised on the Ministry of Labour's website.	1
Failure to reinstate a person covered by a royal pardon to their former post at the Ministry of the Interior or to rectify their legal status, as they remain registered as an employee in the Ministry's system.	1
The Ministry of Labour's refusal to register a woman as a jobseeker because she owns inherited shares in a private company.	1
Certain bodies have refused to provide jobseekers with details of job vacancies available via the Ministry of Labour's website without giving reasons.	1
Uncertainty regarding the outcome of job applications submitted to government bodies in Bahrain.	1
A former employee at a restaurant was unfairly dismissed during his probationary period; furthermore, his manager placed him on a rota requiring him to work nine consecutive days without a break.	1
Failure to rectify a violation recorded against a trainee at a private medical centre during her training period by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, which affected her ability to obtain a work visa to join a hospital in the Kingdom.	1
Failure to renew the temporary contract of an employee at the Ministry of Education employed as a 'security guard'.	1
Repeatedly rejecting applications to enrol a person on the roll of lawyers.	1
Failure to reinstate a consultant doctor to his post in government hospitals following a court sentence of imprisonment; although his sentence was commuted to electronic tagging, his employer suspended his salary and barred him from work.	1
Failure to reinstate an individual to their former post after they were dismissed following the serving of a custodial sentence at a company.	1
A person's failure to receive the financial entitlements due to him for his years of service, following his unfair dismissal from a private company, in addition to his claims centring on the annulment of the unfair dismissal decision, the award of moral and material compensation for the resulting damages, and his reinstatement to his former post.	1

A detainee – a foreign national – has not received the financial entitlements due to him for his years of service following his dismissal from a government body.	1
A worker's inability to move to another employer: he had been working in a shop and submitted his resignation, which was approved by his employer; however, he was subsequently surprised to find that the employer had filed a report alleging he had absconded, which resulted in him being prevented from moving to another employer despite having terminated his employment contract.	1
A person was subjected to verbal abuse by a female employee working in a government ministry whilst claiming his financial entitlements.	1
A female foreign worker was subjected to mistreatment, discrimination and verbal bullying by a manager in front of her colleagues, highlighting the impact of such behaviour on her mental health, the working environment and her ability to perform her duties effectively.	1
Total	41



- **Response and follow-up:**

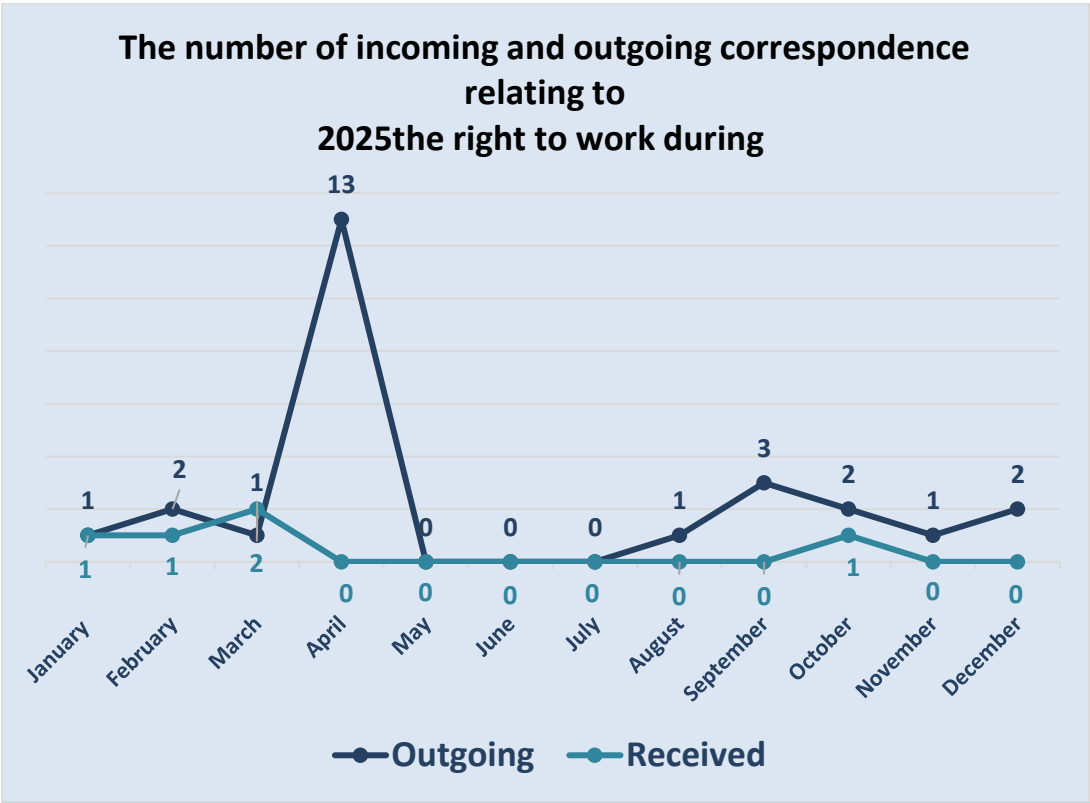
The organisation examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. Following the preparation of a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and actions were taken to address the

complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type and scope of the right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	26
Replies received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	5

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the NIHR and the competent authorities to address the complaints.

As part of the Organisation’s commitment to strengthening mechanisms for receiving and following up on complaints, and to ensuring direct communication with complainants, the Complaint, Monitoring & Follow-up Committee met with a number of complainants regarding complaints relating to employees dismissed by a private company, and the rejection of applications submitted by a jobseeker for vacancies advertised on the Ministry of Labour’s online job fair, at their request, thereby enabling the Authority to follow up on their complaints with the relevant authorities.



Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its supervisory role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to work, during the period covered by this report the Organisation contacted the relevant authorities to verify the procedures taken regarding a number of cases relating to working conditions, employment opportunities, the

files of jobseekers, as well as those who have been dismissed from work, with the aim of ensuring that all individuals enjoy their right to decent work and are provided with a fair and safe working environment in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR has sent a total of 18 letters to the Ministry of Labour, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
13	Enquiry regarding the measures taken in respect of workers who were unfairly dismissed by a private company.	The Organisation is following up on the response in correspondence No. 13.
2	Consideration of the possibility of providing a suitable employment opportunity.	The NIHR is following up on the response in two letters.
1	General enquiry regarding jobseekers' files.	The organisation is following up on the response.
1	Follow-up on the closure of a jobseeker's file, and reconsideration of the suspension of her compensation entitlements due to her being registered on the Ministry of Labour's website as 'having refused training', despite the refusal having been issued by the training provider, and her commitment to attending the introductory lecture on this matter and expressing her desire to join the training programme.	The NIHR is awaiting a response.
1	To consider taking the necessary measures against a manager, following reports that a female foreign worker was subjected to mistreatment, discrimination and verbal bullying by him in front of her colleagues, highlighting the impact of such behaviour on her mental health, the working	The NIHR is awaiting a response.

	environment and her ability to perform her duties effectively.	
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The NIHR also wrote to the Ministry of the Interior in two letters, as follows:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	To consider the possibility of a lady obtaining a certificate of good conduct for the purpose of completing recruitment procedures at the Ministry of Education.	The response indicated that it is possible to submit and track an application for a certificate of good conduct electronically via the National e-Government Portal. Accordingly, the organisation advised the applicant to complete her application and track its progress via the designated website.
1	Consideration of the possibility of reinstating a person covered by a royal pardon to their former post or rectifying their legal status, as they had been employed by the Ministry of the Interior and remain registered as an employee in the Ministry's system.	The response stated that his service had been terminated by a decision issued by the Minister of the Interior following a final court judgement imposing a custodial sentence for an offence involving a breach of honour or trust, which has been enforced, the necessary measures taken and financial entitlements settled. Consequently, he was contacted by the relevant department within the Ministry and asked to visit Human Resources to collect his end-of-service certificate; to date, he has not done so.

The NIHR has also written to **the Ministry of Justice** on three occasions, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
3	To consider the possibility of re-registering an individual on the roll of lawyers.	The NIHR has followed up with three letters.

The NIHR also corresponded with **the Labour Market Regulatory Authority** in three letters, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Enquiry regarding the legal status of a worker who was employed by an employer as a chef at a café and had not received his wages for a period of five months.	The response stated that his work permit had expired in December 2025 and had been revoked. The worker also attended the Authority's Centre for the Protection of Expatriate Workers (), where he was informed of the procedures for filing a labour claim and asked whether he wished to proceed with it; however, he requested time to consider the matter without having submitted a formal application to date. In the same context, the employer visited the centre and stated that he was prepared to reach a settlement to pay the worker's dues in instalments, given the financial circumstances facing his establishment, and invited him to visit the establishment to complete the necessary procedures.
1	An enquiry regarding the legal status of a violation recorded against a trainee at a private medical centre during her training period by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, clarifying the impact of this violation on her ability	The response stated that a violation had been recorded, for which a fine had been imposed, and suggested that she be advised to lodge an appeal with the Authority's Chief Executive Officer.

	to obtain a work visa to join one of the Kingdom's hospitals.	Accordingly, the organisation advised her of the necessary procedures to follow.
1	An enquiry regarding the legal status of a taxi driver employed by a private company, where his former employer had blocked his access to his account on a taxi-driver app, in addition to failing to pay his financial entitlements, comprising wages, commissions and end-of-service benefits.	The response stated that the worker had previously visited the Expatriate Labour Protection Centre in August 2025 to lodge a complaint regarding the payment of his financial entitlements (wages, commission and end-of-service gratuity), and a date had been set for him to file a labour claim; however, he failed to attend on the specified date.

It is clear from the above that the Authority has dealt with five (5) correspondence items relating to requests or enquiries concerning the fulfilment of employment requirements, access to job opportunities, unemployment benefit or compensation for unfair dismissal, as well as requests relating to termination of service or dismissal, whether in the public or private sectors, and followed up on these cases with the relevant authorities. The follow-up revealed that one woman was able to proceed with her application to obtain a certificate of good conduct electronically, and that a person covered by the Royal Pardon was directed to visit the relevant department at the ministry where he had been employed to collect his end-of-service certificate so that he could regularise his legal status.

With regard to labour-related applications, the follow-up revealed that those concerned were advised to take the legal procedures in place at the Centre for the Protection of Expatriate Workers within the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, by facilitating the opportunity for amicable settlement between the parties to the contractual relationship, and by enabling the submission of an administrative appeal in one case concerning a violation issued against the applicant, whilst the latter case did not complete the legal procedures despite being given the opportunity to do so. Accordingly, the NIHR played its part in providing guidance on the procedures to be followed, thereby contributing to the protection of rights in accordance with the regulations in force.

Based on the nature and content of some of the complaints received or identified, the Authority provided advice and guidance on the procedures to be followed for a number of the cases listed in the table above, particularly those relating to seeking employment opportunities, returning to previous jobs, or following up on job applications submitted to government bodies in the Kingdom. The individuals concerned were referred to the relevant administrative authorities, namely the Ministry of Labour, the Civil Service Commission or the employer, as required by each case.

The Organisation also verified the extent to which the procedures adopted by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

both of which affirm the individual's right to work and to freely choose their employment, and to fair and satisfactory working conditions, guaranteeing fair pay, equality and a safe working environment.

In parallel, the NIHR reviewed the national legislative frameworks, ranging from the Constitution, which guarantees citizens' right to work, through to the Private Sector Labour Law and the Civil Service Law, as well as the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Law, with the aim of ensuring that the measures taken by the relevant authorities promote a safe and fair working environment, and guarantee support and assistance for all groups without discrimination, thereby achieving economic and social stability.

As part of its monitoring role, the NIHR continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to the right to work after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons enjoy this right in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In the light of the available data, the Commission concludes as follows:

1- Strengthening mechanisms for the reintegration into the labour market of certain groups

The information indicates that there is a challenge regarding reintegration into the labour market, as groups covered by the Royal Pardon, those benefiting from alternative sanctions, or those who have completed custodial sentences face obstacles preventing them from returning to their previous jobs or regularising their legal status. This obstacle is reflected in the increasing number of complaints regarding the complexity and protracted nature of administrative procedures – such as delays in the issuance of certificates of good conduct – and in accessing suitable employment opportunities, which may hinder their swift integration into the labour market and limit their ability to resume their productive roles and achieve stability within society.

2- Regulations and criteria for classifying jobseekers

There have been repeated complaints regarding procedural issues relating to the rules and criteria for classifying certain jobseekers within the category of 'those refusing work or training', and the resulting consequences, such as the suspension of unemployment benefit or compensation for unfair dismissal, or the closure of their files. The complaints have shown that a number of these cases are linked to circumstances beyond the jobseekers' control, including being unable to attend job interviews for health or emergency reasons, or due to force majeure, as well as a failure by the relevant authorities (the Ministry or the employer) to notify them of interview dates in good time, whether by telephone or text message, in addition to cases where the decision to reject the applicant was issued by the employer or training provider itself.

3- Guarantees of job security and protection against dismissal

There were also repeated complaints regarding allegations of collective unfair dismissal in the private sector, which requires enhanced coordination with the relevant authorities to rectify their legal status, thereby guaranteeing their right to work and ensuring they are not deprived of their livelihood; this is being addressed through follow-up with the relevant authorities.

4- Facilitating access to the enforcement of labour rights

It is noted that complaints relating to migrant workers, concerning the failure of some employers to pay workers' entitlements, have demonstrated the effectiveness of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority in enabling migrant workers to follow the proper legal procedures, and facilitating their access to mechanisms for claiming their rights in accordance with the regulations in force, and in a manner appropriate to the nature of each individual case.

5- Ongoing follow-up

The competent authorities continue to follow up on the remaining cases referred to them, with ongoing coordination with the Organisation to ensure that migrant workers' right to work is consistently safeguarded, as required by each individual case.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the continuous development of working conditions.

Fifth requirement: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to an adequate standard of living (housing)

Introduction:

This requirement addresses the analysis of complaints received through the organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Electricity and Water Authority, and the Ministry of Social Development, as well as relevant official responses and details of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to providing the required living services, as this is a fundamental right that guarantees every individual the right to live in suitable and safe accommodation that preserves their dignity and provides them with stability, privacy and protection. This right is not limited to the provision of shelter alone, but encompasses the availability of basic services and appropriate infrastructure for various sections of society, including those whose liberty is restricted, as well as access to adequate housing without discrimination, in accordance with the national legislative framework and international standards.

In recent years, this right has seen significant progress in the provision of social housing, the improvement of quality of life, and the strengthening of social protection and essential services, in line with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 1 on ending poverty and Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the field of housing are: and the right to an adequate standard of living:

- the implementation of social housing projects, and the provision of housing units, plots and owner-occupied flats for citizens.
- The launch of housing finance programmes, such as the 'Tamouh', 'Tasheel', 'Tasheel+', 'Mazaaya' and 'Mazaaya for Target Groups' schemes.
- Strengthening partnerships with the private sector to help increase and diversify housing solutions for citizens.
- Developing new housing estates and providing infrastructure and community services within them.
- Supporting low-income groups through housing subsidies and housing allowances.
- Providing digital services and online platforms to facilitate access to housing services, such as the 'Baiti' platform.⁵⁷
- An implementation plan, in partnership with the Housing Bank, to carry out the Royal Directive to accelerate the pace of projects aimed at providing 50,000 housing units.⁵⁸
- Improving the quality of essential services linked to a decent standard of living, including electricity, water, municipal services and social care.

Furthermore, the Bahraini Government⁵⁹, in its development plans and the strategic plan of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning⁶⁰, emphasises that the provision of adequate housing and the improvement of living standards are national priorities, as they are fundamental pillars of family and social stability and sustainable development.

In terms of financial resources, the tables in the State General Budget Appropriation Act for the financial years 2025–2026 show that substantial appropriations have been allocated to the housing sector and services related to living standards, most notably:

- The allocation of approximately 800 million Bahraini dinars to fund social housing services, which is the largest budget ever allocated to housing finance in the Kingdom, as part of the executive plan to provide 50,000 housing units.⁶¹
- The allocation of 107 million Bahraini dinars for housing allowances as part of direct support programmes for citizens⁶²
- Continued funding of living and social support programmes aimed at improving living standards within the social protection sector, including food

⁵⁷ For further information, please visit [the website of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning](#)

⁵⁸ [Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning](#)

⁵⁹ For further information, please visit the website [of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain](#)

⁶⁰ [Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning](#)

⁶¹ [Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning](#)

⁶² [Tables relating to the General Budget Act for the years 2025–2026](#)

support, electricity and water subsidies, alongside various other social protection programmes.⁶³

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges related to promoting and protecting the right to housing for persons whose liberty is restricted and those whose liberty is not restricted. Despite the legislative and institutional efforts made, and in light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or dealt with, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- **With regard to housing applications:**

- The ever-increasing demand for housing units.
- The need to reduce waiting times for access to housing services.
- Providing appropriate solutions for suspended housing applications, and considering the possibility of continuing to pay the housing allowance to beneficiaries released under the Royal Pardon, or channelling it to the families of those serving custodial sentences.

- **With regard to waiting lists for housing applications:**

- A number of traditional housing applications remain on the waiting lists, totalling around 48,000 applications in 2026, despite efforts to reduce this figure from the approximately 47,000 applications recorded at the end of 2025.⁶⁴

- **With regard to the number of beneficiaries of the housing allowance:**

- Although the housing allowance is an important tool for supporting citizens whilst they await housing services, the fact that there are still more than 33,000 applications from citizens who have been waiting for over five years highlights a fundamental challenge: the length of waiting periods and the resulting increasing financial burden on the state, which highlights the need to continue efforts to diversify housing solutions and strengthen financing programmes, thereby helping to reduce these waiting times and ensure that citizens gain access to suitable housing more quickly and sustainably.⁶⁵

It should be noted that the complaint data reflects cases that have been received, identified or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, it provides practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of the right to an adequate standard of living, including: the availability of basic services (housing, food, water), their accessibility, the quality and adequacy of what is provided, as well as the continuity of provision to ensure stable living conditions and the realisation of the minimum level of human dignity, in line with

⁶³ For further information on the general budget for the social protection sector, please visit [the Ministry of Finance's website](#), Table No. (3), Social Protection Sector.

⁶⁴ For further information on statistics regarding housing application waiting lists, please visit the Al-Bilad newspaper's website [for the years 2025 and 2026](#).

⁶⁵ For further information on the number of beneficiaries of the housing allowance, please visit [the Akhbar Al-Khaleej](#) website

General Comments Nos. 4, 12 and 15 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

It also involves identifying the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The realisation of the right to an adequate standard of living is based on a comprehensive system of international and national legal norms. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (66) affirms the right of every individual to a standard of living adequate to ensure health and well-being for themselves and their families, particularly in terms of food, clothing, housing, medical care and essential social services. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights goes on to recognise, in Article 11(1), the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for themselves and their families, which ensures that their needs for food, clothing and housing are met, and to the right to the continuous improvement of their living conditions. The States Parties to this Covenant undertake to take all necessary measures to realise this right, foremost among which is ensuring the right to adequate food and freedom from hunger.

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)⁶⁷ also address the guarantee of the basic elements of a decent standard of living for persons deprived of their liberty, by obliging the administration to provide meals of sufficient nutritional value to maintain their health, to provide safe drinking water, suitable clothing, bedding, and allowing them to exercise, whilst providing suitable accommodation that takes into account all living requirements.

As for relevant national legislation, Article 5 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees the fundamental elements of society, with paragraph (c) stipulating that “the State shall ensure the necessary social security for citizens in the event of old age, illness, incapacity to work, orphanhood, widowhood or unemployment, and shall also provide them with social insurance and healthcare services, and shall endeavour to protect them from the clutches of ignorance, fear and destitution”. Article 9 further affirms that the right to home ownership is protected, and that the State shall endeavour to provide housing for citizens on low incomes.

To reinforce this right, the Social Security Act of 2006 was enacted, which aims to provide the minimum requirements for a decent standard of living for families and individuals facing exceptional circumstances, and to ensure the provision of the necessary financial support to meet basic needs.

⁶⁶ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25(1), states: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services...”

⁶⁷ The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), [pp. 5, 6 and 7, Rules 12 to 23.](#)

Furthermore, Decree-Law No. 10 of 1976 on housing, and the regulations governing it, include mechanisms that guarantee citizens’ right to adequate housing as a fundamental pillar of a decent standard of living.

Furthermore, the Executive Regulations⁶⁸ of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act regulate the right of inmates to humane living conditions by obliging the management of correctional and rehabilitation centres to provide adequate and healthy meals, appropriate clothing and accommodation that meets the prescribed health standards, as well as allowing them to engage in physical exercise, thereby ensuring the preservation of the inmate’s dignity and protecting them from any neglect that might affect their basic standard of living whilst serving their sentence.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to an adequate standard of living and ensuring the provision of its basic elements, including adequate housing, sufficient food and water, for all sections of society.

Section Two: Complaints Data

(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to an adequate standard of living



A total of 31 complaints were received in 2024, whilst the figure stood at 40 in 2025. A relative increase in the number of complaints can be observed, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or

⁶⁸ Article 41 of the Implementing Regulations issued pursuant to Resolution No. 131 of 2015 and amended by the provisions of Resolution No. 49 of 2024, which stipulates that: “The centre’s management shall provide inmates and those in pre-trial detention with the tools, clothing and all necessities for subsistence required for health and hygiene in accordance with the regulations laid down by the institution, and shall ensure that their hair is cut to an appropriate length, except in the case of women or where there is a medical, health or religious reason preventing the inmate or person in pre-trial detention from having their hair cut, The assessment of all such matters shall be at the discretion of the institution’s management. Article (42) stipulates that: the institution shall determine the food, clothing and items to be issued to inmates, and the food and items to be issued to remand prisoners; they shall not be permitted to possess anything other than what is issued to them by the institution or what they are authorised to bring in from outside following the approval of the institution’s director or his deputy; Any other items are prohibited, and an inmate or remand prisoner shall be punished for possessing them in accordance with the regulations laid down by the institution. Furthermore, Article 43 stipulates that: ‘The centre’s management shall allow inmates and those held on remand to engage in sporting activities specified by the institution, in areas designated by the head of the centre or his or her representative, for a period of not less than two hours daily; and the institution shall provide the necessary venues, facilities and equipment for the practice of such activities.’

improvements in handling mechanisms. This reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and to assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure that the essential requirements for an adequate standard of living are met, including suitable housing, food and basic services that preserve human dignity.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainants**



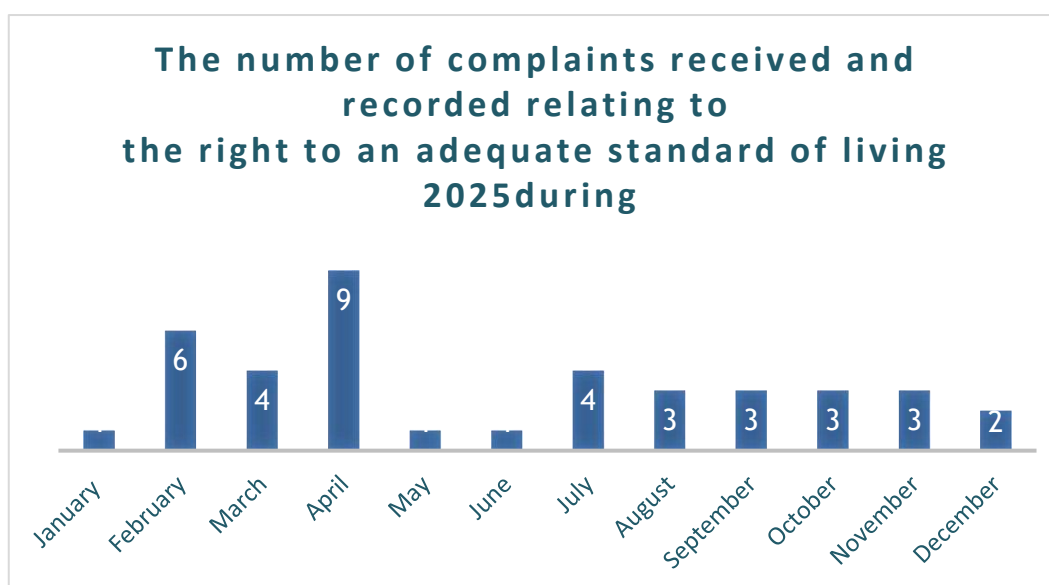
- **Subjects of complaints:**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to rights associated with the right to an adequate standard of living, totalling 40 complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Request to transfer 10 inmates from the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre to another building.	10
Failure to pay housing allowances retrospectively to some of those released from prison / those covered by the Royal Pardon, in addition to reviewing the reasons for reducing or cancelling the duration of their housing applications.	8
Failure to obtain a housing unit, following a decision to expropriate their properties and have them valued by the Valuation Committee at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture at a value lower than their purchase price.	2
Delays in the procedures for obtaining a housing unit.	2
Failure to include previous years' details from the old housing application (purchase or construction) in the new housing application (housing unit).	1
Suspension of housing applications for 19 inmates at the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre and the withdrawal of their housing allowance, in addition to the rejection of housing applications for six cases due to the head of the household (the inmate) being held at the Centre to serve a court sentence.	1

Cancellation of the housing application of one person covered by the Royal Pardon without stating the reasons.	1
Withdrawal of a housing unit pursuant to a court ruling against one individual.	1
A woman was unable to obtain a housing unit suitable for the health needs of her children with special needs (who have autism).	1
A woman was unable to obtain a housing unit under the same application number submitted by her husband, who had abandoned her.	1
Failure to allocate a parking space for a person with a disability next to their flat, in accordance with their medical condition.	1
A person – a resident and investor in the Kingdom of Bahrain – was subjected to threats by the landlord of the property in which he was living, namely that his electricity supply would be cut off, which was subsequently carried out, due to his inability to pay the rent for his accommodation; he was also served with an eviction notice despite ongoing negotiations and a settlement between them.	1
A woman (who is unmarried and does not own a home) requested that her father's property be divided fairly or that a solution be found to ensure she is able to exercise her right to housing, as ownership of the property was transferred after her father's death to her brother (who is divorced and has custody of his children – and is not a beneficiary of housing services).	1
A request to reinstate the suspended housing finance subsidy (Mazaaya) for a citizen.	1
Suspension of government subsidies for electricity and water services immediately upon registration of the subscriber's death within the first few days following their passing.	1
An elderly citizen using his own car as a place to sleep.	1
Consideration of a number of living requirements for an inmate at a correctional and rehabilitation centre, centring on allowing him to spend time in the sun, providing him with books and magazines to read and browse, returning his personal books, facilitating video calls with his relatives, and ensuring regular visits from his family.	1
The management of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre did not allow the inmate's family to bring him clothing, which he urgently needed due to the cold conditions in his cell caused by the continuous air conditioning.	1

An inmate was not permitted to visit the shop (canteen) to purchase personal items and hygiene products.	1
Consideration was given to a number of living conditions raised by a group of female inmates, centring on changes to the outdoor exercise period, the provision of blue pens, permission to bring in trainers or the provision of trainers of suitable quality to prevent any foot pain, and the reinstatement of certain products whose sale had been suspended.	1
The Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre (Inmates' Block – Young Offenders) suffered a partial fire, resulting in two inmates suffering minor smoke inhalation and being taken to hospital for treatment. ⁶⁹	1
A detainee was not permitted to collect his detainee bank card, held by the Property Department at the Remand Centre, so that he could purchase his personal necessities.	1
Total	40



- **Response and follow-up:**

The Organisation examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including

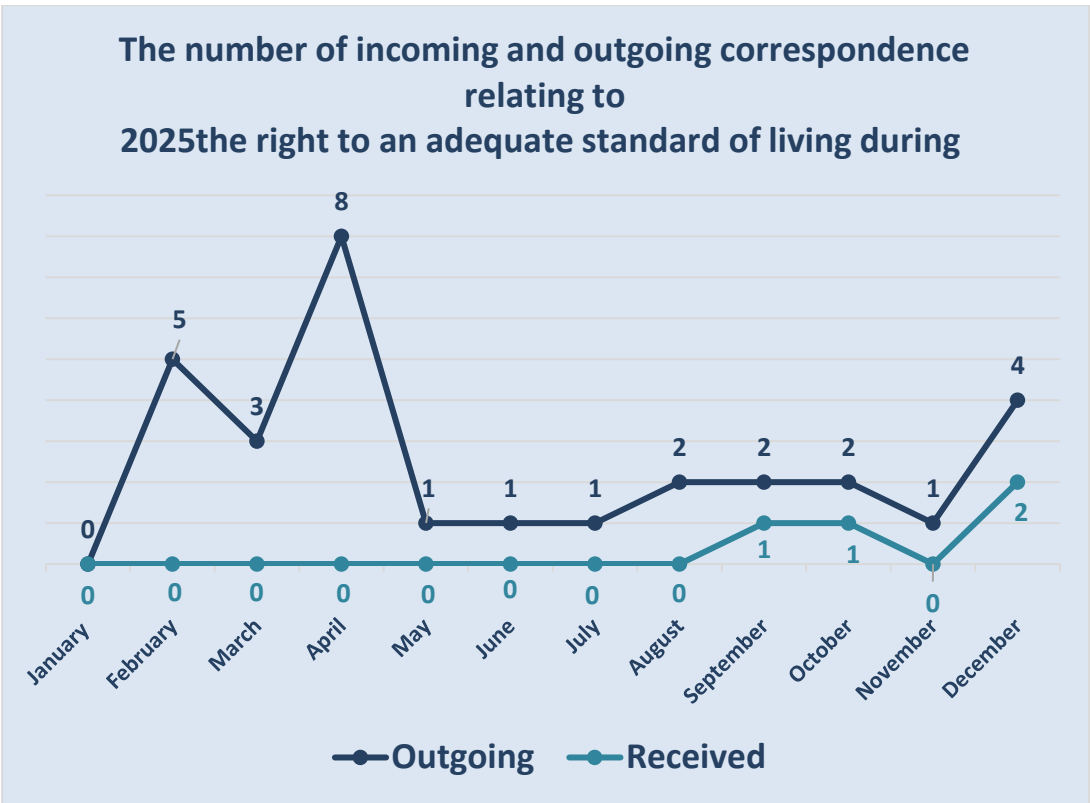
⁶⁹ See the 'Visits Section', where, following the field visit conducted by the Institution to the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre (Convicts' Block – Juveniles) in October 2025 to verify their living conditions, safety and security, as well as to ensure the stability of their health, the visit resulted in the preparation of a number of appropriate recommendations to be submitted to the relevant authorities.

writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	30
replies received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	4

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the NIHR and the competent authorities to address the complaints.

As part of the NIHR’s commitment to strengthening mechanisms for receiving and following up on complaints, and to ensuring direct communication with complainants, the Complaint, Monitoring & Follow-up Committee met with seven complainants who had lodged complaints relating to the right to an adequate standard of living, at their request, thereby enabling the NIHR to follow up on their complaints with the relevant authorities.



Section 3: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its oversight role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to an adequate standard of living, during the period covered by this report, the NIHR contacted the relevant authorities to verify the measures taken regarding a number of cases concerning the living conditions and standards of

persons both deprived and not deprived of their liberty, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which essential services are provided to them and ensuring an appropriate living environment that guarantees their human dignity, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR has sent a total of 14 letters to the Ministry of the Interior, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
11	To consider the possibility of transferring nine inmates to other facilities offering more suitable living conditions, in light of their individual needs, including the case of one inmate requesting transfer on health grounds, and one inmate requesting transfer to another facility more suited to the nature of his case.	The Institution is following up on the responses with the relevant authority.
1	Consideration was given to a number of an inmate's living requirements, centring on the extent to which the inmate was able to exercise his right to sun exposure, the provision of books and magazines for reading and reference, the status of his request to have his personal books returned, and the arrangements made to allow him to make video calls and receive regular visits from his family in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations.	The Organisation is awaiting a response.
1	Allowing an inmate to visit the shop (canteen) to purchase personal items and hygiene products.	The institution is awaiting a response.
1	To consider the possibility of allowing a prisoner to receive clothing due to his urgent need for it, given the cold conditions in the cell caused by continuous air conditioning.	The response stated that the centre's regulations and instructions do not permit the receipt of any clothing or personal belongings from outside, whilst emphasising that all inmates'

		requirements, including clothing and other items, are provided from the inmates' shop, and that purchases are available to all inmates. It thus confirmed that the General Directorate of Corrections and Rehabilitation is committed to upholding the law with regard to inmates and adhering to procedures within the centre in accordance with the provisions of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority Act and its implementing regulations, It also pays the utmost attention to safeguarding inmates' rights and does not tolerate, in any form, any treatment of inmates that infringes upon their dignity and safety.
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The Institution has also written to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in eleven (11) letters, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
6	General letter enquiring about housing services for those released from prison/covered by the Royal Pardon.	The NIHR is following up on the responses with the relevant authority.
3	Examination of the reasons for the cancellation of a housing application for a person covered by the Royal Pardon, with a statement of reasons.	The NIHR is following up on the responses with the relevant authority.
2	Consideration of the allocation of a parking space for a person with a	The response addressed both letters and stated that the necessary measures had been

(Initial letter and follow-up letter)	disability, adjacent to their residence (flat).	taken to change the parking space and allocate a parking space appropriate to his health condition.
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The NIHR also wrote to **the Electricity and Water Authority** in four letters, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
4 (Initial letter – 3 follow-up letters)	Enquiry regarding the mechanism for suspending government subsidies for electricity and water services in the event of a subscriber's death.	The response to these letters was comprehensive, stating that the suspension of subsidies is implemented in accordance with approved procedures and regulations, as eligibility for the subsidy is linked to the account holder's details. The Authority is keen to take into account humanitarian considerations and the circumstances faced by the family of the deceased; the next of kin of the deceased subscriber are granted a sufficient grace period of three (3) months from the date of death to complete the necessary procedures, which include submitting an application to transfer the account to the name of one of the eligible heirs, whilst fulfilling the approved requirements in this regard. With regard to bills, unsubsidised bills are reviewed and processed, and are adjusted retrospectively for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days from the date of submission of the application for support at , in accordance with the Authority's approved policies and procedures.

The NIHR has also written to **the Ministry of Social Development** in one (1) letter, as follows:

Number of correspondence	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Regarding an elderly citizen who had made his private car his home, sleeping and spending both day and night inside it, and who appeared to be showing signs of exhaustion and fatigue, in the Northern Al-Sahlah area.	The response stated that specialists from the Ministry of Social Development were directed to visit the location mentioned in the letter. During searches carried out on two separate days, at different times, neither the car nor the person in question was found; searches were also conducted in nearby areas without success. In this regard, and given the lack of any information or details indicating the identity of the person or enabling the specialists to contact him or his family, the Ministry has written to the Al-Khamis Police Station, as the competent security authority in the area, requesting that it provide any information or details regarding the person in question should he be found, in preparation for taking the necessary measures to provide him with social care and protection in accordance with the Ministry's remit.

It is clear from the above that the Organisation dealt with four correspondence items relating to requests and enquiries concerning the right to an adequate standard of living, and followed up these cases with the relevant authorities, This follow-up resulted in the allocation of a parking space for a person with a disability in accordance with their health condition; clarification of the procedures for obtaining daily necessities and clothing for residents of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre; and enabling a resident to visit the inmates' shop to purchase their basic necessities, In addition, the competent authorities took the necessary measures to facilitate access for an elderly citizen who lives in his own car, in order to ensure that he receives the necessary care and social protection, within the framework of the relevant authority's established remit, Furthermore, the mechanism for suspending government subsidies for electricity and water

services in the event of a subscriber's death has been clarified, in accordance with approved frameworks and regulations, whilst taking humanitarian considerations into account, thereby contributing to the protection of beneficiaries' rights and ensuring their continued access to support.

Meanwhile, coordination and follow-up continue with the relevant authorities regarding requests to transfer residents to improve their accommodation conditions and the living requirements of female residents, in addition to verifying housing support services for those released from prison and those covered by the royal pardon, in accordance with the requirements of decent living standards.

Based on the nature and content of some of the complaints received or identified, the NIHR has provided advice and guidance on the procedures to be followed for the remaining cases listed in the table above, with those concerned being referred to the relevant authorities as required by each case.

The NIHR also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which affirm the right of every individual to a standard of living adequate to ensure health and well-being for themselves and their families, including food, clothing and housing, as well as the 'Nelson Mandela Rules', which oblige States to provide the basic necessities for a decent standard of living to persons deprived of their liberty in a manner that preserves their human dignity.

In parallel with this, the NIHR reviewed the national legislative frameworks, starting with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which guarantees the fundamental elements of society, the realisation of social security and the provision of housing, through to the Social Security Act, the Housing Act, the Correctional and Rehabilitation Authority Act and its implementing regulations, with the aim of ensuring that the measures taken have effectively contributed to enhancing living stability and guaranteeing the provision of essential services to all groups without neglect or discrimination, including inmates and the most vulnerable groups such as the elderly and people with disabilities.

As part of its monitoring role, the Commission continues to follow up on any responses or new developments received regarding the right to an adequate standard of living after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons, including those deprived of their liberty, enjoy the necessary services and living conditions in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Commission concludes as follows:

1- Continuity of housing services

The information indicates recurring complaints relating to housing services for those released from prison or covered by a royal pardon, where a procedural gap is observed in the mechanism for reactivating housing applications or paying housing allowances retrospectively following release or the granting of a pardon. This may affect the living stability of this group,

which calls for the strengthening of relevant procedures, with particular attention paid to humanitarian cases, especially the families of inmates, to ensure that their right to housing is not affected by legal circumstances relating to the head of the household.

2- Living conditions in correctional and rehabilitation centres

The data indicate frequent requests for transfers between buildings, which may reflect potential disparities in capacity or service levels between buildings; this calls for the implementation of more efficient mechanisms for classifying and allocating inmates according to the nature of their cases and their health conditions.

3- Government support services for electricity and water

The Electricity and Water Authority's response demonstrated a commitment to taking into account the humanitarian aspects for the families of deceased subscribers. This is reflected in granting the deceased's next of kin a three-month grace period to complete the procedures for transferring the entitlement to one of the heirs; this procedural step contributes directly to strengthening the protection of beneficiaries' rights, and ensures the stability of their living conditions under these exceptional circumstances.

4- Ongoing follow-up

The competent authorities continue to follow up on cases referred to the relevant bodies, and there is ongoing coordination with the Corporation to ensure the continued provision of the basic necessities of life.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the ongoing development of living services.

Sixth requirement: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to liberty and personal security

Introduction:

This requirement addresses the analysis of complaints received through the Organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with the relevant authorities, namely the Public Prosecution Service, as well as the relevant official responses and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of compliance with the legal and procedural safeguards associated with the right to liberty and personal security, as one of the fundamental rights that guarantees the protection of individuals from arbitrary arrest or detention, and ensuring the preservation of their dignity and physical and mental integrity. This right encompasses an individual's freedom of movement and to live in safety, and the right not to be subjected to torture or cruel or inhuman treatment, in addition to the guarantee of legal protection and fair judicial proceedings in the event of arrest or detention, in accordance with the national legislative framework and international standards.

In recent years, this right has seen significant developments to strengthen its safeguards. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the area of the right to liberty and personal security are:

- Strengthening public security and the protection of life and property through the various security agencies.
- Developing legislation governing police and security operations, including the draft 'Public Security Forces' Bill, which aims to modernise the security structure and enhance institutional efficiency and professional discipline.
- Combating human trafficking, terrorism, organised crime and money laundering.
- Developing civil protection and civil defence systems to respond to crises, emergencies and natural disasters.
- Expanding the use of digital technologies and cybersecurity to protect society and the digital space.
- Providing community awareness programmes in the areas of family and child protection and anti-drug initiatives.
- Providing ongoing support to correctional and rehabilitation centres, and implementing specialised programmes for the social reintegration of inmates.
- Strengthening regional and international security and judicial cooperation in the areas of combating crime and safeguarding community security.

In terms of financial resources, the tables in the State General Budget Appropriation Act for the financial years 2025–2026⁷⁰ show that appropriations have been allocated to the Ministry of the Interior in general, amounting to approximately 373.9 million Bahraini dinars for 2025 and approximately 379.8 million Bahraini dinars for 2026. These allocations cover a number of sectors and services related to public security and safety, the management of correctional and rehabilitation institutions, health and social services, and rehabilitation programmes, as well as the development of relevant infrastructure and digital systems. This reflects the ongoing improvement of services provided to persons deprived of their liberty and the strengthening of organisational and humanitarian aspects within correctional institutions.

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges associated with promoting and protecting the right to liberty and personal security, despite the legislative and institutional efforts undertaken. In light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or addressed, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- Striking a balance between the requirements of national security and the safeguarding of human rights guarantees.
- Raising awareness and building the capacity of security service personnel regarding the legal and procedural safeguards relating to personal liberty, in line with national legislation and international standards.
- Raising public awareness of the rights and duties relating to this right, and informing individuals of the legal procedures available to them.

⁷⁰ [Tables relating to the General Budget for the financial years 2025–2026.](#)

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, monitored or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to liberty and personal security, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The safeguarding of the right to liberty and personal security is based on a comprehensive system of international and national rules, which guarantee the protection of individuals from arbitrary arrest or detention, and ensure respect for their personal liberty and the preservation of their human dignity. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁷¹ guarantees the right to liberty and personal security, and stipulates that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, whilst the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁷² – to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded pursuant to Law No. (56) of 2006 – in Article 9, the right of every individual to liberty and security of person, the prohibition of arbitrary arrest or detention, and the prohibition of deprivation of liberty except on grounds provided for by law and in accordance with prescribed procedures, whilst ensuring that the person is informed of the reasons for their arrest and is afforded the opportunity to challenge the lawfulness of their detention before a competent judicial authority.

As regards relevant national legislation, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain⁷³ guarantees personal liberty and stipulates that no individual's liberty may be restricted except in accordance with the law and under judicial supervision.

⁷¹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 3, stipulates that: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

⁷² The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9, stipulates that: "1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be arbitrarily arrested or detained. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law. 2. Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charge against him. 3. Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or an officer authorised by law to exercise judicial functions, and shall be entitled to be tried within a reasonable time or to be released. The detention of persons awaiting trial shall not be the general rule; however, their release may be made conditional upon guarantees to ensure their attendance at trial at any subsequent stage of the judicial proceedings and to ensure the enforcement of the judgement where necessary."

⁷³ Article 19 of [the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain](#) stipulates that: "a. Personal liberty is guaranteed in accordance with the law. b. No person may be arrested, detained, imprisoned, searched, placed under house arrest, or have their freedom of residence or movement restricted except in accordance with the provisions of the law and under judicial supervision ...".

Furthermore, the Code of Criminal Procedure⁷⁴ sets out a series of legal rules governing arrest and search procedures, specifying the safeguards that constitute a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of the human right to liberty and personal security. The Act stipulates that arrest or search may only take place on the basis of an order issued by the competent authorities, in the circumstances specified by law, and in compliance with the procedures prescribed and laid down by law.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to upholding the right to personal freedom and security, and to ensuring that the freedoms of all sections of society are protected.

Section Two: Complaints Data

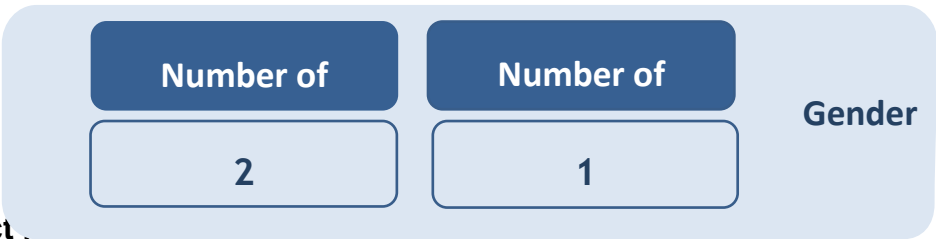
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to liberty and personal security



A total of five (5) complaints were received in 2024, whilst three (3) complaints were received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant:**



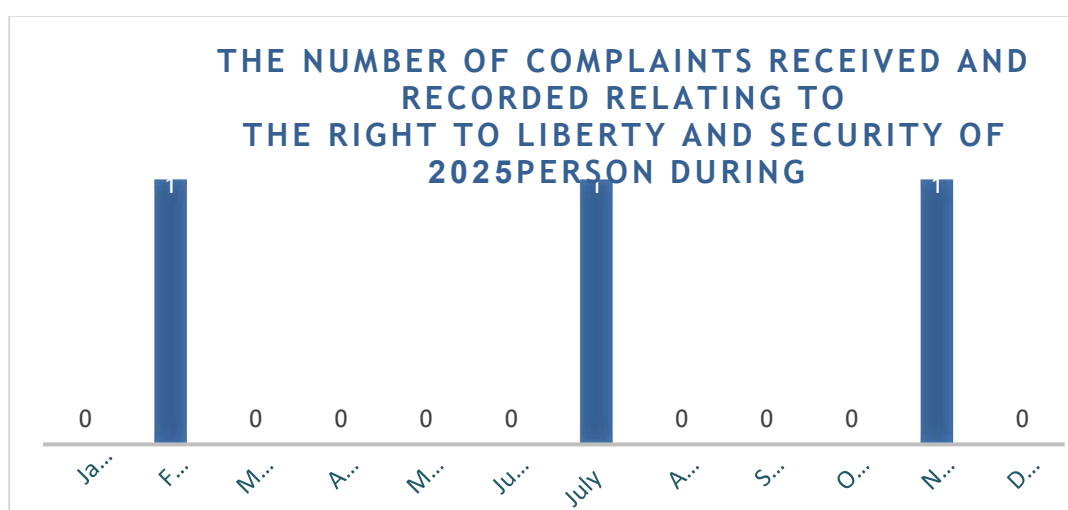
- **Subject**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to liberty and personal security, totalling three (3) complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
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⁷⁴ Decree-Law No. 46 of 2002, promulgating the Code of Criminal Procedure, regulates the arrest of suspects in Articles 55–64, whilst Articles 142–148 set out the rules and conditions relating to pre-trial detention.”

Detention of a person pending investigation for a period exceeding four months, and a request for information or details regarding the charge against them.	1
An expatriate labour recruitment agency prevented a domestic worker from returning to her home country on the pretext that she owed money.	1
A foreign worker (a Russian national) was lured into and exploited for illegal work and deprived of her liberty.	1
Total	3

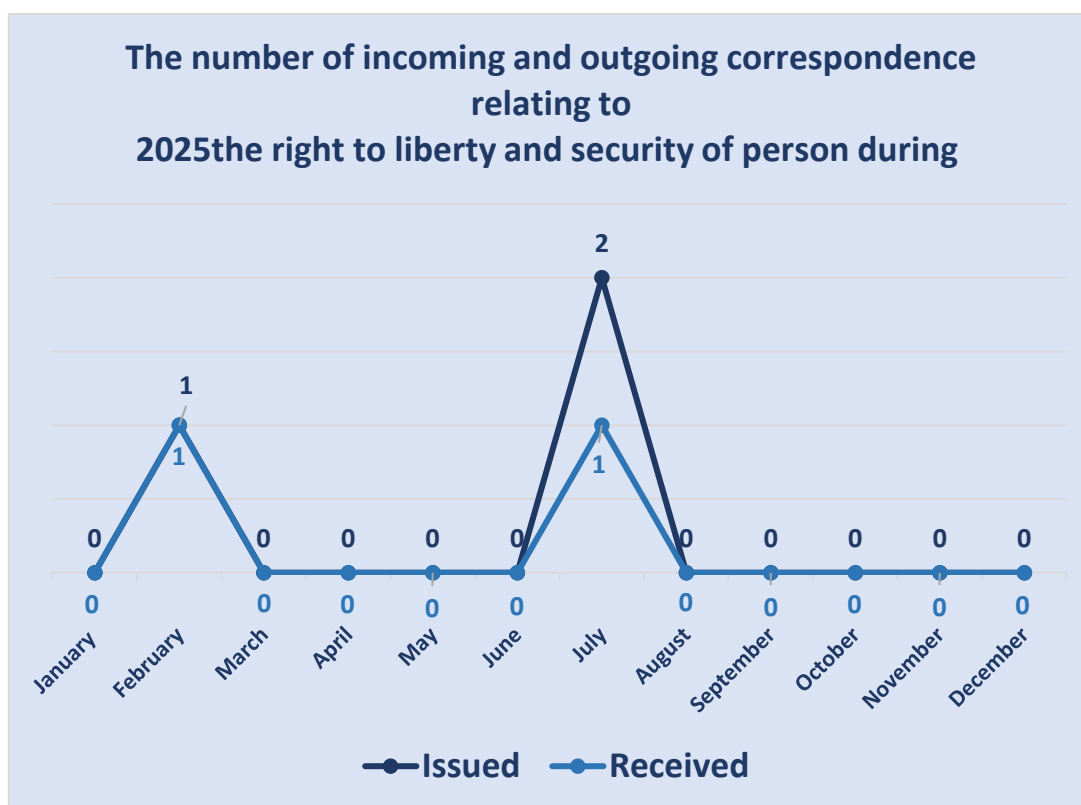


- **Response and follow-up:**

The organisation examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and actions were taken to address the complaints, including contacting the relevant authorities and communicating directly with them, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question. One complaint was dismissed on the grounds of lack of jurisdiction and another on the grounds that the complainant was not acting in good faith.

Total number of communications, whether by written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	3
Responses received during the reporting period covered by this report.	2

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the organisation and the relevant authorities to address complaints.



Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its supervisory role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to liberty and personal security, during the period covered by this report, the Commission contacted the relevant authorities to verify the procedures taken in a number of cases involving persons whose liberty is restricted and those whose liberty is not restricted , with the aim of monitoring compliance with the legal and procedural safeguards relating to personal liberty, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR has sent two letters to **the Public Prosecution Service**, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	To examine the reasons for the detention of an individual pending investigation for a period exceeding four months, and to request information or details regarding the charges against him.	The response stated that this was incorrect, as the accused had been detained pending investigation in multiple cases and the duration of his detention in any single case had not exceeded four months.

1	To look into allegations that a foreign worker (a Russian national) had been lured into working in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and to request verification of her current residence and working conditions, and whether there were any indications of her exploitation, trafficking or deprivation of her personal freedom and safety.	The organisation is awaiting a response.
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The NIHR has sent one (1) letter to **the Labour Market Regulatory Authority**, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	To investigate allegations that a foreign female worker (of Russian nationality) had been lured into working in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and to request verification of her current residence and working conditions, and whether there were any indications of her exploitation, trafficking or deprivation of her personal freedom and safety.	The Labour Market Regulatory Authority replied that the matter had been referred to the Ministry of the Interior for consideration, given that a third party was monitoring the situation.

It is clear from the above that the Authority has dealt with two letters concerning a person who had been detained for four months without any action being taken against him or him being provided with information or details regarding the charge against him; the Authority followed up on this case with the competent authority, and the follow-up revealed that the allegations in the complaint were unfounded and that the accused enjoys all legal safeguards.

As for the other letter, which concerned a complaint alleging that a foreign female worker (of Russian nationality) had been lured into working in the Kingdom of Bahrain and that her freedom and personal safety had been restricted, the matter was referred to the Ministry of the Interior for consideration.

The Commission also reviewed the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which affirm the individual's right to liberty and personal safety.

In parallel, the National Institution reviewed all national legal frameworks, from the Constitution—which guarantees the right to liberty and personal security—through to the Code of Criminal Procedure, which sets out the grounds and

safeguards for the deprivation of liberty of accused persons in accordance with relevant international human rights standards.

As part of its monitoring role, the Commission continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to infringements of liberty and personal security after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons, including those whose liberty is restricted, enjoy the necessary legal safeguards and procedures in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the right to liberty and personal security.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Organisation concludes as follows:

1) The importance of monitoring the right to liberty and security of person despite the limited number of complaints

Although the number of complaints received relating to the right to liberty and personal security during the reporting period was low, the nature of the issues raised reflects the importance of continuing to monitor and follow up on this right, given its direct link to the protection of human dignity, fair trial guarantees and the rule of law. Furthermore, the decline in the number of complaints is not, in itself, a decisive indicator of a reduction in violations or challenges, as it may be influenced by several factors, including the level of awareness of redress mechanisms and access to complaint channels.

2) The nature of the complaints received relating to the right to liberty and personal security and their overlap with other rights

The complaints under review revealed a variety of challenges associated with the right to liberty and personal security, including allegations concerning the duration of pre-trial detention, restrictions on the freedom of movement of a migrant worker, and suspected cases of exploitation or human trafficking. This diversity reflects the broad scope of the right to liberty and personal security as a composite right that intersects with a number of other fundamental rights, such as the right to human dignity, freedom of movement, and protection from exploitation and coercion.

3) Raising awareness of the legal safeguards relating to the right to liberty and security of person

Certain cases, particularly those involving migrant workers or people with limited knowledge of legal procedures, highlight the importance of raising awareness of the rights and legal safeguards relating to arrest, detention and freedom of movement. It also highlights the importance of continuing to develop preventive measures and mechanisms for the early detection of cases that may involve suspected exploitation or unlawful restriction of liberty.

4) Ongoing Monitoring

The NIHR continues to follow up on correspondence and enquiries received regarding certain cases relating to the right to liberty and personal security. There is ongoing coordination with the relevant authorities to ensure that complaints are addressed and the facts raised are verified.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the ongoing development of protection and oversight mechanisms relating to this right.

Requirement 7: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to physical and psychological safety

Introduction:

This section analyses complaints received through the organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, namely the General Secretariat for Grievances, as well as the relevant official responses and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to protecting individuals' right to physical and psychological safety, as one of the fundamental rights that guarantees protection from any physical or psychological assault, and ensuring the preservation of their human dignity and personal safety. This right encompasses protection from torture, violence, ill-treatment and exploitation; the guarantee of personal and psychological security; and the provision of a safe environment that respects fundamental rights and freedoms, in accordance with the national legislative framework and international standards.

In recent years, this right has seen significant developments to strengthen its safeguards. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the field of the right to physical and psychological safety are:

- Strengthening the public security system and protecting individuals from violence, assaults and crime through law enforcement agencies.
- Developing legislation relating to the protection of families, children, women and persons with disabilities from violence or abuse.
- Combating crimes of human trafficking, domestic violence and exploitation, as well as cybercrime.
- Supporting and providing protection, psychological and social care, and shelter services for vulnerable members of priority care groups (the elderly, children, women and people with disabilities).
- Developing rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and ensuring the humane treatment of inmates in rehabilitation and reintegration centres.

- Enhancing public safety and emergency and disaster response through the civil defence and civil protection system.⁷⁵
- Launching community awareness initiatives on public safety, the protection of digital rights and cyber security.
- Developing mechanisms for complaints, oversight and inspection in institutions concerned with the protection of rights and freedoms.

Furthermore, in its national human rights plans—specifically under the civil and political rights pillar of the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026)⁷⁶ —the Government emphasises the strengthening of oversight, inspection and accountability within correctional and rehabilitation centres and related detention facilities through a number of projects aimed at achieving more effective oversight, whilst taking into account the fundamental rights of individuals.

In terms of financial resources, funds have been allocated to the Ministry of the Interior in the State’s general budget for the financial years 2025–2026⁷⁷ , as referred to previously.

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges associated with promoting and protecting the right to physical and psychological safety. In light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or dealt with, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- Combating all forms of violence and abuse, including domestic violence, bullying, blackmail and online exploitation.
- Raising community awareness of the values of respect for human dignity.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, monitored or dealt with, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

It also involves identifying the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to physical and psychological safety, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals can enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The protection of the right to physical and mental integrity is based on a comprehensive system of international and national rules, which aim to protect

⁷⁵ For further information on the role of [the National Civil Protection Platform](#) in promoting public safety, please visit the Platform’s website.

⁷⁶ [National Human Rights Plan](#)

⁷⁷ [Tables from the Law on the Adoption of the General Budget of the Kingdom of Bahrain 2025–2026.](#)

individuals from all forms of torture, ill-treatment or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, and to ensure that their human dignity is upheld in all circumstances.

Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that no one shall be “subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights reaffirms this principle in Article 7.

In the same context, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Decree-Law No. 4 of 1998, as amended by Decree-Law No. 34 of 1999, requires States Parties to adopt legislative and administrative measures to prevent torture, ensure investigation and accountability, and provide remedies for victims. The Convention also addresses the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance and unlawful or secret detention in relation to their physical and mental integrity.

Furthermore, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) address the right to physical and mental integrity in Rule 43⁷⁸, emphasising the absolute prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment, and affirmed that any such act is contrary to the human dignity of the prisoner, thereby reinforcing the obligation of States and correctional institutions to ensure the protection of prisoners from any violation affecting their physical or psychological integrity.

As regards relevant national legislation, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain⁷⁹ guarantees the protection of individuals from torture and ill-treatment. Paragraph (d) of Article 19 prohibits subjecting any person to physical or psychological torture, inducement or treatment that undermines dignity, and criminalises such acts by law, and declares null and void any statement or confession proven to have been made under the influence of torture, threats or inducement. Furthermore, paragraph (d) of Article 20, relating to persons whose liberty is restricted, prohibits the physical or mental harm of the accused.

In the same context, the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act and its implementing regulations guarantee that inmates are treated in a manner that preserves their human dignity and achieves the objectives of correction and

⁷⁸ [United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners \(the Nelson Mandela Rules\)](#), p. 13, Rule 43, which stipulates that “(1) Under no circumstances shall disciplinary restrictions or sanctions amount to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the following practices, in particular, are prohibited: (a) indefinite solitary confinement; (b) prolonged solitary confinement; (c) confining a prisoner in a cell that is either completely dark or continuously lit; (d) corporal punishment or the reduction of a prisoner’s food or drinking water rations; (e) collective punishment. (2) Means of restraint shall never be used as a disciplinary measure. (3) Disciplinary sanctions or restrictive measures shall not include preventing prisoners from communicating with their families. Visual communication may only be restricted for a limited period and to the minimum extent necessary to ensure security and order.”

⁷⁹ The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Article 19(d), stipulates that “No person shall be subjected to physical or mental torture, inducement, or treatment that undermines dignity; the law shall prescribe the punishment for anyone who does so. Furthermore, any statement or confession proven to have been made under the influence of torture, inducement, such treatment or the threat of any of these shall be null and void.”

rehabilitation; this implicitly confirms the prohibition of any form of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as such practices are contrary to the fundamental purpose of the Act.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting and protecting the right to physical and psychological integrity, ensuring the protection of individuals from all forms of torture or ill-treatment, and safeguarding their human dignity in all circumstances.

Section II: Complaint Data

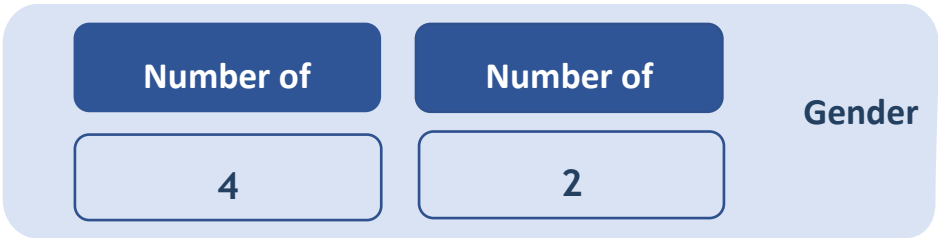
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to physical and mental integrity



Twenty (20) complaints were received in 2024, whilst six (6) complaints were received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may reflect an improvement in the effectiveness of protection and redress mechanisms, and the development of prevention and response procedures. Nevertheless, there remains a need to continue monitoring this right and to periodically assess the effectiveness of the measures taken, so as to ensure the protection of individuals from ill-treatment and the safeguarding of their physical and psychological well-being.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant:**

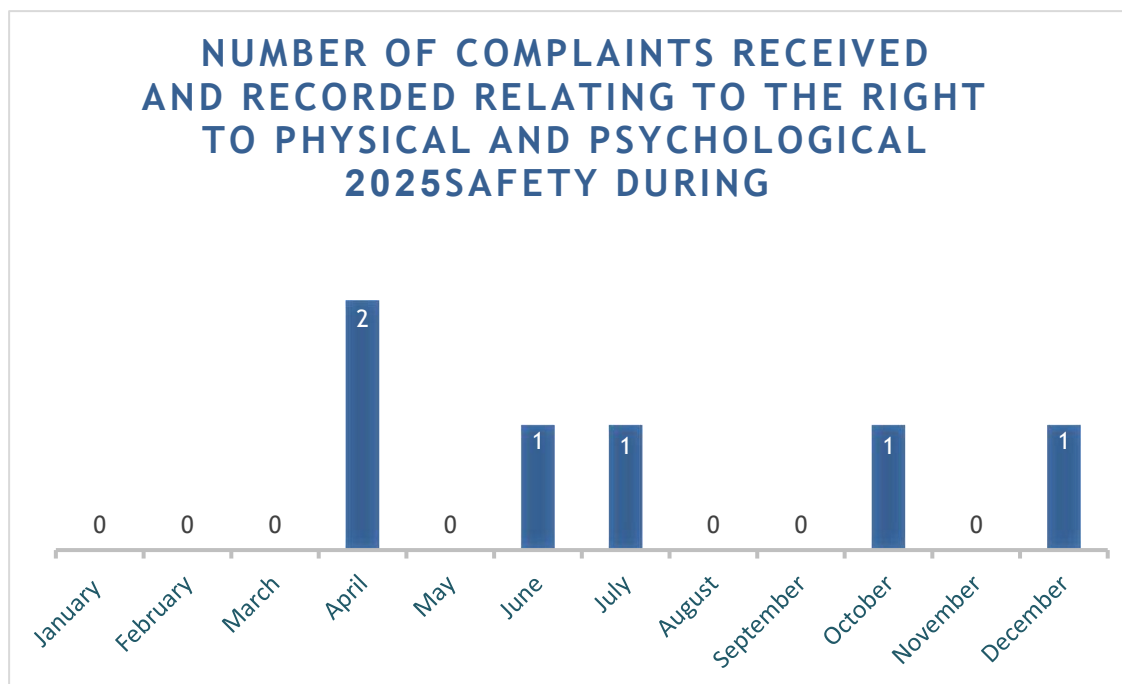


- **Subjects of complaints:**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to physical and psychological safety, totalling six (6) complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Three inmates were subjected to ill-treatment by a police officer at the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre (Jaw).	3

Two female inmates were subjected to ill-treatment at the Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre by a female police officer.	2
A detainee was subjected to ill-treatment whilst being arrested by a police officer.	1
Total	6

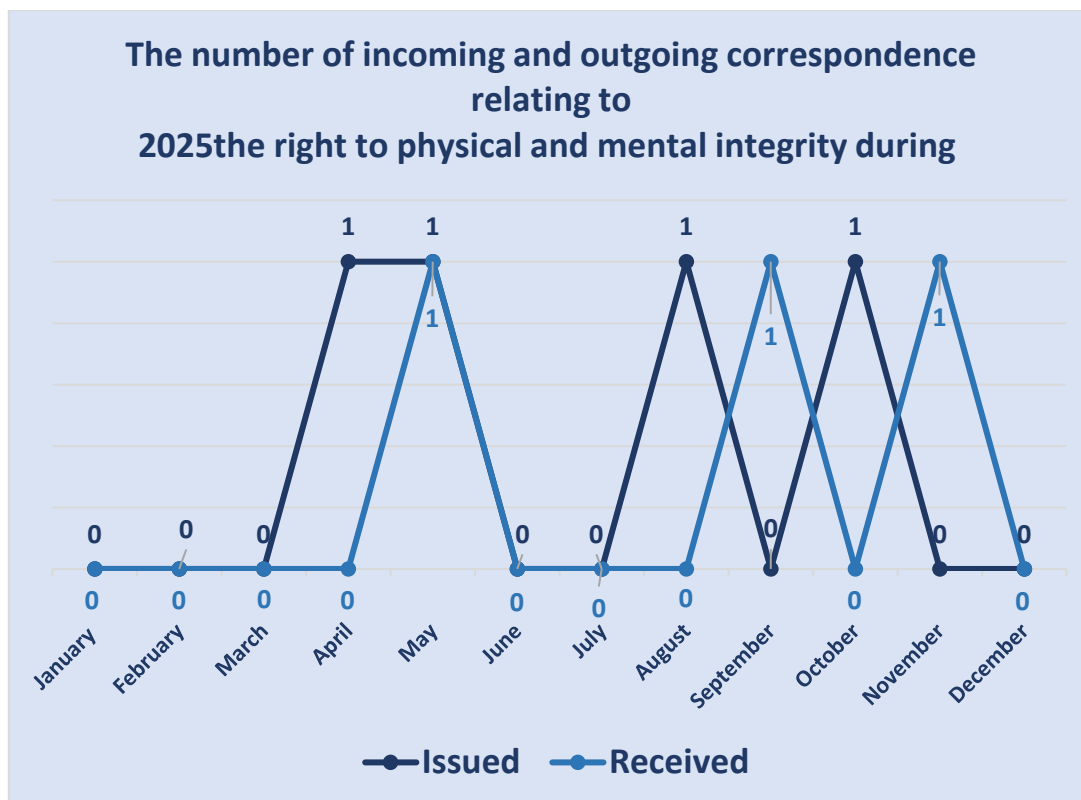


- **Response and follow-up:**

The organisation examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and liaising with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	4
Responses received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	3

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the organisation and the competent authorities to address complaints.



Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its supervisory role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to physical and psychological safety, during the period covered by this report, the Commission contacted the relevant authorities to verify the measures taken regarding a number of cases involving persons whose liberty is restricted, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which the necessary protection is provided to individuals against ill-treatment and the preservation of their human dignity, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR sent four letters to **the General Secretariat for Grievances**, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
3	Enquiry regarding the mistreatment of two male inmates by certain police officers, and the harassment of one female inmate by a female police officer.	The response, set out in three letters, stated that the General Secretariat had taken the necessary measures: it had initiated an investigation into the complaints, heard statements from the detainees, examined the relevant documents, and concluded that the complaints should be closed as no criminal offence had been committed by members of the Public Security Forces.

1	Enquiry regarding the mistreatment of a detainee during his arrest.	The Institution is awaiting a response.
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It is clear from the above that the Organisation dealt with three communications concerning requests and enquiries regarding complaints relating to the right to physical and psychological integrity; it followed up these cases with the relevant authority, and the follow-up revealed that no criminal offence had been committed in any of them.

As for the remaining complaints, it became apparent to the NIHR, after reviewing the content of the complaints and communicating with the parties concerned, that they had not exhausted the available legal remedies by first lodging their complaints with the authorities having primary jurisdiction to consider matters relating to ill-treatment by certain police officers. They were therefore advised of the procedures to be followed, by lodging a complaint with the competent authority, namely the General Secretariat for Grievances, whilst keeping the NIHR informed of developments so that it could monitor the progress of the complaint and the relevant procedures, until such time as they had completed these procedures.

The Commission also verified the extent to which the procedures adopted by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which affirm the right of the individual to physical and moral integrity, and the prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as the 'Nelson Mandela Rules', which oblige States to ensure that persons deprived of their liberty are treated humanely, with respect for their dignity and in a manner that safeguards their physical and mental integrity.

In parallel, the NIHR reviewed the national legislative frameworks, starting with the Constitution, which guarantees the protection of human dignity and prohibits physical or psychological harm, through to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act, with the aim of ensuring that the measures taken by the competent authorities have contributed to strengthening the protection of individuals from any form of ill-treatment, and guaranteeing that all groups, including persons deprived of their liberty, enjoy the legal protection provided for.

As part of its monitoring role, the Commission continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to physical and psychological safety after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons enjoy this right in accordance with national legislation and international standards.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Commission concludes as follows:

1) Continued strengthening of protection and oversight of the right to physical and psychological safety

Despite the relative decrease in the number of complaints compared with the previous year, the nature of the allegations raised highlights the importance of continuing to monitor the effectiveness of the procedures and measures adopted to protect individuals from ill-treatment and to safeguard their human dignity.

2) Continued coordination and follow-up with the relevant authorities

The data show ongoing coordination and follow-up between the Organisation and the General Secretariat for Grievances through official correspondence regarding complaints received or identified, reflecting the Organisation's commitment to verifying the measures taken and addressing complaints in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks. The responses received also reflect the level of engagement by the General Secretariat with allegations relating to this right, through the immediate investigation of complaints and examination of the relevant facts.

Requirement 8: Received or identified complaints relating to the right to a fair trial

Introduction:

This requirement presents an analysis of complaints received through the NIHR's various channels, as well as monitoring and follow-up data, highlighting the legal advice provided by the Organisation to those concerned with these complaints in accordance with the nature of each case. This enables an assessment of the level of compliance with the legal safeguards associated with this right, as a fundamental pillar guaranteeing every individual the right to appear before an independent, impartial and neutral proceedings in accordance with legal procedures that ensure justice, equality and the protection of the rights of the defence, in light of the national legislative framework and relevant international conventions.

In recent years, this right has seen a marked development in the strengthening of its safeguards. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the field of the right to a fair trial are:

- strengthening the independence of the judiciary and ensuring the impartiality and independence of judges;
- Guaranteeing the right to a two-tier appeal process, the right to a defence, and the right to legal representation.
- Developing the legislative framework relating to criminal, civil and commercial proceedings.

- Developing the e-litigation system and digital services for the courts and the Public Prosecution Service, thereby ensuring easier access to justice and expediting judicial proceedings.⁸⁰
- Establishing specialised courts and divisions, such as commercial courts and family courts.
- Developing judicial and legal training programmes for members of the judiciary and the Public Prosecution Service.
- Strengthening safeguards for the rights of prisoners and detainees, including judicial oversight of arrest and investigation procedures.
- Supporting dispute resolution, mediation and conciliation mechanisms to expedite the adjudication of cases.
- Strengthening mechanisms for cooperation and coordination between the Supreme Judicial Council and the National Human Rights Institution to facilitate the monitoring and observation of court hearings, thereby ensuring an assessment of the level of compliance with fair trial guarantees.

In terms of financial resources, the tables in the State General Budget Act for the financial years 2025–2026⁸¹ demonstrate the Bahraini Government's commitment to continuing to invest in the development of the judicial and legal system, with a view to strengthening the rule of law, safeguarding rights and freedoms, and achieving prompt justice. The financial allocations earmarked for judicial and legal bodies were distributed as follows:

- The Supreme Judicial Council: 15.3 million dinars were allocated in 2025, and 15.5 million dinars in 2026.
- Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments: its allocation amounted to 11.6 million dinars in 2025 and 11.7 million dinars in 2026.
- The Administrative Body of the Public Prosecution Service: 3.6 million dinars have been allocated for 2025 and 3.5 million dinars for 2026.
- The Constitutional Court: 2 million dinars were allocated for 2025, and the same amount for 2026.

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges relating to the promotion and protection of guarantees of the right to a fair trial. Notwithstanding the legislative and institutional efforts made, and in light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or dealt with, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- Ensuring the prompt adjudication of cases and reducing the duration of legal proceedings.

⁸⁰ For further details on digital justice services, please visit [the Ministry of Justice's website](#).

⁸¹ For further information on the projects and allocations of the judicial authorities, please visit the Ministry of Finance's website ([tables from the General Budget Appropriation Act for the financial years 2025–2026](#)).

- Enhancing access to legal aid and legal representation during the stages of criminal proceedings for certain groups, such as persons deprived of their liberty.
- Raising awareness of legal procedures relating to fair trial guarantees.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflects cases that have been received, monitored or dealt with, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, it provides practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of the right to a fair trial, including: equality before the courts and judicial bodies, the openness, independence and impartiality of the judiciary; and guarantees of the right to a defence. This is in line with General Comment No. 32⁸² issued by the Human Rights Committee, which clarifies the scope of fair trial guarantees, including the right to a fair and public hearing before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal, and the full guarantee of the rights of the defence.

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to a fair trial, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The right to a fair trial is underpinned by a comprehensive system of international and national rules, which aim to ensure a fair trial before an independent and impartial tribunal, thereby safeguarding the rights of the defence and the rule of law.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁸³ provides for the right to a public trial before an independent and impartial tribunal, the presumption of innocence, the provision of defences, and the prohibition of arbitrary arrest or punishment. Furthermore, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Law No. (56) of 2006, affirms the guarantee of equality before the courts and the right of every individual to a fair and public hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal, with the presumption of innocence and full guarantees of defence⁸⁴.

⁸² [General Comment No. 32 of the United Nations Human Rights Committee](#) on Article 14: The right to equality before the courts and tribunals and to a fair trial.

⁸³ Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that: “Everyone is entitled, in full equality with others, to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him,” and Article 11(1) provides that: ‘Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the necessary guarantees for his defence.’

⁸⁴ The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14, provides that: “1. All persons are equal before the law. Everyone is entitled, in the determination of any criminal charge against them or of their rights and obligations in any civil suit, to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law... 2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to

At the national level, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms the independence of the judiciary and guarantees the right to a fair trial as a right guaranteed to all individuals without discrimination, whilst establishing the presumption of innocence as a fundamental principle in the treatment of accused persons until their guilt is proven by a final judicial ruling⁸⁵.

In the same context, the Code of Criminal Procedure was enacted to establish a detailed framework guaranteeing the integrity and fairness of proceedings. It regulates the safeguards governing investigation and trial, including the accused's right to legal representation, the right to defend oneself, and the protection of their rights throughout the various stages of the proceedings, including the right to remain silent. The Act also established means of appealing against judicial rulings, thereby strengthening oversight of the soundness of rulings and enshrining the principle of prompt justice, whilst at the same time ensuring the protection and safeguarding of rights and freedoms within an integrated legal system that strikes a balance between criminal justice and individual safeguards.

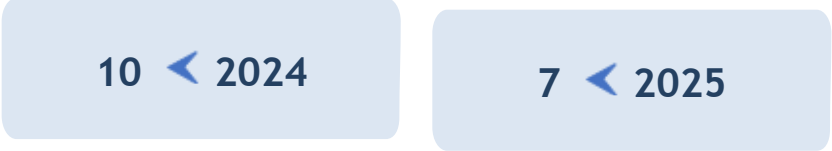
These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to strengthening the right to a fair trial and ensuring that all sections of society enjoy the full safeguards of that right.

law. 3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall, whilst their case is being determined, enjoy, on a basis of full equality, the following minimum guarantees: (a) to be informed promptly and in detail, and in a language which he understands, of the nature and cause of the charge against him; (b) to be given adequate time and facilities to prepare his defence and to communicate with a lawyer of his own choosing; (c) to be tried without undue delay; (d) to be tried in person and to defend himself in person or through legal counsel of his own choosing; to be informed of his right to legal representation if he has no one to defend him; and to be provided by the court, whenever the interests of justice so require, with legal counsel to defend him, without being charged for this if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it; (e) to cross-examine witnesses for the prosecution, either in person or through a representative, and to have witnesses for the defence called under the same conditions as apply to witnesses for the prosecution; (d) to be provided, free of charge, with an interpreter if he does not understand or speak the language used in court; (g) not to be compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt. 4. In the case of juveniles, care shall be taken to ensure that proceedings are appropriate to their age and conducive to the need for their rehabilitation. 5. Everyone convicted of a criminal offence has the right, in accordance with the law, to appeal to a higher court for a review of the conviction and the sentence imposed. 6. Where a final judgement convicting a person of a criminal offence has been handed down, and that judgement is subsequently quashed or a special pardon is granted on the basis of a new fact or a newly discovered fact providing conclusive evidence of a miscarriage of justice, the person who has suffered punishment as a result of that conviction shall be compensated in accordance with the law, unless it is established that they bear, wholly or partly, responsible for the failure to disclose the unknown fact in a timely manner. 7. No one shall be subjected to a second trial or punishment for an offence for which they have already been convicted or acquitted by a final judgement in accordance with the law and the criminal procedures of each country."

⁸⁵The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Article 20(c), stipulates that: "An accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a lawful trial in which he is afforded the necessary guarantees to exercise his right to a defence at all stages of the investigation and trial in accordance with the law."

Section II: Complaint Data

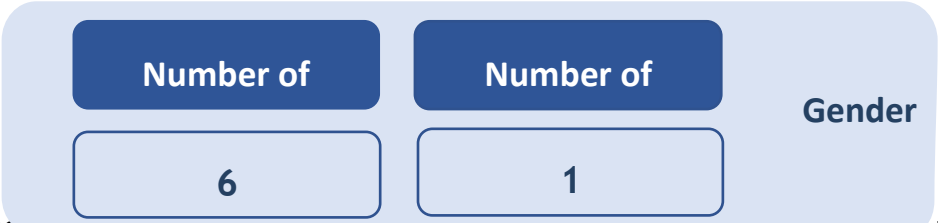
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to a fair trial



Ten (10) complaints were received in 2024, whilst seven (7) were received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting, improved access to legal aid, or developments in judicial procedures.

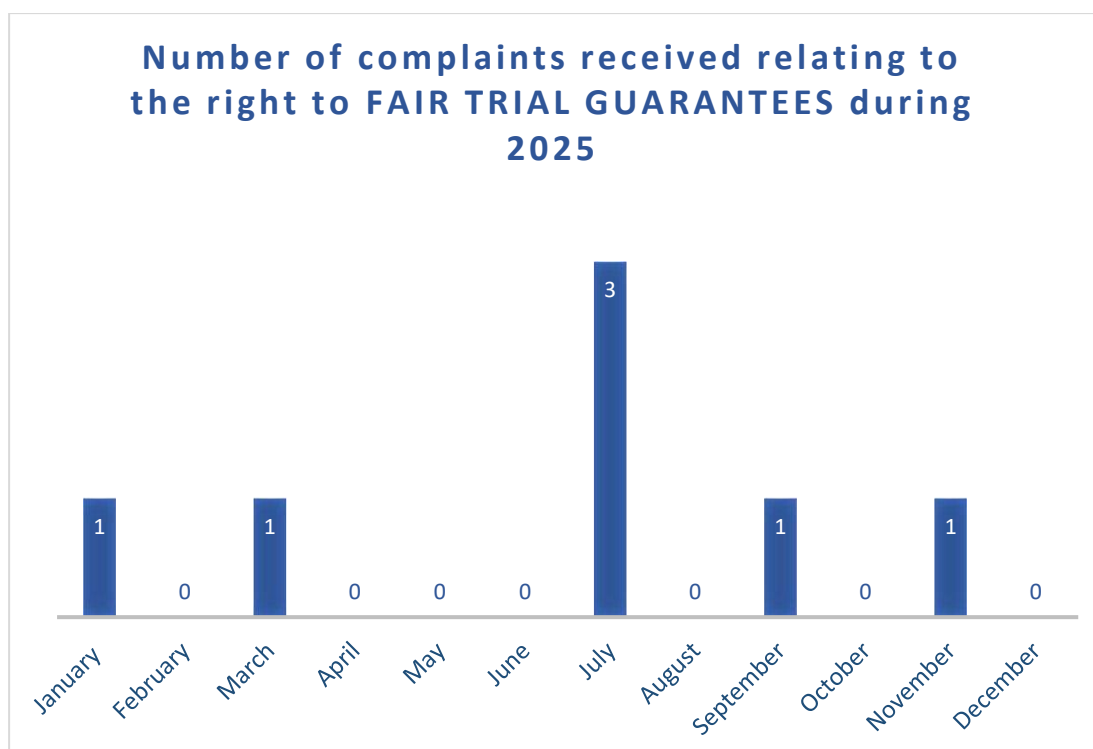
(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant:**



- The complaints received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to a fair trial, totalling seven (7) complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Requests for review of court judgements.	5
Failure to allow a detainee to be represented by a lawyer during the investigation proceedings.	1
Application for legal aid (appointment of a lawyer).	1
Total	7



- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on them, the appropriate measures were taken to address the complaints, including providing guidance on the procedures to be followed according to the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its oversight role, the NIHR monitored complaints and reports relating to the right to a fair trial, in light of its legal mandate, international standards and relevant national legislation. In doing so, it drew upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thereby ensuring the protection of the rights of the defence and adherence to due process.

Furthermore, when providing legal advice and following up on cases within its remit, the NIHR has taken into account the fundamental principles relating to the independence of the judiciary and the guarantees of a fair trial, thereby helping to raise complainants' awareness of their legal rights and enabling them to make use of the legal remedies available in accordance with the relevant national and international frameworks.

With regard to requests for the review of judicial rulings—which constituted the majority of complaints received under this right—the NIHR found, after examining these requests, that they all related to final and binding judicial rulings for which all legally prescribed levels of appeal had been exhausted. Whilst the NIHR emphasises that its remit, in accordance with the law establishing it, does not

extend to the review of judicial rulings or the re-examination of judgments and decisions handed down by the competent judicial authorities , it is responsible for addressing any issues that may arise concerning fair trial guarantees and the rights of the defence within the limits of its legal mandate.

In this context, and out of a desire to keep the complainants informed, the Institution provided them with legal advice by explaining the nature of legal proceedings, the stages of litigation, and the legal remedies available under national legislation, including the provisions governing appeals to the Court of Cassation and other relevant legal safeguards and procedures.

As for the complaint regarding the failure to allow one of the detainees to consult a lawyer during the investigation phase, the NIHR began following up on the matter and liaising with the detainee's family to verify the circumstances and ensure that the grounds for the complaint had been resolved. It also emerged shortly after the follow-up that the detainee had been released.

With regard to the request received concerning assistance in securing a lawyer, the NIHR advised the applicant of the available options for choosing legal representation by directing them to consult the list of licensed lawyers published on the website of the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs, thereby enabling them to contact the lawyer they deem suitable to provide the required legal assistance.

As part of its oversight role, the NIHR continues to monitor any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to fair trial after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons enjoy the guarantees of a fair trial and the rights of the defence in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

Section IV: General Analytical Overview

In light of the available data, the NIHR concludes that the majority of complaints centred on requests for the review of final judicial rulings, which reflects the need for greater awareness of the nature of the powers of the various authorities and the procedures for appeal after the legally prescribed levels of litigation have been exhausted. Other issues also emerged concerning access to legal assistance (the appointment of a lawyer) during the early stages of criminal proceedings, underscoring the importance of continuing to guarantee access to legal support as one of the fundamental pillars of a fair trial.

Requirement 9: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to nationality

Introduction:

This requirement analyses complaints received through the Institution's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior, and details of the measures taken in response, thereby enabling an assessment of the extent to which the right to nationality and associated rights are enjoyed, as it is a fundamental right that guarantees an individual's legal affiliation with the state and the resulting rights

and duties. Nationality enables a person to enjoy a wide range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, whilst its absence limits the enjoyment of many of these fundamental rights and services. This is in accordance with the national legislative framework and relevant international standards.

Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the area of the right to nationality are:

- Regulating matters of nationality through a comprehensive legislative framework that sets out the conditions for acquiring nationality by birth, descent, naturalisation or marriage.
- Developing administrative and digital procedures relating to the issuance of official documents, proof of nationality, passports and national identity cards.
- Strengthening electronic links between government agencies to facilitate services relating to nationality, statistics and the population register.
- Granting the children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis, in certain cases, facilities relating to residence, services, education and healthcare, in accordance with relevant government policies.
- Developing consular, passport and identity services for citizens both within and outside the Kingdom via government e-platforms.

As regards the allocated budget, there are no separate, explicitly stated appropriations under the heading 'right to nationality' per se; however, services related to nationality fall within the budget of the Ministry of the Interior.⁸⁶

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other states, faces a range of challenges associated with promoting and protecting this right for persons whose freedoms are restricted and those whose freedoms are not, despite the legislative and institutional efforts undertaken. In light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or dealt with, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- The continuing need to review certain legislation and procedures relating to the right to nationality to ensure their consistency with legislative developments and relevant international standards.
- The emergence of legal and procedural challenges in some cases relating to statelessness or disputes concerning official documents and supporting evidence, and the resulting difficulties in establishing legal status or enabling individuals to access certain associated rights and services.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, identified or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to nationality, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

⁸⁶ [Tables relating to the Act approving the general budget for the financial years 2025–2026](#)

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The safeguarding of the right to nationality is based on a comprehensive system of international and national rules which affirm the right of every individual to enjoy nationality and not to be arbitrarily deprived of it. Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that everyone has the right to a nationality, and that no person may be arbitrarily deprived of their nationality or denied the right to change it. Similarly, Article 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirms the right of every child to acquire a nationality.

Similarly, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Decree-Law No. (16) of 1991, has accorded particular attention to this right; Article 7 thereof provides for the right of the child to be registered immediately upon birth and to acquire a nationality, thereby ensuring that the child is protected from statelessness.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded with reservations regarding certain articles pursuant to Decree-Law No. 5 of 2002, affirms in Article 9 equality between men and women in matters of nationality.

At the regional level, Article 29 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights⁸⁷ stipulates the right of every individual to enjoy nationality and prohibits its arbitrary deprivation.

At the national level, Article 17 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain⁸⁸ the fundamental provisions relating to nationality, stipulating that the law is the competent instrument for determining it, and prohibiting its revocation except in narrow and specific circumstances such as high treason, whilst guaranteeing the right of citizens not to be expelled from the territory of the Kingdom or prevented from returning to it.

Decree-Law No. (12) of 1989 enacted the Bahraini Nationality Act and set out the provisions relating to the acquisition, loss, restoration, withdrawal and revocation of Bahraini nationality, specifying the conditions and procedures governing these matters, thereby striking a balance between protecting the right to nationality and upholding the requirements of national sovereignty and the public interest.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting and protecting the right to nationality, ensuring that individuals are not arbitrarily deprived of it, and providing clear and effective legal procedures that guarantee individuals' enjoyment of their nationality and the rights associated with it.

⁸⁷ The Arab Charter on Human Rights, Article 29(1), provides that: "Every person has the right to a nationality, and no person may be arbitrarily or unlawfully deprived of their nationality." 2. States Parties may take such measures as they deem appropriate, in accordance with their domestic legislation on nationality, to enable children to acquire the nationality of their mother, taking into account the best interests of the child in all cases. 3. A person's right to acquire another nationality shall not be denied, subject to the domestic legal procedures of their country."

⁸⁸ [The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain](#), Article 17(a), stipulates that: "Bahraini nationality is determined by law, and may not be revoked from a person who holds it except in cases of high treason and other circumstances specified by law. (b) It is prohibited to expel a citizen from Bahrain or to prevent them from returning to it."

Section II: Complaint Data

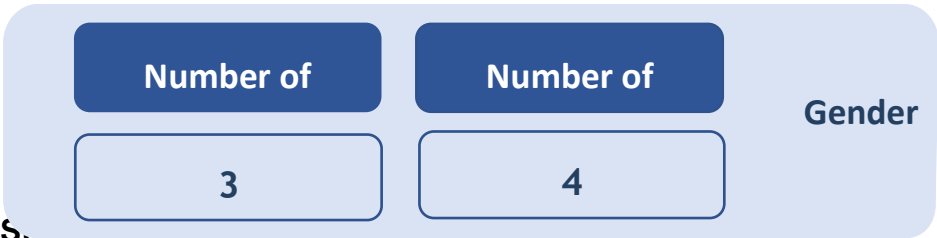
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to nationality



A total of nine (9) complaints were received in 2024. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- Classification of complaints by gender of complainants



- Subjects of complaints

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to nationality, totalling seven (7) complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Issuance and renewal of official documents (passport, identity card).	3
Applications for citizenship.	2
Enquiring about the consequences of a decision to revoke citizenship.	2
Total	7

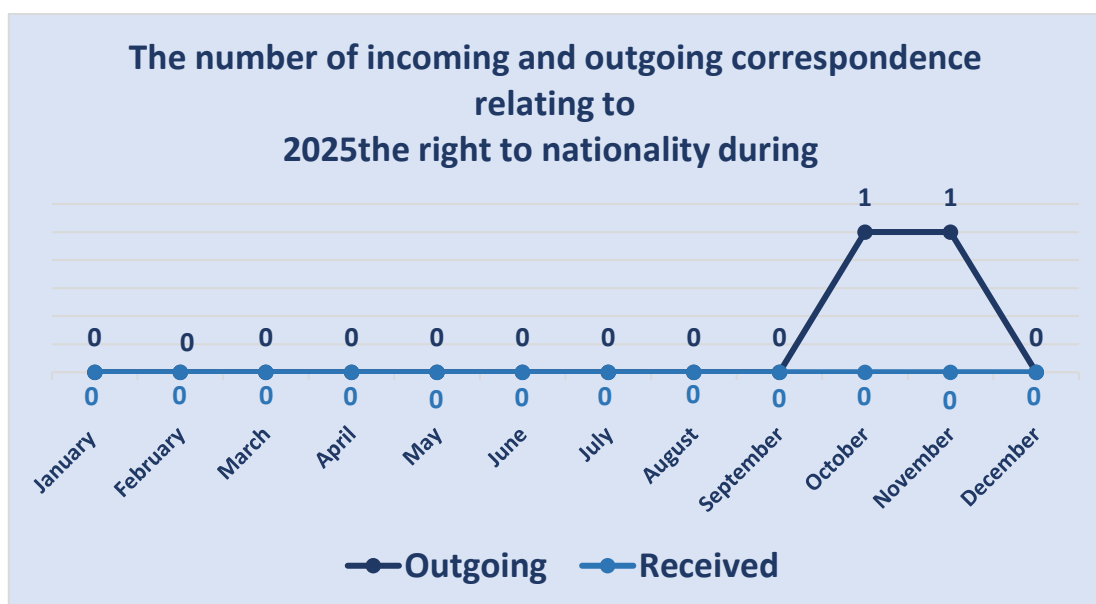
- Response and follow-up

The NIHR examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on them, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	2
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Replies received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.

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Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its supervisory role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to nationality, the NIHR, during the period covered by this report, contacted the relevant authorities to verify the procedures taken regarding a number of applications relating to the acquisition of nationality, the revocation of decisions to withdraw it, or the issuance and renewal of official documents. The aim was to monitor the efficiency and clarity of the procedures and to ensure that there is no arbitrary deprivation of this right, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

Although the granting of Bahraini nationality and the adjudication of applications and decisions relating thereto are acts of sovereignty falling within the remit of the executive authority, represented by the Ministry of the Interior, and decisions in this regard are issued by Royal Decree of His Majesty the King, in accordance with the provisions of the Bahraini Nationality Act, the NIHR's correspondence with the relevant authorities stemmed from its role in following up on complaints received or identified, thereby contributing to strengthening safeguards for the rights associated with this right.

The NIHR has sent two (2) letters to **the Ministry of the Interior**, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	To examine the reasons for the non-renewal of a passport belonging to a female citizen currently residing outside the Kingdom of Bahrain.	The Authority is awaiting a response.
1	Examining the possibility of issuing a temporary identity card or travel document to a woman (born in Bahrain to a Bahraini mother and a father of Arab nationality).	The Authority is awaiting a response.

It is clear from the above that the Authority has dealt with a number of complaints relating to the right to nationality and the associated rights, particularly those concerning the issuance and renewal of certain official documents or necessary identification documents such as passports and identity cards. The Authority has written to the competent authorities regarding these cases and is following them up in accordance with its legal remit; it also continues to coordinate with the relevant authorities to monitor developments, thereby helping to ensure the protection of the relevant rights and promoting their resolution in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks.

As for the remaining complaints relating to applications for Bahraini citizenship, the revocation of decisions to withdraw citizenship, and other related matters, the NIHR has examined them and issued legal opinions on them, advising those concerned of the necessary procedures in accordance with its legally established powers, whilst clarifying the legal avenues and procedures available for each case according to its circumstances and nature, without prejudice to the established powers of the authorities competent to adjudicate on such applications.

As part of its oversight role, the NIHR continues to monitor any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to the right to nationality after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons, including those whose liberty is restricted, enjoy this right, and to ensure that the rights associated with it are protected in accordance with national legislation and international standards.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the NIHR concludes that some complaints regarding the renewal of identity documents or the issuance of temporary identity documents have highlighted certain procedural challenges relating to the time

taken to process applications, alongside the need to enhance the clarity of procedures and the follow-up mechanisms available to beneficiaries. This may affect the speed with which transactions are completed and the ability of individuals to access the relevant services in a timely manner.

Requirement 10: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to communicate with the outside world

Introduction:

This requirement addresses the analysis of complaints received through the organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with the Ministry of the Interior and relevant official responses, and details of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of compliance with the right of persons deprived of their liberty to communicate with the outside world, as one of the fundamental rights linked to the preservation of human dignity and the maintenance of family, social and legal ties. This right includes enabling inmates or detainees to communicate with their families, lawyers and the competent authorities through visits, correspondence and communications, in accordance with the legal and regulatory controls in force in the light of the national legislative framework and international standards.

In recent years, this right has seen significant developments to strengthen its safeguards. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the area of the right to communicate with the outside world are:

- Enabling inmates to communicate with their families through regular family visits and telephone calls.
- Providing electronic and video communication facilities in certain cases, particularly during exceptional circumstances and health emergencies.
- Allowing communication with lawyers and judicial authorities to ensure the right to defence and legal representation.
- Facilitating communication between inmates and diplomatic missions for foreign nationals, in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks.
- Developing social care and family counselling programmes within correctional and rehabilitation centres.
- Strengthening oversight and supervision of conditions in correctional and rehabilitation centres through judicial and supervisory bodies, the Commission for the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees, and the National Human Rights Institution.
- Implementing programmes for the reform, rehabilitation and social reintegration of inmates, including educational, training, cultural and religious activities.

In its National Human Rights Plan, the Bahraini government also emphasises the promotion of the rights of inmates and detainees and the improvement of conditions of detention and correctional and rehabilitation services, as part of the

civil and political rights pillar of the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026)⁸⁹. In this context, the plan includes a number of projects aimed at strengthening oversight, inspection and accountability within correctional and rehabilitation centres, detention centres and investigative procedures, including the development of electronic monitoring mechanisms during the period (2022–2026), thereby contributing to more effective oversight within these institutions, whilst taking into account the rights of detainees, including the recording in registers of the rights to which detainees are entitled, whether in relation to visits, telephone calls or communication with lawyers.

In terms of financial resources, funds have been allocated to the Ministry of the Interior in the State General Budget for the financial years 2025–2026⁹⁰, as previously mentioned. These allocations cover a number of sectors and services related to public security and safety, the management of correctional and rehabilitation institutions, health and social services, and rehabilitation programmes, as well as the development of relevant infrastructure and digital systems, reflecting the ongoing improvement of services provided to persons deprived of their liberty and the strengthening of organisational and humanitarian aspects within correctional institutions.

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges associated with strengthening and protecting the right of persons deprived of their liberty to communicate with the outside world. Despite the legislative and institutional efforts made, and in light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or dealt with, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- Certain difficulties relating to ensuring the continuity of communication during exceptional or emergency circumstances.
- A lack of clarity regarding the reasons for restricting or interrupting communication in some cases.
- Technical or procedural challenges associated with means of communication and visits, which may, in some cases, affect the regularity of inmates' family and social contact.
- Variations in the application of video communication and exceptional visitation procedures from case to case.
- The fact that the ability to communicate is sometimes linked to financial factors, such as the balance on a communication card.
- The importance of striking a balance between security requirements within correctional institutions and guaranteeing the right of persons deprived of their liberty to communicate with the outside world, as this is one of the key elements supporting the process of rehabilitation and social reintegration.
- The need for ongoing follow-up on certain requests and related cases.

⁸⁹ [National Human Rights Plan \(2022–2026\), page 63.](#)

⁹⁰ [Tables from the Law on the Adoption of the General Budget of the Kingdom of Bahrain 2025–2026.](#)

It should be noted that the complaint data reflects cases that have been received, identified or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, it provides practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

It also involves identifying the challenges associated with the enjoyment of contact with the outside world, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that persons deprived of their liberty enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The guarantee of the right to communicate with the outside world is based on a comprehensive system of international and national legal rules. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Law No. (56) of 2006, and which, in Article 10⁹¹, recognises the right of persons deprived of their liberty to be treated in a manner whose primary aim is their reform and social rehabilitation; such treatment includes communication with the outside world, as interpreted by the Human Rights Committee in General Comments No. 9⁹² and No. 21⁹³.

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)⁹⁴ also address the right of prisoners to communicate with the outside world, emphasising the need to enable persons whose liberty is restricted to maintain their family and social ties, by allowing them regular contact with their families or friends through visits, correspondence and various means of communication, subject to the necessary supervisory controls, thereby

⁹¹ The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 10(3), stipulates that: "The prison system shall ensure that prisoners are treated in a manner whose primary aim is their reform and social rehabilitation..."

⁹² General Comment No. 9 on Article 10 of the Human Rights Committee, p. 2, paragraph (3), which states that: "..... the practical steps taken to promote the reform and social rehabilitation of prisoners, for example through education, vocational training and meaningful work. Allowing visits, particularly by family members, is, of course, also among the measures required on humanitarian grounds....."

⁹³ General Comment No. 21 on Article 10 of the Human Rights Committee, p. 2, paragraph (12), which states that: "The Committee also requests information on the specific measures applied during detention, including, for example, the conditions under which contact with the outside world (family, legal counsel, social and medical services, or non-governmental organisations) is ensured."

⁹⁴ The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), p. 18, Rule 58, which states that: "1. Prisoners shall be permitted, subject to the necessary supervision, to communicate with their families and friends at regular intervals as follows: (a) by written correspondence and, where available, by means of telecommunications, electronic and digital means, and other means; (b) by receiving visits. 2. Where conjugal visits are permitted, this right shall be applied without discrimination, and female prisoners shall be afforded the opportunity to exercise this right on an equal footing with men. Procedures shall be established and facilities provided to ensure fair and equal access to this right, with due regard for the preservation of safety and the safeguarding of dignity."

contributing to the preservation of their human dignity and the promotion of their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

As regards relevant national legislation, the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act⁹⁵ and its implementing regulations⁹⁶ directly guarantee inmates' right to communicate with the outside world in accordance with the provisions set out in each.

⁹⁵ Article 36 of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act No. 18 of 2014, as amended by Decree-Law No. 6 of 2024, which provides that: "An inmate is entitled to receive visits from his family once during the first week of his admission to the centre; thereafter, he is permitted two visits per month. The director of the institution or his deputy may grant the inmate an exceptional visit in cases where circumstances so require, and the implementing regulations shall specify the procedures for such visits." Article (43), which stipulates that: "An inmate has the right to lawful privacy with his spouse and to complete the formalities of his marriage, all in accordance with the procedures and regulations set out in the implementing regulations." Article (44) stipulates that: "An inmate is permitted to correspond with his family and to receive letters addressed to him, in accordance with the procedures and regulations set out in the implementing regulations." Article (45), which stipulates that: "An inmate has the right to make telephone calls and, where necessary, to receive telephone calls; the centre's management has the right to monitor all telephone communications in accordance with the procedures and regulations set out in the implementing regulations."

⁹⁶ Article (17) of the Implementing Regulations issued pursuant to Decision No. (131) of 2015 and amended by the provisions of Decision No. (49) of 2024, which stipulates that: "An inmate shall be entitled to one visit during the first week of their admission to the centre; they must specify in writing the names of those they wish to receive visits from, and shall be permitted two visits per month throughout the duration of their detention, provided that the duration of each visit does not exceed one hour. A person in pre-trial detention is permitted one visit per week, not exceeding half an hour in duration, and visits to inmates and persons in pre-trial detention shall take place within the centres in which they are held...", Article (23) stipulates that: "If the inmate or remand prisoner to be visited is a patient in a public or private hospital, the visit may take place at the hospital following consultation with the attending doctor at the hospital and with the approval of the director of the institution or his or her deputy, provided that the conditions and regulations governing visits set out in these Regulations and the decisions issued in implementation thereof are complied with, and that the visit takes place in a manner that does not conflict with security considerations." Article (25) stipulates that: "The director of the institution or his deputy – following the approval of the Minister or his delegate – may permit inmates of good conduct who have served half their sentence to visit their relatives up to the second degree of kinship outside the centre once every six months, provided that this does not pose a threat to public security and that the duration of the visit does not exceed forty-eight hours. The director of the institution or his deputy shall determine the remaining visiting regulations, the necessary security arrangements and the security considerations to be observed; an inmate shall be subject to disciplinary action if he contravenes the visiting regulations." Article (28) stipulates that: "An inmate has the right to make telephone calls for a duration not exceeding half an hour each week, and has the right to receive telephone calls in cases of necessity as assessed by the head of the centre or his deputy. The centre's management has the right to monitor all telephone calls made or received by the inmate, and the inmate shall not have the right to object to this procedure...."

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to communicate with the outside world and to ensuring that this right is afforded to persons deprived of their liberty.

Section Two: Complaints Data

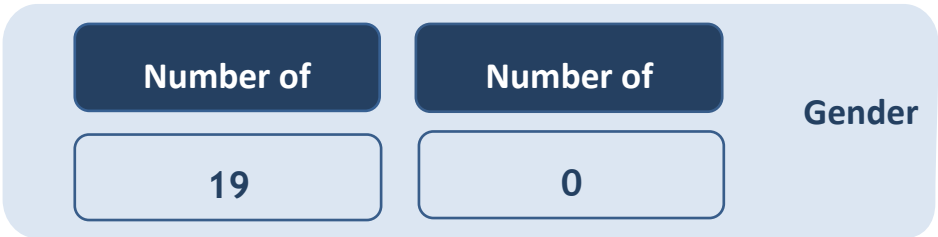
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to communicate with the outside world



A total of 56 complaints were received in 2024, whilst 19 were received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms. This reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure the sustainability of this improvement in communication with the outside world.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**

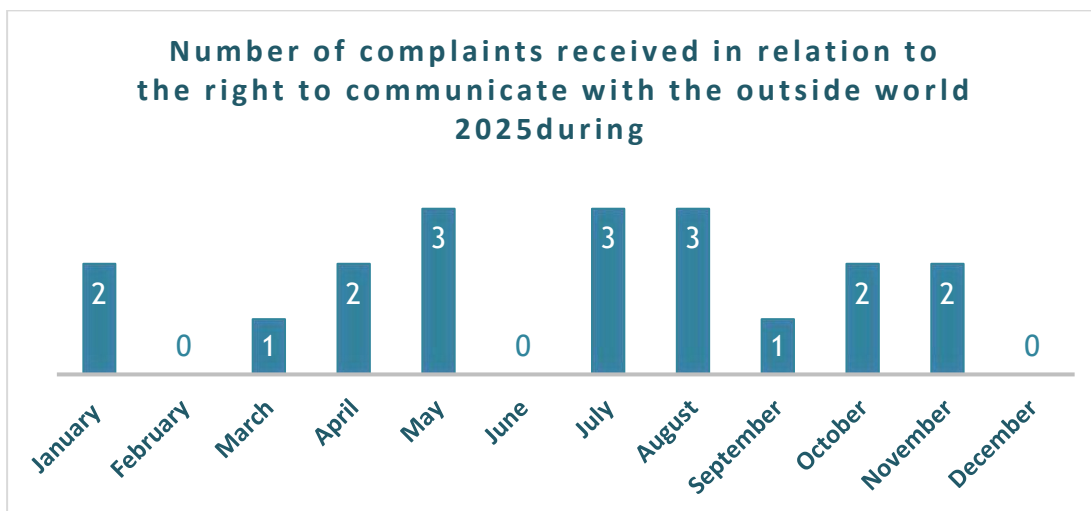


- **Subjects of complaints:**

The organisation received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to communicate with the outside world, totalling 19 complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Loss of contact between a number of detainees and their families for more than a week	5
Permitting a number of inmates to be temporarily released to attend funeral ceremonies and offer condolences to, or visit, their families	6
Making it easier for inmates' families to arrange private visits without a glass partition or video link	6
Enabling a prisoner's family to visit them in hospital	1

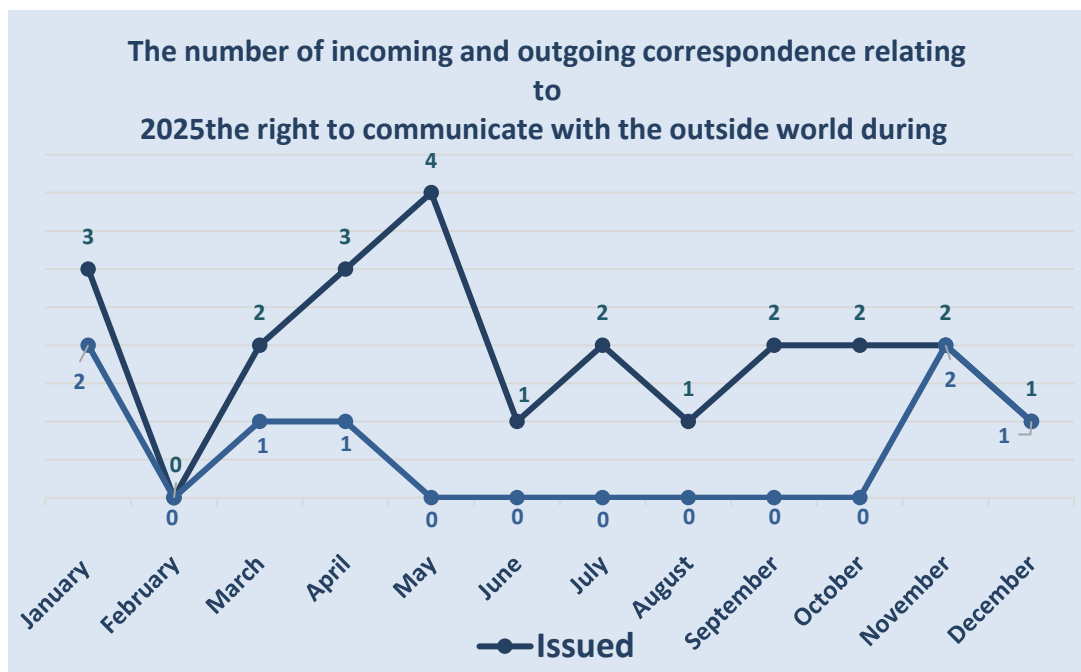
Enabling a prisoner's family to find out their whereabouts and facilitating their visits	1
Total	19



- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. Following the preparation of a legal opinion on these matters, a number of practical measures and activities were undertaken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and liaising with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question. This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the NIHR and the competent authorities in addressing complaints.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	23
Replies received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	7



Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its oversight role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to communicate with the outside world, during the period covered by this report, the Commission wrote to the Ministry of the Interior to verify the measures taken regarding a number of cases concerning communication with the outside world by persons deprived of their liberty, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which detainees are able to exercise their right to communicate with the outside world in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The Organisation sent a total of 23 letters to **the Ministry of the Interior**, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
6	Inmates had been unable to make contact for over a week.	A response was received in three letters, stating that all of them had been allowed to make contact: one was serving a disciplinary penalty and, upon completion of this, was allowed to contact his family; another had run out of credit on his phone card and was allowed to make contact as soon as the management of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre became aware of the situation; The third inmate was allowed to contact his family without any explanation being given for the interruption,

		whilst the institution continues to respond via three letters.
6	A number of inmates were granted temporary leave to attend funeral ceremonies and offer condolences to, or visit, their families.	A response was received in four letters, stating that some had been granted a private visit or a video call, whilst for others their families must submit a request to the centre's management; the organisation is still awaiting a response to two letters.
8	Facilitating private visits for inmates' families without a glass partition or video call.	The organisation is following up on the responses with the relevant authority.
1	Enabling inmates' families to visit them at their place of stay in hospital.	The organisation is following up on the response.
1	Enabling the resident's family to find out where they are and facilitating their visits.	The organisation is following up on the response.
1	Allowing a resident to visit his father in hospital.	The organisation is following up on the response.

It is clear from the above that the organisation dealt with seven communications relating to requests or enquiries regarding communication with the outside world, and followed up on these cases with the relevant authorities. The follow-up revealed that all inmates were able to communicate with their families, whether through visits, telephone calls or video calls. It should be noted that some cases were subject to temporary regulatory measures linked to the imposition of disciplinary sanctions; once these had ended, communication resumed as normal, whilst others required the submission of formal requests for consideration by the centre's management.

The Organisation also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the Ministry of the Interior were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which emphasises the need to treat all persons deprived of their liberty humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity, and that the primary aim of the measures taken should be their reform and social rehabilitation, in addition to the 'Nelson Mandela Rules', which emphasised the need to enable persons deprived of their liberty to maintain their family and social ties through various means of communication, including visits, telephone calls and correspondence, given the positive impact this has on safeguarding their human dignity and promoting their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

In parallel, the NIHR reviewed the national legislative frameworks and examined the measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act and its implementing regulations, in order to ensure the adequacy of the legal and procedural safeguards guaranteed to persons deprived of their liberty, particularly with regard to their right to communicate with the outside world. This included assessing the extent to which mechanisms are in place to enable them to exercise this right regularly and safely, including the organisation of family visits and the provision of means of communication even in exceptional circumstances.

As part of its monitoring role, the Commission continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to communication with the outside world after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, to verify that all persons deprived of their liberty are able to communicate with the outside world, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards, thereby promoting their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Section IV: General Analytical Review:

In light of the available data, the Organisation concludes the following:

1. Lack of clarity regarding the reasons for restrictions on or interruptions to communication in some cases:

Through the complaints it has received and monitored, the Organisation has noted instances where means of communication have been cut off for extended periods exceeding one week, without clear justification at the time. This has a negative impact on the psychological well-being of detainees and affects the continuity of family communication, particularly given that some detainees rely primarily on telephone calls as their main means of communication.

2. Communication being dependent on financial factors (credit):

In some cases, it emerged that the interruption in communication was due to the credit on the telephone card running out, which may restrict the inmate's ability to communicate with their family, particularly for those who do not have a regular source of income.

3. Variations in the application of communication and visiting procedures between cases:

Variations were observed in the mechanisms enabling inmates to communicate, whether in terms of private visits, video calls, or the requirements for submitting requests. Some inmates were allowed to use alternative means of communication depending on the circumstances, whilst other cases were subject to different procedures, such as the requirement for the inmate's family to submit a request to the centre's management for temporary leave to attend funeral ceremonies and offer condolences to their relatives, which may affect the principle of equality in the enjoyment of this right.

4. Delays in responding to some requests and the need for ongoing follow-up:

Some cases highlighted the need for the institution to intervene and follow up to ensure that inmates are able to communicate, reflecting challenges in the speed of response or in the direct handling of requests by the relevant authorities. However, delays in responses from the competent authorities were observed, which in turn delayed responses in urgent humanitarian cases (such as attending funeral ceremonies).

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the ongoing development of sustainable connectivity with the outside world.

Requirement 11: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to freedom of movement

Introduction:

This requirement covers an analysis of complaints received through the organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with the Ministry of the Interior and the Public Prosecution Service and the relevant official responses, and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to ensuring the right to freedom of movement, as one of the fundamental rights guaranteeing the individual freedom of movement within the State, and the right to leave and return to it, without arbitrary restrictions, in a manner that upholds human dignity and personal freedom. This right includes the freedom to choose one's place of residence, to move about safely, and to obtain official travel documents, with any potential restrictions being subject to specific legal and judicial safeguards, in accordance with the legal and regulatory controls in force under the national legislative framework and international standards.

In recent years, this right has seen significant developments to strengthen its safeguards. Among the Kingdom of Bahrain's most notable efforts in the area of the right to freedom of movement are:

- The development of e-services for passports, residence permits and the population register, thereby helping to streamline travel and movement procedures.
- Modernising the infrastructure of land, air and sea border crossings, and developing smart systems for travel procedures to enhance the speed and efficiency of movement.
- Providing online judicial services relating to travel bans and applications to lift such bans, thereby ensuring that procedures are transparent and accessible.
- Subjecting travel ban decisions to specific legal and judicial procedures, thereby guaranteeing individuals' right to appeal and challenge such decisions in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks.
- Promoting digital transformation within the courts and the Ministry of the Interior, thereby facilitating the monitoring of decisions and procedures relating to travel and movement.
- Regulating travel ban procedures in criminal, civil and enforcement cases to provide legal safeguards for individuals.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has also been keen to strengthen and continuously develop the legal and procedural safeguards associated with travel ban decisions by introducing a number of legislative amendments to the relevant laws. These amendments arose from legislative and parliamentary discussions aimed at enhancing the protection of rights and freedoms and expanding the scope of legal safeguards guaranteed to individuals, and to organise them within legal and judicial frameworks that ensure a balance between the requirements of justice and the guarantee of freedom of movement for individuals. In this context, the issuance of travel bans has been restricted to the competent judicial authorities or the Attorney General in the circumstances specified by law, whilst ensuring the right of the person subject to the travel ban to lodge a complaint and appeal against the decision before the competent court⁹⁷. It is also permitted to revoke a travel ban decision once the grounds for it no longer apply or the necessary legal safeguards have been provided⁹⁸. Furthermore, travel ban orders are enforced or requests for their removal are processed electronically through a link between the courts and the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence, thereby contributing to the speed and accuracy of the procedures.

In terms of financial resources, funds have been allocated to the Ministry of the Interior in the State General Budget for the financial years 2025–2026⁹⁹, as previously mentioned. These allocations cover a number of sectors and services related to public security and safety, the development of services relating to border crossings, passports and residence permits, as well as the modernisation of infrastructure and electronic systems related to freedom of movement and travel, including judicial and enforcement services associated with travel bans and their lifting. This reflects the ongoing efforts to enhance the efficiency of procedures relating to freedom of movement and to develop digital services, thereby facilitating procedures and ensuring the highest level of regulatory and legal safeguards associated with this right.

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges associated with strengthening and protecting the guarantees of the right to freedom of movement. Despite legislative, institutional and regulatory efforts, and in light of an analysis of the data and cases that have been monitored or dealt with, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- The existence of certain procedural difficulties relating to determining the mechanisms for lifting travel bans or following up on applications, particularly given the limited information available or the lack of standardised channels for enquiries.
- The need to strike a balance between the requirements of justice and the protection of security and public order, and the guarantee of the right to freedom of movement and travel in accordance with established legal safeguards.

⁹⁷ [Decree-Law No. \(46\) of 2002 promulgating the Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure](#), Article (159)

⁹⁸ [Decree-Law No. \(12\) of 1971 promulgating the Civil and Commercial Procedure Act](#) (Articles 176, 178, 179)

⁹⁹ [Tables of the Law on the Approval of the General Budget of the Kingdom of Bahrain 2025–2026](#).

- Keeping pace with security and technological developments relating to ports of entry and borders, and the associated ongoing updating of systems and procedures relating to freedom of movement.
- The ongoing need to develop electronic systems and administrative procedures relating to travel, residence and movement, in a way that enhances the speed, clarity and accessibility of these procedures.
- The impact on certain other rights linked to freedom of movement, particularly in cases involving humanitarian, health or religious purposes, which necessitates observance of the principle of proportionality when imposing any restrictions.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflects cases that have been received, monitored and addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, it provides practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to freedom of movement, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all persons can enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

The protection of the right to freedom of movement is based on a comprehensive framework of international and national legal rules. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (¹⁰⁰) stipulates that freedom of movement and the choice of residence within the territory of the State must be guaranteed, and that this right may not be restricted except in accordance with the law, and only to the extent necessary to protect national security, public order, public health, public morals or the rights and freedoms of others.

As regards relevant national legislation, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain¹⁰¹ stipulates that no person may be arrested, detained, searched, placed under house arrest, or have their freedom of residence or movement restricted except in accordance with the provisions of the law, reflecting the Bahraini legislature's commitment to guaranteeing freedom of movement and restricting it only in accordance with clear legal safeguards. Furthermore, Article 5 of Law No. (11) of 1975 on the Bahraini passport regulates the procedures for leaving and

¹⁰⁰ The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12, provides that: "1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall have the right to liberty of movement within that territory and to freedom to choose his or her place of residence. 2. Everyone shall have the freedom to leave any country, including his or her own. 3. The rights mentioned above shall not be subject to any restrictions other than those prescribed by law, which are necessary to protect national security, public order, public health or public morals, or the rights and freedoms of others, and which are consistent with the other rights recognised in this Covenant. 4. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his or her own country."

¹⁰¹ Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Article 19(b): "b. No person may be arrested, detained, searched, placed under house arrest or have their freedom of residence or movement restricted except in accordance with the provisions of the law."

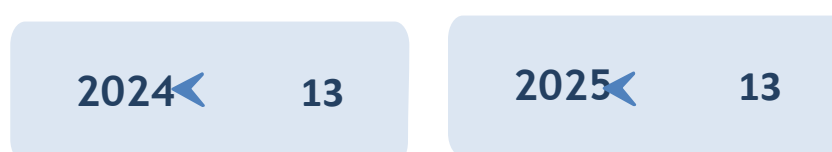
returning to the country, specifying the circumstances in which travel may be restricted in accordance with the law.

Similarly, the Aliens (Immigration and Residence) Act of 1965 regulates the entry and residence of foreigners within the Kingdom, striking a balance between state sovereignty and security requirements, on the one hand, and respect for the fundamental rights of individuals, on the other.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to health and ensuring the right to freedom of movement for all sections of society.

Section II: Complaint Data

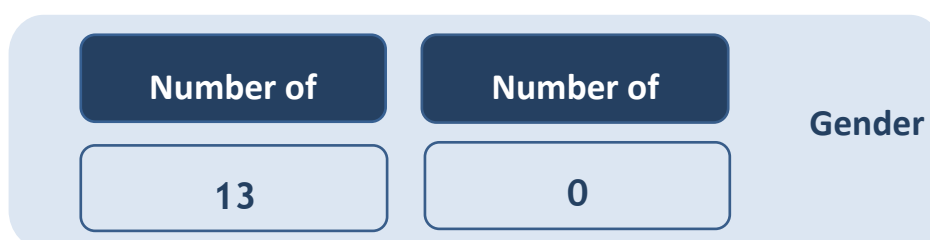
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to freedom of movement



A total of 13 complaints were received in 2024, the same number as in 2025, indicating relative stability in the number of complaints relating to this right. This may reflect consistency in the nature of the complaints or the level of awareness of the complaint mechanisms, whilst there remains a need to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure the promotion of the enjoyment of this right.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainants**

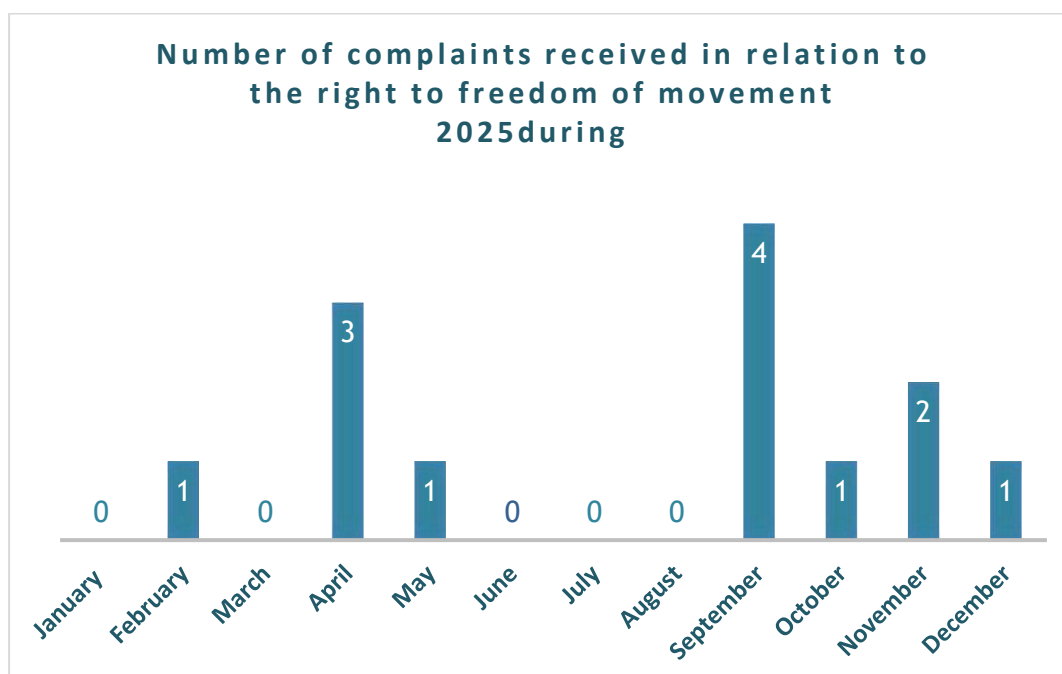


- **Subjects of complaints:**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to freedom of movement, totalling 13 complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Prohibition on travel outside the Kingdom of Bahrain for persons covered by the Royal Pardon, without stating the reasons.	2
Prohibition on travelling outside the Kingdom of Bahrain for individuals who had previously been detained in the Republic of	1

Yemen and released following the intervention of the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.	
A religious preacher has been barred from travelling outside the Kingdom of Bahrain without any reasons being given; he was due to deliver a religious sermon outside the Kingdom of Bahrain but was unable to do so because he received a call from the police station two days before his trip and was informed that he was barred from travelling without any reason being given.	1
A request to lift the travel ban on entry to certain Gulf Cooperation Council countries.	9
Total	13



- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined the complaints received and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.

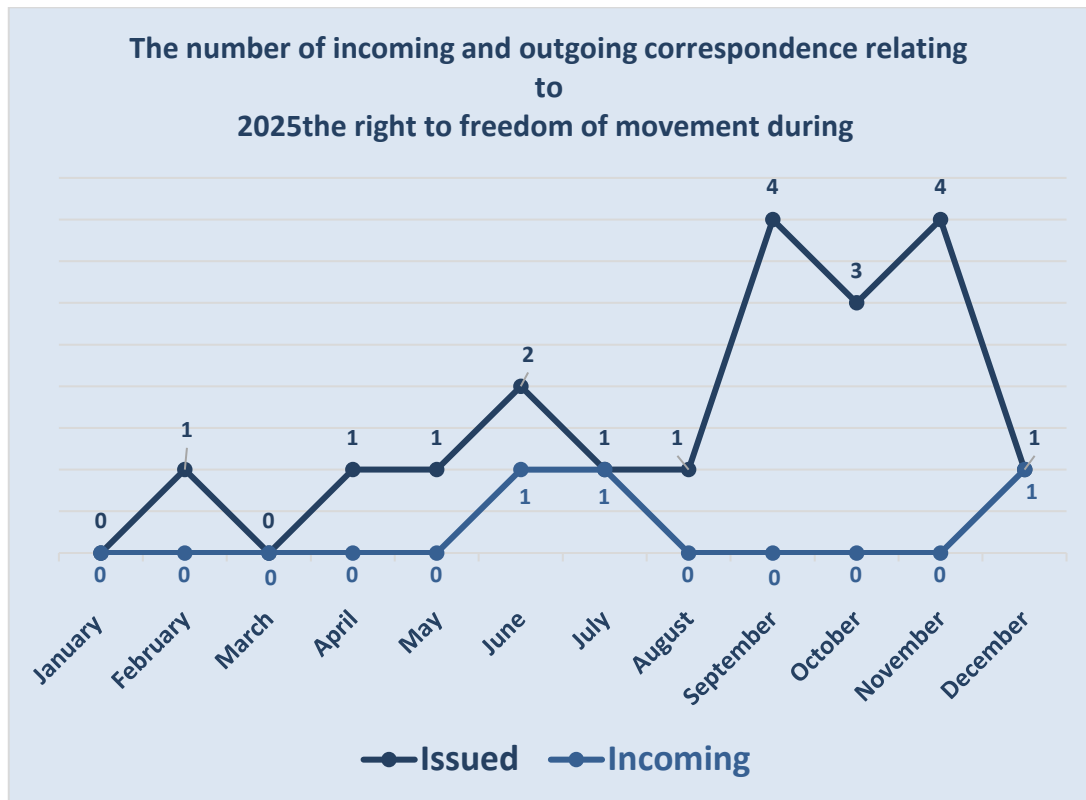
19

Replies received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.

3

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the NIHR and the competent authorities to address the complaints.

As part of the Organisation's commitment to strengthening mechanisms for receiving and following up on complaints, and to ensuring direct communication with complainants, the Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee met with two complainants who had lodged complaints relating to the right to freedom of movement, at their request, enabling the Organisation to follow up on their complaints with the relevant authorities.



Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its oversight role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to freedom of movement, the Commission, during the period covered by this report, wrote to the relevant authorities to verify the procedures taken in a number of cases concerning the right to freedom of movement, with the aim of assessing their compliance with relevant national legislation and international standards.

The NIHR sent a total of 17 letters to **the Ministry of the Interior**, as set out in the following table:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	Action taken
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3	Enquiry regarding the legal status of individuals covered by the royal pardon who are prohibited from travelling outside the Kingdom of Bahrain without any reasons being given.	The NIHR is following up on the responses with the relevant authority.
2	Enquiry regarding the legal status of individuals who were previously detained in the Republic of Yemen and released following the intervention of the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.	The NIHR is following up on the responses with the relevant authority.
1	Enquiry regarding the legal status of a religious preacher – who has been barred from travelling outside the Kingdom of Bahrain.	The NIHR is following up on the response.
11	Enquiry regarding the legal status of individuals who have requested the lifting of travel bans imposed by certain GCC states.	A response was received in two letters, stating that there are no security restrictions on the individuals in question and that coordination had taken place with one of the GCC states to ascertain the reasons for the ban, which revealed that no such ban exists; meanwhile, the NIHR is awaiting a response to nine letters.

The NIHR also wrote to **the Public Prosecution Service** in two letters, as follows:

Number of correspondence	Subject of the letter	Action taken
2	Enquiry regarding the legal status of individuals who had previously been detained in the Republic of Yemen and	A reply was received in one letter, stating that there was no order from the Public Prosecution

	subsequently released following the intervention of the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.	Service regarding a travel ban, whilst the NIHR is following up on the reply in one letter.
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It is clear from the above that the Organisation dealt with three incoming letters relating to requests or enquiries concerning freedom of movement; it followed up these cases with the relevant authorities, and the follow-up revealed that there was no evidence of any security-related restrictions imposed by the authorities.

The Commission also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirm the right of every person to freedom of movement and to choose their place of residence within the territory of their State, or to leave any country, including their own, emphasising that any restrictions imposed must be exceptional, specific and proportionate, and must not undermine the very essence of the right itself.

In parallel with this, the NIHR reviewed the national legislative frameworks, starting with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which guarantees freedom of movement and stipulates that this may only be restricted in accordance with clear and specific legal provisions. The NIHR also took into account the provisions of Law No. (11) of 1975 concerning the Bahraini passport, which establishes a legal framework governing procedures for leaving and returning to the country, specifying the circumstances and exceptions under which travel restrictions may be refused in accordance with the provisions of the law. It also reviewed the provisions of the Foreigners (Immigration and Residence) Act of 1965, which sets out the rules governing the entry and residence of foreigners within the territory of the Kingdom.

As part of its oversight role, the Commission continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to the right to freedom of movement after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons enjoy freedom of movement in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Commission concludes the following:

1. Overlap of jurisdiction between the relevant authorities:

In a number of cases, it has become apparent that travel ban decisions may involve more than one authority (security, judicial), without sufficient clarity regarding the competent authority or the coordination mechanism, which leads to complicated procedures and delays in their processing.

2. Lack of procedural clarity regarding the lifting of travel bans:

Some complainants encountered practical difficulties in identifying the procedures required to lift a travel ban or to follow up on their applications,

given the limited information available and the lack of standardised channels for enquiries.

3. The impact of the right to freedom of movement on other rights:

The NIHR noted cases where individuals were adversely affected by travel bans for humanitarian, religious or health reasons, which directly impacted the exercise of fundamental rights linked to freedom of movement.

4. The knock-on effect on other rights:

Some cases have shown that restrictions on freedom of movement may have repercussions on other rights, particularly in cases relating to humanitarian, religious or health-related purposes, necessitating due regard for the principle of proportionality when imposing any restrictions.

5. Stability in the number of complaints with continuing patterns:

The stability in the number of complaints (13 complaints during 2024 and 2025) reflects a relative stability in the number of complaints, whilst the same substantive patterns persist, indicating that the existing challenges are of a structural nature rather than being isolated, emergency cases.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the continuous development of sustainable mobility provision.

Requirement 12: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms, including requests to replace punishment with alternative penalties or measures, or to be placed in an open prison programme

Introduction:

This requirement addresses the analysis of complaints received through the institution's various channels, as well as monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities and related official responses, and details of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of compliance with national and international standards relating to the realisation of various rights and freedoms, as one of the rights complementing the five fundamental rights and their derivatives, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, which, taken together, aim to uphold human dignity and support the NIHRs of well-being and community development.

Furthermore, the substitution of punishment with alternative sanctions or measures is considered one of the modern approaches in criminal justice that seeks to promote the reform, rehabilitation and social reintegration of convicted persons, whilst preserving their human dignity and minimising the negative effects of custodial sentences. These measures include community service, house arrest at a specified location, a ban on visiting certain places, an undertaking not to approach specific individuals or entities, electronic monitoring, attendance at rehabilitation programmes, and redressing the harm caused by the

offence, in accordance with the applicable legal and regulatory controls within the framework of national legislation and international standards.¹⁰²

The Kingdom of Bahrain has launched the Open Prison Programme as one of the modern correctional models, whereby certain eligible inmates are permitted to leave the facility during daylight hours to work, study or engage in community integration, returning to the correctional facility at specified times, thereby contributing to their gradual reintegration into society.

In recent years, the restorative justice approach has seen notable development in the Kingdom of Bahrain, through the enactment and implementation of the Penal Code and Alternative Measures Act, and the expansion of open prison programmes, reflecting a legislative approach aimed at promoting human rights and striking a balance between deterrence, the protection of society and respect for human dignity. These initiatives have also contributed to enhancing the rehabilitation and social reintegration of convicted offenders, preserving family and social ties, reducing recidivism rates, and alleviating pressure on correctional and rehabilitation centres, as well as providing education, training and employment opportunities for beneficiaries¹⁰³. By the end of 2025, the number of beneficiaries of the alternative sanctions programme had reached approximately 10,195, thereby supporting their positive and effective reintegration into society¹⁰⁴.

In terms of financial resources, funds have been allocated to the Ministry of the Interior in the State's general budget for the financial years 2025–2026¹⁰⁵, as mentioned previously.

Despite these efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain, like other countries, faces a range of challenges associated with promoting and protecting various rights and freedoms, including those relating to the possibility of alternative sentencing or inclusion in open prison programmes, despite legislative, institutional and regulatory efforts. In light of the analysis of the data and the cases that have been monitored or dealt with, a number of relevant challenges have emerged, including:

- A lack of clarity regarding procedures and the competent authorities amongst some individuals, which may affect ease of access to services or the follow-up of cases relating to various rights and freedoms.
- Limited awareness amongst some beneficiaries of the rights and services available, particularly in areas relating to social security, housing, accommodation and rehabilitation services, which may limit their full benefit from the established programmes.
- The need to raise community awareness of the importance of alternative sanctions and measures, open prison programmes and their rehabilitative role,

¹⁰² For further information, visit [the website of the General Directorate for the Enforcement of Judgments and Alternative Sentences](#)

¹⁰³ For further information. [Rights of prisoners and detainees, e-Government website](#)

¹⁰⁴ For further information, [Security Media Centre](#)

¹⁰⁵ [Tables from the Law on the Adoption of the General Budget of the Kingdom of Bahrain 2025–2026.](#)

thereby helping to foster community acceptance of reintegration and rehabilitation policies.

- The importance of expanding the provision of training and employment opportunities, as well as psychological and social support, for the beneficiaries of these programmes, thereby contributing to the achievement of the objectives of reform and rehabilitation and reducing the likelihood of reoffending.
- The need to continue striking a balance between the requirements of protecting society and ensuring security, on the one hand, and promoting opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration and respect for human dignity, on the other, in accordance with legal safeguards and relevant standards.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, identified or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

It also identifies challenges associated with the enjoyment of rights and freedoms, including those relating to the possibility of alternative sentencing or inclusion in open prison programmes, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of these rights and ensure that all individuals enjoy them in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

Section I: International Standards and National Legislation

- Legal basis for the enjoyment of various rights and freedoms:

The enjoyment of various rights and freedoms in the Kingdom of Bahrain is based on a comprehensive system of international and national legal provisions. These rights encompass the five categories of fundamental rights—civil, political, economic, social and cultural—which, taken together, aim to safeguard the dignity of the individual and promote the well-being of society.

This commitment to rights embodies the principles enshrined in international instruments, foremost among which are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which emphasise the guarantee that individuals shall enjoy their rights without discrimination; a principle enshrined in the relevant national legislation, The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees these rights throughout its articles, recognising them as fundamental pillars in the building of the state.

- The legal basis for replacing imprisonment with alternative penalties or measures, or placement in an open prison programme:

The substitution of punishment with alternative sanctions or measures, or inclusion in an open prison programme, is based on a set of international human rights standards which emphasise the importance of adopting modern penal policies based on limiting the use of custodial sentences, and replacing them with non-custodial measures wherever possible, thereby

promoting the rehabilitation and social reintegration of those deprived of their liberty, in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), and the Nelson Mandela Rules ⁽¹⁰⁶⁾), which encourage the adoption of flexible and graduated detention systems, such as open prisons.

As for relevant national legislation, Law No. (18) of 2017 on Alternative Sentences and Measures was enacted, allowing for the replacement of custodial sentences with alternative sanctions in accordance with specific regulations, thereby helping to minimise the negative effects of custodial sentences and preserve family and social ties.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms – replacing imprisonment with alternative penalties or measures, or integrating various sections of society into the open prison programme.

Section II: Complaints Data

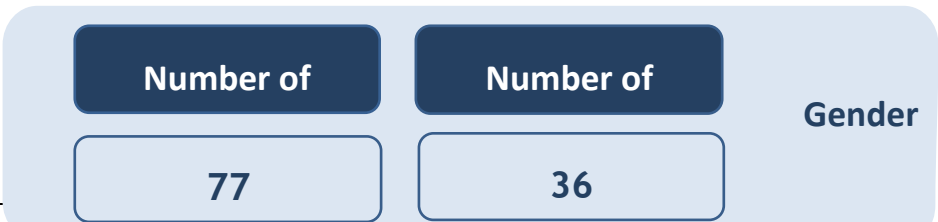
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms – the substitution of imprisonment with alternative penalties or measures, or inclusion in the open prison programme.



A total of 235 complaints were received in 2024, whilst 113 complaints were received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



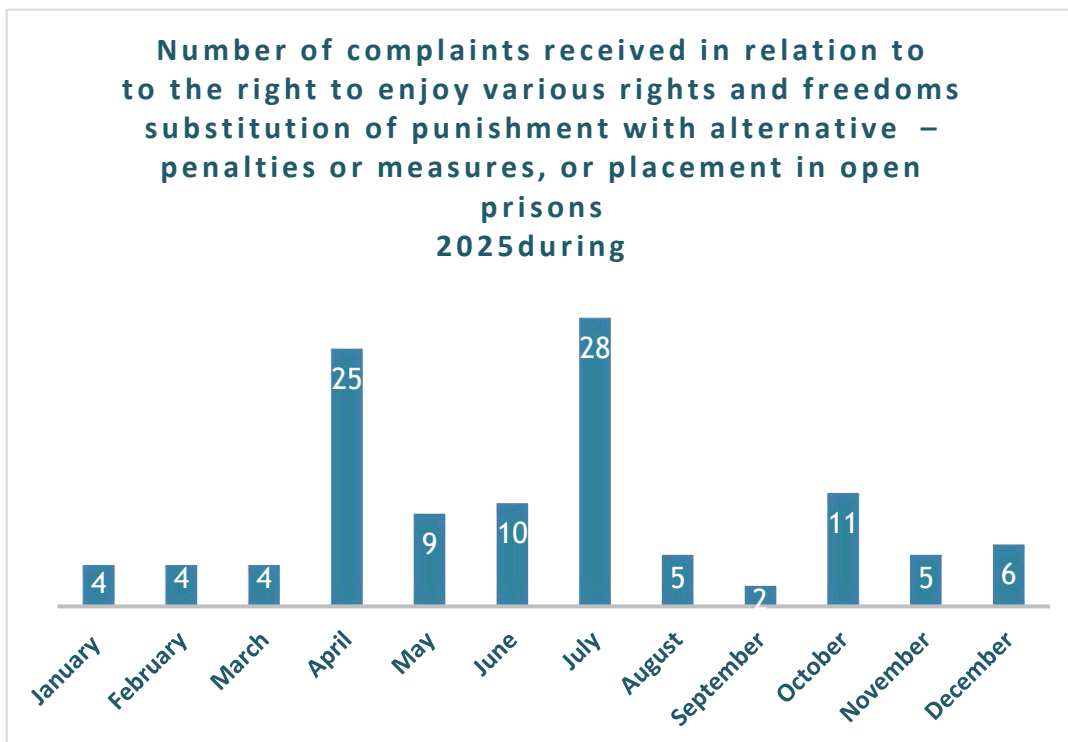
¹⁰⁶ United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), p. 26, Rule 78, which states that: “..., take the necessary measures to ensure the prisoner’s gradual reintegration into society, ..., through a system of preparation for release implemented within the prison itself or in another suitable institution, or through release on probation subject to supervision and monitoring not carried out by the police, and including effective social assistance”, and Rule (89/2) states that: “2. It is not necessary for every prisoner to be subject to the same level of security requirements as every other category; it is advisable for the levels of security to vary according to the needs of the different categories, Open prisons, by virtue of the fact that they do not erect physical security barriers to prevent escape, but rely instead on the prisoner’s own discipline, provide the most favourable conditions for the rehabilitation of carefully selected prisoners.”

- **Subjects of complaints:**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms – substitution of punishment with alternative penalties or measures, or inclusion in an open prison programme – totalling 112 complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Enquiries regarding the procedures for implementing a court order to issue an identity card	1
Consideration of family disputes	6
Review of a judgement issued by the competent courts	3
Find out how to lodge a complaint against a solicitor	1
Find out the procedures for renewing identity documents	1
Enquire about the legal status of a charitable organisation	2
Enquire about how to lodge a complaint against a public official	1
Facilitating the process for the wives of Bahraini citizens (who are foreign nationals) to obtain residence permits and visas allowing them to enter the Kingdom of Bahrain	2
Request for the return of a prisoner serving a sentence in one of the GCC states to the Kingdom of Bahrain to serve the remainder of his sentence.	1
Request to revoke an administrative deportation order issued against three foreign detainees and a foreign prisoner	4
A request for the return of a person's boat after it was seized by the security authorities.	1
A sailor was prevented from mooring his boat at the designated berth.	1
Offering a mortgaged property owned by a woman – comprising land and a house – for sale by public auction at a price exceeding the value of the debt secured against the property.	1
A foreign worker was not paid his wages for a period of three months after being unfairly dismissed by a private company, and his passport was also confiscated by his employer.	1
The amount allocated to a woman by the Ministry of Health's department responsible for overseas treatment programmes was	1

insufficient to cover transport costs as part of her specific treatment plan in one of the Gulf states.	
The management of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre did not allow the inmate to have a photograph taken for the renewal of his smart card.	1
Rejection of a settlement request submitted to the National Revenue Authority by the family of an inmate sentenced to three years' imprisonment pending a tax evasion case.	1
A person was unable to collect their passport (a replacement for a lost one) due to a lack of financial means to pay the prescribed fees for its issue, thereby preventing them from accessing social services and assistance.	1
Consideration of commuting the remainder of their sentences, or placing them in an open prison programme.	66
Consider including a number of inmates in the Royal Pardon.	16
Total	112



- **Response and follow-up:**

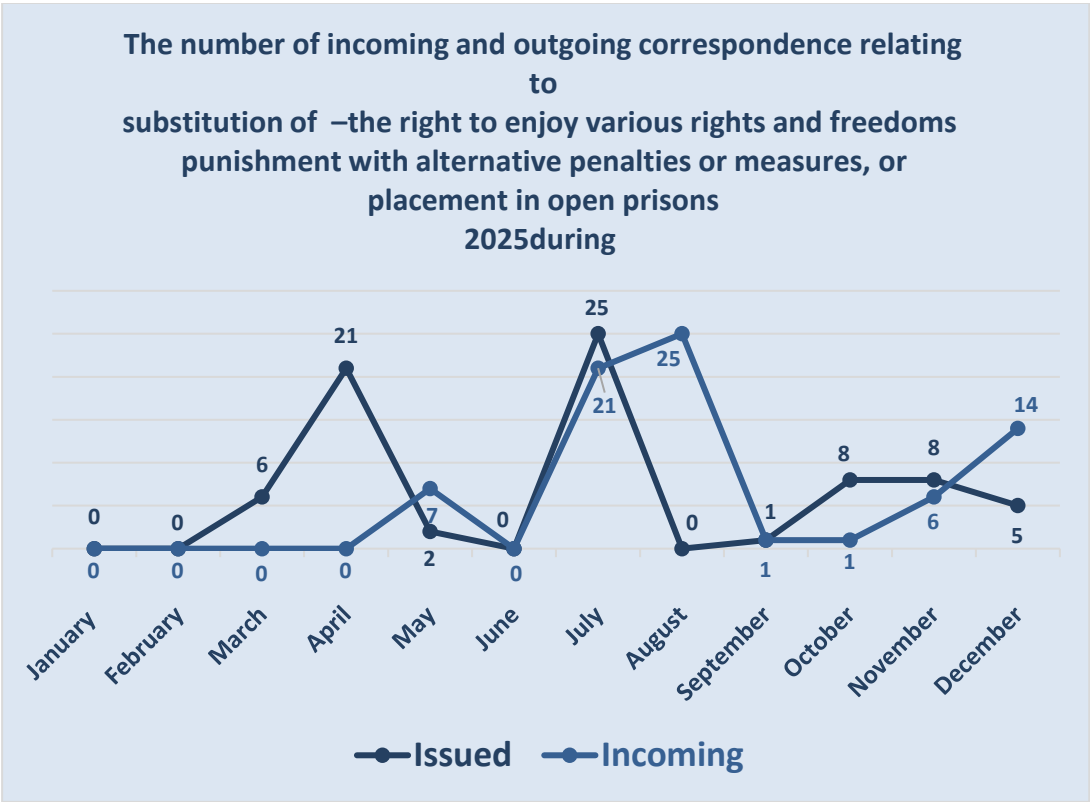
The Institution examined the complaints received and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. Following the preparation of a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with

them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	76
Replies received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	75

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the NIHR and the competent authorities to address the complaints.

As part of the Institution’s commitment to strengthening mechanisms for receiving and following up on complaints, and to ensuring direct communication with complainants, the Complaint, Monitoring & Follow-up Committee met with two complainants who had lodged complaints on behalf of two inmates regarding the replacement of their sentences with alternative penalties or measures, or their inclusion in the open prison programme, at their request, thereby enabling the Corporation to follow this up with the relevant authorities.



Section Three: Verification of Procedures and Handling of Complaints

As part of its oversight role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms – the substitution of sentences with alternative penalties or measures, or inclusion in open prisons, during the period

covered by this report, the Commission contacted the relevant authorities to verify the procedures taken in their regard, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which rights and freedoms are being upheld and whether sentences are being replaced with alternative penalties or measures, or whether prisoners are being transferred to open prisons, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR sent a total of 72 letters to **the Ministry of the Interior**, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
72	Consideration of commuting the remainder of their sentences, or placing them in an open prison programme.	The response to all letters stated that the requests had been referred to the relevant department at the Ministry of the Interior for consideration, and that the necessary measures would be taken regarding the possibility of replacing their original sentences with alternative sentences for some of them; the authority did not recommend replacing the sentences of some, whilst the replacement of sentences was implemented for others.

The Organisation also wrote to **the Ministry of Social Development** in one letter, as follows:

Number of correspondence	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Enquiry regarding the legal status of a charitable association	The response stated that the Ministry had observed the association carrying out activities in breach of the provisions of Article 9 of Decree-Law No. 21 of 2013 on the collection of funds for public purposes and its implementing regulations; accordingly, the Ministry had taken the necessary measures in this regard.

It is clear from the above that the organisation had written to the Ministry of Social Development to enquire about the legal status of a charitable association; follow-up revealed that the association had engaged in activities contrary to the law,

leading to the necessary legal measures being taken and the matter being referred to the courts.

As regards requests for the commutation of sentences, it has been established that the requests were referred to the relevant departments within the Ministry of the Interior for consideration, where the necessary measures were taken in respect of some of them, either by approving the commutation of the sentence to an alternative penalty, or by not recommending commutation in certain other cases, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions.

The Commission also verified the extent to which the procedures adopted by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), which emphasise the State's responsibility to provide essential services to persons deprived of their liberty, to ensure they enjoy rights and freedoms equivalent to those available in the community, and to expand the use of non-custodial alternatives in a manner that promotes rehabilitation and social reintegration.

In this context, through its monitoring of the cases of persons deprived of their liberty, the NIHR has observed that the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre has taken a number of measures reflecting this approach, including enabling one inmate to obtain a passport photograph through his family to complete the required procedures, thereby enabling him to successfully obtain an identity card, as well as handing over a bank card to a detainee to enable him to purchase his basic necessities.

Furthermore, based on the nature and content of certain complaints received or identified, the Organisation provided legal advice and guidance on the procedures to be followed in a number of cases, and advised them in accordance with the applicable provisions and laws, as required by each individual case.

In parallel, the NIHR reviewed the national legislative frameworks and examined the measures taken in light of the provisions of Law No. (18) of 2017 on penalties and alternative measures, in a manner that reflects the humanitarian dimension of penal policy and enhances opportunities for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of convicted persons.

As part of its monitoring role, the Organisation continues to follow up on any responses or developments received after the reporting period covered by this report, to ensure that the measures taken are in line with international standards, thereby guaranteeing that all individuals enjoy their various rights and freedoms, and to develop the penal system in the Kingdom of Bahrain in a manner that strikes a balance between law enforcement and the protection of human rights and dignity.

Section IV: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the NIHR concludes the following:

1. Lack of clarity regarding procedures amongst individuals:

It was observed from the cases reported that some individuals were unaware of the competent authorities and the procedures to be followed for submitting applications or complaints, whether in relation to the enforcement of sentences, the lodging of complaints or the monitoring of inmates' conditions. This leads to delays in their access to their rights and makes it difficult for them to pursue them.

2. Limited awareness of rights and available services:

It has been observed that some beneficiaries lack sufficient knowledge of their rights, particularly in the areas of social security, housing and residence, which leads to them failing to benefit from available services or to a disruption in those services.

3. The length of procedures involved in assessing applications for alternative sentences or transfer to open prisons, leading to delays in deciding on applications and the continued enforcement of custodial sentences.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of continuous development to ensure the sustainable provision of various rights and freedoms.

SECTION TWO: THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION IN CONDUCTING FIELD VISITS AND ATTENDING COURT HEARINGS

Based on the role entrusted to the Institution as set out in paragraph (g) of Article 12 of the Law establishing the Institution No. 26 of 2014, which stipulates that the Institution's powers include: **"to carry out announced and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation in correctional institutions, places of detention, labour camps, health and educational establishments, or any other public place suspected of being the site of human rights violations"**.

Accordingly, in 2025, the Commission carried out twenty (20) inspection visits to verify that human rights were being upheld in various contexts and circumstances and that no violations of these rights were taking place.

The National Institution also attended twenty (6) court hearings to ensure that fair trial guarantees were provided to defendants, attending a number of hearings in the lower criminal courts and a number of hearings in the higher criminal courts.

Accordingly, this report will review the National Institution's role in field visits in the first section, concluding with its role in attending court hearings in the second section.

Section 1

The National Institution's role in conducting field visits

Within the framework of this remit, the Institution has been keen to establish organised working mechanisms for conducting visits, ensuring the effectiveness and accuracy of field monitoring. This is achieved by forming specialised teams that visit the targeted sites, assess conditions first-hand, and document observations relating to human rights. The NIHR also seeks to hear from the various stakeholders, thereby enabling it to form an accurate picture of the prevailing conditions at first hand.

In light of the information and data gathered during these visits, the NIHR prepares detailed reports setting out the key findings, alongside practical recommendations aimed at addressing shortcomings and strengthening compliance with human rights standards.

In line with this, the number of field visits to centres under the Ministry of the Interior totalled 12, whilst the number of field visits to centres under the Ministry of Health and government hospitals totalled 4. There was one (1) visit to the Supreme Council for the Environment, two (2) visits to bodies affiliated with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, and one (1) visit to the Labour Complaints Department at the Ministry of Labour.

Section One: Field Visits

First: Field visits to centres affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior

The Organisation carried out 12 field visits to centres affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior, including 6 visits to the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre in the Joo area, 3 visits to the Remand Centre for Minors, and one visit to the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre for Female Inmates. It also carried out two visits to security directorates. The following is a summary of these visits and the procedures undertaken during them.

Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Action taken
Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre (Jaw)		
26 January 2025	A routine visit to review the procedures adopted for the implementation of disciplinary sanctions against inmates who have committed offences, as provided for in Article 56 of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority Law No. 18 of 2014, and Article (65) of Decision No. (31) of 2015 concerning the implementing regulations accompanying the aforementioned Act, and the extent to which these measures affect the other rights of inmates.	Meetings were held with the centre's management to examine the mechanism for applying disciplinary sanctions against inmates who have committed offences in accordance with Law No. 18 of 2024 on Correctional Institutions and its implementing regulations, the extent to which these measures affect the inmates' other rights, and the safeguards guaranteed to inmates, A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.
3 February 2025	A routine visit to ensure that inmates are guaranteed their rights as set out in national legislation and in accordance with international human rights standards	Meetings were held with the centre's management to assess the extent of compliance with laws guaranteeing human rights in accordance with recognised international standards. Meetings were also held with representatives from some of the centre's buildings, who put forward their observations and requests, which were

Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Action taken
		subsequently forwarded to the relevant authority.
20 March 2025	A routine visit was conducted to assess the general conditions of the inmates and to ensure that inmates belonging to the Ja'fari sect were able to practise their religious rites during the holy month of Ramadan.	A meeting was held with the centre's management to assess compliance with laws guaranteeing human rights in accordance with recognised international standards. The NIHR's delegation also conducted an inspection tour of the centre's facilities, entering buildings Nos. 12 and 4 to ensure that inmates were able to practise their religious rites to the fullest extent. The delegation met with some inmates who provided their comments and requests, which were subsequently forwarded to the relevant authority.
15 April 2025	Following complaints received by the NIHR from a group of relatives of inmates at the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre regarding poor living and health conditions at the centre.	A meeting was held with the centre's management to assess the extent of compliance with laws guaranteeing human rights in accordance with recognised international standards. A meeting was held with representatives of the inmates; their requests centred on living and health conditions at the centre, as well as other requests relating to proposals to expand the application of the Penal Code and alternative measures, and the open prison programme. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.

Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Action taken
9 September 2025	A routine visit to review the specialised educational initiative offered to inmates to enable them to complete their university studies.	A meeting was held with the centre's management to review the planned educational strategy and the logistical arrangements for implementing the initiative, including the technical and organisational aspects necessary to ensure the success of this programme. Meetings were also held with representatives from some of the buildings at the centre, who put forward their comments and requests, which were then forwarded to the relevant authority.
Pre-trial Detention Centre for Minors		
13 February 2025	A routine visit to review the procedures adopted for the implementation of disciplinary measures against inmates who have committed offences, as provided for in Article 56 of the Law on the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution No. 18 of 2014, and Article (65) of Decision No. (31) of 2015 concerning the implementing regulations accompanying the aforementioned Act, and the extent to which these procedures affect the other rights of inmates.	A meeting was held with the centre's management to examine the mechanism for applying disciplinary sanctions against inmates who have committed offences in accordance with Law No. (18) of 2024 on correctional institutions and its implementing regulations, the extent to which these measures affect the other rights of inmates, and the safeguards guaranteed to inmates. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the authority.
19 October 2025	A routine visit was conducted to assess the living conditions of inmates and to listen to their observations regarding conditions at the centre and	Meetings were held with the inmates; their requests centred on improving living conditions, allowing them to communicate with their families, and ensuring they continued to receive treatment and healthcare. A

Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Action taken
	the extent to which they are able to exercise their rights.	number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.
Centre for the Reform and Rehabilitation of Young Inmates		
19 October 2025	A routine visit to assess the living conditions of the inmates and to listen to their observations regarding their living conditions at the centre and the extent to which their rights are being upheld	We met with the inmates; their requests centred on improving living conditions, allowing them to communicate with their families, and ensuring they continue to receive treatment and healthcare. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.
Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre (Isa Town)		
29 September 2025	Following a request submitted to the organisation by one of the female inmates, who had a number of requests.	A meeting was held with the inmate, and her requests centred on improving her living conditions at the centre. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.

Visits relating to the relevant directorates		
Date of visit	Reason for the visit	What took place during the visit
King Fahd Bridge Police Directorate		
27 May 2025	A routine visit to monitor the human rights situation and to verify that detainees are guaranteed their established rights, whether	A meeting was held with the centre's management, and a site visit was conducted to inspect the centre's sections, facilities and the services provided to

Visits relating to the relevant directorates		
Date of visit	Reason for the visit	What took place during the visit
	before, during or after detention procedures.	detainees. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.
Coast Guard Detention Centre – Sitra Area		
1 July 2025	A routine visit to monitor the human rights situation and to verify that detainees are guaranteed their established rights, whether before, during or after detention procedures.	A meeting was held with the centre's management, and a site visit was conducted to inspect the centre's sections, facilities and the services provided to detainees. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.

Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Activities during the visit
Visits relating to the Ashura season 1447 AH Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre (Jaw)		
2 July 2025	A routine visit to assess the extent to which inmates are able to freely practise their religious rites, in line with international standards relating to the protection of the rights of inmates and detainees and ensuring they enjoy all their fundamental rights.	An inspection tour was conducted of the centre's facilities, and the delegation entered Building No. 2 to ensure that inmates were able to practise their religious rites to the fullest extent. The NIHR's delegation's visit coincided with the inmates' observance of their religious rites.

Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Activities during the visit
Visits relating to the Ashura season 1447 AH Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre (Jaw)		
		The delegation also met with some inmates who provided their comments and requests; these were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.

Secondly: Field visits to entities affiliated with the Ministry of Health – government hospitals

The NIHR carried out four field visits to centres affiliated with the Ministry of Health – government hospitals, comprising two visits to the Salmaniya Medical Complex, one visit to the Psychiatric Hospital, and one visit to the Bahrain National Multiple Sclerosis Centre. The following is a summary of these visits and the procedures carried out during them.

Facilities under the Ministry of Health – Government Hospitals		
Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Activities during the visit
Salmaniya Medical Complex (Accident and Emergency Department, Outpatient Department, and the Department of Haemolytic Anaemia ‘Sickle Cell’ – Men and Women)		
28 January 2025	A routine visit to assess the quality of services and the general conditions of patients and staff, to listen to their feedback, and to ensure that their rights, as guaranteed by national legislation and international human rights standards, are being upheld.	A number of patients, nurses and staff were met with to assess the quality of services; during the visit, patients’ views were sought and a number of observations and recommendations were noted, which were subsequently submitted to the relevant authority.

Facilities under the Ministry of Health – Government Hospitals		
Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Activities during the visit
3 December 2025	A routine visit was conducted to assess the quality of services provided to the public, review the general conditions of patients and staff, listen to their comments, and ensure that they are enjoying the rights guaranteed to them under national legislation and relevant international standards.	A meeting was held with the management of the Salmaniya Medical Complex, and an inspection tour was conducted to assess the quality of services. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.

Entities affiliated with the Ministry of Health – Government Hospitals		
Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Activities during the visit
Psychiatric Hospital		
29 April 2025	A routine visit to assess the quality of services provided to the public, review the general conditions of patients and staff, listen to their feedback, and ensure that their rights, as guaranteed by national legislation and international human rights standards, are being upheld.	A meeting was held with the hospital management, and an inspection tour was conducted of the facilities designated for the admission of patients in order to assess the quality of services and review the general conditions of patients and staff. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.
National Bank of Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Centre		
24 December 2025	A routine visit to assess the quality of services provided to the public, review the general conditions of patients and staff, listen to their feedback, and ensure that their rights, as guaranteed by national	A meeting was held with the centre's management, and an inspection tour was conducted of the facilities and departments to assess the quality of services provided to patients. A number of

Entities affiliated with the Ministry of Health – Government Hospitals		
Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Activities during the visit
	legislation and relevant international standards, are being upheld.	observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.

Third: Field visits to environmental agencies

The NIHR carried out one (1) field visit to environmental agencies, visiting the Wadi al-Bahir area to review the procedures and measures taken by the Supreme Council for the Environment to reduce environmental pollution and improve environmental conditions in the area. This visit was undertaken as part of the NIHR's commitment to ensuring that the observations and recommendations set out in its reports from previous visits to the area were being implemented. The following is a summary of that visit and the actions taken during it.

Date of the visit	Reason for the visit	Activities during the visit
Wadi al-Bahir area		
12 February 2025	A routine visit to review the procedures and measures taken by the Supreme Council for the Environment to reduce environmental pollution and improve environmental conditions in the Al-Bahir area.	A meeting was held with a representative of the Supreme Council for the Environment, during which the procedures and measures taken by the Council to reduce environmental pollution and improve environmental conditions in the Al-Bahir region were reviewed. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.

Fourth: Field visits to bodies affiliated with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority

The NIHR carried out two visits to bodies affiliated with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, visiting the Authority's headquarters and the Centre for the

Protection of Expatriate Workers in the Al-Sahla area. The following is a summary of these two visits and the actions taken during them.

Bodies affiliated with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority		
Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Activities during the visit
Labour Market Regulatory Authority headquarters		
4 December 2025	A routine visit to review the services provided to employers and migrant workers, to familiarise ourselves with the monitoring mechanisms and the measures taken to prevent any violations or potential exploitation of workers, to verify compliance with laws relating to the right to work, and to discuss the challenges facing workers in the labour market.	A meeting was held with the heads of departments at the Authority, during which the procedures provided to employers and migrant workers were reviewed, and the monitoring mechanisms and measures taken to prevent any violations or exploitation were examined. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the Authority.
Centre for the Protection of Expatriate Workers		
4 December 2025	A routine visit to review the services provided to employers and migrant workers, to familiarise ourselves with the monitoring mechanisms and measures taken to prevent any violations or potential exploitation of workers, to verify compliance with laws relating to the right to work, and to review the services provided by the Centre's Accommodation Department.	A meeting was held with the Director and representatives of the Centre to assess the quality of the services provided, and the delegation conducted an inspection tour of the Centre's facilities, during which the views of those interviewed were surveyed and recorded, and a number of general observations and recommendations were noted and submitted to the authority.

Fifth: Field visits to bodies affiliated with the Ministry of Labour

The Organisation conducted a field visit to bodies affiliated with the Ministry of Labour, including a visit to the Ministry's Labour Complaints Department. The following is a report on that visit and the procedures carried out during it.

Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Activities during the visit
Labour Complaints Department		
3 December 2025	Following a number of complaints received by the Organisation regarding the closure of jobseekers' files and the suspension of the payment of unemployment benefits or compensation for unfair dismissal.	A meeting was held with the heads of departments at the Ministry, during which the procedures for handling complaints received regarding the right to work were reviewed. An inspection tour of the facilities and departments was also conducted, and a number of jobseekers were interviewed to hear their views and comments on the services provided by the Ministry. A number of general observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.

Section Two: Analysis of the results of the field visits conducted by the NIHR

This section will present the results of the field visits carried out by the NIHR to a number of bodies, such as those affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Health, government hospitals and the Supreme Council for the Environment, as well as those affiliated with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and the Ministry of Labour, in terms of the recommendations, the agencies' responses, and a general analytical assessment in the light of relevant national legislation and international standards.

First: Bodies affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior

This section will address the analysis of the findings from the NIHR's field visits to centres under the Ministry of the Interior, where a total of twelve (12) inspection visits were carried out to assess the human rights situation and verify the extent

to which detainees or those in custody enjoy the rights guaranteed to them under relevant national legislation and international standards. All recommendations and the responses received will be summarised.

- **Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre (Jaw):**

The National Institution carried out six (6) field visits to the Inmate Reform and Rehabilitation Centre in the Joo area. Following these visits, the Institution issued twenty (20) recommendations, five (5) of which were repeated from previous visits. These are summarised below:

(a) General recommendations:

1. To explore the possibility of coordinating with the 'Tamkeen' Labour Fund to provide financial support to inmates during their university studies, by offering scholarships to cover the costs of books and educational materials, as well as providing them with electronic devices to enhance their learning opportunities.
2. Urge the Ministry of the Interior to draw up a clear operational plan covering (resources, teaching methods and assessment).
3. Examine the possibility of coordinating with the Ministry of Education to consider expanding the range of university specialisations in the future in line with the needs of the labour market.
4. It is essential to ensure that convenient and secure procedures are in place to enable inmates to communicate immediately with their legal representatives, whilst providing an environment that guarantees privacy and respect for both parties during the meeting, and ensuring that no obstacles or restrictions are imposed that might impede this right.
5. Make use of live broadcasts of funeral services authorised by the Ja'fari Endowments Administration via YouTube.
6. Consideration should be given to providing dedicated Islamic television channels during the nights of the holy month of Ramadan and on religious occasions.
7. It is important that the disciplinary sanctions form includes comprehensive and accurate documentation of disciplinary proceedings, and contains all the essential and necessary elements that guarantee the detainee's right to defend themselves.
8. The importance of reviewing the mechanism and limits of the application of solitary confinement in line with relevant international standards, and of avoiding the imposition of intermittent solitary confinement or the periodic re-imposition of solitary confinement, even if each individual period does not exceed the permitted limit, as continuous repetition can have the same negative effects as prolonged solitary confinement, which may raise concerns regarding the arbitrary application of the law and deviate from the intended purpose of the disciplinary sanction, namely to deter the convicted person.
9. It is essential to emphasise that there must be a standing committee for the imposition of disciplinary sanctions, appointed by the Minister of the Interior in accordance with Article 56 of the Correctional and Rehabilitation

Institution Act, and that disciplinary powers may only be delegated by a provision expressly authorising such delegation, as there is no provision in the Act permitting the delegation of disciplinary powers.

10. It must be emphasised that disciplinary sanctions must be distinguished from criminal offences, in accordance with Article 53 of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority Act.
11. Efforts must be made to raise awareness and provide ongoing training in human rights for members of the Public Security Forces who deal directly with inmates, in addition to providing awareness-raising courses for inmates aimed at enhancing their understanding of their rights and duties, and encouraging them to interact positively with the correctional environment; these courses should cover topics relating to mental health, social relationships, vocational rehabilitation and human rights.
12. The importance of ensuring that all inmates have access to the personal belongings they had in the buildings prior to transfer, or enabling them to purchase such items from the canteen.
13. The importance of providing sufficient clothing for each inmate, as well as providing personal hygiene items for each inmate individually, including razors.
14. Assess the condition of Building No. 2 and devise solutions to transfer inmates to another building and carry out maintenance work on it as quickly as possible.
15. Consideration should be given to providing clean beds and blankets for sleeping in both Buildings 2 and 3.

(b) Recommendations that were reiterated on several occasions, including the following:

- **Recommendations relating to the substitution of sentences or release:**
 - Urge the Ministry of the Interior to expand and increase the number of inmates benefiting from alternative sentencing programmes, open prisons and eligibility for royal pardons.
- **Recommendations regarding shackles:**
 - The importance of improving living conditions for all inmates, including allowing them sufficient time in the sun without shackles, whilst emphasising the need to completely prohibit the use of shackles in cases of solitary confinement.
 - Expanding rehabilitation programmes and sporting activities, and considering the possibility of opening up rooms within the buildings.
- **Recommendations regarding living conditions:**
 - Consider installing extractor fans in toilets, and ensure there is adequate lighting and ventilation in inmates' rooms.

- Consider inmates' complaints regarding the unreasonableness and affordability of prices in the inmates' shop.

(c) Follow-up on recommendations with the Ministry of the Interior:

The National Institution has written to the Ministry of the Interior regarding all these recommendations. The Ministry has reported that it has taken a number of measures in response to some of the recommendations; a large proportion of the Institution's recommendations have been addressed, whilst others remain under review and implementation. The Ministry has confirmed that it is continuing to work on them and will take the necessary action. The National Institution will continue to monitor the implementation of the remaining recommendations and ensure that the relevant procedures are completed.

The Ministry of the Interior's responses to these recommendations are as follows:

1. The General Directorate of Corrections and Rehabilitation ensures that all inmates are afforded all their rights as provided for by law. Article 48 of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Act stipulates: "A lawyer representing an inmate or a person in pre-trial detention in criminal or civil cases to which they are a party shall be permitted to meet with them in relation to those cases, in accordance with the procedures and regulations set out in the Implementing Regulations." This is further confirmed by Article 31 of the Implementing Regulations of the Correctional Institution Law, which states the following: "The centre's management shall permit the lawyer of an inmate or a person in pre-trial detention, whom the lawyer represents in any dispute to which the inmate or detainee is a party, to meet with them in relation to such disputes; the lawyer may be accompanied by an interpreter; the visit shall take place in full view of, but out of earshot of, the centre's management; and the director of the institution or his or her delegate shall determine the dates and durations of such meetings."

Accordingly, if an inmate wishes to instruct a lawyer, or if a lawyer offers to act on behalf of any inmate, the inmate or lawyer shall be enabled to complete these procedures. Furthermore, upon admission to a correctional centre, an inmate or a person in pre-trial detention shall be permitted to contact their family to inform them of their whereabouts, Foreign inmates are also permitted to contact their country's embassy or its diplomatic or consular representative.

2. The centre's management is constantly working to develop and improve the services provided to all inmates in line with relevant national and international human rights standards.

A number of measures have already been initiated to address some of the observations received, and work is underway to examine the other recommendations in detail in preparation for drawing up appropriate development plans.

3. The General Directorate for the Enforcement of Sentences and Alternative Penalties has reported that it has received a request to replace the sentences of 17 convicted persons with alternative penalties and will take the necessary measures regarding the possibility of these individuals benefiting from alternative penalties, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

4. Coordination will take place with the relevant parties in the Inmate Welfare Division to consider the possibility of organising a programme for those convicted of drug-related offences, subject to the centre's available resources.
5. The form for disciplinary sanctions in force at the centres of the General Administration for Corrections and Rehabilitation has been drawn up in a manner consistent with the relevant provisions, laws and regulations; it sets out all the procedures to be followed when applying the disciplinary sanctions provided for by law and includes all reports and statements relating to the incident under investigation, as the purpose of these disciplinary sanctions is to correct the behaviour of inmates who violate the applicable laws and regulations and to ensure peace and discipline within the centre, and not to infringe upon or undermine the rights of inmates.

The implementing regulations set out the types of offences for which disciplinary sanctions are imposed and their degrees of severity, provided that the sanction is proportionate to the offence and appropriate to the health circumstances of the inmate or remand prisoner; furthermore, these sanctions shall not be applied to inmates if they have not committed any breach of the applicable regulations and laws.

Furthermore, the provisions of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority Act and its implementing regulations stipulate that the application of disciplinary sanctions must be in accordance with the principles of legality and proportionality; this is the practice followed in the centres of the General Directorate of Corrections and Rehabilitation, where the inmate or remand prisoner is notified of the disciplinary decision by the Disciplinary Committee and has the right to review and appeal. This is guaranteed by the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act, where Article 53, in its second paragraph, stipulates the following: "An inmate held on remand may take legal action to appeal against disciplinary sanctions imposed on him by the Institution's administration, and may challenge criminal judgements issued against him through the various avenues of appeal."

6. Under the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act and its implementing regulations, the imposition of solitary confinement on inmates and detainees is subject to the decision of a committee chaired by the centre's director and comprising the legal officer and the officer responsible for inmate and detainee affairs, and not by an individual decision of any official. Furthermore, an inmate or detainee may lodge a complaint with the director of the institution, as the duration of solitary confinement shall not exceed seven days, in accordance with the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act and its implementing regulations; it should be noted that inmates retain all their fundamental rights whilst any disciplinary measure is being applied to them.
7. The General Directorate of Corrections and Rehabilitation devotes its full attention to the regular training of staff and involves officers and personnel in internal and external courses in accordance with the frameworks organised by the competent authorities within the Ministry of the Interior and other external bodies and organisations concerned with human rights and related matters. It also participates in and attends workshops organised by these bodies to raise awareness of their roles, with a view to enhancing theoretical and practical competence and skills.

Furthermore, the General Directorate of Reform and Rehabilitation deals responsibly with human rights issues; recognising the importance of advancing and promoting these principles, and of fostering and consolidating a culture of respect for human rights among staff at reform and rehabilitation centres, as well as safeguarding these rights, the General Directorate of Reform and Rehabilitation has fulfilled its role and taken several measures in this regard, organising numerous courses to reinforce this aspect.

8. The use of shackles is considered a temporary precautionary measure in accordance with the circumstances set out in Article 60 of the Reform and Rehabilitation Institution Act, the purpose of which is to ensure security, tranquillity and the safety of inmates and staff in general.
9. Article 56 of the Reform and Rehabilitation Authority Act relates to disciplinary sanctions imposed on an inmate in the event of any breach of the rules within the centre. However, Article 55 of the aforementioned Act addresses the Disciplinary Committee, which is further clarified in Article 67 of the Executive Regulations of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority Act, which stipulates: "A Disciplinary Committee shall be formed in each centre, chaired by the Head of the Centre, and comprising the Officer responsible for male inmates' affairs, or the Officer responsible for female inmates' affairs if the inmate or remand prisoner is a woman, and the Officer responsible for legal affairs."
10. Article 68 of the Executive Regulations of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act grants the centre director, or his or her delegate, the authority to impose disciplinary sanctions, as it provides: "The Director of the Centre or his or her delegate shall impose the disciplinary sanctions provided for in paragraphs (1) to (6) of Article 65 of these Regulations, and may impose the appropriate sanction from among those provided for in that Article to deter offences committed by remand prisoners."
11. A distinction is made between disciplinary sanctions and criminal acts. It is also worth noting that Article 53 of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act, in its first paragraph, provides as follows: "Any inmate or person held on remand who contravenes the provisions of the laws, regulations or rules in force within the institution shall be subject to disciplinary action; this measure shall not preclude the initiation of criminal proceedings in respect of acts constituting offences punishable by law."
12. There are ventilation fans in the toilets of the inmates' buildings; however, as inmates repeatedly tamper with them and connect electrical wires to them for unauthorised use, causing damage, they are serviced periodically by the centre's maintenance team. Furthermore, all buildings are ventilated via room windows, toilets or central air-conditioning vents.
13. Inmates serving sentences have been transferred to the refurbished wings in Building 12. The wings vacated by inmates will be maintained and cleaned by the relevant staff, and the building will be treated with insecticides and rodenticides.
14. Coordination and follow-up have taken place with those responsible for the inmates' shop, and a supply of goods and essentials has been provided to be sold equally to all inmates in the buildings without any discrimination; the

procedure for inmates to leave their cells to make purchases from the shop has been amended.

15. Inmates were transferred from Building No. 2 to Building No. 12 and from Building No. 3 to Building No. 5, where beds in good condition are available. Inmates are also permitted to exchange damaged blankets for new ones, and there is a system in place for the regular washing and cleaning of blankets in all blocks.
16. Coordination has taken place with the company contracted to provide meals, and meetings have been held with residents' representatives in all blocks. Agreement has been reached on the quality and quantity of meals and the method of
17. Numerous procedures and services provided to inmates have been developed in line with relevant national and international standards, reflecting our commitment to improving and providing the best possible care.

- **Pre-trial Detention Centre and Juvenile Centre:**

The National Institution carried out three (3) field visits to the Remand Centre for Juveniles, and following these visits, the Institution issued thirty-two (32) recommendations, which are summarised below:

(a) Recommendations:

1. Cooperate with the Ministry of Education to explore the possibility of providing vocational training within the centre.
2. Enable students to complete their examinations without interruption.
3. Provide the various tools and supplies required for studying and sitting examinations.
4. Coordinate with the Ministry of Education regarding the provision of video lectures to help students understand the subject matter and thus prepare effectively for their exams.
5. It is important to examine the reasons for the prolonged pre-trial detention of detainees, as keeping a detainee in custody for long periods whilst awaiting a verdict contravenes their right to liberty and to a speedy trial in criminal proceedings. This is contrary to the provisions of paragraph (c) of Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates that "Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall, in the determination of his case, on the basis of full equality, be entitled to the following minimum guarantees: 'to be tried without undue delay'".
6. Further measures should be taken to facilitate the appointment of legal counsel for detainees.
7. Ensure that all detainees are clearly informed of the complaints mechanisms in a language they understand.
8. Guarantee the right of all detainees to communicate with their families, particularly foreign nationals, and to inform their families of their place of detention immediately.

9. Work to update the database of contact details for detainees' families on a weekly basis.
10. Consider increasing the duration of contact to 90 minutes per week.
11. Implement specialised training programmes for law enforcement officials on dealing with detainees and applying human rights concepts and principles.
12. Provide useful books and newspapers, allow detainees to follow the news to stay in touch with the outside world, and provide simple forms of entertainment to improve their mental well-being.
13. Introduce educational or vocational activities, even if simple, and expand opportunities for positive interaction amongst inmates.
14. Appoint a permanent psychologist and social worker to meet with some detainees in private, listen to their grievances and help them change their behaviour for the better.
15. Provide specialised programmes for young people focusing on psychological and behavioural support.
16. Expand educational, sporting and awareness-raising activities, as well as reintegration programmes.
17. Regularly raise awareness of rights, duties and complaints procedures.
18. Implementing specialised training programmes for police officers on dealing with young people who have been convicted and are in detention.
19. The possibility of involving the National Human Rights Institution in the preparation of a practical guide on dealing with young people in accordance with human rights principles.
20. Work to improve relations between police officers and inmates, as this will have a positive impact on behaviour and discipline.
21. Recreational and educational programmes for inmates should be expanded, and personal skills and the desire to improve behaviour should be fostered.
22. The need to ensure that there is a standing committee to impose disciplinary sanctions, appointed by the Minister of the Interior, in accordance with Article 56 of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act.
23. Consider commissioning a study into the construction of a new remand centre, as the current building is dilapidated; furthermore, detainees are unable to take part in a variety of activities, practical training, skills development and various types of lectures.
24. Work to reduce overcrowding in cells and buildings by relocating remand facilities or carrying out general maintenance and refurbishment of the building as a whole to safeguard health and safety.
25. Efforts should be made to improve ventilation, clean the cells and ban smoking within detention facilities.

26. It is important to ensure that all bedding is provided and kept clean.
27. Stepping up daily cleaning and removing food waste to prevent the spread of insects.
28. Repairing water leaks and addressing drainage issues.
29. Consider developing a preventative maintenance plan for toilets and ventilation systems.
30. Implement a plan to control mosquitoes and insects, and ensure that insecticides are sprayed regularly.
31. Replace existing water coolers or replace their rusted tanks.
32. Increase medical staff numbers and ensure a rapid response to health issues; schedule appointments with specialist doctors; and monitor chronic conditions on a regular basis.

(b) Follow-up on recommendations with the Ministry of the Interior:

The NIHR has written to the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry has responded to some of these recommendations and taken concrete steps in this regard. However, no response has been received, nor has the implementation of certain other recommendations been followed up to date, as some of these require coordination with other relevant authorities. The National NIHR will continue to monitor the implementation of the remaining recommendations and ensure that the necessary procedures in this regard are completed. The Ministry of the Interior's responses to these recommendations are as follows:

1. Decisions on whether or not to extend detention are the responsibility of the competent judicial authorities. Coordination takes place with the relevant judicial bodies, and they are periodically provided with lists containing the names and details of detainees whose periods of detention have exceeded six months, to consider the possibility of expediting their trial proceedings.
2. Article 56 of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act relates to disciplinary sanctions imposed on an inmate in the event of any breach of rules within the centre; However, Article 55 of the aforementioned Act refers to the Disciplinary Committee, which is further clarified in Article 67 of the Executive Regulations of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act, which stipulates: "A Disciplinary Committee shall be formed in each centre, chaired by the head of the centre and comprising the officer responsible for inmates' affairs, or the officer responsible for female inmates' affairs if the inmate or remand prisoner is a woman, and the officer responsible for legal affairs."
3. The management of the Remand Centre, represented by the Head of the Remand Centre, submitted comprehensive and periodic reports on the deterioration of the infrastructure, which led to decisions being taken to construct new and modernised buildings that meet all requirements.

- **Coast Guard Detention Centre – Sitra Area:**

The Commission carried out one field visit to the Coast Guard Detention Centre – Sitra District, and following this visit, the Commission issued seven recommendations, which are summarised below:

(a) Recommendations:

1. Consideration should be given to designating a separate room for prayer.
2. Consider installing a complaints box or an information board explaining the procedure for lodging complaints and contacting supervisory bodies, such as the National Human Rights Institution and the General Secretariat for Grievances.
3. Consider carrying out comprehensive maintenance of the detention block, whilst also considering the provision of a common room for detainees equipped with a television as a form of entertainment to alleviate psychological stress and improve the detention environment.
4. Consider installing awnings and fencing around the yard designated for detainees, enabling them to get some sun and walk in the open air, in support of their physical and mental health.
5. Consider installing comprehensive CCTV cameras covering all the centre's facilities, including the cells, and replacing the glass mirrors in the bathrooms with unbreakable plastic mirrors, to ensure the physical safety of detainees.
6. Consider providing additional signs in more languages to ensure that the rights and duties of non-Arabic-speaking detainees are clearly explained, and display these signs prominently on the wall.
7. Consider the possibility of providing a concrete walkway linking the detention block to the road leading to the main centre building, to facilitate the internal movement of detainees and centre staff.

(b) Follow-up on the recommendations with the Ministry of the Interior:

The Organisation has written to the Ministry of the Interior regarding all these recommendations, and the Ministry's responses are as follows:

1. Detainees are entitled to practise their religious rites within their detention cells, provided that the duration of their detention does not exceed 48 hours.
2. Any detainee is provided with the contact details of human rights organisations, including the National Human Rights Institution.
3. Coordination is underway with the Ministry's Works Department to carry out comprehensive maintenance of the detention block, including all facilities.
4. Coordination is underway with the Works Department to provide a sunlit area in all detention facilities at the Ministry of the Interior.

5. Work is underway to install CCTV cameras in all areas of the detention centre. With regard to glass mirrors, the Ministry has established specific standards for the materials used in detention and holding facilities, which are being taken into account; mirrors are to be fitted to walls in such a way that they are difficult to remove, and shatterproof materials are to be used.
6. Work is underway to translate the list of detainees' rights and obligations into more than six languages.
7. Coordination is underway with the Ministry's Works Department to implement this.

- **King Fahd Bridge Police Directorate**

The Organisation carried out one site visit to the King Fahd Bridge Police Directorate, from which it issued four recommendations, summarised as follows:

(a) Recommendations:

1. Organise an introductory programme for officers and personnel of the Directorate on the principles of human rights in general and the remit of the National Human Rights Institution and the Child Rights Commissioner, by hosting them at the Institution.
2. Install a box or notice board at the Directorate providing information on how to submit complaints to the National Human Rights Institution.
3. To consider conducting a study on the construction of a new building or undertaking comprehensive and urgent maintenance of the centre, as the current building is very old and makes it difficult for the management to carry out its duties and perform its work to the fullest extent.
4. Consider the possibility of increasing the number of staff – officers and personnel – given the direct impact this would have on the quality of security services, the speed of response to various issues and situations encountered by passers-by, the effective performance of duties, and the protection of individuals' rights as guaranteed under national legislation.

(b) Follow-up on the recommendations with the Ministry of the Interior:

The NIHR has written to the Ministry of the Interior regarding all these recommendations; the Ministry has responded to some of them, whilst some other recommendations are still being followed up and implemented, as they require coordination with other relevant authorities. The National NIHR will continue to monitor the implementation of the remaining recommendations and ensure that the necessary procedures in this regard are completed. The Ministry of the Interior's response to these recommendations is as follows:

1. The Ministry of the Interior hopes that the NIHR will coordinate with the King Fahd Bridge Police Directorate to organise lectures on the topics outlined below:
 - An introductory programme on the principles of human rights in general.
 - The remit of the National Human Rights Institution.
 - Hosting the Commission's Child Rights Commissioner.

- Setting up a complaints box and notice boards explaining the procedure for submitting complaints to the National Human Rights Institution at the Directorate.
2. The Ministry has made significant progress in the field of human rights through the implementation of a range of activities in this area, in addition to organising workshops, awareness-raising seminars and training for law enforcement personnel, with more than a thousand Ministry staff having received training.
 3. Any detainee is provided with the contact details of human rights organisations, including the National Human Rights Institution.
 4. The building belongs to the King Fahd Bridge Authority, which is responsible for its maintenance; coordination will take place with them to assess the possibility of moving to a new building or carrying out comprehensive maintenance on the centre.
 5. A review of the Directorate's staffing levels is currently underway to assess actual requirements.
- **General analytical overview:**

Within the framework of the National Human Rights Institution's supervisory mandate, and based on the findings of field visits, including the objective observations made and the responses provided by the relevant authorities, this analytical review aims to assess the extent to which current practices at the centres visited comply with the requirements of national legislation and relevant international human rights standards.

Based on the findings of 12 inspection visits, the Commission concludes the following:

1. Infrastructure and conditions of detention:

The findings indicate that structural challenges persist in some facilities regarding the adequacy of infrastructure and conditions of detention, including overcrowding, the dilapidated state of some buildings, inadequate ventilation, and a shortage of certain basic supplies. Although measures have been taken to address some of these issues, the solutions remain partial in some cases, which calls for the adoption of more sustainable approaches based on long-term planning, ensuring a detention environment that complies with relevant international standards.

2. Legal safeguards and disciplinary accountability practices:

The Ministry's responses indicate the existence of a regulatory legal framework that safeguards the rights of inmates and detainees, particularly with regard to the right to a defence, access to lawyers, and the possibility of appealing against disciplinary decisions. However, there is a need to strengthen the practical safeguards for these rights, particularly with regard to the mechanisms for imposing disciplinary sanctions, ensuring their consistency with the principles of necessity and proportionality, and avoiding any practices that might lead to effects similar

to those of excessively restrictive sanctions, such as repeated solitary confinement.

3. Education, rehabilitation and reintegration services:

The data indicate that efforts are being made to provide educational and rehabilitation services within some centres; however, the scale and quality of the recommendations in this regard reflect a gap between the current situation and the desired requirements. This calls for strengthening institutional partnerships, expanding the scope of educational and vocational programmes, and providing the necessary resources, in order to support the objectives of rehabilitation and social reintegration in accordance with a human rights-based approach.

4. Fundamental rights and humanitarian considerations:

The findings of the visits emphasise the importance of strengthening safeguards to ensure the effective enjoyment of fundamental rights, including the right to communicate with the outside world, access information, and lodge complaints effectively. They also highlight the need to take into account vulnerable groups, such as minors and female prisoners, by adopting measures that take their psychological and social circumstances into account and ensure the preservation of family ties and the humanitarian considerations associated with them.

5. Level of response to the Commission's recommendations:

The Ministry of the Interior's responses reflect a mixed degree of compliance with the Commission's recommendations. Practical measures have been taken to address a number of recommendations, most notably the transfer of some inmates to more suitable facilities, the maintenance of a number of facilities, and the development of mechanisms to provide basic necessities within correctional and rehabilitation centres.

Conversely, other recommendations remain under consideration or in the process of being implemented, particularly those relating to the expansion of educational and rehabilitation programmes, comprehensive improvements to infrastructure, or those requiring coordination with multiple bodies such as the Ministry of Education.

Secondly: Facilities affiliated with government hospitals

This section will analyse the findings of the NIHR's field visits to centres affiliated with government hospitals, where four (4) inspection visits were carried out to assess the quality of services, the general conditions of patients and staff, to listen to their observations, and to verify the extent to which they enjoy the rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards. All recommendations and the responses received will be summarised.

- **Al-Salmānīyah Medical Complex:**

The NIHR carried out two (2) field visits to the Salmaniya Medical Complex and emerged from these visits with thirteen (13) recommendations, which are summarised below:

(a) Recommendations:

1. Work to increase the number of beds, triage rooms and treatment rooms in the A&E departments, in line with the actual demand for healthcare services, so as to ensure an urgent medical response to emergencies and reduce long waiting times.
2. Work to establish a clear mechanism for proactively informing patients and their families of the expected waiting time and the triage system in the A&E department – rather than only upon enquiry – whether via electronic display screens or information boards within the departments.
3. Work to ensure that sick children are separated from adults in A&E departments from the moment they enter the hospital, and increase the number of triage rooms and dedicated waiting areas for them, in accordance with the best interests of the child and to reduce the risk of them being exposed to infectious diseases.
4. Extend the working hours of the genetic haematology A&E department to 24 hours a day.
5. Open a dedicated emergency department for psychiatric patients.
6. Increase the number of car parking spaces for people with special needs and ensure these are free of charge.
7. Work to raise awareness amongst patients and visitors regarding the registration process and procedures for attending outpatient appointments.
8. Increase training programmes for medical students on the nature of work in the Department of Haematology.
9. Review the quality of medical equipment in use, particularly intravenous stands (IV stands), and replace those that need replacing.
10. Stepping up daily cleaning of the toilets in the A&E departments.
11. Develop and implement awareness and training programmes to raise awareness of thalassaemia and the importance of patients adhering to their prescribed treatment plans, as well as raising awareness of the risks to which healthcare workers may be exposed, particularly those relating to incidents of assault or violence from certain patients, whilst also enhancing the medical staff's skills in dealing with patients.
12. To examine the feasibility of operating the ward for women with hereditary blood disorders (Sickle Cell Disease) on a 24-hour basis, in accordance with actual need, in line with the practice in the men's ward, to ensure the principle of equality and non-discrimination between the sexes in access to specialised health services.
13. Pay greater attention to the general cleanliness of the women's haemolytic anaemia (Sikler) clinic, and require the contracted cleaning company to carry out its work correctly and as required under the contract.

(b) Follow-up on recommendations with government hospitals:

The Authority has written to government hospitals regarding all the above-mentioned recommendations, and all recommendations have been acknowledged. The responses from government hospitals are as follows:

1. The need to increase the number of triage rooms and waiting times will be assessed following the implementation of the health insurance scheme and the referral of non-Bahrainis for treatment in the private sector, as the burden on the A&E department is expected to decrease by at least 25 per cent.
2. Information boards explaining the system and waiting times for each triage level have been produced and are displayed in all triage rooms and waiting areas; patients are personally informed of their triage level and the expected waiting time.
3. Government hospitals have drawn up a training plan to include training for doctors and nurses in various specialisms, thereby increasing the workforce. They have also linked recruitment to the completion of training and the attainment of a specialist qualification supported by the Tamkeen Labour Fund; 100 doctors are currently undergoing training, and capacity will be increased to 200 this year by opening up opportunities for self-funding.
4. Government hospitals have added 44 beds to the women's unit for sickle cell anaemia and opened a new ward with a capacity of 22 beds, The Muharraq Private Healthcare Centre is also currently operational, and work is underway to admit long-stay patients whose treatment has been completed but whose families refuse to take them home, alongside other initiatives that will help provide additional beds. Furthermore, the future implementation of the health insurance scheme will help alleviate the pressure on the Salmaniya Medical Complex.
5. Work is currently underway on a new extension to the A&E department.
6. It is not possible to operate a 24-hour haemodynamic emergency department due to a shortage of medical staff; furthermore, extending the department's opening hours may not have a positive impact on the organisation of thalassaemia treatment.
7. The possibility of opening a psychiatric emergency department is currently being considered as part of the 2025 plan.
8. The company will be approached to increase the number of parking spaces for people with special needs; please note that spaces allocated for people with special needs are subject to a 50% discount and cannot be provided free of charge.
9. Reminders are being sent via text message to each patient, and clear guidelines are currently being drawn up.
14. We will explore the possibility of increasing training programmes for medical students on the nature of work in the Department of Haematology and Genetic Disorders, in collaboration with local universities.

10. Awareness-raising activities are carried out in health centres, during pre-marital check-ups and in schools through the Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Health.
11. Psychological and social support and awareness programmes are available, as is pain management. These incidents of violence are caused by withdrawal symptoms from narcotic drugs, one manifestation of which is aggression, whereby the patient insists on requesting additional doses of medication contrary to the approved medical protocol. These limited cases are managed through psychological and social assessment, and the necessary measures are taken.
12. The cleaning contractor has been changed and the situation has improved significantly; we have not received any complaints since the change.
13. A request has been submitted to upgrade all medical equipment within the 25–26 budget.

- **Psychiatric Hospital:**

The organisation carried out one site visit to the Psychiatric Hospital and emerged from that visit with 12 recommendations, which we summarise as follows:

(a) Recommendations:

1. Work to increase the number of nursing staff, consultant doctors, resident doctors and psychiatrists in all departments in line with the building's capacity, in order to improve the quality and efficiency of the services provided and ensure the hospital's complete independence.
2. Examine the possibility of making the Psychiatric Hospital an administratively and financially independent unit.
3. Work to increase the number of male nursing staff in the geriatric ward.
4. Work towards ensuring that medical staff are available in government departments to assess cases that do not require hospitalisation.
5. Work to ensure the prompt maintenance of all buildings and to increase the number of beds in rooms to accommodate a larger number of patients requiring hospitalisation, whilst ensuring that forensic patients are not mixed with other patients.
6. Work to provide a suitable waiting area for children.
7. Work to improve the standard of the building, particularly with regard to general cleanliness in the toilets.
8. Work to provide a suitable and well-equipped outdoor area (garden) for the recreation of residents.
9. Work to increase training courses for medical staff.
10. Work to increase the range of activity and therapeutic programmes for patients.
11. Work towards establishing a facial recognition system linked to digital identification.

12. Work to provide well-organised outdoor areas suitable for both summer and winter, possibly on the upper floor of the sports hall.

(b) Follow-up on recommendations with government hospitals:

The NIHR has written to government hospitals regarding all the recommendations mentioned above; all recommendations have been acknowledged, and the responses from government hospitals are as follows:

1. Work is currently underway to update the hospital's organisational structure in coordination with the Civil Service Commission to allow for an increase in the number of nursing and medical staff and auxiliary medical roles; this is currently in the process of being approved. Although the current nurse-to-patient ratio complies with approved standards – with five male nurses, five female nurses and male medical support staff currently in post – however, efforts will be made to increase the recruitment of male nurses as much as possible once the staffing structures are approved and vacancies become available.
2. Discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Social Development regarding the possibility of having medical staff in government departments to assess cases that do not require admission to the psychiatric hospital.
3. All hospital buildings have been included in the development plan, and the latest developments are as follows:
 - **Ibn al-Nafis Building:** A study of the building's requirements has been completed and the necessary budget has been determined; approval is currently being sought from the Ministry of Finance and National Economy to commence maintenance works by the Ministry of Public Works.
 - **Comprehensive maintenance of the remaining buildings at the Psychiatric Hospital:** A study of the current condition of the buildings has been completed and maintenance requirements identified; work is currently underway to prepare an implementation plan and determine the required budget by the Ministry of Works.
 - The number of beds in each room has been determined in accordance with safety and infection control standards. Coordination is currently underway to transfer long-stay patients to the Muharraaq Hospital for the Elderly, which has a capacity of 103 beds; this will enable the hospital to admit a larger number of patients and allow for the separation of forensic patients from other patients.
4. In accordance with the established renewal and development plan, a project to renovate the paediatric unit has been included in the plan. It will be implemented by the Nasser Charitable Organisation, affiliated with the Ministry of Youth Affairs, and will involve fitting out and equipping a dedicated children's waiting area within the unit that complies with environmental and psychological standards appropriate to their age group. A provisional start date for the project has been set for September 2025.

5. In view of certain shortcomings observed in the standard of cleaning services provided by the previous contractor over the past period, a new company has been contracted with the aim of improving general hygiene standards and enhancing the working and healthcare environment in line with approved standards, . The company commenced operations at the hospital in May 2025, and has brought about a significant improvement in standards of cleanliness.
6. Children: There is already a garden next to the paediatric unit, designed to be a safe and suitable environment specifically for young patients. Discussions are currently underway with the donor organisation to explore the possibility of refurbishing the garden to ensure it continues to be used to its full potential.
7. Adults: A number of recreational and rehabilitative activities are organised in the hospital's outdoor areas and in the gym, under the supervision of the Occupational Therapy Unit. Weekly recreational outings are also organised for residents, contributing to the psychological and social well-being of patients as part of the comprehensive care plan.
8. Staff training and development are among the top priorities; doctors are sent annually to internal training programmes, such as the Arab and Saudi Board examinations, and to external programmes, such as fellowship schemes. They are also sent to attend specialised conferences, seminars and workshops both domestically and abroad, in accordance with a pre-determined training programme for each department and division. Coordination is currently underway with the University of Bahrain regarding the launch of a Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing at the College of Health Sciences.
9. The mechanism currently in place at the Psychiatric Hospital – and also followed in all government hospitals – relies on matching the patient's photograph on the smart card with the person actually present whilst the service is being provided. Specialist staff verify the identity and match the photograph directly to ensure accurate identification and avoid any errors in reception or service delivery; however, the proposal is worthy of study and further investigation.
10. Motor, functional and recreational activities are among the cornerstones of the hospital's rehabilitation programmes, and their implementation is overseen by the Rehabilitation Services Department, which achieved an accreditation rating of 99 out of 100 from the National Health Regulator Authority (NHRA) for the year 2025.

These activities aim to:

- promote mental health;
- Improve social interaction.
- Develop patients' motor and functional skills.
- They are carried out based on an individual assessment of the patient's condition, a medical referral, and ongoing coordination with nursing and medical staff.

The venues for these activities include:

- Exercise rooms.
- The multi-purpose hall.
- The outdoor walkway.
- Activity rooms within the wards
- Outdoor leisure facilities.

Classification of activities:

- Physical: exercise, group walks, positive energy programmes.
- Functional: creative workshops, vocational training, occupational therapy.
- Recreational: watching films and plays, group games, outings.

The hospital is committed to continuously developing these programmes to ensure a holistic therapeutic environment that promotes patients' integration into society and improves their psychological and social quality of life.

11. There are currently designated outdoor areas that are used during periods of mild weather, and these are incorporated into the daily and recreational activities organised by the Occupational Therapy Unit. As for the sports hall building, it consists of a ground floor only and does not have an upper floor that could be used for this purpose. During the summer months, when temperatures rise, arrangements are made to organise programmes and activities in enclosed, air-conditioned indoor spaces to ensure patients' safety and prevent them from being exposed to strong sunlight.
12. The Psychiatric Hospital enjoys administrative autonomy, as it is managed semi-independently; however, under the Health Insurance Act and the regulations and decisions governing the financial and administrative affairs of government hospitals and their affiliated institutions as a single entity, it is difficult to grant the hospital financial and administrative independence from government hospitals at present.

- **National Bank of Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Centre:**

The Organisation carried out one on-site visit to the National Bank of Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Centre and emerged from that visit with five recommendations, which are summarised below:

(a) Recommendations:

2. Expedite the completion of the necessary regulatory and administrative procedures to provide a short-stay service at the National Bank of Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Centre, thereby enabling it to manage cases requiring temporary medical supervision and alleviating the burden on the Salmaniya Medical Complex.

3. To better ensure the sustained quality of services provided to patients, consideration should be given to balancing the continuous increase in patient numbers with the numbers of medical, nursing and technical staff at the Centre.
4. Consideration should be given to taking the necessary measures to ensure the regular supply of medicines and treatments for multiple sclerosis and to avoid any delays in their dispensing, given the direct impact this has on the stability of patients' health.
5. Consider providing additional channels for receiving patients' complaints and feedback within the building, alongside electronic channels, to ensure ease of access for all groups, particularly the elderly or those facing technical difficulties.
6. Continue to organise and implement awareness and educational programmes on multiple sclerosis, whilst expanding their scope to reach a wider section of society, thereby promoting early detection and raising health awareness.

(b) Follow-up on recommendations with government hospitals:

The NIHR has written to government hospitals regarding all these recommendations, and the responses from government hospitals are as follows:

1. A short-stay ward has been opened at the centre and the service has been made available to all multiple sclerosis patients since 25 February 2026. The centre has been admitting cases requiring regular intravenous medication to ensure that patients do not miss their scheduled treatment and to alleviate pressure on services at Salmaniya Hospital.
2. Government hospitals agree with the recommendation to ensure a balance between the continuous increase in patient numbers and the numbers of medical, nursing and technical staff at the centre; this will be implemented once the necessary operating budgets are made available.
3. Government hospitals are working to ensure the availability of medicines and prevent any shortages; however, delays occur only in new cases, which must undergo procedures to ensure they meet the required standards before treatment can begin – particularly those referred from other sectors. Furthermore, these medicines are not stockpiled for general availability like other medicines, as they are ordered on a case-by-case basis. In general, procedures have now been streamlined by government hospitals and by the Medicines Committee of the Supreme Health Council.
4. Complaints are received via the Tawasul platform, which is user-friendly and ensures monitoring, a swift response and follow-up, in line with government policy and guidelines. There is no need to set up a complaints box, as this outdated mechanism does not guarantee monitoring or follow-up, and we have not received any complaints regarding patients' inability to use the Tawasul platform, given that none of our patients are elderly; complaints can also be submitted directly to the reception desk.

5. A team from the centre visited a number of state schools in Bahrain to provide information about the disease and its symptoms, with the aim of raising awareness amongst the age group most at risk of contracting the disease. Coordination is currently underway with the Multiple Sclerosis Society to expand the scope of this awareness campaign.

- **General analytical review:**

Within the framework of the National Human Rights Institution's supervisory mandate, and based on the findings of field visits to centres affiliated with public hospitals, this analytical review aims to highlight the key observations and challenges identified, assess the level of response to the recommendations issued, and evaluate the extent to which this impacts the quality of healthcare services and ensures that patients enjoy their rights in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

Based on the findings of four inspection visits, which included the Salmaniya Medical Complex, the Psychiatric Hospital and the National Bank of Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Centre, the Commission has concluded the following:

- 1. Quality of services and capacity:**

The findings indicate varying challenges relating to pressure on health services, particularly in A&E departments and certain specialist departments, including a shortage of beds, long waiting times, and the need to increase capacity. Conversely, the findings show that government hospitals are taking practical steps to increase the number of beds and expand certain departments, reflecting a gradual trend towards improving operational readiness, although implementation still needs to be accelerated to ensure a more efficient response to growing healthcare needs.

- 2. Human resources and medical specialities:**

The data indicate a continuing need to strengthen medical, nursing and technical staff in a number of centres, particularly in specialised fields and high-demand services such as psychiatry and haematological disorders. Although training, recruitment and scholarship programmes are in place, a gap remains between actual needs and available resources. This calls for accelerating the pace of recruitment and aligning it with actual operational requirements to ensure the sustainability of service quality.

- 3. Regulatory and administrative safeguards for services:**

The responses received indicate the existence of approved regulatory frameworks and administrative procedures for the management of health services, including the organisation of workflows, the definition of service delivery mechanisms, and the regulation of operational procedures relating to patients' rights. In this context, a number of modern mechanisms are being implemented, including verifying patients' identities using electronic systems and smart cards, organising appointments via digital channels and

text messages, and providing channels for receiving complaints and feedback through approved online platforms.

4. Infrastructure and the treatment environment:

The findings of the visits confirm the continuing need to improve infrastructure in a number of facilities, including maintenance, upgrading of equipment, improving general hygiene, and providing a suitable treatment environment in terms of privacy and safety. Conversely, the responses indicate that development and maintenance projects are underway, with tangible improvements already evident at some sites; however, the overall impact of these interventions is still being assessed on the ground.

5. Patients' rights and humanitarian aspects:

The importance of strengthening the humanitarian aspects of healthcare provision is highlighted, particularly with regard to patient privacy, the separation of age groups, and the provision of suitable environments for children and psychiatric patients, in addition to support for therapeutic and recreational activities. Efforts in this regard have been observed, particularly in the field of rehabilitation programmes and psychosocial activities; however, there remains a need to strengthen these in a more systematic and comprehensive manner.

6. Level of response to the recommendations:

The responses received from government hospitals reflect a mixed level of compliance with the recommendations issued by the NIHR, with a number of recommendations having been effectively implemented, such as the expansion of certain wards, improvements to cleaning services, and the development of certain organisational procedures. Conversely, other recommendations remain under consideration or are contingent upon the availability of budgets or coordination between the relevant authorities, indicating challenges related to the implementation framework and the provision of necessary resources.

Thirdly: Bodies affiliated with the Supreme Council for the Environment:

- **Wadi al-Bahir area:**

The NIHR carried out a field visit to the Wadi al-Bahir area, which resulted in eight recommendations that it is continuing to follow up with the Supreme Council for the Environment, as follows:

1. To consider enacting legislation aimed at protecting the biological environment and preventing activities that may harm the area's natural ecosystem.
2. To designate the area as a nature reserve, in order to provide legal protection and ensure the conservation of the area's biodiversity and ecosystem.
3. The importance of installing clear warning signs to protect residents from the risk of falling from the top of the valley.

4. Organising awareness campaigns and educational programmes for the local community on the importance of preserving the biological environment and adopting environmentally friendly practices.
5. Encouraging cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organisations, environmental experts and the local community to work together to achieve the objectives of conserving the natural environment in Wadi al-Bahir and other nature reserves.
6. Support and fund scientific research aimed at studying and developing sustainable methods for conserving biodiversity in the region, and provide the information necessary for making appropriate environmental decisions.
7. Draw up urban development plans that take into account the conservation of natural environments and environmental resources, and ensure that new projects comply with sustainable environmental standards.
8. Implementing effective waste management systems to keep the region clean and prevent pollution, and ensuring the safe disposal of waste and harmful chemicals.

Fourth: Bodies affiliated with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority:

An analysis will be provided of the findings from the field visits carried out by the organisation to centres affiliated with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, where two inspection visits were conducted to review the services provided to employers and migrant workers, and to familiarise ourselves with the monitoring mechanisms and procedures in place to prevent any violations or potential exploitation of workers, as well as to verify compliance with laws relating to the right to work. All recommendations and the responses received will be summarised.

- **Centre for the Protection of Migrant Workers (Al-Sahla):**

The Organisation carried out one field visit to the Centre for the Protection of Migrant Workers and, following that visit, issued six recommendations, which are summarised below:

(a) Recommendations:

1. Work to intensify awareness programmes aimed at migrant workers, in various languages, enabling them to understand their legal rights and obligations from the outset of the employment relationship, in line with the requirements of international labour instruments, thereby helping to prevent labour disputes before they arise and reinforcing the principle of prevention in the context of combating human trafficking.
2. Expand the use of digital tools and smart applications to facilitate the submission and follow-up of complaints, particularly for workers who face difficulties in attending in person, in line with the principles of non-discrimination and equal access to services.

3. Continue to develop specialised training programmes for the Centre's staff, particularly in the areas of human rights, dealing with victims of exploitation and human trafficking, forced labour, and psychosocial support, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the national response.
4. Continue to foster a culture of reporting violations by emphasising the confidentiality of complaints and the protection of whistleblowers, and by ensuring that reporting procedures are accessible, thereby encouraging workers and employers to report any violations or disputes at an early stage without fear, which will help to address them at an early stage and protect the rights of all parties. This is in line with data protection and confidentiality standards in cases of human trafficking.
5. Working to expand partnerships with embassies, communities and relevant international organisations to enhance access to migrant workers and support protection programmes, draw on international best practices, and raise awareness of the services provided by the Centre.
6. Improve and facilitate access to the Centre by coordinating with the relevant authorities regarding the operation of public transport routes to the Centre or to an area in its immediate vicinity.

(b) Follow-up on recommendations with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority:

The NIHR has written to the Labour Market Regulatory Authority regarding all these recommendations, and the Authority's responses are as follows:

1. The Centre for the Protection of Migrant Workers plays an awareness-raising role regarding the rights and obligations of both parties to the employment relationship; this forms part of the case management process, particularly in cases received by the Centre for the purpose of enquiries and consultations, the number of which has reached (47,403) since 2018. The Authority has also launched a guidance programme specifically for employers of domestic workers, in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration and the International Labour Organisation. The programme aims to raise awareness of the fundamental rights and responsibilities of both parties to the employment relationship, through interactive face-to-face sessions supported by a guide containing all the essential information an employer may need, in both Arabic and English. The booklets are available on the official website of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, thereby helping to broaden access to them, raise awareness and support compliance with applicable laws, regulations and procedures.

Another orientation programme for domestic workers has also been launched upon their arrival in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration, aimed at enhancing workers' understanding of their rights and duties, and enabling them to familiarise themselves with the services available to them in the Kingdom. The programme includes interactive training sessions delivered by accredited trainers, based on a specialised training manual in line with

international best practices. This manual is also available on the official website of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, and work is currently underway to provide the handbook in multiple languages targeted at domestic workers, with the aim of facilitating access to information and ensuring its clarity and comprehensibility, and to raise awareness of their rights and duties.

Multilingual awareness materials were produced as part of the 'Working Together' campaign. The awareness materials developed covered a number of key topics in several languages (up to ten languages), including the Labour Market Regulatory Authority's support for workers and employers, raising awareness of the crime of human trafficking, clarifying rights and duties in the workplace, raising awareness of the importance of mental health, highlighting rights, responsibilities and financial entitlements, emphasising the importance of retaining personal documents as part of an individual's identity, explaining how to access healthcare services, and providing an overview of the Registered Employment Programme. In addition, this information is made available on the Authority's website and circulated to diplomatic missions and relevant civil society organisations, thereby helping to broaden access to information, enhance community awareness, and support compliance with applicable regulations and legislation across various sectors of society.

Furthermore, the Authority organised and participated in 40 awareness-raising campaigns, attended by more than 3,500 participants from various organisations and community groups, including public and private sector bodies, diplomatic missions of labour-sending countries, civil society organisations, and migrant worker groups. The workshops addressed the rights and obligations of migrant workers and employers, the fight against human trafficking, and the national referral mechanism.

2. The Centre for the Protection of Migrant Workers plays a key role in identifying indicators of human trafficking and exploitation in the workplace, and in identifying victims and potential victims by receiving complaints and grievances related to and arising from employment relationships. This therefore requires the workers to attend in person for initial interviews, during which their accounts are heard in detail, often with the assistance of interpreters (14 languages available). The process of detection and identification is linked to the workers' physical appearance, manner of speech and psychological state, and subsequently determining the appropriate course of action according to the circumstances of each case within the national referral system, and across the Centre's various departments, particularly in cases requiring rapid intervention, or where accommodation is needed, as direct communication is considered best practice in this regard. Furthermore, the workers' in-person attendance addresses a range of challenges they face, including a lack of knowledge of procedures, insufficient awareness of them, and language barriers, particularly as the majority of them tend to have low levels of education.

Nevertheless, the Authority is working to explore suitable digital solutions for receiving complaints, in line with the nature of the services provided by the Expatriate Workers Protection Centre.

3. All heads of departments at the Expatriate Labour Protection Centre hold a specialised diploma in combating human trafficking from the Dubai Judicial Institute, as do a number of staff members in those departments. In addition, they are certified trainers accredited by the Regional Centre for Training and Capacity Building to Combat Human Trafficking at the Labour Market Regulatory Authority. They have been trained in accordance with accredited curricula developed in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration (train-the-trainer skills; key concepts and prevalent patterns of human trafficking; legal frameworks; trauma, abuse and victims of trafficking; Identification and assessment of victims, psychological first aid, working with interpreters, and a specific curriculum for shelter staff), as well as ongoing training and attendance at specialised workshops held within or outside the Authority.
4. The Authority is committed to continuing its awareness-raising efforts in general, and particularly with regard to reporting violations, having implemented a number of awareness-raising and educational programmes in this regard, most notably the 'Capacity Building Programme for First Responders from Community Representatives and Civil Society Organisations', aimed at developing their ability to reach and engage with hard-to-reach segments of the migrant workforce, such as domestic workers and potential victims, and to teach them how to make effective use of the protection and prevention services provided by the Authority and the Centre, particularly through reporting via the various available channels. Among the presenters were nine specialists from the Centre for the Protection of Migrant Workers.
5. The Authority and officials from the Centre for the Protection of Migrant Workers regularly participate in events organised by diplomatic missions, the migrant community, civil society organisations and religious organisations to raise public awareness of the protection and prevention services provided by the Authority, thereby strengthening bilateral relations and contributing to the development of an effective network of partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

Meetings and awareness-raising sessions also continued to be held with a number of representatives from the embassies and consulates of labour-sending countries, with the aim of publicising and raising awareness of the role and remit of the Centre for the Protection of Expatriate Workers in combating human trafficking in the workplace, and the preventive and protective services it provides, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation and discuss ways of developing consular communication channels with the Authority.

The 'Authority Council' initiative was launched, and the first session of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority Council was dedicated to this initiative for two consecutive years, with the aim of discussing mechanisms for cooperation and coordination with diplomatic and consular missions, attended by more than 50 representatives from 40

countries; a total of five sessions have been held since the initiative was launched in 2024.

In addition, the “Support for Consular Services for Non-Resident Diplomatic Missions” initiative was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior. Under this initiative, the headquarters of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority in the Sanabis region, located at , was made available free of charge and organised on a voluntary basis by the Authority’s staff, enabling consulates to provide various services to their nationals.

The Authority organised the Forum on Combating Human Trafficking and chaired its sessions for two consecutive years, attended by more than 300 participants from government and non-governmental bodies, embassies and relevant international organisations, as a platform to strengthen partnerships, exchange experiences and international best practices, support protection programmes, and raise awareness of the services provided to migrant workers.

There is also ongoing and direct cooperation and communication between the Centre for the Protection of Expatriate Workers and the embassies and consulates of sending countries, ranging from addressing complaints and grievances received from their nationals to their participation in the ‘Together We Work’ awareness campaign to raise public awareness of the rights and duties of employers and employees.

6. The relevant officials at the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Roads have been contacted in advance regarding the provision of a public transport stop, bearing in mind that there is already a stop on the main road (Sheikh Salman Street), 800 metres from the centre; however, according to the officials concerned, the obstacle is the narrowness of the roads leading to the centre, which are service roads with heavy traffic, potentially posing a risk or endangering those using them. It should be noted that the Authority is currently examining the possibility of expanding the scope of certain services provided by the centre, thereby enabling it to improve access for the target group in various locations and facilitating the use of these services.

However, indicators from the national referral system point to a steady increase in the number of people benefiting from the centre’s services, showing an average annual growth rate of 63 per cent between 2018 and 2025. This suggests that the site’s current condition does not pose a significant challenge that would prevent people from benefiting from the centre’s services or hinder access to it.

• **General Analytical Review:**

Within the framework of the National Human Rights Institution’s supervisory mandate, and based on the findings of field visits to bodies affiliated with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, this analytical review aims to assess the standard of services provided to migrant workers and employers, and the effectiveness of the existing protection and oversight system, as well as to examine the mechanisms for handling complaints and promoting compliance with

the provisions of national legislation and international standards relating to human rights, particularly with regard to the right to work and the fight against exploitation and human trafficking.

Based on the findings of the two visits to the Centre for the Protection of Migrant Workers in the Al-Sahlah region and to **the headquarters of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority**, the NIHR concludes the following:

1. The institutional framework for the protection system:

The findings indicate that the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and the Centre for the Protection of Migrant Workers have an integrated institutional framework aimed at regulating the labour market and strengthening labour protection, through clear mechanisms for handling complaints, monitoring indicators of exploitation, and implementing the national referral system. It is also evident that there are ongoing regulatory efforts to develop relevant policies and procedures, thereby strengthening the preventive and corrective role in addressing labour disputes.

2. Awareness-raising and promoting awareness of rights:

The data confirms extensive activity in raising awareness of the rights of migrant workers and employers, through multilingual programmes, field campaigns and training workshops organised in collaboration with international organisations and local bodies. It is noted that these efforts contribute to enhancing legal knowledge amongst the target groups.

3. Mechanisms for receiving complaints and accessing services:

The findings indicate that there are multiple channels for receiving complaints, including in-person visits and online platforms, alongside reliance on the national referral system. In this context, it appears that the adopted model continues to prioritise the direct assessment of cases, particularly in cases of suspected human trafficking or exploitation, given the need for detailed interviews and psychological and behavioural assessments.

However, some individuals may face difficulties in attending in person, highlighting the importance of continuing to develop digital solutions that strike an effective balance between the efficiency of investigative procedures and ease of access to services.

4. Capacity-building and institutional development:

The responses indicate a clear focus on training staff at the Centre for the Protection of Migrant Workers through specialised training programmes on combating human trafficking, dealing with victims and providing psychological first aid, in partnership with international organisations.

5. Partnerships and international coordination:

The data shows that the Labour Market Regulatory Authority has established numerous partnerships with embassies, international organisations and civil society organisations, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the protection system and contributing to the protection of migrant workers and expanding access to services.

6. Geographical Access and Service Infrastructure:

The findings indicate that there are limited challenges regarding ease of access to the Migrant Workers Protection Centre in the Al-Sahlah area in terms of location and public transport; however, the Authority considers that this does not constitute a significant obstacle, given the increasing usage indicators for the centre. Nevertheless, there remains a need to improve access to the centre, thereby ensuring wider benefit for the target groups, particularly workers on low incomes.

Fifth: Bodies affiliated with the Ministry of Labour

An analysis will be provided of the findings of the field visit conducted by the Organisation to the Labour Complaints Department at the Ministry of Labour, based on the complaints it received regarding the closure of jobseekers' files and the suspension of unemployment benefits or compensation for unfair dismissal. All recommendations and the responses received to them will be summarised.

- **Ministry of Labour (Labour Complaints Department):**

The NIHR carried out one field visit to the Ministry of Labour (Labour Complaints Department) and emerged from that visit with three (3) recommendations, which are summarised below:

(a) Recommendations:

1. To consider developing and improving the mechanisms for organising job interview appointments, thereby helping to reduce waiting times, either by increasing the number of daily interviews or by holding interviews at employers' premises in the presence of a representative from the Ministry wherever possible, in a manner that ensures the efficiency of procedures and respects the time and dignity of jobseekers.
2. Examine cases where some jobseekers are unable to meet deadlines for submitting applications for unemployment benefit, compensation for unfair dismissal, or attending job interviews, due to health reasons, compelling circumstances or force majeure; and work towards establishing flexible regulations and clear exceptions to ensure that they are not deprived of their legal entitlements, that benefits are not suspended, or that employment files are not closed, whenever valid excuses are proven, in line with the principles of justice, fairness and non-discrimination.
3. Consider adopting more flexible regulations to oblige employers to interview all candidates for advertised vacancies, taking into account the time available to employers and enhancing the efficiency of the recruitment process, and minimising unnecessary procedural burdens on all parties, whilst upholding the principle of equal opportunities and the right to fair competition for employment opportunities.

- **Follow-up on recommendations with the Ministry of Labour:**

The NIHR has written to the Ministry of Labour regarding all these recommendations, and the Ministry's responses are as follows:

1. The Ministry confirms that it has improved the mechanism for organising group interview appointments, such that jobseekers may, if their waiting time exceeds thirty (30) minutes from the scheduled time, leave the Ministry's premises without this affecting their rights in any way.
2. The Ministry has developed the service to ensure the provision of approved mechanisms enabling jobseekers to submit their reasons for absence and supporting documents via the National Employment Platform before the scheduled interview time, or to lodge a complaint after the interview if they were unable to submit their reason for absence in advance. This is part of the appeals and enquiries services available on the National Employment Platform, where such requests are received and reviewed in accordance with approved procedures.
3. The Ministry wishes to clarify that this procedure (requiring employers to interview all candidates for advertised vacancies) is already in effect, as notifications to attend group interviews are sent automatically to all candidates without any human intervention.

- **General analytical overview:**

Within the framework of the supervisory mandate of the National Human Rights Institution, and based on the findings of the field visit to the Labour Complaints Department at the Ministry of Labour, this analytical review aims to highlight the key observations and challenges identified, assess the level of response to the recommendations issued, and evaluate the extent to which this has improved the quality of services and enhanced the experience of jobseekers in exercising their rights in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

Based on the findings of the inspection visit to **the Labour Complaints Department at the Ministry of Labour**, the NIHR has concluded the following:

- 1. Institutional structure and access to services:**

The data indicate the existence of an institutional framework within the Ministry of Labour's premises that is equipped to handle various types of labour disputes, comprising facilities dedicated to conducting investigations, providing legal advice, and carrying out arbitration proceedings between workers and employers. This organisation reflects the Ministry's commitment to providing a comprehensive working environment that contributes to the efficient resolution of labour disputes and facilitates beneficiaries' access to administrative redress services, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of procedures and serving the objectives of justice in the labour market.

- 2. Organising job interviews and improving time management**

The findings of the visit highlight the importance of developing mechanisms for organising job interviews in a way that helps reduce waiting times and improve the efficiency of procedures, whether by increasing the number of daily interviews or by exploring the possibility of holding them at employers' premises in the presence of a representative from the competent authority where necessary, thereby striking a balance between speed of processing and respect for jobseekers' time and dignity.

Conversely, the response indicates that the Ministry has indeed moved to develop a mechanism for organising group interviews, whereby jobseekers may now leave the interview venue if the waiting time exceeds thirty (30) minutes from the scheduled time without this having any impact on their rights. This reflects a practical approach towards enhancing the flexibility of procedures and improving the experience of service users, thereby minimising the impact of delays and boosting the efficiency of the system.

3. Pressure on services from visitors:

The findings of the visit confirm the continuing need to improve the infrastructure within the Ministry's building, as significant overcrowding of visitors was observed inside the building. This may affect the efficiency of service delivery, waiting times and the user experience, particularly for those groups most in need of the service.

Second Recommendation

The role of the National Human Rights Institution in attending court hearings

In accordance with the Commission's mandate set out in paragraph (g) of Article 12 of the Establishment Act, which stipulates that the Commission's powers include: "to carry out announced and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation in correctional institutions, places of detention, workplaces, health and educational establishments, or any other public place suspected of being the site of human rights violations".

In accordance with this, the National Institution attends court hearings at all levels, without interfering in the work of the judiciary or undermining its independence, with the aim of reviewing and verifying the validity of judicial proceedings and ensuring that the guarantees of a fair trial for defendants, as set out in international standards and relevant national legislation, are provided. This monitoring is carried out to assess the extent to which defendants and litigants are able to exercise their procedural rights.

The NIHR considers that the right to a fair trial is a standard of international human rights law, designed to protect individuals from any infringement of their rights relating to their legal standing before the courts, and a fundamental pillar of the fair trial enshrined in international instruments, beginning with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 11(1) of which provides that: '... he (i.e. the defendant) shall be afforded the necessary guarantees for his defence', followed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which in Article 14(1) states: 'All persons are equal before the courts. Everyone is entitled, in the determination of any criminal charge against them or of their rights and obligations in any civil suit, to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law.', This is followed by paragraph (3)(b) of the Declaration, which states: "He shall be given adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence ...", and the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain also reaffirms the right to a defence in Article 20(c), which

provides that: "... the necessary safeguards shall be provided to him to exercise his right to a defence ...".

Accordingly, this section will address the role of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) in monitoring court hearings, beginning with a statement of the number of hearings attended by representatives of the Institution and the proceedings that took place during them, and concluding with an analysis of the outcomes of attending those hearings, as follows:

Section One: Monitoring Court Hearings

During 2025, the Commission attended six court hearings as part of its commitment to monitoring proceedings and strengthening the guarantees of a fair trial set out in international standards and relevant national legislation, This attendance was in response to requests submitted by the families of prisoners or detainees, or as part of the monitoring of cases of public interest, reflecting the NIHR's commitment to its role in objective monitoring and supporting the principles of transparency and the rule of law.

Schedule of court hearings for 2025

No.	Type of case	Competent Court	Reason attendance for	Number of Hearings
1	Trial of the defendant accused of murdering his neighbour	The High Criminal Court First Circuit	To observe the proceedings of the trial and monitor any potential violations of the rights of the litigants within the framework of a fair trial in which all legal safeguards are in place.	4
2	Trial of a defendant accused of publishing and broadcasting false news, insulting a foreign state and misusing means of communication	Magistrates' Court, Fourth Circuit	To observe the proceedings of the trial and monitor any potential violations of the rights of the parties within the framework of a fair trial in which all legal safeguards are provided.	1
3	Trial of a defendant accused of	Fourth Circuit Criminal	To observe the proceedings of the trial and monitor any	1

	publishing and broadcasting false news, publicly insulting a public interest, and misusing means of communication	Magistrates' Court	potential violations of the rights of the parties within the framework of a fair trial in which all legal safeguards are in place.	
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Section Two: Analysis of the results of the monitoring of court hearings

The National Human Rights Institution, pursuant to its legal mandate and in accordance with the Paris Principles, is responsible for monitoring the human rights situation and assessing the extent to which the relevant authorities comply with relevant international standards, in particular the fundamental guarantees of a fair trial, without prejudice to the independence of the judiciary, interference in its work, or commenting on judicial rulings and decisions.

In this context, during 2025, the NIHR attended six court hearings with the aim of monitoring the general procedures followed and assessing their consistency with international human rights standards, in particular the provisions of Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (¹⁰⁷), which affirms a set

¹⁰⁷ The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14, stipulates that “All persons are equal before the courts. Everyone is entitled, in the determination of any criminal charge against them or of their rights and obligations in any civil suit, to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law. The press and the public may be excluded from all or part of the trial for reasons of public morality, public order or national security in a democratic society, or to protect the privacy of the parties to the proceedings, or to the minimum extent deemed necessary by the court where, in exceptional circumstances, publicity would prejudice the interests of justice; However, any judgement in a criminal or civil case must be pronounced in public, unless the case concerns minors whose interests require otherwise, or the proceedings relate to disputes between spouses or to the custody of children.

2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law.
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall, during the determination of their case, enjoy, on a basis of full equality, the following minimum guarantees:
 - (a) to be informed promptly and in detail, and in a language which he understands, of the nature and cause of the charge against him;
 - (b) to be given adequate time and facilities to prepare his defence and to communicate with a lawyer of his own choosing;
 - (c) to be tried without undue delay;
 - (d) to be tried in person and to defend himself in person or through legal counsel of his own choosing; to be informed of his right to legal representation if he has no legal representative; and to be provided by the court, whenever the interests of justice so require, with legal counsel to defend him, without being charged for this if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it;
 - (e) to cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses, either in person or through a representative, and to have the right to call defence witnesses under the same conditions as apply to prosecution witnesses;

of fundamental safeguards guaranteeing the right to a fair trial. It affirms that all persons are equal before the law without any discrimination, and that everyone has the right to have their case heard by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, whilst ensuring that hearings and judgements are public, except in exceptional cases justified by security, public morals or the protection of vulnerable parties. The article also enshrines the principle of the presumption of innocence, whereby the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty by a final judicial decision, and grants them fundamental rights during the trial, including being informed of the charges against them clearly and in a language they understand, being given sufficient time and facilities to prepare their defence and to communicate with a lawyer of their choice, to be tried without undue delay, to be present at trial hearings, to cross-examine prosecution witnesses and call defence witnesses, to have the assistance of an interpreter free of charge where necessary, and not to be compelled to confess or testify against themselves by any means of coercion or torture (the right to remain silent). The article also guarantees the right of a convicted person to appeal against the judgement to a higher court, and their right to compensation if it is established that a miscarriage of justice led to their conviction, in addition to the principle that a person may not be tried or punished twice for the same offence after a final judgement has been handed down. Article 14 is thus considered a fundamental international standard for assessing the extent to which states respect human rights, guarantees of justice and the rule of law.

In this context, the NIHR emphasises that its attendance at court hearings falls exclusively within its monitoring remit and does not extend to assessing the substance of judicial rulings or influencing the course of justice.

This section will address the findings of the monitoring of court hearings attended by the NIHR's representatives, setting out the NIHR's observations and providing a general analytical assessment in the light of relevant national legislation and international standards.

(d) to be provided, free of charge, with an interpreter if he does not understand or speak the language used in court;

(g) not to be compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt.

4. In the case of minors, care shall be taken to ensure that proceedings are appropriate to their age and conducive to their rehabilitation.

5. Every person convicted of a crime has the right, in accordance with the law, to appeal to a higher court to have their conviction and the sentence imposed on them reviewed.

6. Where a final judgement has been handed down convicting a person of a criminal offence, and that conviction is subsequently quashed or a special pardon is granted on the basis of a new or newly discovered fact providing conclusive evidence of a miscarriage of justice, the person who has suffered the penalty resulting from that conviction shall be compensated in accordance with the law, unless it is established that they bear, in whole or in part, responsibility for failing to disclose the unknown fact in a timely manner.

7. No one shall be subjected to a retrial or to punishment for an offence for which they have already been convicted or acquitted by a final judgement in accordance with the law and the criminal procedures of each country."

First: General observations

Monitoring of court hearings revealed a number of practices consistent with the requirements of a fair trial and relevant international standards, as follows:

- The findings of the monitoring indicate that the courts adhere to the fundamental legal safeguards and procedures governing the conduct of proceedings, and in particular observe the principle of public hearings and the public pronouncement of judgements, and that this principle is not restricted except within the limits and exceptions prescribed by law to fulfil the requirements of public order or public morals, or to protect the rights of the parties and the integrity of the proceedings, This is consistent with the provisions of Article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the right of every person to a fair and public hearing before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, thereby reinforcing the principles of transparency, judicial review, guarantees of justice and the rule of law.
- It was also noted that lawyers representing the defendants were regularly present at the trial hearings, alongside representatives of the Public Prosecution Service, thereby ensuring that the parties to the proceedings were able to present their defences and submissions and exercise their procedural rights on an equal footing, and reinforcing the principle of equality between the parties and equal opportunities before the courts, in accordance with the guarantees set out in Article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- It was noted that the courts had enabled the parties to the proceedings to exercise their right to a defence and to enjoy all the procedural safeguards guaranteed by law, including the submission of pleadings and defences, access to and discussion of relevant documents and evidence, and the provision of sufficient opportunity to prepare their defence and respond to the requests and allegations of the opposing parties, in accordance with the minimum guarantees of a fair trial set out in Article 14(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and in a manner that ensures the principle of equality of arms between the parties, safeguards the right to a fair trial, and guarantees the integrity of judicial proceedings.
- It was noted that the courts have endeavoured to provide defendants with the opportunity to give their statements and explain their personal and humanitarian circumstances relating to the case; furthermore, the trial proceedings were characterised by the sound management and organisation of the hearings, with adjournments being granted where necessary to enable the parties to prepare adequately to exercise their rights of defence and to submit applications and defences, in accordance with the guarantees of a fair trial and the requirements of the integrity of judicial proceedings set out in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- A number of technical issues were noted regarding the volume and clarity of the sound in a number of courtrooms during hearings, which in some cases may affect the ability of litigants and lawyers to follow the proceedings and hear the arguments and proceedings clearly, which may, to a limited extent, affect the effective exercise of the right to a defence and the guarantees of effective participation in the trial. The NIHR has written to the Supreme

Judicial Council, and the response indicated that the Council would coordinate with the Courts Administration under the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, given their remit to provide support services for judicial proceedings in courtrooms, with a view to avoiding such issues in future.

Secondly: A general analytical review:

Within the framework of the National Human Rights Institution's monitoring mandate, and based on the findings of the monitoring of court hearings and the observations contained therein, this analytical review aims to assess the extent to which current practices in the monitored courts comply with the requirements of national legislation and relevant international human rights standards:

(a) Commitment to the principle of public hearings and ensuring transparency

The observation shows that the courts are committed to applying the principle of public hearings and the pronouncement of judgements as one of the most important guarantees of a fair trial, with restrictions imposed only in exceptional cases permitted by law such as the protection of public order, public morals or the rights of the parties. This commitment is a direct reflection of the requirements of Article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and reinforces the principles of transparency and scrutiny of the administration of justice, thereby strengthening confidence in the judicial system and curbing any non-transparent practices.

(b) Equality of arms and the presence of defence and prosecution representatives

It is evident from the observation that lawyers are regularly present alongside representatives of the Public Prosecution Service, which reflects respect for the principle of equality of the parties before the courts and equal procedural opportunities in presenting defences and submissions. This procedural arrangement is a fundamental element in ensuring balance between the parties to the proceedings and embodies one of the most important applications of the judicial safeguards set out in Article 14 of the Covenant, particularly with regard to the effectiveness of judicial adversarial proceedings and the avoidance of one party being given undue advantage over another.

(c) Strengthening the right to a defence and enabling the parties to exercise their procedural rights

The observation refers to enabling defendants and parties to the proceedings to fully exercise their right to a defence, by allowing them to present arguments and defences and to examine and discuss the evidence. This practice is regarded as one of the most important guarantees of a fair trial set out in Article 14(3) of the Covenant, as it realises the principle of 'equality of arms' between the prosecution and the defence, and ensures that the trial is based on genuine adversarial proceedings and full procedural empowerment, rather than merely formalities.

(d) Humanitarian considerations, the organisation of hearings and the management of proceedings

The observation highlights the courts' consideration of the humanitarian dimension in the conduct of proceedings, whether by enabling defendants to present their personal circumstances or by taking special groups into account, in addition to the proper management of hearings and the use of adjournments where necessary. This reflects a balance between the speedy resolution of cases and the safeguarding of the rights of the defence, which is consistent with the philosophy of Article 14, which is not limited to procedural form but extends to ensuring the fairness of the trial in terms of substance and humanitarian equity.

(e) Technical aspects supporting the administration of justice and effective participation in trials

The observation regarding the sound quality and clarity within some courtrooms highlights the importance of technical and administrative aspects that support judicial proceedings, as they form part of the environment that enables the parties to follow judicial proceedings effectively. Although this observation does not directly concern the fundamental legal guarantees of a fair trial, the efficiency of technical equipment within courtrooms helps to enhance the ability of litigants and lawyers to follow the proceedings and understand what is taking place clearly, thereby supporting effective participation in judicial proceedings and enhancing levels of transparency and procedural discipline.

In this context, the institutional response to addressing these observations reflects a positive approach to developing services that support judicial work and enhancing the quality of the judicial environment, in line with modern trends aimed at strengthening the efficiency of the administration of justice and improving the experience of litigants. The Institution considers that the continued development of infrastructure and technical equipment in the courts will reinforce existing procedural safeguards and contribute to strengthening public confidence in the effectiveness of the judicial system and the quality of the services provided within it.

CHAPTER TWO: THE MANDATE OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION RELATING TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Introduction and Structure:

The provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the Commission, as amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, reaffirm its role in the field of promoting human rights. Article 12 of that Law sets out a number of powers for the National Human Rights Commission to enable it to achieve its objectives in this field, through its participation in the formulation and implementation of a national plan to promote human rights throughout the Kingdom; the review of existing legislation and regulations relating to human rights and the recommendation of amendments it deems appropriate, particularly with regard to the consistency of such legislation with the Kingdom's international human rights obligations; and the recommendation of new legislation relating to human rights.

Furthermore, these provisions entrust the National Institution with organising conferences, seminars, and educational and training courses in the field of human rights; conducting research and studies on this matter; participating in local and international forums, and in meetings of regional and international organisations, as well as issuing bulletins, publications, statements and special reports and making them available on its website.

In accordance with these powers enshrined in the provisions of the Act, the National Institution has played an active role in promoting human rights by issuing a number of educational leaflets and publications relating to human rights, organising a number of seminars and lectures, and concluding a number of memoranda of understanding with various civil society organisations and relevant regional bodies. It has also played an effective role in legislative review in cooperation with the House of Representatives and the Shura Council, in addition to issuing a number of statements to coincide with international days or events, as well as participating regionally and internationally in numerous seminars, workshops, training courses and conferences relevant to its work.

Accordingly, this chapter will outline the Commission's efforts to promote ratification of international human rights instruments in the first section; the second section will be devoted to the Commission's engagement with the international system through the submission of its shadow reports to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review mechanism before the Human Rights Council; whilst the third section addresses the NIHR's cooperation with international, regional and national human rights bodies, and the final section reviews the NIHR's efforts in the field of human rights training and education.

SECTION ONE: PROMOTING RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Introduction:

This section will address the NIHR's efforts to promote ratification of international human rights instruments and to complete the relevant system of international human rights instruments, as follows:

1. The Kingdom of Bahrain has ratified and acceded to seven of the nine core international human rights instruments, namely: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights pursuant to Law No. (56) of 2006; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights pursuant to Law No. (10) of 2007; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination pursuant to Decree No. (8) of 1990; and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women under Decree-Law No. (5) of 2002.
2. Meanwhile, the Kingdom acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by Decree-Law No. (4) of 1998, and by Decree-Law No. (16) of 1991 it acceded to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and, most recently, the Kingdom ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities pursuant to Law No. (22) of 2011. To date, the Kingdom has not ratified or acceded to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted by the United Nations on 18 December 1990, nor to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 2006.
3. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (c) of Article 12 of the Act establishing the NIHR No. 26 of 2014, as amended by Decree-Law No. 20 of 2016, which stipulates that the NIHR shall:
“to examine the compatibility of legislative and regulatory texts with regional and international treaties relating to human rights issues, and to submit proposals and recommendations to the competent authorities on all matters likely to promote and protect human rights, including recommending accession to regional and international human rights conventions”
4. Given that the Kingdom of Bahrain has acceded to and ratified seven (7) of the nine (9) core international human rights instruments; and whereas the concluding observations of the treaty bodies (TBs) to which the Kingdom has acceded or ratified, and the recommendations of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) during its four cycles from 2008 to 2022, have repeatedly and explicitly emphasised the importance of the Kingdom acceding to: the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

5. In this regard, the NIHR reiterates the position it has previously set out in its annual and parallel reports and statements, emphasising the utmost importance of holding national consultations with all stakeholders to examine the importance of the Kingdom completing its legislative framework in the field of human rights by acceding to these instruments and their accompanying protocols, whilst setting out a timetable for achieving these objectives.
6. Perhaps what drives the NIHR to press ahead and take a positive view of the importance of acceding to these international instruments and protocols is that the legislative framework, executive practices and even judicial applications on the ground are consistent with the main provisions contained in these conventions of various kinds, which undoubtedly enhances the Kingdom's standing at the international level and has a positive impact at the national level in terms of advancing the human rights situation, as well as being fully consistent with the objectives set out in the National Human Rights Plan for the years 2022–2026.
7. Furthermore, the completion of this human rights framework, in accordance with Article 37 of the amended Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, will confer upon these instruments and protocols legal force equivalent to that of ordinary legislation enacted by the legislature, which signifies the Kingdom's full compliance with its international obligations and voluntary commitments regarding the observations and recommendations issued by United Nations human rights bodies.
8. Previously, in February 2024, the NIHR wrote to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—in its capacity as the body chairing the **National Human Rights Commission and entrusted with monitoring relevant international conventions**—calling for consideration to be given to reviewing the framework of relevant international human rights instruments through broad national consultations with all stakeholders, whether the legislative authority (the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council), the judiciary (the Supreme Judicial Council), civil society organisations working in the field of human rights, or human rights defenders.
9. Furthermore, in all its successive annual reports from 2013 to 2024, its shadow reports submitted to international and regional human rights mechanisms, and its advisory opinions submitted to constitutional authorities and public institutions, it has consistently reaffirmed the necessity of acceding to these instruments and their accompanying protocols, and has expressed its welcome and full readiness for fruitful cooperation and the establishment of an effective partnership with a view to moving forward towards achieving this harmonisation of human rights between national legislation and international human rights standards in particular, and in all matters that serve to promote and protect human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

SECTION TWO: INTERACTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

Introduction:

This section will address the Commission's interaction with international and regional mechanisms relating to human rights through a summary of the parallel reports submitted by the Commission to those mechanisms, followed by a statement on the Commission's interaction with questionnaires received from international and regional bodies, in two consecutive sections as follows:

First section

Interaction with International and Regional Human Rights Mechanisms

Given that accession to or ratification of the core international human rights instruments obliges States Parties to submit initial or periodic reports to the United Nations treaty bodies (committees) responsible for monitoring the progress made by those States in implementing their provisions, the NIHR has therefore ensured its presence and representation, both domestically and internationally, in regional and international forums relevant to its work and remit through its engagement with the relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and other relevant regional mechanisms.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (c) of Article 12 of the Act establishing the NIHR No. 26 of 2014, as amended by Decree-Law No. 20 of 2016, which stipulates that it shall:

“submit shadow reports; contribute to the drafting and discussion of the reports which the Kingdom undertakes to submit periodically; comment on such reports; and publish these reports in the media”, in accordance with regional and international human rights conventions.

During the reporting period, the NIHR submitted its shadow report on the Kingdom of Bahrain's fourth national report on progress made in implementing the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ⁽¹⁰⁸⁾. The Committee considered Bahrain's fourth periodic report at its 2219th and 2222nd meetings, held on 18 and 19 November 2025, and adopted its concluding observations at its 2231st and 2232nd meetings, held on 26 November 2025 ⁽¹⁰⁹⁾.

The NIHR's shadow report addressed three main themes: the first concerned national legislation governing the prevention of torture and other forms of cruel or inhuman treatment, the second concerned the NIHR's fulfilment of its mandate to monitor the State's implementation of its obligations under the Convention against Torture, with the Committee being provided with information on complaints received regarding allegations of torture and the action taken in

⁽¹⁰⁸⁾ For further information: [Shadow report submitted by the NIHR to the Committee against Torture \(CAT\) \(2025\)](#).

⁽¹⁰⁹⁾ For further information: [Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of the Kingdom of Bahrain issued by the Committee against Torture \(CAT\)](#).

response, as well as the training and awareness-raising programmes it had carried out for law enforcement officials, civil society organisations and human rights defenders. The report concluded with a number of recommendations aimed at supporting and strengthening national legislation to ensure access to fair remedies and the promotion of human rights.

Earlier, the NIHR submitted its shadow report on the fourth national report concerning progress made in implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (the Committee) in December 2022⁽¹¹⁰⁾; following this, the Committee discussed the national report at its 1951st and 1952nd meetings, held on 14 February 2023, and subsequently issued its concluding observations on the national report, dated 2 March 2023, Paragraph (54) of those observations stated that “the Committee requests the State party to submit, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13(c), 19, 23 and 41(a) above” ⁽¹¹¹⁾ .

Accordingly, on 3 March 2025, the Kingdom of Bahrain submitted its follow-up report ⁽¹¹²⁾ on the concluding recommendations referred to in the paragraph above, reflecting its belief in the importance of the Committee’s recommendations and its engagement with the international human rights system. The Commission commends the Kingdom’s full commitment to submitting the follow-up report within the prescribed timeframe.

In response, the NIHR has decided to submit a special report to address certain concluding observations on the fourth national report issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in paragraphs 13(c), 19, 23 and 41(a), as well as some of its observations on the follow-up report submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, including certain recommendations which it hopes will be adopted to further promote and protect human rights at the national level ⁽¹¹³⁾ .

As part of the NIHR’s monitoring of the outcomes of international human rights mechanisms, particularly the recommendations of United Nations treaty bodies, it is noted that the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in document No. (CRC/C/BHR/CO/4-6), called upon the Kingdom of Bahrain to “.. submit its seventh periodic report by 14 March 2024, and to include therein information on the follow-up to these concluding observations”, Accordingly, during the reporting

⁽¹¹⁰⁾ For further information: [Shadow report on the fourth national report on progress made in implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\) submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#).

⁽¹¹¹⁾ For further information: [Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of the Kingdom of Bahrain issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#).

⁽¹¹²⁾ For further information: [Information provided by the Kingdom of Bahrain regarding follow-up to the concluding observations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#).

⁽¹¹³⁾ [Report by the NIHR on the Kingdom of Bahrain’s report regarding the follow-up to certain concluding observations on the fourth national report issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#).

period covered by this report, the NIHR contacted the National Commission for Children to ascertain the proposed date for the submission of the Kingdom of Bahrain's report containing the response to the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It also proposed – in line with international best practice and the requirements of the United Nations treaty bodies – that the National Committee for Children be urged to conduct national consultations to ensure the preparation of a comprehensive national report reflecting national efforts in the field of child rights protection, and meeting the UN Committee's requirements regarding the need to involve all stakeholders in the preparation of such reports.

Subsequently, the National Committee for Children responded to the NIHR, explaining that it attaches particular importance to this matter and is working in coordination with the relevant authorities to follow up on the relevant international obligations, thereby ensuring the preparation of a comprehensive national report that reflects national efforts in the field of children's rights. It emphasised the National Committee for Children's commitment to following internationally recognised best practices in the preparation of national reports, including coordination with the relevant authorities and consideration of appropriate mechanisms for stakeholder engagement in accordance with applicable frameworks, thereby contributing to enhancing the quality and content of the report. In this regard, the Committee stated that it would keep the Organisation informed of any developments in this matter in due course, within the framework of existing institutional coordination and integration.

Second requirement

Questionnaires received from international and regional human rights committees and bodies

In light of the Commission's role in protecting and promoting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and in accordance with Article 12 of the Law establishing the Commission No. 26 of 2014, as amended by Decree-Law No. 20 of 2016, and in particular paragraph (c) thereof, which stipulates that the Commission shall:

“cooperate with national bodies, regional and international organisations, and relevant institutions in other countries concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights.”

Consequently, the Commission has responded to questionnaires received from international committees and bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the grounds that this type of information exchange enhances knowledge among national human rights institutions and fosters the sharing of expertise between them. The Commission has responded to a number of requests received, which may be summarised as follows:

(a) Best practices in the field of promoting and protecting human rights – United Nations General Assembly Resolution 204/78

The Institution received an invitation from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section – NIRMS) to provide information on the role played by the Institution, as well as best practices, challenges and lessons learnt in the context of promoting and protecting human rights. This questionnaire is issued pursuant to United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 78/204, in preparation for the report of the United Nations Secretary-General to be presented at the 80th session of the General Assembly, thereby contributing to the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.

(b) Strengthening technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights – Human Rights Council Resolution 32/57

The NIHR has received an invitation from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide substantive contributions on the challenges, gaps and best practices in the field of technical cooperation and capacity-building to promote and protect human rights. This questionnaire is issued pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution No. 57/32, in preparation for a report to be presented at the Council's fifty-ninth (59th) session, with a view to identifying ways to facilitate States' access to technical assistance in an effective and equitable manner.

(c) Contribution to the Responsibility to Protect Report 2005–2025 – Following an invitation from the Office of the UN Secretary-General

The NIHR received an invitation from the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, aimed at providing substantive contributions to the Secretary-General's 2025 report. This report focuses on assessing twenty years of implementation of the principle of 'Responsibility to Protect' since the 2005 Summit, by identifying successes, challenges and lessons learnt, and setting out priorities and emerging needs to strengthen the protection of populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity

(d) Freedom of religion or belief in relation to death and the honouring of the dead – at the request of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

The NIHR has received a request from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) seeking responses and information on national legal and administrative frameworks relating to freedom of religion or belief in the context of death and the honouring of the dead. This questionnaire forms part of the preparation of the Special Rapporteur's report on freedom of religion or belief, due to be presented during the sixty-first (61st) session of the Human Rights Council in March 2026, thereby helping to highlight the alignment of national practices with international standards and the protection of the rights of individuals and detainees to practise their funeral rites.

(e) Experiences of national human rights institutions in implementing the mandates of the National Monitoring Mechanism (NMM) and the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)

The Institute received a questionnaire prepared in partnership with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), aimed at gathering information on the experiences of national human rights institutions in fulfilling their dual mandates as a National Monitoring Mechanism (NMM) under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and as a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. This questionnaire forms part of the preparations for the 2025 annual meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), thereby contributing to the exchange of experiences and the development of practices relating to the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of persons with disabilities.

(f) Inclusive infrastructure for persons with disabilities (transport and housing) – Human Rights Council Resolution 8/55

The NIHR has received a request from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, seeking substantive responses regarding inclusive infrastructure for persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on the transport and housing sectors. This questionnaire is issued pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution No. 8/55, in preparation for the drafting of an annual study in consultation with States, stakeholders and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, with a view to strengthening policies and measures aimed at the inclusion of this group and ensuring that they enjoy their rights on an equal footing with others.

(g) National efforts to end child marriage – Questionnaire from the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States

The NIHR has received a request from the National Committee for Children, seeking objective responses regarding national efforts to reduce and eliminate the phenomenon of child marriage. This questionnaire is in response to the request from the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, with a view to monitoring the level of national response in Member States in consultation with relevant authorities and independent human rights organisations, thereby contributing to the strengthening of policies and measures aimed at safeguarding children's rights and ensuring they enjoy their right to grow and develop in a safe and healthy environment.

(h) Development of guidelines on child, early and forced marriage – Human Rights Council Resolution 53/23

The NIHR received a request from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, inviting it to submit its views and responses regarding the development of guidelines aimed at preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage. This questionnaire follows on from Human Rights Council Resolution 53/23, which seeks to establish a set of guidelines for States to adopt an effective, human rights-based approach to addressing this phenomenon, in consultation with States and other stakeholders.

(i) Developing precise and rights-based definitions of the concepts of terrorism and violent extremism – at the request of the Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights

The NIHR received an invitation from the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms whilst countering terrorism, seeking the NIHR's legal and human rights position on the development of precise and rights-based definitions of the concepts of 'terrorism', 'terrorist organisation' and 'violent extremism'. This questionnaire forms part of international efforts to ensure that national counter-terrorism legislation complies with international human rights standards, thereby contributing to the protection of fundamental rights and preventing any infringement of the principle of legality or the freedom of opinion and expression.

(j) Prohibition of corporal punishment of children as a public health priority – Draft resolution of the World Health Organisation Executive Board (158th session)

The NIHR received a referral from the National Committee for Children regarding the concept note issued by the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Costa Rica and Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva, aimed at providing a legal and human rights perspective on the proposed draft resolution entitled 'Corporal punishment of children: a global public health concern'. This draft forms part of the preparations for the 158th session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board, with a view to urging Member States to enact national legislation prohibiting corporal punishment of children and ensuring their protection from all forms of violence, in line with international standards and public health principles.

SECTION THREE: COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

Introduction:

This section will address the frameworks for close cooperation between the NIHR and civil society organisations and human rights defenders on the one hand, and its participation in international, regional and national forums relating to human rights, as well as its engagement with days and events relating to human rights, as well as its engagement with the press, the media and social media, through four consecutive sections as follows:

The first section

Interaction with civil society organisations and human rights defenders¹¹⁴

Section 1: Cooperation between the National Human Rights Institution and civil society organisations working in various fields of human rights

¹¹⁴ For further information, please visit the section on cooperation with civil society organisations on the National Institution's website: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/CivilSocietyGroup>

The philosophy behind the establishment of national human rights institutions, in accordance with the 'Paris Principles' adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 48/134 in 1993, as a link between the government, on the one hand—as the head of the state's executive branch, primarily concerned with the implementation of laws and responsible for promoting and protecting human rights within the national framework—and civil society organisations, on the other hand, as independent national civil society entities that express the shared needs of a group of individuals on legitimate grounds, which necessitates that national institutions act as a bridge between the needs relating to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the official bodies responsible for implementing those rights and freedoms.

Legal Basis

Article 12 of the Act establishing the Institution No. 26 of 2014, as amended by Decree-Law No. 20 of 2016, sets out a number of the Institution's powers, including cooperation with national bodies and regional and international organisations, and relevant institutions concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as organising joint meetings and events, and cooperating, coordinating and consulting with relevant civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, various other groups and human rights defenders.

Furthermore, the statutes set out in the resolutions establishing civil society organisations, each individually, the objectives for which these associations were established and the means for their implementation, which are consistent with Resolution No. (4) of 2007 concerning the model regulations for the statutes of social and cultural associations and clubs under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development, whereby common objectives were set out, namely the importance of civil society organisations' participation in all matters that contribute to the Kingdom of Bahrain's development in the field of human rights; the promotion of cooperation with governmental and non-governmental bodies and institutions; coordination with domestic and international organisations and relevant stakeholders to protect human rights; the strengthening of bonds of solidarity; spreading awareness and fostering a culture of respect for human rights values; monitoring any human rights violations; and contributing to the training of personnel in various fields of human rights with the aim of monitoring human rights situations and diverse issues, through the organisation of seminars, lectures, exhibitions and audio-visual presentations, and the publication of printed materials and periodicals on human rights; cooperating and coordinating with organisations concerned with human rights, and organising workshops and specialised courses on the principles and values of citizenship and human rights.

When implementing participatory work, it is important not to overlook the significance of the independence of all parties, whether the National Human Rights Institution on the one hand, or civil society organisations working in the field of human rights on the other, which were established through separate mechanisms and decisions and possess independent legal personalities, enabling them to achieve their objectives by the means agreed upon in their internal regulations.

The idea of establishing the Consultative Working Group arose from the importance of the National Human Rights Institution providing support and

assistance to realise the objectives for which civil society organisations were established, and from the conclusions reached during the consultative meetings and forums held by the Institution over the past two years, which aimed to strengthen frameworks for cooperation between all parties and identify needs, to work towards overcoming the difficulties facing community work, and to coordinate national efforts in the field of human rights, without compromising the neutrality and independence of all parties; each party is free to implement what it deems appropriate from what is agreed upon by the group, whilst stating the reasons in the event of non-implementation.

Regular meetings

The Advisory Working Group is chaired by the President of the National Human Rights Institution and comprises eight civil society organisations active in the field of human rights.¹¹⁵ The National Human Rights Institution convenes a regular meeting of the Working Group every three months, and any member may request a meeting during this period to discuss any urgent matter, within the timeframe of the report; The first meeting was held on Thursday 20 June 2024; the second meeting was held on Wednesday 4 September 2024; the third meeting of the Consultative Working Group was held on Tuesday 3 December 2024; and the fourth meeting was held on Thursday 27 February 2025; The fifth meeting was held on Monday 2 June 2025, and the sixth meeting of the Consultative Working Group was held on Monday 25 August 2025.

As part of the evaluation of the Consultative Working Group's experience, and given the positive impact it had on strengthening coordination and consultation with civil society organisations, and as a result of the growing number of human rights issues and the diversity of their fields, the National Human Rights Institution moved to develop the working group model from a general framework to one based on thematic specialisation, thereby achieving greater effectiveness in addressing human rights issues in accordance with their priorities.

Press Releases

On 27 February 2025, the fourth meeting of the National Human Rights Institution's Joint Working Group was held, bringing together representatives of civil society organisations concerned with human rights. During the meeting, discussions centred on strengthening joint cooperation, monitoring the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan, and examining recommendations regarding support for beneficiaries of the Royal Pardon and alternative sanctions, as well as emphasising the NIHR's role in training, education and field visits to correctional and rehabilitation centres, with the aim of unifying national efforts and strengthening



¹¹⁵ Mabadi Association for Human Rights – Bahraini Society for Human Rights – Bahraini Transparency Society – Bahrain Human Rights Watch – Manama Centre for Human Rights – Bahraini Observatory for Human Rights – Bahraini Lawyers' Society – Together for Human Rights

the application of human rights principles on the ground. ⁽¹¹⁶⁾ .

2 June 2025: The fifth meeting of the consultative working group between the National Human Rights Institution and civil society organisations was held, targeting stakeholders in the field of human rights. The meeting discussed the Institution's role in protecting the rights of workers in the private sector, and to review current issues at the local level, as well as to strengthen joint cooperation and develop training and educational programmes in the field of human rights, with the aim of supporting ongoing coordination between the relevant parties, promoting a culture of human rights in society and achieving common objectives ⁽¹¹⁷⁾ .



On 25 August 2025, the sixth meeting of the consultative working group between the National Human Rights Institution and civil society organisations was held, targeting bodies working in the field of human rights. The meeting discussed ways to strengthen the protection of rights in the Kingdom, and the role of civil society organisations in this context, with a focus on the importance of organising training programmes to enhance the competence of civil society staff and consolidate a culture of human rights in accordance with national and international standards, with the aim of enabling these organisations to participate effectively⁽¹¹⁸⁾ .



Key recommendations:

First: Institutional and organisational recommendations

- Establishing and adopting a clear and specific mechanism for the work of the consultative working group.
- Continue to hold regular meetings every three months.
- Develop the working model from a general framework into specialist working groups organised by human rights issues.

⁽¹¹⁶⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/06Mar2025.aspx>

⁽¹¹⁷⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/24june2025.aspx>

⁽¹¹⁸⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/26aug2025.aspx>

- Periodically reviewing and updating the team's objectives and formally adopting them.

Secondly: Strengthening partnership and coordination

- Strengthening ongoing cooperation and coordination between the National Institution and civil society organisations.
- Embedding the principle of community partnership in human rights work.
- Improving and developing channels of communication between the Commission, civil society organisations and relevant stakeholders.
- Participate and cooperate to enhance the effectiveness of national efforts in the field of human rights.

Third: Capacity-building and support

- Implementing joint training and awareness-raising programmes in the field of human rights.
- Supporting capacity-building for civil society organisations and expanding their scope of work.
- Providing logistical and technical support to associations to organise their activities and events.
- Involving young people in human rights work and strengthening their role.

Fourth: Activities and Events

- Organising joint programmes and events between the NIHR and civil society.
- Holding specialised panel discussions on human rights issues (such as the conditions of prisoners and those covered by amnesties).
- Coordinating participation in national and international events relating to human rights.

Fifth: Field monitoring and developing solutions to key challenges

- Carrying out joint field visits by the NIHR and civil society organisations.
- Monitoring the situations of those benefiting from royal pardons and alternative sanctions.
- Monitoring and addressing emerging human rights challenges.
- Examining complaints received by associations in conjunction with the NIHR and working to resolve them.

Sixth: Strategic planning

- Supporting the implementation of the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026).
- Identifying priority human rights issues and working to address them in a more specialised and efficient manner.

- Stepping up efforts to raise awareness and promote a culture of human rights.

Section Two: Activities of the National Human Rights Institution in partnership with civil society organisations

On 7 January 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised a panel discussion entitled 'Supporting and Integrating Those Covered by the Royal Pardon and Beneficiaries of Alternative Sentences and Measures', with the participation of a number of representatives from civil society organisations and human rights activists, alongside relevant stakeholders. The event targeted individuals covered by the Royal Pardon and those benefiting from alternative measures, as they constitute the primary group concerned with rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts.



This panel discussion aimed to raise awareness of the programmes and services available to these groups and to support their social integration by ensuring their access to their rights to education, healthcare, employment and housing, as well as to discuss the challenges they face and propose appropriate solutions, thereby contributing to improving their quality of life and reducing the likelihood of reoffending⁽¹¹⁹⁾.

Second Requirement

Participation in international, regional and national forums

Section One: The National Human Rights Institution's participation in international and regional forums

On 30 January 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, represented by its President, Engineer Ali Ahmed Alderazi, participated in the International Conference on Restorative Criminal Justice organised by the Public Prosecution in the Kingdom of Bahrain in collaboration with a number of local and international bodies, with the participation of a



⁽¹¹⁹⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/08Jan2025.aspx>

select group of specialists in the judicial and legal fields. This conference forms part of efforts to support the development of the criminal justice system and to promote the concepts of restorative justice as a modern approach in line with international standards for the protection of human rights ⁽¹²⁰⁾ .

On 11 March 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, represented by its President, Engineer Ali Ahmed Alderazi, participated in the annual meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. During the meeting, the General Assembly's resolutions for 2024 were adopted, and the ratification of the membership of new national institutions, alongside a review of the Alliance's achievements and the work of the regional networks, and the adoption of the financial report, the proposed budget and the work plan for 2025. The meeting, which took place in conjunction with the session of the Human Rights Council and in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, also included sessions for the exchange of experiences and the annual conference, with broad participation exceeding 250 representatives from national institutions, United Nations agencies and civil society organisations ⁽¹²¹⁾ .



¹²⁰ A press release published on the Foundation's official website: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/30jan2025.aspx>

⁽¹²¹⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/11Mar2025.aspx>

On 13 March 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, took part in the annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum (APF), alongside his participation in the Global Alliance meetings in Geneva, where annual reports were reviewed and financial matters and the accreditation status of members were approved. He also took part in a meeting of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions, as part of efforts to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise, thereby contributing to the development of human rights work ⁽¹²²⁾.



On 29 May 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, represented by its President, Engineer Ali Ahmed Alderazi, took part in the conference on 'Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights', held in Doha with broad participation from international experts and officials. The conference discussed the opportunities and challenges associated with the use of artificial intelligence technologies. Participants emphasised the importance of establishing binding frameworks and legislation to ensure the responsible use of these technologies, thereby protecting privacy and preventing discrimination, whilst calling for the adoption of an international legal framework that balances the benefits of artificial intelligence with the mitigation of risks ⁽¹²³⁾.



⁽¹²²⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/13Mar2025.aspx>

⁽¹²³⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/29May2025.aspx>

3 June 2025, The National Human Rights Institution, represented by its President, Engineer Ali Ahmed Alderazi, took part in the First International Conference on Alternative Sentences organised by the Ministry of the Interior, which saw broad participation from experts and specialists. During the sessions, he reviewed the international references underpinning the philosophy of alternative sentences and the Institution's role in supporting this approach and promoting human rights. He also highlighted joint initiatives with the Ministry of the Interior to involve the private sector and civil society organisations in rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, emphasising the importance of integrated efforts to ensure the success of this approach as an effective alternative to custodial sentences. At the conclusion of the conference, he was honoured amongst the speakers in recognition of his contributions ⁽¹²⁴⁾.



On 14 September 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, represented by Dr Shaima Abdulla Mohammed, a member of the Council of Commissioners, participated in a regional workshop held in Amman and organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNICEF, where she presented the Commission's experience in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of protecting and promoting children's rights, including relevant strategies, programmes and initiatives. The workshop saw broad participation from international and regional organisations and experts, and aimed to strengthen coordination, exchange



⁽¹²⁴⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/3jun20251.aspx>

experiences and develop shared visions for the advancement of children's rights in the region. ⁽¹²⁵⁾ .

On 24 September 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, took part in the launch ceremony for the novel *Cities of Milk and Snow* by the author Jalila Al-Sayyid, in the presence of a number of officials and those interested in cultural affairs. He congratulated the author, praising the role of literature in enriching the cultural scene and promoting human rights values, particularly freedom of opinion, expression and cultural participation. The event concluded with a book signing in a festive atmosphere ⁽¹²⁶⁾ .



On 26 October 2025, Ms Rawda Alaradi, a member of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution, took part in the 10th meeting of the Eurasian Alliance of Ombudsmen and National Human Rights Institutions, organised by the Human Rights Commission of the Russian Federation, with the aim of discussing best practices in the protection of human rights in the context of digital transformation, and to promote the exchange of expertise and international cooperation between national institutions⁽¹²⁷⁾ .



⁽¹²⁵⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/14Sep2025.aspx>

⁽¹²⁶⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/24Sep2025.aspx>

⁽¹²⁷⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/26octo2025.aspx>

26 October 2025, the National Human Rights Institution participated in the 9th International Scientific Conference on the Protection of Human Rights, held as part of the 10th meeting of the Eurasian Alliance in Moscow, where Dr Malallah Alhammadi, Deputy Chair of the Institution, delivered a speech addressing the protection of human rights in the context of digital transformation, outlining the Institution's efforts to raise awareness of privacy and digital security and to strengthen relevant partnerships. This participation forms part of the NIHR's efforts to support the exchange of expertise and strengthen international cooperation, noting that the NIHR is the first Arab organisation to join this international alliance ⁽¹²⁸⁾ .



⁽¹²⁸⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/26oct2025.aspx>

27 October 2025, The National Human Rights Institution, represented by Dr Hamad Al-Abdullah, a member of the Council of Commissioners, participated in the regular meeting of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons. The meeting reviewed the Kingdom of Bahrain's achievements in this field, including maintaining its top international ranking, and discussed key initiatives to enhance labour protection and improve the working environment. The meeting also addressed national efforts to monitor and combat cases of human trafficking, and emphasised the importance of continued coordination between the relevant authorities to strengthen protection and achieve justice ⁽¹²⁹⁾ .



On 28 October 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, represented by Mr Daniel Haroun, a member of the Council of Commissioners, participated in the Third Bahraini – European Conference on Freedom of Religion and Belief, held in Brussels with broad international participation. The conference discussed ways to promote coexistence and tolerance through sessions addressing the protection of religious freedom, education and awareness-raising, and the fight against hate speech. This conference forms part of efforts to support the Bahraini–European partnership and to consolidate the values of pluralism, coexistence and interfaith and intercultural dialogue ⁽¹³⁰⁾ .



⁽¹²⁹⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/27oct2025.aspx>

⁽¹³⁰⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/28oct2025.aspx>

On **18 November 2025**, the NIHR, represented by its President, Engineer Ali Ahmed Alderazi, and its Secretary-General, Counsellor Yasser Ghanem Shaheen, held a meeting with the Committee against Torture of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, during which the Institution presented its shadow report on the Kingdom of Bahrain's fourth national report. The report addressed the key areas of national legislation and the Commission's efforts to monitor the implementation of the Convention, including the monitoring of complaints and awareness-raising programmes, as well as presenting recommendations to strengthen protection and ensure justice. For its part, the Committee commended the report and discussed with the NIHR ways to support and strengthen the human rights situation to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention ⁽¹³¹⁾ .



9 December 2025, The National Human Rights Institution, represented by Mr Mohammed Ahmed Al-Najjar, participated in a regional training course in Cairo on promoting economic, social and cultural rights through budget monitoring and analysis. The course covered international standards, monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and access to justice, as well as practical applications for budget analysis. The course was organised in collaboration with international and regional bodies and was attended by a wide range of



⁽¹³¹⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/18Nov%202025.aspx>

human rights organisations and specialist experts ⁽¹³²⁾ .

On 11 December 2025, the National Human Rights Institution took part in a regional training course in Jordan on addressing emerging challenges, organised by the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and a number of regional and international bodies. During the session, Dr Iman Al-Abu reviewed the NIHR's digital readiness in the areas of protection and promotion. The course aimed to develop the capacities of national institutions to address modern challenges and to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices ⁽¹³³⁾ .



On 11 December 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, Dr Malallah Alhammadi, Vice-President, and a number of staff from the General Secretariat took part in a workshop on the revised Istanbul Protocol organised by the Special Investigation Unit, with the participation of law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations. The workshop aimed to highlight updates to the Protocol and build participants' capacity to document allegations of torture in accordance with international standards, whilst also strengthening national cooperation. Participants emphasised the importance of developing the justice system and strengthening mechanisms for accountability and the protection of



⁽¹³²⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/Social%20and%20Cultural%20Rights.aspx>

⁽¹³³⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/Emerging%20Challenges.aspx>

human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain⁽¹³⁴⁾ .

Section Two: The National Human Rights Institution's Participation at the National Level

The NIHR participated in a number of national events and programmes, the most significant of which were: the Conference on Promoting Restorative Criminal Justice; Contemporary Criminal Policies to Combat Terrorism: Balancing the Rule of Law and the Right to Security (1); a panel discussion: Measures to Prevent and Combat Terrorism within the Context of the Rule of Law and Respect for Human Rights; an online learning programme on human rights; a community-led community development programme; the development of a guide to best practices and experiences in the Arab region in the field of human rights education in schools; Strategic Litigation under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Regional Online Course on the Prevention of Torture; Third International Conference of the Faculty of Law – Legal Challenges of Artificial Intelligence Technology; Training Course on International Humanitarian Law; Webinar: Engagement of civil society and national human rights institutions with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances; an online seminar: Engagement of civil society and national human rights institutions with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances; skills in creating media content using artificial intelligence; an awareness-raising seminar: The legal framework for telecommunications and data protection in Bahraini legislation.

In addition, the NIHR participated in the following: Webinar: Fundamental Principles of Press Freedom and the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Journalism and Media Work; a webinar on the participation of 'A'-category national institutions in Human Rights Council sessions; a lecture entitled 'A Culture of Awareness for a Drug-Free Future'; and an educational session entitled: 'Gender Equality, Business and Human Rights'; a session on the mechanism for completing the UNESCO questionnaire on research and experimental development (R&D) at the institutional level; the virtual launch event for , the Arabic version of 'An Introduction to Children and Armed Conflict'; and a workshop on: "The Crime of Human Trafficking and the Kingdom of Bahrain's Efforts to Combat It", a seminar entitled: "Combating the Crime of Human Trafficking: A Legal and Humanitarian Responsibility to Promote Justice and Protect Victims", the National Partnerships Forum to Combat Human Trafficking, "Police Practices to Prevent and Combat Terrorism: Between Legislative Policies and the Rule of Law", Certificate in Legal and Professional Practice; Maritime Navigation: Between the Legal Framework and Sustainable Development; Seminar on the Prevention of Torture – Session Six: From Compliance to Change: Monitoring and Follow-up on Recommendations to Prevent Torture; a training course for national human rights institutions in the

⁽¹³⁴⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/From%20Documentation%20to%20Accountability.aspx>

Arab region to address **emerging** challenges; **and** insurance rights and benefits for public sector employees.

The NIHR also participated in the following: the ‘Mawada wa Rahma’ conference under the theme: “Family Identity in the Face of Contemporary Challenges”, the fourth edition of the “Taysir” programme specialising in the design and facilitation of community dialogue, safeguards for the arrest of perpetrators of terrorist crimes and the protection of **rights, and** the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights: **budget** monitoring and analysis; a seminar on “Empowering Youth through Sport”; a seminar on “Empowering Youth through Sport”; the programme for the 11th Bahraini Working Women’s Conference, “The Future of Working Women in the Industrial Sector”; a workshop entitled “From Documentation to Accountability: An Analysis of the Revised Istanbul Protocol to Strengthen National Protection”, the dialogue forum “Towards a Participatory Generation: Empowering Children and Young People in Decision-Making”, **and** participation in the 6th Mohammed Fayek Course on: The International Human Rights System.

Third Requirement

Engagement with international, regional and national events and days relating to human rights

The NIHR has not been inactive in engaging with international and national events and days relating to the promotion of human rights. During 2025, the NIHR issued twenty-four statements on a number of international and national days, aimed at raising awareness of these various days and events and highlighting their significance, as follows:

Statements	Occasion	Date
International	International Women’s Day	8 March 2025
	International Down Syndrome Day	21 March 2025
	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	21 March 2025
	World Health Day	7 April 2025
	World Intellectual Property Day	26 April 2025
	International Workers’ Day	1 May 2025
	World Press Freedom Day	3 May 2025
	World Environment Day	5 June 2025
	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	30 July 2025

Statements	Occasion	Date
International	International Youth Day	12 August 2025
	International Day of Democracy	15 September 2025
	International Day of Peace	21 September 2025
	International Day of Sign Languages	23 September 2025
	International Day of Older Persons	1 October 2025
	International Day of the Girl Child	11 October 2025
	United Nations Day	24 October 2025
	International Day for Tolerance	16 November 2025
	World Children's Day	20 November 2025
	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	25 November 2025
	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	3 December 2025
	Human Rights Day	10 December 2025
Regional	Arab Human Rights Day	16 March 2025
	Adoption of the Gulf Cooperation Council Declaration on Human Rights	9 December 2025
National	Bahraini Women's Day	1 December 2025

Fourth Requirement

Interaction with the press, the media and social media

Section One: Press Statements

The Commission has issued a number of press statements covering various topics, including: a statement by the Chair of the National Human Rights Commission on the organisation of the first annual forum for children of the Kingdom of Bahrain in collaboration with the Embassy of the United Kingdom in the Kingdom of Bahrain; a statement by the Chair of the National Human Rights Commission on the occasion of the twenty-fourth anniversary of the National Action Charter; a statement by the National Human Rights Institution welcoming the United Nations General Assembly's decision to endorse the Kingdom of Bahrain's initiative to establish the International Day of Peaceful Coexistence; a statement by the President of the National Human Rights Institution on Labour Day; a statement by the National Human Rights Institution on the occasion of the Kingdom of Bahrain's election to the Security Council; and a statement by the President of the National Human Rights Institution on the occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

The Commission also issued a statement to mark the twenty-fourth anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Council for Women, a statement regarding the Royal Directives on the renewal of passports for Bahrainis who have been stripped of their Kuwaiti nationality, a statement on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, a statement by the President of the National Human Rights Institution on the issuance of the general framework for reviewing special educational needs, a statement on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, and a statement on the occasion of the enactment of the Press and Electronic Media Law, a statement on the occasion of the sixteenth anniversary of the establishment of the NIHR; a statement on the occasion of the United Nations Day of the Child; a statement on the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day; a statement on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development; and a statement on the occasion of Human Rights Day.

Section Two: Television, Radio and Press Interviews

Members of the Commission's Council of Commissioners took part in a number of television, radio and press interviews on various topics, the most significant of which were: the National Institution for Human Rights and its role; the first annual forum for the children of the Kingdom of Bahrain, entitled 'You Have the Right... You Have a Voice'; and the National Action Charter.

Section Three: Press Releases

On 7 January 2025, Eng. Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, received Ms Aishath Ihma Sharif, Head of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Mission in the Kingdom of Bahrain, congratulating her on her appointment. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen the protection of migrant workers and improve their working conditions, whilst Sharif emphasised her appreciation for the Commission's role and the Kingdom of Bahrain's efforts in supporting international cooperation and combating human trafficking ⁽¹³⁵⁾ .



On 16 January 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, Chairman of the National Human Rights Institution, received His Excellency Mr Munir Sorour, Member of the Council of Representatives, at the Institution's headquarters. During the meeting, they reviewed the Institution's working mechanisms and its efforts to promote a culture of human rights in the Kingdom, and discussed emerging human rights issues and cases, MP Sorour praised the Commission's effective role and the House of Representatives' support for its professional work ⁽¹³⁶⁾ .



⁽¹³⁵⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/07Jan2025.aspx>

⁽¹³⁶⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/16Jan2025.aspx>

On 22 January 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, received Ms Asmaa Shalabi, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in the Kingdom of Bahrain, welcoming her and congratulating her on taking up her post. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen cooperation through the implementation of joint training programmes and workshops and the exchange of expertise in the fields of human rights and sustainable development, whilst Shalabi expressed her appreciation for the Commission's efforts and its commitment to strengthening the partnership to achieve shared objectives ⁽¹³⁷⁾.



On 23 February 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, received Ms Leila Vaskin, Head of the Kingdom of Bahrain Office at the US Department of State, in the presence of a number of representatives from the US Embassy in the Kingdom. During the meeting, Mr Alderazi provided an overview of the role played by the Institution in promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom. A number of topics of mutual interest were also discussed, including efforts to raise awareness of and protect human rights ⁽¹³⁸⁾.



On 26 February 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, Chairman of the National Human Rights Institution, received His Excellency Mr Christian Domz, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Kingdom of Bahrain, and welcomed him, praising the bilateral relations between the two countries. During the meeting, he outlined the Commission's efforts to monitor the



⁽¹³⁷⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/22jan2025ns.aspx>

⁽¹³⁸⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/23Feb2025.aspx>

human rights situation and its role in promoting and protecting human rights, as well as its commitment to strengthening communication with regional and international partners ⁽¹³⁹⁾ .

9 April 2025, Dr Fawzia Saeed Al-Saleh, a member of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution, received His Excellency Mr Mark Lawrence Donovan, Australia's Ambassador to the Kingdom, in the presence of a number of officials. The meeting reviewed the Institution's working mechanisms and its efforts to protect and promote human rights, including cooperation with government bodies and civil society, and the alternative sanctions programme. For his part, the Ambassador commended the Commission's role in applying international standards and submitting periodic reports ⁽¹⁴⁰⁾ .



On **21 April 2025**, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, Chairman of the National Human Rights Institution, received Ms Fatima Ibrahim Al-Mannai, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, during which they discussed ways to strengthen cooperation and joint coordination, particularly with regard to the right to adequate housing. Alderazi also commended the Ministry's efforts in implementing housing programmes, emphasising the Commission's support for these efforts, whilst Al-Mannai expressed her appreciation for the Commission's role and its commitment to continued cooperation to promote social and economic rights ⁽¹⁴¹⁾ .



⁽¹³⁹⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/26Feb2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁴⁰⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/9Apr2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁴¹⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/21april2025.aspx>

On 7 May 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, received Mr David Brownstein, Deputy Head of the US Mission to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at his office. During the meeting, a number of topics of mutual interest were discussed, as well as areas of cooperation between the two sides, in addition to the Commission's efforts to promote and disseminate a culture of human rights and to monitor the human rights situation in the Kingdom through field visits and the monitoring and awareness-raising reports it issues, in accordance with its remit as set out in its founding law, and in line with the international principles and standards governing the work of national human rights institutions ⁽¹⁴²⁾.



On 14 May 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, Chairman of the National Human Rights Institution, received Her Excellency Ms Fiona Walker-Doyle, Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at the Institution's headquarters in the Seef district. During the meeting, they reviewed ways to strengthen joint cooperation in the field of promoting and protecting human rights, exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest, and highlighted the Commission's efforts to pursue and carry out its duties in accordance with the remit set out in its founding law ⁽¹⁴³⁾.



On 15 May 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, Chairman of the National Human Rights Institution, received His Excellency Mr Éric Gérard Telem, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Kingdom of Bahrain. During the meeting, Mr Alderazi welcomed His Excellency the Ambassador, and provided him with an overview of the role played by the Commission in promoting and protecting human rights in the



⁽¹⁴²⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/7May2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁴³⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/14may2025.aspx>

Kingdom of Bahrain, through its powers and responsibilities under its founding law, particularly with regard to monitoring the human rights situation, receiving complaints, and providing relevant advice and recommendations to the concerned authorities, The meeting also addressed a number of topics of mutual interest, as well as ways to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise between the two sides, thereby contributing to efforts aimed at promoting a culture of human rights and raising awareness of them ⁽¹⁴⁴⁾ .

On **28 May 2025**, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, received His Excellency Mr Mark Lawrence Donovan, Australia's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, resident in Riyadh, at the Institution's headquarters, in the presence of Dr Malallah Alhammadi, Chair of the Institution's Detention & Facilities Visitation Committee. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed ways to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise in the field of human rights, in addition to discussing a number of topics of mutual interest ⁽¹⁴⁵⁾ .



On **11 June 2025**, as part of efforts to strengthen international cooperation in the field of human rights, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, met with Professor Tatiana Moskalova, High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation, during an official visit to the Russian capital, Moscow. The meeting saw an exchange of expertise and best practices in the field of protecting and promoting human rights, as well as a discussion of a number of issues of mutual interest relating to the citizens of both countries, and a review of ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation between



⁽¹⁴⁴⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/15may2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁴⁵⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/28May2025.aspx>

the two national human rights institutions, particularly in the areas of training, capacity-building and information exchange, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of these institutions in protecting fundamental rights and freedoms⁽¹⁴⁶⁾.

On 13 July 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, received Her Excellency Dr Aisha Sayyan Kuitak, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at the Institution's headquarters.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed ways to strengthen and support cooperation in areas relating to human rights, and discussed a number of topics, including the exchange of knowledge ⁽¹⁴⁷⁾.



On 15 July 2025, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, President of the National Human Rights Institution, received Ms Fiona Walker Doyle, Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at the Institution's headquarters in the Seef district.

During the meeting, the President of the Commission welcomed the Deputy Ambassador, praising the fruitful cooperative relations between the Commission and the British Embassy, particularly in areas relating to the protection and promotion of human rights. Alderazi emphasised the importance of continued coordination and the exchange of expertise between the two sides, thereby contributing to national and international efforts to consolidate human rights principles and promote a culture of human rights ⁽¹⁴⁸⁾.



⁽¹⁴⁶⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/11jun2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁴⁷⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/13jul2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁴⁸⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/15July2025.aspx>

On **25 August 2025**, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, Chairman of the National Human Rights Institution, received a delegation from the Embassy of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain, led by Ms Fiona Walker Doyle, Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom, in the presence of Dr Maha Al-Shihab, Child Rights Commissioner, at the Institution's headquarters in the Seef district.

During the meeting, Ms Doyle expressed her sincere congratulations to the Chair and members of the Council of Commissioners on the occasion of the Royal Decree appointing them to the National Human Rights Institution, praising their outstanding expertise and emphasising the UK Embassy's commitment to strengthening ties of cooperation and coordination with the Institution on issues of mutual interest, thereby helping to consolidate the shared interests and values between the two sides (149) .



On **29 September 2025**, Mr Ali Ahmed Alderazi, Chairman of the National Human Rights Institution, received Ms Simona Elena Karšuk, Political Officer at the Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Bahrain, based in Riyadh, During the meeting, a number of topics of mutual interest were discussed, along with ways to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the European Union and the National Human Rights Institution, particularly in the field of human rights, in a manner that serves shared interests and objectives and supports sustainable development efforts (150) .



(149) A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/25Aug2025.aspx>

(150) A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/29Sep2025.aspx>

In **October 2025**, the National Human Rights Institution received a delegation from the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council during its visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The delegation was briefed on the Institution's remit and its role in protecting and promoting human rights, including receiving complaints and raising awareness, with a focus on children's rights. Discussions also covered ways of cooperating, exchanging expertise and strengthening joint coordination, alongside a review of the General Secretariat's efforts to support joint Gulf action in the field of human rights ⁽¹⁵¹⁾.



SECTION FOUR: TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Introduction:

This section will address the events and programmes organised by the NIHR during the reporting period, in collaboration with official bodies and authorities, the civil society (private) sector, and its partnerships with diplomatic missions accredited to the Kingdom of Bahrain, academic institutions, and relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, as follows:

Section 1

Training and education with government bodies and official authorities

On **9 February 2025**, the National Human Rights Institution hosted a group of trainees from the General Directorate of Traffic as part of a field visit to the Institution's headquarters in the Seef district, with the aim of familiarising them with the role played by the Institution in promoting and protecting children's rights. During the visit, a number of legal and human rights experts delivered a lecture on the role of the National Human Rights Institution in promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This visit forms part of a series of initiatives aimed at raising awareness



⁽¹⁵¹⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/23OCT2025.aspx>

of human rights amongst government institutions and individuals ⁽¹⁵²⁾ .

On **10 February 2025**, the National Human Rights Institution, in collaboration with the National Call Centre, a human rights awareness programme for the Centre's staff at the NIHR's headquarters in the Seef district. This forms part of the NIHR's strategy and action plan to disseminate and promote a culture of human rights and to educate citizens about the rights and duties guaranteed by law, with the aim of enhancing public awareness and knowledge of human rights issues. The programme will continue until the end of this month, A number of members of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution will participate in delivering the programme, which will cover a variety of topics aimed at building capacity and raising awareness of the importance of defending and implementing human rights in local communities. Dr Lulwa bint Ahmed Al Khalifa, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Bahrain, in delivering the first lecture, which addressed several key themes concerning the historical development of human rights and intellectual freedoms and their impact on contemporary societies. She discussed how the concept of human rights has evolved over the ages and the challenges facing freedom of thought and expression ⁽¹⁵³⁾.



⁽¹⁵²⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/12Feb2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁵³⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/18Feb2025.aspx>

On 18 February 2025, the National Human Rights Institution concluded its human rights awareness programme, which was organised in collaboration with the National Contact Centre and targeted the Centre's staff, as part of its strategy and action plan to disseminate and promote a culture of human rights. The programme comprised three lectures held over three consecutive weeks, covering a variety of topics with the aim of building capacity and raising awareness of the importance of defending and implementing human rights in local communities. Dr Malallah Alhammadi, a member of the Council of Commissioners, delivered one of the lectures, during which he addressed the role of national mechanisms in promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In another lecture, Dr Badr Mohammed Adel, a member of the Council of Commissioners, international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, whilst Dr Lulwa bint Ahmed Al Khalifa, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Bahrain, delivered the third lecture, which addressed the historical development of human rights and intellectual freedoms and their impact on contemporary societies. At the conclusion of the programme, the participants expressed their appreciation for the valuable information they had received and emphasised the importance of such events, which form part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to build the capacity of professionals across various sectors and equip them with the necessary knowledge to deal effectively with human rights issues ⁽¹⁵⁴⁾.



⁽¹⁵⁴⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/27Feb2025.aspx>

On 20 February 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Shura Council, organised an introductory lecture entitled 'The Paris Principles on the Functioning of National Human Rights Institutions and the Mandate of the National Human Rights Institution in the Kingdom of Bahrain' for a number of Their Excellencies, members of the Shura Council. The lecture, delivered by Dr Badr Mohammed Adel, a member of the Council of Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution, addressed the general concept of the Paris Principles concerning the status of national human rights institutions and the mandate of the Institution in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as the importance of these principles in strengthening the independence of such institutions and their ability to perform their role effectively in protecting and promoting human rights. He also reviewed the legal NIHRs upon which the Commission bases the implementation of its mandate, including national legislation and international standards. For his part, the Chair of the National Commission explained that the lecture aimed to raise awareness of the vital role played by the Commission in defending human rights and the challenges it faces in carrying out its duties, as well as the efforts being made to overcome them. He noted that this event forms part of the cooperation between the Commission and the Shura Council, with the aim of fostering a culture of human rights and joint action between the two parties ⁽¹⁵⁵⁾.



⁽¹⁵⁵⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/20feb2025.aspx>

On 10 March 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, in collaboration with the Bahrain Institute for Political Development, organised an introductory visit for participants in the National Practical Training Programme (Itqan) to the Institution's headquarters in the Seef district. During the visit, Ms Fatima Al-Tarif, Head of the Training and Education Department at the Commission, welcomed the students and gave them a brief presentation on the main themes of the visit. The visit also included an introductory lecture delivered by a number of specialists from the General Secretariat, which focused on the origins of the National Institution and its prominent role in promoting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as its ongoing efforts to raise awareness of fundamental rights and ensure their effective implementation. The lecture also addressed the Commission's role in protecting human rights, the mechanisms in place for receiving and handling complaints, and how human rights cases are dealt with to ensure a swift response and efficient performance ⁽¹⁵⁶⁾.



On 13 April 2025, the National Human Rights Institution hosted a group of trainee students from the General Directorate of Traffic as part of the training programme: 'An exploratory visit to learn about institutional working mechanisms in the field of human rights', which was aimed at traffic training students. The visit aimed to raise participants' awareness of human rights concepts and to highlight the Commission's role in protecting human rights and promoting a culture of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The visit included an awareness-raising lecture entitled 'The Role of the National Human Rights Institution in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights', delivered by



⁽¹⁵⁶⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/17Mar2025.aspx>

specialists in legal affairs and human rights at the Institution, in its capacity as the programme's organiser. The lecture focused on the Commission's origins and remit, as well as its efforts to harmonise national legislation – including the Bahraini Traffic Act – with international human rights standards ⁽¹⁵⁷⁾ .

On 16 April 2025, the National Human Rights Institution hosted a delegation from the International Diplomats Programme (Diyafa) in its fifth edition, a programme aimed at diplomats and professionals working in the political and diplomatic fields from sisterly and friendly nations, and aims to promote the exchange of expertise, build diplomatic capacity and strengthen international cooperation. It is organised by the Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies, affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ⁽¹⁵⁸⁾ .



On Wednesday 7 May 2025, the first activities of the sixth edition of the human rights training programme were launched. The programme forms part of the cooperation between the National Human Rights Institution and the Inspector General's Office of the National Intelligence Service, and is aimed at the Service's personnel with the objective of enhancing their knowledge of human rights and raising the level of compliance with national legislation and international standards. The programme aims to promote a culture of human rights and develop institutional capacities within the security services. It is organised in partnership between the National Human Rights Institution and the Inspector General's Office of the National Intelligence Service, with the participation



⁽¹⁵⁷⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/16April2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁵⁸⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/16April2025.aspx>

of a select group of experts and specialists ⁽¹⁵⁹⁾ .

On 7 May 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised the sixth edition of the human rights training programme for members of the National Intelligence Service, which it runs in collaboration with the Office of the Inspector General of the National Intelligence Service, as part of a joint effort to disseminate, promote and entrench human rights principles within the institutional working environment, Ms Najoud Abdullah Al-Fadhel, a legal researcher at the Royal Police Academy, delivered the programme's first lecture, in which she provided a detailed explanation of the human rights principles set out in the National Action Charter and the National Plan to Strengthen National Belonging, and their role in strengthening national identity and consolidating the values of citizenship and tolerance, as well as highlighting the importance of integrating national initiatives with human rights principles in building a cohesive society based on respect for mutual rights and duties ⁽¹⁶⁰⁾ .



On 14 May 2025, the NIHR organised the second lecture as part of the human rights training programme for the Agency's staff, held at the NIHR's headquarters in the Seef district. The lecture was opened by His Excellency Sheikh Sabah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Secretary-General of the Constitutional Court, who provided an overview of the Constitutional Court, its jurisdiction and its working mechanisms, highlighting the pivotal role the Court plays in safeguarding constitutional provisions and ensuring that laws and legislation comply with the provisions of the Constitution. The lecture, entitled 'Rights and Freedoms within the Scope of



⁽¹⁵⁹⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/6May2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁶⁰⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/8May2025.aspx>

the Constitutional Court's Work', was delivered by Mr Ahmed Habib Al-Ali, Head of the Case Registration Department at the Constitutional Court. He addressed the most important constitutional guarantees relating to human rights and the mechanisms for hearing constitutional cases ⁽¹⁶¹⁾.

On 12 June 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, in collaboration with the Inspector General's Office of the National Intelligence Agency, concluded the sixth edition of the human rights training programme for the Agency's staff by organising the fourth and final lecture of the programme. The lecture was delivered by Dr Shama Abdulrazzaq Al-Khan, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Bahrain, and addressed the topic 'The Legal Challenges of Criminal Investigations into Terrorist Offences', in which she reviewed the key legal issues faced by the relevant authorities whilst conducting such investigations, whilst highlighting the importance of striking a balance between the requirements of national security and ensuring respect for human rights guaranteed under the Constitution and relevant international treaties ⁽¹⁶²⁾.



On 23 June 2025, the National Human Rights Institution welcomed a group of students from the General Traffic Directorate on a fact-finding visit to learn about the Institution's work and its role in promoting and protecting human rights. The visit included an awareness-raising lecture delivered by a number of legal experts and specialists, during which they reviewed the NIHR's origins and remit, as well as the harmonisation of national legislation – particularly the Bahraini Traffic Act – with international human rights standards, as part of the NIHR's



⁽¹⁶¹⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/18may2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁶²⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/16June2025.aspx>

efforts to disseminate and promote a culture of human rights across various sectors, including security and traffic ⁽¹⁶³⁾

On **4 November 2025**, the National Human Rights Institution welcomed a group of student trainees from the General Directorate of Traffic as part of a fact-finding visit aimed at familiarising them with the nature of the Institution's work and its key tasks in the field of promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. During the visit, an introductory lecture was organised entitled 'The Role of the National Human Rights Institution in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights', which included a presentation on the Institution's origins and remit, as well as its role in disseminating and promoting a culture of human rights within Bahraini society. The lecture also addressed the harmonisation of national legislation, particularly the Bahraini Traffic Act, with international human rights standards and principles, as well as reviewing the Commission's efforts in monitoring and following up on human rights situations, and handling complaints and observations received from individuals ⁽¹⁶⁴⁾ .



Second Requirement Training and education in collaboration with academic institutions

On **6 January 2025**, the National Human Rights Institution organised an introductory lecture for a group of male and female students from Gulf University during their visit to the Institution's headquarters to learn about the role it plays in protecting and promoting human



⁽¹⁶³⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/23%20June2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁶⁴⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/4Nov2025.aspx>

rights. During the lecture, which was delivered by Ms Fatima Al-Tarif, Head of the Training and Education Department at the Institution, and a number of experts in the fields of human rights and law, the origins of the Commission, its remit and its role in promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain were discussed, in addition to general concepts relating to international law and international human rights instruments, as well as other national mechanisms concerned with promoting and protecting human rights ⁽¹⁶⁵⁾ .

On 24 February 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law at the University of Bahrain, organised the first lecture of the Human Rights Legal Clinic programme. Fifteen students from the university took part in this lecture. The programme aimed to enhance legal knowledge and practical skills in the field of human rights. At the start of the session, Ms Fatima Al-Tarif, Head of the Training and Education Department at the NIHR, gave a brief introduction to the programme's key themes and the skills to be acquired. This was followed by a lecture by Mr Mohammed Al-Najjar, Head of the Legal Affairs Department, on ' and Fundamental Freedoms in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain' ⁽¹⁶⁶⁾ .



⁽¹⁶⁵⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/06Jan2025.aspx>

⁽¹⁶⁶⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/20Mar2025.aspx>

On 3 August 2025, the thirteenth edition of the 'Human Rights Research Fellowship' programme, organised by the National Human Rights Institution, was launched. The programme is aimed at academics, university students and human rights defenders, as well as those interested in conducting independent research in this field. First launched in 2019, the programme aims to develop participants' critical thinking and analytical skills, and to enhance their capacity for innovation and creativity in order to find effective solutions that contribute to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.

The programme offers a comprehensive training programme combining theoretical and practical elements, with a focus on Bahraini and international human rights legislation. It also includes specialised lectures on academic research, field visits to a number of organisations, and an introduction to the Commission's remit in the areas of protection and promotion, as part of its ongoing efforts to foster a culture of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain; more than 200 participants have benefited from the programme since its launch. (167)



برنامج الزمالة البحثية
في مجال حقوق الإنسان
Human Rights
Fellowship Program

(167) A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/03Aug2025.aspx>

On 5 October 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law at the University of Bahrain, organised the first lecture of the Human Rights Legal Clinic programme, attended by 11 students. The lecture included an introduction to the programme's key themes and a video presentation about the Institution, alongside a lecture on fundamental rights and freedoms under the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This marks the twenty-fifth cohort since the programme's launch, during which the Commission has trained more than 270 students. The programme will run throughout the first academic term (2025–2026), from September to December 2025. It comprises more than 15 lectures in various fields, such as report writing and monitoring, drafting legal opinions, and organising human rights events. These are delivered by a number of specialists in legal affairs and human rights, with the aim of enhancing students' knowledge of human rights principles and mechanisms for their protection, and developing their legal and research skills in this field ⁽¹⁶⁸⁾ .



⁽¹⁶⁸⁾) A press release published on the Foundation's official website: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/5Oct2025.aspx>

On 18 November 2025, the National Human Rights Institution welcomed a group of students from the Abdullah bin Khalid College of Islamic Studies on a field visit to the Institution's headquarters in the Al-Seef district, as part of its programme aimed at raising awareness of human rights culture amongst students at higher education institutions. During the visit, a number of legal and human rights experts from the General Secretariat delivered an awareness-raising lecture covering the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution and its legal development, its remit as set out in its founding law, and its role in promoting and disseminating a culture of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The lecturers also outlined the Commission's remit in the field of human rights protection, which includes receiving complaints, monitoring, follow-up and conducting field visits, as well as preparing reports and issuing recommendations aimed at supporting national efforts in this regard. The students also took a guided tour of the Commission's Complaints & Call Center, where they were briefed on the centre's operational procedures,

the procedures followed in receiving complaints and requests for legal assistance, and how these are handled in accordance with national and international standards⁽¹⁶⁹⁾



(169)) Press release on the Foundation's official website:
<https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/18nov2025.aspx>.

On 26 November 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised an awareness-raising lecture for a group of law students from the University of Applied Sciences at the Institution's headquarters in the Seef district. The lecture was delivered by Dr Shaima Abdulla Mohammed, a member of the Council of Commissioners, who outlined the role played by the Institution in promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and its working mechanisms in accordance with the Paris Principles governing the work of independent national human rights institutions. The lecture also addressed a number of topics related to the NIHR's work, including its vision and mission in promoting a culture of human rights, areas of cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, and its mandated responsibilities in accordance with the Paris Principles. It also outlined the target groups for its work, the digital services available via the Commission's mobile app, and its role in monitoring fair trial guarantees ⁽¹⁷⁰⁾.



⁽¹⁷⁰⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/27nov2025.aspx>.

CHAPTER THREE: THE MANDATE OF THE CHILD RIGHTS COMMISSIONER IN THE FIELD OF PROTECTING AND PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Introduction and Structure:

The Kingdom of Bahrain has attached great importance to issues relating to children, as reflected in the enactment of the Children's Act and the Act on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, as well as the Kingdom's accession to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the two Optional Protocols concerning the involvement of children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as its commitment to submitting periodic and regular national reports on progress made in implementing the provisions of that Convention and its Optional Protocols to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

With growing global concern for children, and with a view to improving the human rights environment within national systems, the United Nations' treaty and non-treaty mechanisms concerned with human rights have called for the adoption of practical measures to ensure the adoption of further policies and measures aimed at strengthening and protecting children's rights mechanisms, which prompted the NIHR to examine these observations and recommendations and to move forward towards actively contributing to their implementation. This has taken the form of the creation of the post of Child Rights Commissioner and the appointment of a member of the Council of Commissioners to fulfil this mandate, which involves monitoring all matters that serve to promote and protect the rights of this group, as one of the groups most in need of care, whose rights must be guaranteed by taking into account their best interests in all circumstances.

Accordingly, this chapter will outline the role played by the Child Rights Commissioner during 2025, in two sections: the first devoted to her role in the protection of children's rights, and the second to her role in the promotion of children's rights.

Section One: The Role of the Child Rights Commissioner in the Field of Child Rights Protection

The protection of children's rights is one of the key priorities that the NIHR works to achieve, based on its role in monitoring the extent to which human rights are respected and protected in the Kingdom, and ensuring that all groups – particularly vulnerable groups such as children – enjoy their full rights as stipulated in national legislation and international conventions ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain.

In this context, the Child Rights Commissioner plays a pivotal role in monitoring and addressing violations to which children may be subjected, whether through the receipt of direct complaints or via a monitoring and follow-up mechanism, whereby intervention takes place in coordination with the relevant authorities to ensure the immediate cessation of any violation, address its consequences, and ensure that it does not recur.

This section focuses on reviewing the efforts made by the Child Rights Commissioner during 2025 in the field of child rights protection, by analysing the complaints dealt with, the cases monitored, the measures taken, and the extent to which the relevant authorities have complied with their obligations to cooperate and apply the relevant legal and human rights standards. This section also addresses the field visits undertaken by the Child Rights Commissioner and the court hearings attended; it should be noted that recommendations concerning various children's rights will be set out in Chapter 4 of this report, which is dedicated to recommendations.

Section 1: Complaints relating to children's rights

This section deals with the complaints received or monitored by the Child Rights Commissioner, totalling 38 complaints, setting out their main themes and the measures taken in response, thereby reflecting the Commissioner's efforts to monitor the situation of children and promote the protection of their rights and best interests.

Section 1: Complaints received or monitored relating to the right to education

Introduction:

This section analyses complaints received through the Commission's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Education, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Child Protection Centre, as well as relevant official responses and details of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to providing the required educational services, in light of the national legislative framework and international standards.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, monitored or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture;

however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data was also analysed in the light of a number of key interrelated dimensions of the right to education, including: the availability of educational institutions; access; quality of education; continuity; and responsiveness to educational needs, in line with General Comment No. 13 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.¹⁷¹

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to education, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

First: International Standards and National Legislation

The protection of the right to education is based on an integrated international and national legal framework. At the international level, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Decree-Law No. (16) of 1991, affirms, in Articles (28)¹⁷², and Article 29¹⁷³,

¹⁷¹ [General Comment No. 13 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning the right to education](#)

¹⁷² [The Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), in the first paragraph of Article 28, stipulates that: "States Parties recognise the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving the full realisation of this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular: (a) Make primary education compulsory and available free of charge to all; (b) Encourage the development of various forms of secondary education, whether general or vocational, and ensure that they are available to all children, and take appropriate measures such as introducing free education and providing financial assistance where necessary; (c) Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of merit, by all appropriate means; (d) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children; (e) Take measures to encourage regular school attendance and reduce drop-out rates. In the second paragraph, States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the school system is administered in a manner consistent with the best interests of the child and in accordance with this Convention. In the third paragraph, the States Parties to this Convention shall promote and encourage international co-operation in matters relating to education, in particular with a view to contributing to the eradication of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and to modern means of education. Particular attention shall be paid to the needs of developing countries in this regard.

¹⁷³ The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 29, paragraph 1, stipulates that: 1. States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: (a) the development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential; (b) the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. (c) the development of respect for the child's parents, his or her cultural identity, language and own values, as well as the national values of the country in which the child is living and the country from which he or she originates, and for civilisations different from his or her own; (d) To prepare the child for a life of responsibility in a free society, in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, gender equality and friendship amongst all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups, and persons belonging to indigenous communities. (e) To foster respect for the natural environment.

the right of the child to education based on equal opportunities, the guarantee of free and compulsory education during its basic stages, the promotion of access to various stages of education, and the orientation of education towards the development of the child's personality and the promotion of the values of tolerance and human rights. The Convention also obliges States to take measures to encourage regular school attendance and reduce drop-out rates, and to ensure that school discipline is enforced in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity.

At the national level, the right to education is guaranteed under Article 7 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain¹⁷⁴. To regulate this right, Law No. (27) of 2005 on Education was enacted to set out its provisions and objectives, emphasising that basic education is compulsory and free of charge, and the State's role in developing and supervising the education system to ensure the quality of educational outcomes and make education accessible to all sections of society.

These frameworks reflect a commitment to promoting the right to education and ensuring the provision of educational services for children.

Secondly: Complaints data

(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to education

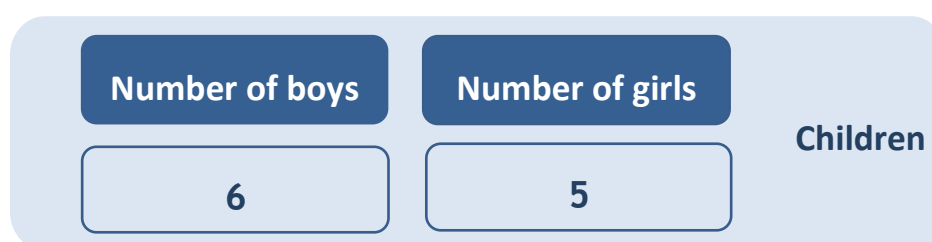


Eleven (11) complaints were received in 2024, the same number as recorded in 2025, indicating relative stability in the number of complaints relating to this right, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or the development of handling mechanisms, and reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure the provision of education.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

¹⁷⁴ [The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain](#), in Article 7, stipulates that: "A. The State shall foster science, literature and the arts, and encourage scientific research; it shall also guarantee educational and cultural services for citizens. Education shall be compulsory and free at the initial stages specified by law and in the manner set out therein; the law shall establish the necessary plan to eradicate illiteracy. (b) The law shall regulate aspects of religious and national education at the various stages and types of education, and shall, in all of them, seek to strengthen the character of the citizen and their pride in their Arab identity. (c) Individuals and bodies may establish private schools and universities under the supervision of the State and in accordance with the law. (d) The State shall guarantee the sanctity of the role of science."

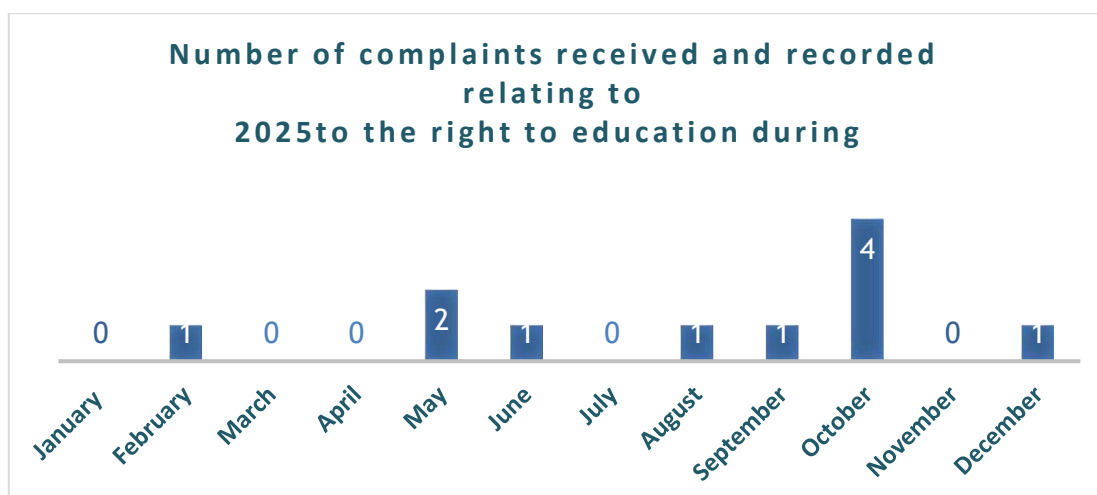
- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



- **Subjects of complaints**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to education, totalling 11 complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Failure by the management of a private school to issue graduation certificates and original diplomas to a student due to the guardian's failure to pay the amounts owed to the school.	2
A girl's absence from school due to family disputes.	1
Refusal to enrol children of Arab nationality in state schools.	3
A girl's request to transfer from the home-based enrolment system at secondary level to the face-to-face system in state schools	1
The Ministry of Education's failure to provide transport to a residential area.	1
A change to the school timetable for a child with special educational needs at a special needs centre without the parent's consent.	1
Enabling a child to complete their education and sit final examinations whilst in a reform and rehabilitation centre for young children.	1
A parent's failure to enrol their son in state schools after he reached the compulsory age for basic education.	1
Total	11

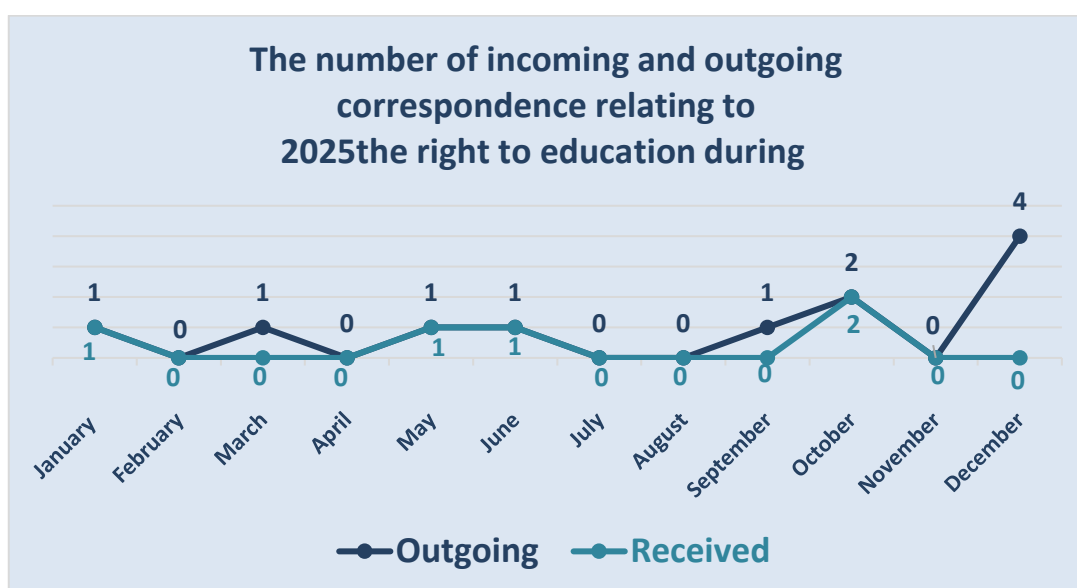


- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined the complaints received and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and liaising with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	11
Responses received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	5

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the organisation and the competent authorities to address the complaints.



Third: Verification of procedures and handling of complaints:

As part of its supervisory role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to education, the NIHR, during the period covered by this report, contacted the relevant authorities to verify the measures taken regarding a number of cases relating to the education of children, both those whose liberty is unrestricted and those whose liberty is restricted, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which appropriate educational opportunities and the necessary educational services are provided to beneficiaries in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR has sent a total of nine letters to **the Ministry of Education**, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
3	To consider the possibility of establishing a mechanism for the enrolment and completion of primary and lower secondary education for two children of Arab nationality in state schools.	The NIHR is awaiting a response.
3	To look into the reasons for a girl's absence from school.	The NIHR is awaiting a response.
1	Request for information regarding the home-based study programme.	The response outlined the mechanism and procedures for enrolment in the home-based study programme, which is open to specific categories of students, including: secondary school students (returning students), students due to graduate from higher and vocational education, primary and lower secondary school pupils (provided they are aged 15 or over), holders of foreign qualifications following equivalence assessment, as well as those serving sentences or under detention, in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior. The process is conducted electronically through the

		submission and validation of documents in accordance with academic and age criteria, during which students receive the curriculum and sit examinations in accordance with the regulations, with registration fees imposed on non-Bahraini students according to their academic level.
1	Enquiry regarding the accuracy of reports that transport is not available for one of the state schools.	The response stated that the Ministry does not provide transport for this school due to its proximity to the residential complexes within its catchment area.
1	An enquiry regarding a parent's failure to enrol their son in a state school after he had reached the compulsory age for basic education.	The response stated that the Ministry had taken the necessary measures to enrol the child in state schools.

The NIHR also wrote to **the Public Prosecution Service** in one (1) letter, as follows:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Examination of the child's legal status (obtaining supporting documents to complete enrolment procedures at state schools).	The response stated that the Public Prosecution had initiated an investigation into the complaint.

The NIHR wrote to **the Child Protection Centre** in one (1) letter, as follows:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Enquiry regarding the legal status of the child (currently at the Reform and Rehabilitation Centre – Young Offenders) and the possibility of him	The response stated that the child had been placed in the Social Care Complex as a measure and that this placement had been renewed; it was noted that the child is continuing his education and is

	continuing his education whilst at the centre.	permitted to sit final examinations, bearing in mind that the centre is the implementing body for the measure issued.
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It is clear from the above that the organisation dealt with five enquiries relating to the right to education, following up on these cases with the relevant authorities. This follow-up resulted in clarification of the mechanism and procedures for registration in the home-based enrolment system; an explanation of the reasons for the lack of transport provision to one state school, as it is situated within a residential area close to the school; and the taking of necessary measures to enrol one child in a state school despite his guardian's failure to complete the enrolment procedures. An investigation was also launched into a guardian's failure to submit the necessary identification documents to complete a child's enrolment. Furthermore, the NIHR ensured that a child whose liberty was restricted continued to receive an education and was able to sit examinations whilst in the custody of the relevant authorities, thereby ensuring that their education was not interrupted.

The Organisation also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, drawing on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, all of which affirm the child's right to education and the need to provide it on the basis of equal opportunities and without discrimination, whilst taking measures to ensure the continuity of education and remove barriers to access.

In parallel with this, the NIHR reviewed the relevant national legislative frameworks, starting with the Constitution, which guarantees the right to education, through to the Education Act and the regulations and decisions governing the educational process, and extending to legislation relating to the protection and care of children, with the aim of verifying that the measures taken by the competent authorities have effectively contributed to ensuring that children have access to appropriate educational opportunities, that a suitable educational environment is provided for them, and that their best interests are taken into account, including both children whose liberty is not restricted and those whose liberty is restricted.

As part of its monitoring role, the Organisation continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to the right to education after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that children, including those deprived of their liberty, continue to enjoy their right to education, and to ensure that they have access to the necessary educational services in accordance with relevant national legislation and international standards.

Fourth: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the NIHR concludes as follows:

1- With regard to school transport

The information indicates that the organisation of the school transport service is based on approved criteria and procedures that take into account the school's geographical scope and its proximity to the residential areas benefiting from its services. This highlights the importance of continuing to assess the impact of this on pupils' regular attendance, so as to ensure that children's right to education is not compromised in practice.

2- With regard to the continuation of schooling for children whose freedom is restricted

One of the responses indicated that the competent authorities have taken the necessary measures to ensure that children whose freedom is restricted continue to enjoy their right to education and are permitted to sit examinations. This reflects consideration of educational aspects alongside their legal and social status, thereby helping to minimise any effects that might jeopardise the continuity of their educational journey.

3- Regarding applications for the enrolment of non-Bahraini children in state schools

The review revealed that the applications under consideration relate to cases that do not fall within the categories covered by the admission and enrolment rules and regulations in force in state schools; consequently, this does not constitute a breach of the procedures or legal frameworks governing this matter.

Nevertheless, in line with the Authority's commitment to enhancing children's access to education and ensuring the continuity of their educational journey, it has referred these cases to the Ministry of Education to consider the possibility of exploring any available alternatives or appropriate measures that would facilitate their enrolment in education, within the limits of the applicable regulations and controls.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the continuous development of educational services.

Section Two: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms

Introduction:

This section analyses complaints received through the organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with the relevant authorities, as well as the relevant official responses and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables

an assessment of the level of commitment to meeting the necessary basic requirements and ensures the full enjoyment of various rights and freedoms, in light of the national legislative framework and international standards.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, monitored or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

It also involves identifying the challenges associated with the enjoyment of various rights and freedoms, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals can enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

First: International Standards and National Legislation

The enjoyment of various rights and freedoms in the Kingdom of Bahrain is based on a comprehensive legal framework, consistent with international standards, which aims, as a whole, to safeguard the human dignity of the child as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which emphasises that these rights are fundamental pillars in the building of the state.

This protection has been realised through the enactment of a package of national legislation, which has not merely regulated the mechanisms for exercising these rights, but has also extended to ensuring their quality and sustainability, as inherent rights that guarantee every child the enjoyment of all those fundamental rights and freedoms relevant to them without discrimination of any kind, whether on the basis of race, sex, language, religion, opinion, origin or any other status.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting various rights and freedoms and ensuring that they are made available to children.

Second: Complaints Data

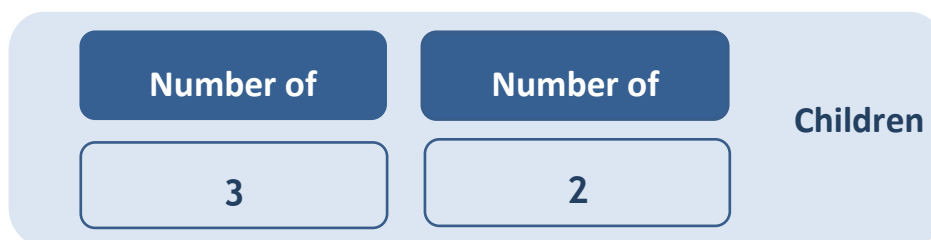
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms



Six (6) complaints were received in 2024, whilst five (5) complaints were received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms, and reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure the provision of various rights and freedoms.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

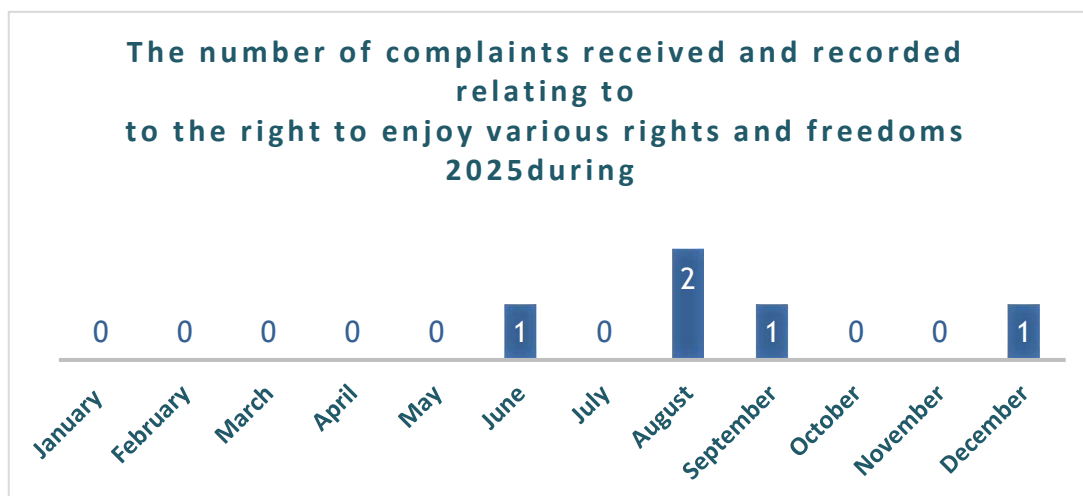
- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



- **Subjects of complaints:**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to various rights and freedoms, totalling five (5) complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Family disputes.	4
Request to allow a father (a Bahraini national) to see his son after his foreign mother had travelled outside Bahrain.	1
Total	5



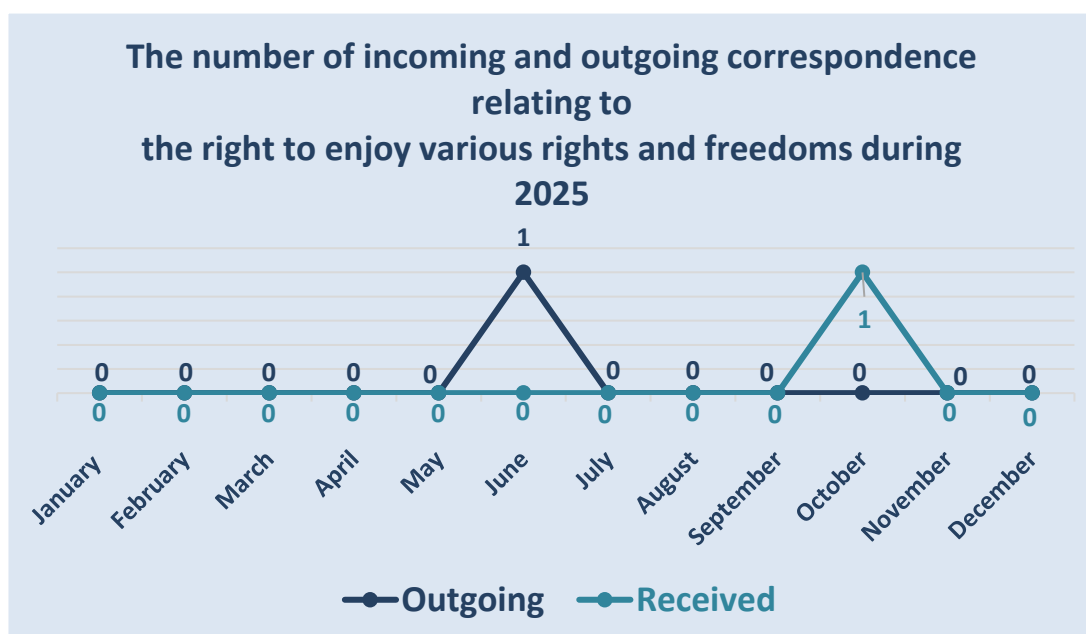
- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and liaising with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	1
Replies received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	1

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the Commission and the competent authorities to address the complaints.

As part of the Child Rights Commissioner's commitment to strengthening mechanisms for receiving and following up on complaints, and to ensuring direct communication with complainants, the Commissioner met with a complainant whose request centred on enabling him to see his son, who is outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, at his request, to discuss the details of the complaint, thereby enabling the Commission to follow up on the complaint with the relevant authorities.



Third: Verification of procedures and handling of complaints

As part of its oversight role and its monitoring of complaints and reports relating to various rights and freedoms, during the period covered by this report, the NIHR wrote to the relevant authorities to verify the measures taken regarding one case, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which the enjoyment of various

fundamental rights and freedoms is guaranteed, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR sent one (1) letter to **the Human Rights Ombudsman of Russia**, as set out in the following table:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	To consider the possibility of allowing a father to see his son after his foreign mother took him out of Bahrain, following his claim that her family and social environment abroad was unstable.	The response stated that the competent authorities had examined the child's situation and care arrangements, and found no evidence to support the allegations regarding the mother's failure to fulfil her family duties. It was also found that the child enjoys a suitable family environment and conditions conducive to his growth and development, and maintains positive family relationships. It also noted that a meeting had been arranged between the father and his son in Russia, explaining that the family legislation in force in the Russian Federation guarantees parents separated from their child the right to maintain contact with him, to participate in his upbringing and to make decisions regarding his education. She explained that parents may agree on the arrangements for exercising these rights; should they be unable to reach an agreement, the courts have jurisdiction to adjudicate the dispute and determine contact arrangements in the child's best interests.

It is clear from the above that the NIHR dealt with one (1) complaint concerning various rights and freedoms relating to economic, social and cultural rights, and that it followed up on this case with the relevant authority and verified the measures taken in this regard. In this context, it became apparent to the

Institution – based on the information provided to it and its observations during the follow-up – that all necessary measures had been taken by the competent authority outside the Kingdom of Bahrain.

As for the remaining cases relating to family disputes concerning children, the nature of the complaints necessitated the provision of legal advice to the complainants by referring them to the authorities with primary jurisdiction, such as the Child Protection Centre, depending on the nature and type of each complaint.

The NIHR also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which emphasise the guarantee that individuals shall enjoy their rights without discrimination.

In parallel with this, the NIHR reviewed the relevant national legislation and examined the measures taken in light of the general rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the State's affirmed commitment to protecting and promoting them. The Commission also took into account the provisions of relevant laws and regulations concerning the guarantee of rights and services for various sections of society, the promotion of the principle of equal opportunities, and the provision of a suitable environment.

As part of its monitoring role, the Commission continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding the services provided after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons, including those whose liberty is restricted, enjoy the necessary services in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the right to various public rights and freedoms.

Fourth: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Commission concludes that it is important **to raise public awareness of the legal procedures and the competent authorities responsible for addressing family disputes**. It was observed from the cases received that some individuals were unaware of the competent authorities and the procedures to be followed when submitting applications or complaints, particularly in family disputes, which leads to delays in them obtaining their rights and difficulties in pursuing them.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the continuous development of services relating to various rights and freedoms.

Section III: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to the highest attainable standard of health (the right to health)

Introduction:

This section analyses complaints received through the Organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant bodies, including government hospitals, as well as medical reports and relevant

official responses, and details of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of compliance with the provision of required health services, in light of the national legislative framework and international standards.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, monitored or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of the right to health, including: the availability of health services, accessibility, the quality of care provided, and the continuity of service provision, in line with General Comment No. 14 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.¹⁷⁵

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to health, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

First: International Standards and National Legislation

The protection of the right to health is based on a comprehensive framework of international and national legal norms. The Convention on the Rights of the Child¹⁷⁶ affirms the right of the child to the highest attainable standard of health and to access the necessary healthcare services without discrimination. Similarly, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile

¹⁷⁵ [General Comment No. 14 issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)

¹⁷⁶ [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#): Article 24, paragraph 1, stipulates that “States Parties recognise the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation. States Parties shall undertake all appropriate measures to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.” In the second paragraph, States Parties shall ensure the full realisation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures to: (a) reduce infant and child mortality; (b) ensure that all children have access to the necessary medical assistance and health care, with an emphasis on the development of primary health care; (c) combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and the provision of adequate nutritious food and clean drinking water, taking into account the dangers and risks of environmental pollution; (d) ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers; (e) ensuring that all sectors of society, in particular parents and children, are provided with basic information on child health and nutrition, the benefits of breastfeeding, the principles of health preservation and environmental hygiene, and accident prevention, and that these sectors receive education in these areas and are assisted in making use of this information; (f) To develop preventive health care and guidance for parents, as well as education and services relating to family planning. In paragraph 3, States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures to eliminate traditional practices that are harmful to the health of children. In the fourth paragraph, States Parties undertake to strengthen and encourage international co-operation with a view to the progressive realisation of the right recognised in this article. Particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries in this regard.”

Justice (the Beijing Rules)¹⁷⁷ address the need to take into account children’s health and psychological needs at all stages of their care, so as to ensure their protection, care and the promotion of their well-being, whilst taking the necessary measures to ensure they receive appropriate care and services in accordance with their age and best interests. Furthermore, the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty¹⁷⁸ address the right of juveniles to receive adequate medical, preventive and therapeutic care.

At the national level, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain¹⁷⁹ guarantees the right to healthcare, whilst the Public Health Act and its implementing regulations have strengthened the legislative framework governing preventive and curative services and the protection of public health, covering all sections of society. Furthermore, the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act and its implementing regulations affirm the right of persons deprived of their liberty to access the necessary medical care without discrimination, reflecting the Kingdom of Bahrain’s commitment to protecting the right to health and ensuring the availability of health services for all.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to health and ensuring the provision of health services for children.

Second: Complaints data

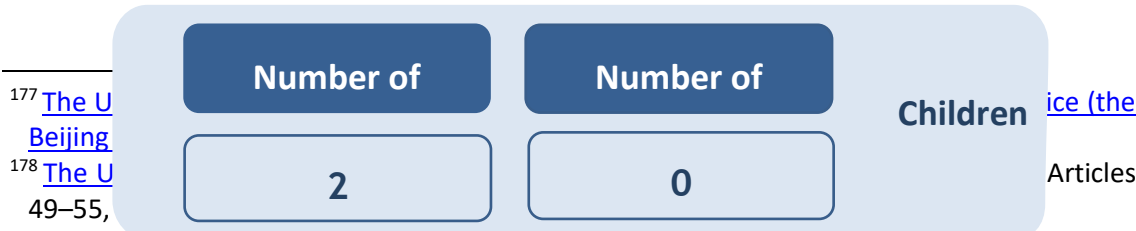
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to health



No complaints were received in 2024, whilst two (2) complaints were received in 2025. A relative increase in the number of complaints in 2025 is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or the development of handling mechanisms. This reflects the ongoing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure the provision of healthcare.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

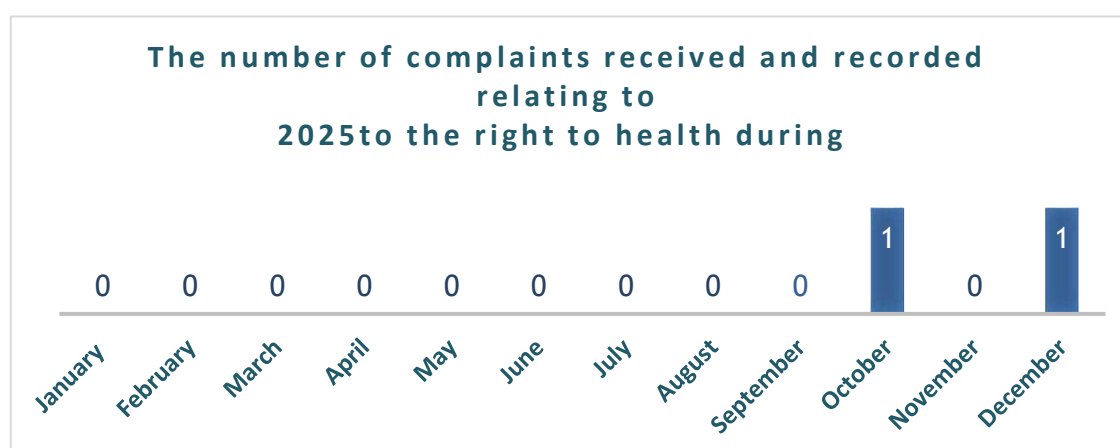
- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



¹⁷⁷ [The U Beijing](#)
¹⁷⁸ [The U](#) 49–55,
¹⁷⁹ The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Article 8, stipulates that: “a) Every citizen has the right to healthcare; the State shall be responsible for public health and shall ensure the means of prevention and treatment by establishing various hospitals and health institutions”; “b) Individuals and bodies may establish hospitals, clinics or treatment centres under State supervision, in accordance with the law.”

- **Subjects of complaints**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to health conditions, totalling two (2) complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:



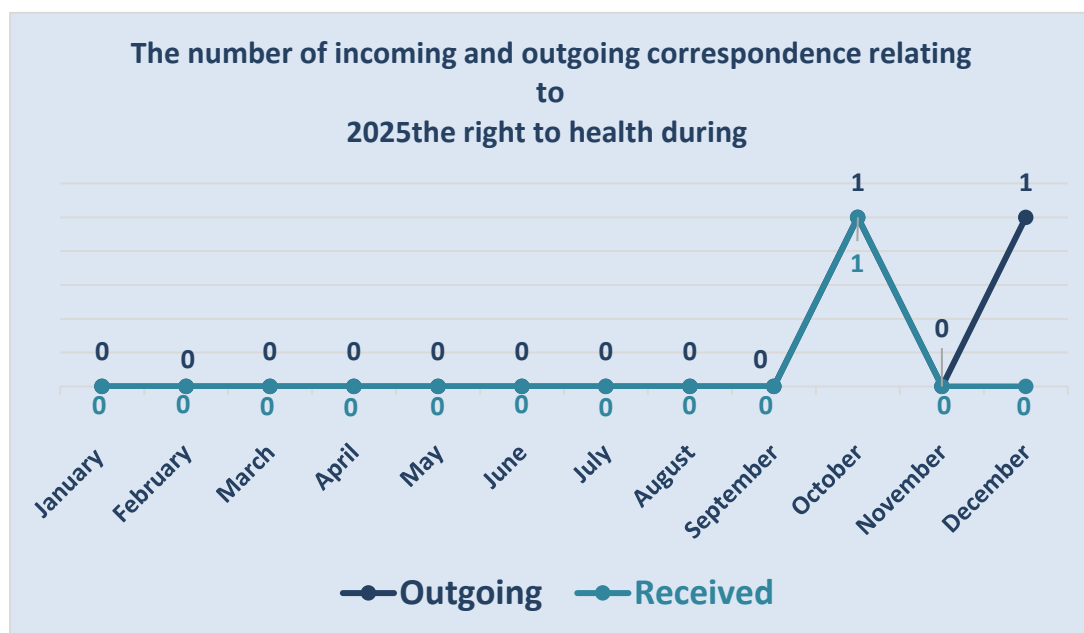
Type of complaint	Number
An infant was subjected to medical negligence, resulting in brain damage and atrophy, as well as loss of sight and the inability to move.	1
Monitoring the health condition of a resident suffering from severe swelling and discolouration of the fingers, abdominal pain and body tremors.	1
Total	2

- **Response and follow-up:**

The organisation examined and followed up on the complaints to reach appropriate solutions. Following the preparation of a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and liaising with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	2
Responses received during the reporting period, whilst communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities continue.	1

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the organisation and the relevant authorities to address complaints.



Third: Verification of procedures and handling of complaints

As part of its oversight role and its monitoring of complaints and reports relating to the right to health, during the period covered by this report the NIHR wrote to the relevant authorities to verify the procedures taken regarding a number of health cases involving persons both in and out of detention, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which the necessary healthcare is provided to them in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR sent two letters to **government hospitals**, as set out in the following table:

Number Letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Follow-up on the health status of a resident suffering from health problems.	The organisation is awaiting a response.

1	Request for information regarding a medical error affecting an infant.	The response included a medical report on the child's health condition and the medical measures taken, including a meeting with the child's parents to allow them to raise their observations and queries and to listen to their requests, which centred on obtaining a second medical opinion regarding his health condition, considering the possibility of treatment abroad, and reviewing certain medical procedures. The response also indicated that the hospitals had taken all necessary steps to coordinate the obtaining of a second medical opinion from specialists, on the basis of which the need for any additional therapeutic interventions would be determined, including intensive physiotherapy or exploring the possibility of treatment abroad.
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It is clear from the above that the NIHR dealt with one (1) letter concerning the provision of healthcare, having followed up on this case with the relevant authorities. This follow-up revealed that government hospitals had reviewed the medical procedures undertaken in relation to a medical error affecting an infant and ensured their appropriateness and compliance with approved medical standards.

The NIHR also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which affirm the right of every individual to the highest level of physical and mental health. In parallel with this, the NIHR reviewed the national legislative frameworks, starting with the Constitution, which guarantees the right to healthcare, and the Correctional and Rehabilitation Authority Act, with the aim of ensuring that the measures taken by the competent authorities had effectively contributed to promoting public health and guaranteeing the provision of both curative and preventive medical care to all groups without neglect or discrimination.

As part of its oversight role, the NIHR continues to follow up on any responses or updates it receives regarding complaints relating to healthcare after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons, including those whose liberty is restricted and those whose liberty is not restricted, enjoy the necessary health services in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the right to health.

Fourth: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Commission concludes that there is ongoing coordination between the Commission and the relevant authorities regarding the health cases under review. This contributes to the continued monitoring of developments relating to the reported cases and ensures the continuity of health service provision in accordance with the nature of each case and its medical needs, within the framework of the Commission's monitoring role in upholding the right to health.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the continuous development of health services.

Section IV: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to physical and psychological safety

Introduction:

This section analyses complaints received through the NIHR's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development and the Public Prosecution, as well as the relevant official responses and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of compliance with the required standards of physical and psychological safety, in light of the national legislative framework and international standards.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, monitored or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of the right to physical and psychological safety, including: the availability of the prerequisites for physical and psychological safety; access to protection mechanisms; the quality of preventive measures taken, as well as the continuity of the implementation of protection and care procedures. This is in line with General Comment No. 20 issued by the Committee on Civil and Political Rights¹⁸⁰, which sets out the absolute prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which may not be restricted. It also emphasised the obligation of States Parties to take the necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to prevent such practices, to investigate allegations thereof, and to ensure that victims have access to effective remedies, and that protection is not limited to persons whose liberty is restricted but extends to all persons, including children, patients in medical institutions, and students in educational institutions.

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to physical and psychological integrity, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all

¹⁸⁰ [General Comment No. 20 issued by the Human Rights Committee \(Civil and Political Rights\)](#)

individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

First: International Standards and National Legislation

The protection of the right to physical and psychological safety is based on a comprehensive framework of international and national legal provisions. The Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasises the protection of children from all forms of violence and abuse, stipulating in Article 19¹⁸¹ that States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of violence, injury or abuse, whether physical or mental, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, whilst in the care of their parents, legal guardians or any other person responsible for their care. As the Committee on the Rights of the Child has clarified in General Comment No. 13¹⁸², the right of the child to be free from all forms of violence is an inalienable right, and protection must extend to all environments in which the child is present, including the family, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and social care and protection institutions, whilst emphasising the obligation of States to adopt comprehensive preventive measures to ensure the protection of children from risks and violations, to safeguard their dignity, and to promote their best interests and their healthy and safe development.

As regards relevant national legislation, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees the protection of the right to physical and mental integrity, with paragraph (d) of Article 19 stipulating that ‘No person shall be subjected to physical or mental torture, inducement, or treatment that undermines dignity; the law shall prescribe the punishment for anyone who does so. Furthermore, any statement or confession proven to have been made under the influence of torture, inducement, or such treatment, or under threat of any of these, shall be null and void’. In line with the above, the Children’s Act of the Kingdom of Bahrain No. 37 of 2012 sets out explicit provisions in this regard, with Article 42¹⁸³ stipulating the protection of children from all forms of violence, harm or physical, psychological or sexual abuse, and obliging the competent authorities to take the necessary measures to this end.

In the same vein, the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, enacted by Law No. (4) of 2021, pays particular attention to protecting children from various forms of harm and abuse, where Article 40¹⁸⁴ stipulates

¹⁸¹ Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that “States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of violence, injury or abuse, whether physical or mental, neglect or negligent treatment, or abuse or exploitation, including sexual abuse, whilst in the care of a parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person entrusted with the child’s care.”

¹⁸² [General Comment No. 13 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.](#)

¹⁸³ Article 42 of the Act stipulates that “the State shall ensure the protection of the child in cases where he or she is subjected to abuse or neglect”.

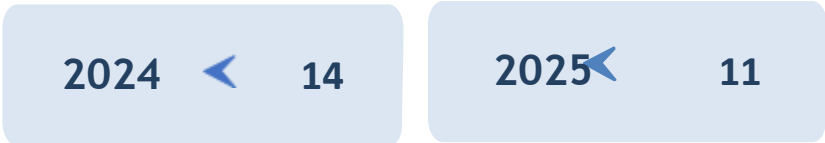
¹⁸⁴ Article 40 of the Act stipulates that, for the purposes of applying the provisions of this Act, ‘abuse’ means any act or omission that causes direct or indirect harm to a child and prevents his or her healthy, safe and secure upbringing and development; this includes physical, psychological or sexual abuse, neglect or economic exploitation. Physical abuse is defined as any act likely to result in the deliberate physical harm of a child.

that maltreatment includes any act or omission that may cause direct or indirect harm to a child, preventing their upbringing and development in a sound, safe and healthy manner, including physical, psychological or sexual abuse, neglect or economic exploitation.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to physical and psychological safety, and to ensuring that children are afforded a standard of safety.

Second: Complaint data

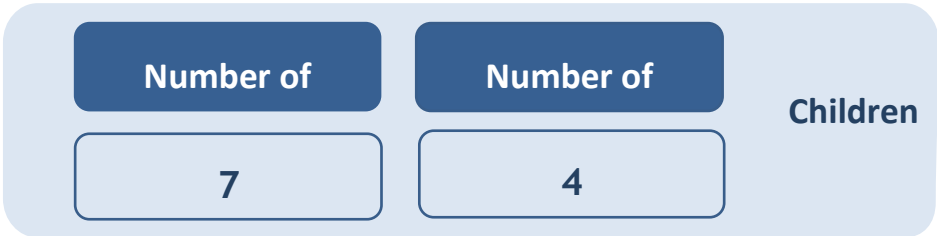
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to physical and psychological safety



A total of 14 complaints were received in 2024, whilst 11 were received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms. This reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure physical and psychological safety.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



- **Subjects of complaints**

Psychological abuse means any act that is likely to harm the child’s psychological and mental development.

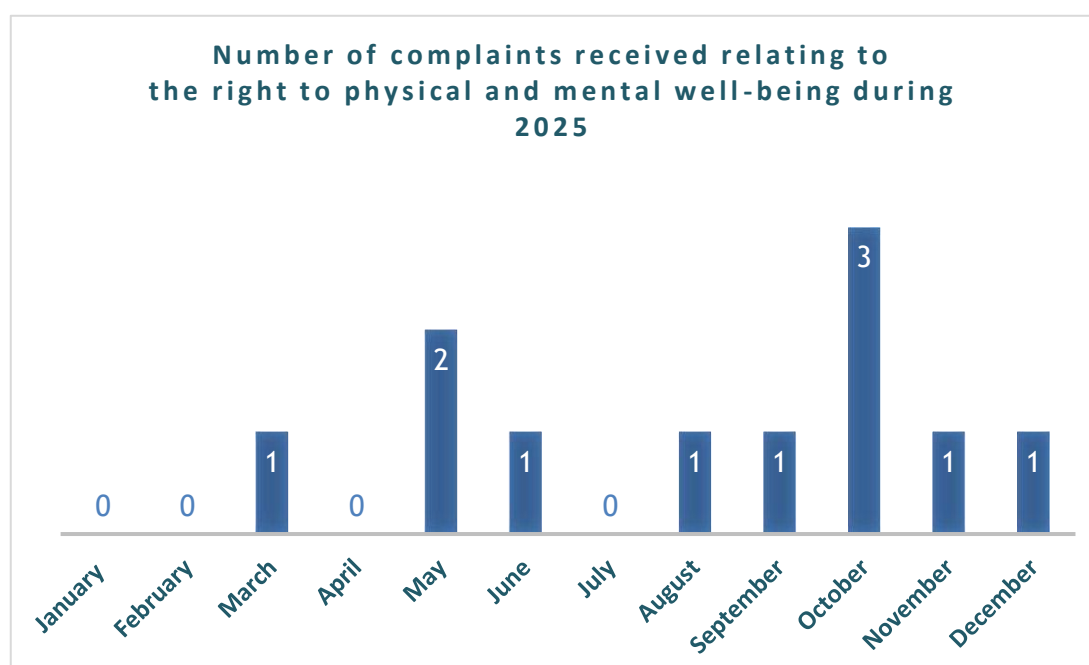
Sexual abuse means subjecting a child to any sexual activity, including the exposure of private parts, fondling, penetration (vaginal or anal), or an attempt to do so, or exposing a child to pornographic films or images, or using them in the production or distribution of such material in any form.

Neglect is defined as the failure of the parents or those responsible for the child’s care to fulfil their duty to safeguard the child’s life and safety.

If physical or sexual abuse of a child is committed by the child’s guardian or the person responsible for them, the Public Prosecution Service shall appoint a legal representative for the child.

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to physical and psychological safety, totalling 11 complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
A number of children were subjected to verbal and physical abuse within the family.	5
A number of children were subjected to abuse in certain private rehabilitation centres.	3
A pupil assaulted another pupil at a state school.	1
A girl was subjected to sexual harassment and assault by a family member.	1
Three children were put at risk due to abuse and neglect by their parents	1
Total	11

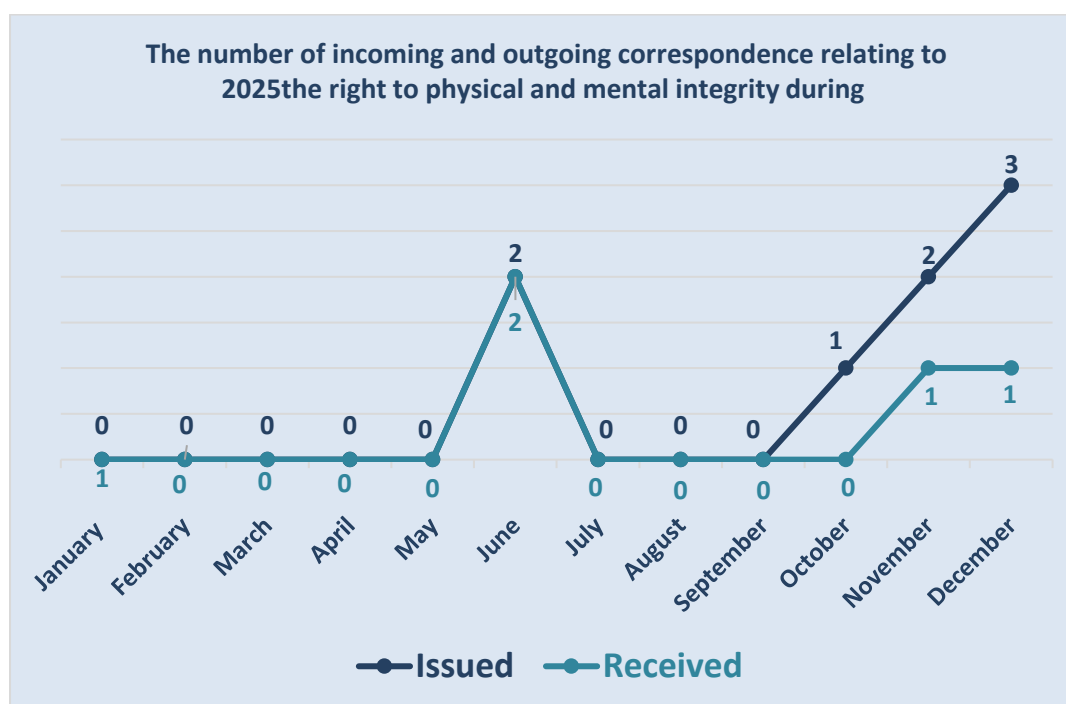


- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and liaising with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	8
Responses received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	4

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the organisation and the competent authorities to address the complaints.



Third: Verification of procedures and handling of complaints

As part of its supervisory role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to physical and psychological safety, the NIHR, during the period covered by this report, contacted the relevant authorities to verify the measures taken in a number of cases, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which their protection from any form of violence or abuse is ensured, in accordance with relevant national legislation and international standards.

The NIHR sent three letters to **the Ministry of Education**, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
3	Request for information regarding an assault by one pupil on another at a state school.	The NIHR is awaiting a response.

The NIHR also wrote to **the Ministry of Social Development** in one (1) letter, as follows:

Number of communications	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	Enquiry regarding the action taken in response to a complaint that a child had been subjected to sexual harassment and abuse by a family member.	The response stated that the Child Protection Centre had taken all necessary measures regarding the report received, in accordance with the applicable regulatory and legal frameworks, and in a manner that serves the best interests of the child and ensures the protection of her rights.

The Organisation also wrote to **the Public Prosecution Service** on four occasions, as follows:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
2	Enquiry regarding the action taken in relation to the mistreatment of a number of children by certain private rehabilitation centres.	The response to the two letters stated that the Public Prosecution had launched an investigation and that the case was still under investigation.
2	Enquiry regarding reports submitted by the father of two children who were harassed by a relative.	The response stated that the Public Prosecution had launched an investigation and referred the case to the

		competent court for consideration.
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It is clear from the above that the Organisation dealt with four communications containing requests or enquiries regarding the right to physical and psychological safety. Follow-up revealed that the competent authorities had taken the necessary measures, each within their respective remit, whether by conducting investigations or referring cases to the competent courts in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks, whilst taking into account the best interests of the child and ensuring the protection of their rights and safety. The NIHR also ensured that a representative attended the relevant court hearings until the verdict was delivered, to verify that the litigants were afforded the guarantees and procedures of a fair trial.

The NIHR also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which affirm the individual's right to physical and psychological integrity.

In parallel, the NIHR reviewed the relevant national legislative frameworks, starting with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which guarantees the right to personal safety and prohibits torture and treatment that undermines human dignity, and the provisions of relevant national laws, including the Penal Code and the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, concerning the criminalisation of acts of assault and harm in all their forms, and the establishment of legal safeguards to ensure the protection of individuals from any infringement of their physical or psychological integrity.

As part of its monitoring role, the NIHR continues to follow up on any responses or further developments it receives regarding complaints relating to the right to physical and psychological safety after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that children enjoy full protection from any violations, in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the right to physical and psychological safety.

Fourth: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the Organisation concludes as follows:

1- Raising pupils' awareness of the risks of violence and its impact on physical and psychological safety in the school environment

The information revealed some complaints regarding breaches of physical safety amongst children in the school environment, which highlights the importance of strengthening awareness programmes aimed at children regarding the negative effects of violence on their physical and psychological safety, alongside continuing to develop mechanisms for dealing with such cases and providing effective educational supervision that contributes to correcting their behaviour and fostering a safe school environment for them.

2- Strengthening oversight and protection within certain private centres

Recurring complaints regarding mistreatment in some private care centres highlight the importance of strengthening oversight and continuous monitoring, and ensuring full compliance with child protection standards and children's rights, alongside working to enforce relevant legal procedures to guarantee the protection of children and curb any practices that may affect their physical and psychological well-being.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of continuous development in safeguarding the right to physical and psychological safety.

Section V: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to communicate with the outside world

Introduction:

This section analyses a complaint received through one of the Organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior, as well as the relevant official responses and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to guaranteeing the right to communicate with the outside world, in light of the national legislative framework and international standards.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect the cases that were received, monitored or dealt with, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of the right to communicate with the outside world, including: the availability of means and channels of communication; accessibility; the quality and effectiveness of communication mechanisms; and their continuity. This is in line with General Comment No. 21¹⁸⁵ issued by the Committee on Civil and Political Rights, which emphasises the need for States, when dealing with persons deprived of their liberty, to take measures to ensure their communication with the outside world, including their families, lawyers, medical and social service providers, and non-governmental organisations.

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to communicate with the outside world, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

First: International Standards and National Legislation

¹⁸⁵ [General Comment No. 21 on Article 10 of the Human Rights Committee](#), p. 2, paragraph (12), which states: "The Committee also requests information on the specific measures applied during detention, including, for example, and the conditions under which contact with the outside world (family, legal counsel, social and medical services, or non-governmental organisations) is ensured."

The safeguarding of the right to communicate with the outside world is based on a comprehensive framework of international and national legal provisions. The Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasises the need to ensure that children deprived of their liberty are treated humanely and with respect for their dignity, and aims to facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Article 37(c)¹⁸⁶ of the Convention emphasises that a child's right to maintain contact with the outside world, particularly with their family, is a fundamental element of rehabilitative treatment within places of detention, thereby contributing to their psychological and social rehabilitation.

The United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty also address the right of juveniles to maintain contact with the outside world¹⁸⁷, emphasising the importance of preserving family and social ties by enabling them to receive regular visits and to communicate with their families and relatives through correspondence and appropriate means of communication, whilst emphasising the need to facilitate such communication as a fundamental element of the care and rehabilitation of juveniles, given its impact on enhancing their psychological and social stability and supporting their reintegration into society in a manner that serves their best interests and preserves their human dignity.

As regards relevant national legislation, the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act¹⁸⁸ and its implementing regulations¹⁸⁹ directly guarantee inmates'

¹⁸⁶ a Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 37(c) of the Convention provides that: "Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner appropriate to the age of the child. In particular, every child deprived of his or her liberty shall be separated from adults, unless it is considered that the best interests of the child require otherwise, and shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, except in exceptional circumstances."

¹⁸⁷ [The United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of](#) their Liberty address, in paragraphs (f) of Rules 52–69, the right of juveniles to communicate with the outside world.

¹⁸⁸ Article 36 of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution Act No. 18 of 2014, as amended by Decree-Law No. 6 of 2024, provides that: "An inmate is entitled to receive visits from his or her family once during the first week of admission to the centre; thereafter, he or she is permitted two visits per month. The director of the institution or his or her deputy may grant the inmate an exceptional visit in cases where circumstances so require, and the implementing regulations shall specify the procedures for such visits." Article (43), which stipulates that: "An inmate has the right to lawful privacy with his spouse and to complete the formalities of his marriage, all in accordance with the procedures and regulations set out in the implementing regulations." Article (44) stipulates that: "An inmate is permitted to correspond with his family and to receive letters addressed to him, in accordance with the procedures and regulations set out in the implementing regulations." Article (45), which stipulates that: "An inmate has the right to make telephone calls and, where necessary, to receive telephone calls; the centre's management has the right to monitor all telephone calls in accordance with the procedures and regulations set out in the implementing regulations."

¹⁸⁹ Article (17) of the Implementing Regulations issued pursuant to Decision No. (131) of 2015 and amended by the provisions of Decision No. (49) of 2024, which stipulates that: "An inmate shall have the right to one visit during the first week of his admission to the centre; he must specify in writing the names of those he wishes to receive visits from, and he shall be permitted two visits per month throughout the duration of his detention, provided that the duration of each visit does not exceed one hour. A person in pre-trial detention is permitted

right to communicate with the outside world in accordance with the provisions set out in the Act and its implementing regulations.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to communicate with the outside world and to ensuring that means of communication are made available to children.

Second: Complaints data

(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to communicate with the outside world

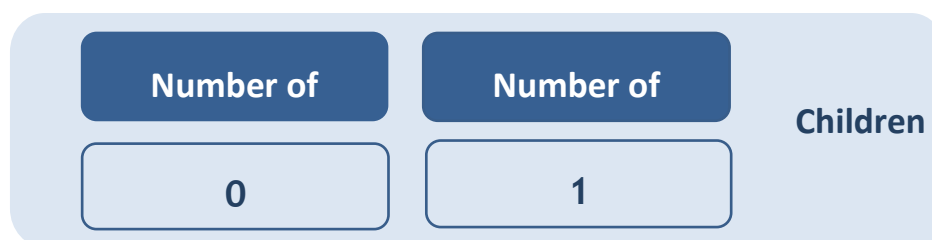


The organisation received no complaints in 2024, whilst one complaint was received in 2025; this may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms. It reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure communication with the outside world.

one visit per week, not exceeding half an hour in duration, and visits to inmates and persons in pre-trial detention shall take place within the centres in which they are held...”, Article (23) stipulates that: “If the inmate or remand prisoner to be visited is a patient in a public or private hospital, the visit may take place at the hospital following consultation with the attending doctor at the hospital and with the approval of the director of the institution or his or her deputy, provided that the conditions and regulations governing visits set out in these Regulations and the decisions issued in implementation thereof are complied with, and that the visit takes place in a manner that does not conflict with security considerations.” Article (25) stipulates that: “The director of the institution or his deputy – following the approval of the Minister or his delegate – may permit inmates of good conduct who have served half their sentence to visit their relatives up to the second degree of kinship outside the centre once every six months, provided that this does not pose a threat to public security and that the duration of the visit does not exceed forty-eight hours. The director of the institution or his deputy shall determine the remaining visiting regulations, the necessary security arrangements and the security considerations to be observed; an inmate shall be subject to disciplinary action if he contravenes the visiting regulations.” Article (28) stipulates that: “An inmate has the right to make telephone calls for a duration not exceeding half an hour each week, and has the right to receive telephone calls in cases of necessity as assessed by the head of the centre or his deputy. The centre’s management has the right to monitor all telephone calls made or received by the inmate, and the inmate shall not have the right to object to this procedure....”

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

- **Classification of complaints by gender of complainants**



- **Subjects of complaints:**

The Organisation received one (1) complaint relating to the right to communicate with the outside world, as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Facilitating a private visit for the children of a female inmate without a glass partition.	1
Total	1

- **Response and follow-up:**

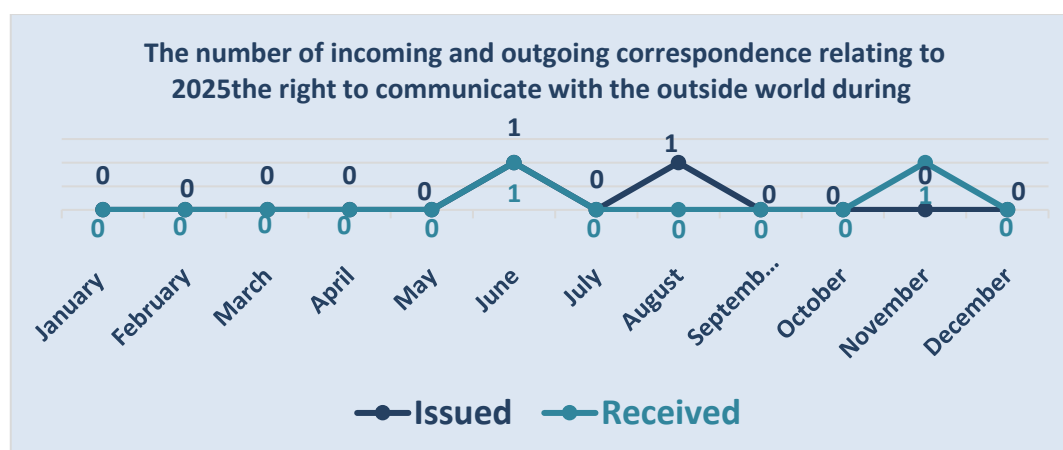
The NIHR examined the complaint received and followed it up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, the NIHR took a number of practical measures and actions to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with them directly, depending on the nature of the complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	2
Responses received during the reporting period, whilst communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities continue.	2

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the Commission and the competent authorities to address the complaints.



As part of the Child Rights Commissioner's commitment to strengthening mechanisms for receiving and following up on complaints, and to ensuring direct communication with complainants, the Commissioner met with the family of the resident, at their request, to discuss the details of the complaint, thereby enabling the Institution to follow it up with the relevant authorities.



Third: Verification of procedures and handling of complaints

As part of its oversight role and its follow-up on complaints and reports relating to the right to communicate with the outside world, the Commission, during the period covered by this report, wrote to the relevant authorities to verify the measures taken, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which the right to communicate with the outside world is guaranteed in accordance with national legislation and international standards.

The NIHR sent two letters **to the Ministry of the Interior**, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
2	To consider the possibility of arranging special visits for the resident's children without a glass partition.	The response concerned two (2) letters, stating that there are regulations governing visits by children under the age of 12 in accordance with the implementing regulations of the Correctional Institutions Act, which stipulate that if a child is over 12 years of age, the procedures for a standard visit shall apply in accordance with the centre's regulations, whilst emphasising that the centre had previously allowed the inmate to meet her children without a glass partition.

It is clear from the above that the institution dealt with two correspondence items relating to requests and enquiries concerning the right to communicate with the outside world. Follow-up revealed that there are established regulations governing visits for children under the age of 12, and the response from the relevant authority demonstrates its cooperation with the inmate by previously allowing her a private visit with her children without a glass partition, which enabled her to sit with them, embrace them and foster direct emotional contact with them. In the same context, the Child Rights Commissioner visited the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre for Female Inmates, where she met with the inmate and listened to her requests; a report was prepared and submitted to the relevant authorities.

The Commission also verified the extent to which the measures taken by the competent authority were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, basing its assessment on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which emphasises the need to treat all persons deprived of their liberty humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity, and that the primary aim of the measures taken should be their reform and social rehabilitation, in addition to the 'United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty', which emphasised the need to enable persons deprived of their liberty to maintain their family and social ties through various means of communication, including visits, telephone calls and correspondence, given the positive impact this has on safeguarding their human dignity and promoting their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

In parallel, the NIHR reviewed the national legislative frameworks and examined the measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Correctional and Rehabilitation NIHR Act and its implementing regulations, in order to ensure the adequacy of the legal and procedural safeguards guaranteed to persons deprived of their liberty, particularly with regard to their right to communicate with the outside world. This included assessing the extent to which mechanisms are in

place to enable them to exercise this right regularly and safely, including the organisation of family visits and the provision of means of communication even in exceptional circumstances.

As part of its monitoring role, the Commission continues to to continue monitoring updates received regarding complaints relating to communication with the outside world after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons, including those whose liberty is restricted, enjoy access to means of communication with the outside world in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the right to communicate with the outside world.

Fourth: General Analytical Assessment

In light of the available data, the Organisation concludes that it is important to continue to take into account the humanitarian and family dimensions when organising visits, by considering the granting of exceptions in certain cases where this is warranted, particularly with regard to mothers and their young children, thereby helping to strengthen family ties and preserve the psychological and emotional stability of children.

Furthermore, allowing in-person visits in appropriate cases, within the framework of applicable security controls and procedures, supports the right to maintain contact with the outside world and helps strike a balance between organisational and security requirements, on the one hand, and the best interests of the child and the preservation of family cohesion, on the other.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement in the context of safeguarding the right to communicate with the outside world.

Section Six: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to freedom of movement

Introduction:

This section deals with the analysis of complaints received through the organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior, as well as the relevant official responses and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them, thereby enabling an assessment of the level of compliance with the provision of the required means of transport, in light of the national legislative framework and international standards.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflects cases that have been received, monitored or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, it provides practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of fundamental dimensions of the right to mobility, including freedom of movement and choice of residence, the freedom to leave any country, including one's own, permissible restrictions on the exercise of this right, and the right of an individual to enter their own country, in accordance with General Comment No. 27 issued by the Human

Rights Committee regarding Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.¹⁹⁰

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to freedom of movement, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

First: International Standards and National Legislation

The right to freedom of movement is underpinned by a comprehensive framework of international and national legal norms that guarantee freedom of movement and transit both within and outside a State. Article 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹⁹¹, for instance, affirms the obligation of States Parties to process applications for the entry or exit of a child and their family in a positive, humane and expeditious manner.

Similarly, Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (¹⁹²) guarantees freedom of movement and the freedom to choose one's place of residence within the territory of the State, and stipulates that this right may only be restricted in accordance with the law and to the extent necessary to protect national security, public order, public health, public morals or the rights and freedoms of others. General Comment No. 27 issued by the Human Rights Committee further clarifies the substance of this right, emphasising that any restrictions imposed must be exceptional, specific and proportionate, and must not undermine the very essence of the right itself.

¹⁹⁰ [General Comment No. 27 issued by the Human Rights Committee](#) concerning Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

¹⁹¹ Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 10, paragraph 1, provides that: "In accordance with the obligation of States Parties under Article 9, paragraph 1, States Parties shall consider applications submitted by a child or his or her parents to enter or leave a State Party for the purpose of family reunification in a positive, humane and expeditious manner. States Parties shall ensure that the submission of such an application does not entail adverse consequences for the applicants or their family members." In the second paragraph, a child whose parents reside in different States has the right to maintain on a regular basis personal relations and direct contact with both parents, except in exceptional circumstances. To this end, and in accordance with the obligations of States Parties under Article 9, paragraph 2, States Parties shall respect the right of the child and his or her parents to leave any country, including their own, and to enter their own country. The right to leave any country shall be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect national security, public order, public health or public morals, or the rights and freedoms of others, and which are consistent with the other rights recognised in this Convention."

¹⁹² The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12, provides that: "1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall have the right to freedom of movement within that territory and to freedom to choose his or her place of residence. 2. Everyone shall have the right to leave any country, including his or her own. 3. The rights mentioned above shall not be subject to any restrictions other than those prescribed by law, which are necessary to protect national security, public order, public health or public morals, or the rights and freedoms of others, and which are consistent with the other rights recognised in this Covenant. 4. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his or her own country."

As regards national legislation, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees this right, with Article 19(b) stipulating that “No person may be arrested, detained, searched, placed under house arrest, or have their freedom of residence or movement restricted except in accordance with the provisions of the law”, reflecting the Bahraini legislature’s commitment to guaranteeing freedom of movement and restricting it only in accordance with clear legal safeguards. Furthermore, Law No. 11 of 1975 on the Bahraini Passport, in Article 5¹⁹³, regulates the procedures for leaving and returning to the country, specifying the circumstances in which travel may be restricted in accordance with the law.

Similarly, the Aliens (Immigration and Residence) Act of 1965 regulates the entry and residence of foreigners within the Kingdom, striking a balance between the sovereignty of the State and security requirements, on the one hand, and respect for the fundamental rights of individuals, on the other.

It is therefore clear that national legislation in the Kingdom of Bahrain is consistent with international standards in guaranteeing the right to freedom of movement, whilst regulating restrictions on it within a legal framework that takes into account necessity and proportionality, thereby striking a balance between protecting public order and safeguarding human rights.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to freedom of movement and ensuring that individuals from all sections of society are able to move, reside and travel freely.

Second: Complaint Data

(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to freedom of movement

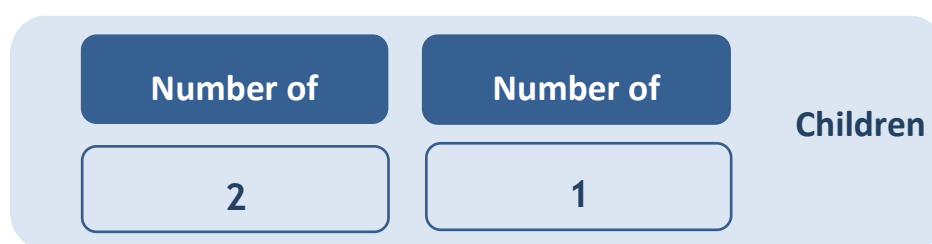


No complaints were received in 2024, whilst three (3) complaints were received in 2025. A relative increase is observed in 2025, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or developments in handling mechanisms. This reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure the right to freedom of movement is exercised.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

¹⁹³ [Law No. \(11\) of 1975 on Passports](#), Article (5) of which provides that: “No person may leave or return to the Kingdom of Bahrain except from the designated points of entry or exit, using a passport or any other document serving as a substitute for it, or an identity card issued by the Kingdom of Bahrain; the Minister of the Interior may, by decision, specify other means of leaving or returning to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Minister of the Interior shall issue a decision designating the designated points of entry into and exit from the Kingdom of Bahrain.”

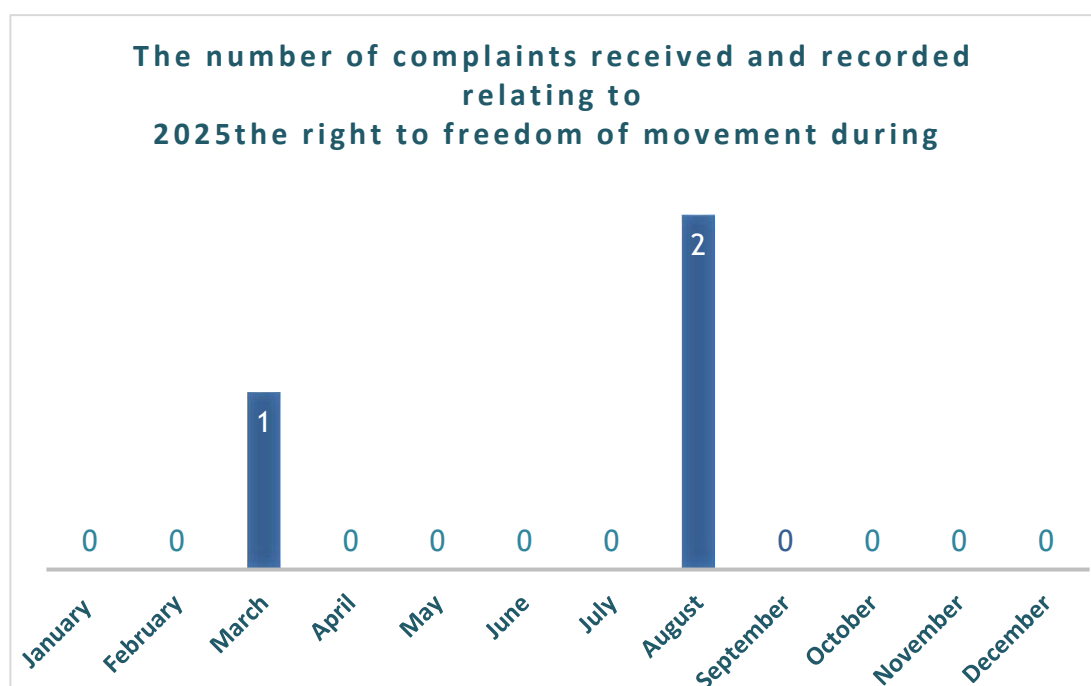
- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



- **Subjects of complaints:**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to transport conditions, totalling three (3) complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Children holding British nationality were not permitted to travel outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, despite having a ruling issued by the competent Bahraini courts granting them Bahraini nationality.	1
A request to allow a mother of Filipino nationality to return to her home country accompanied by her child, who holds no nationality.	1
A request to allow a mother of Bahraini children (who herself holds no nationality) to obtain a residence permit to join her children.	1
Total	3

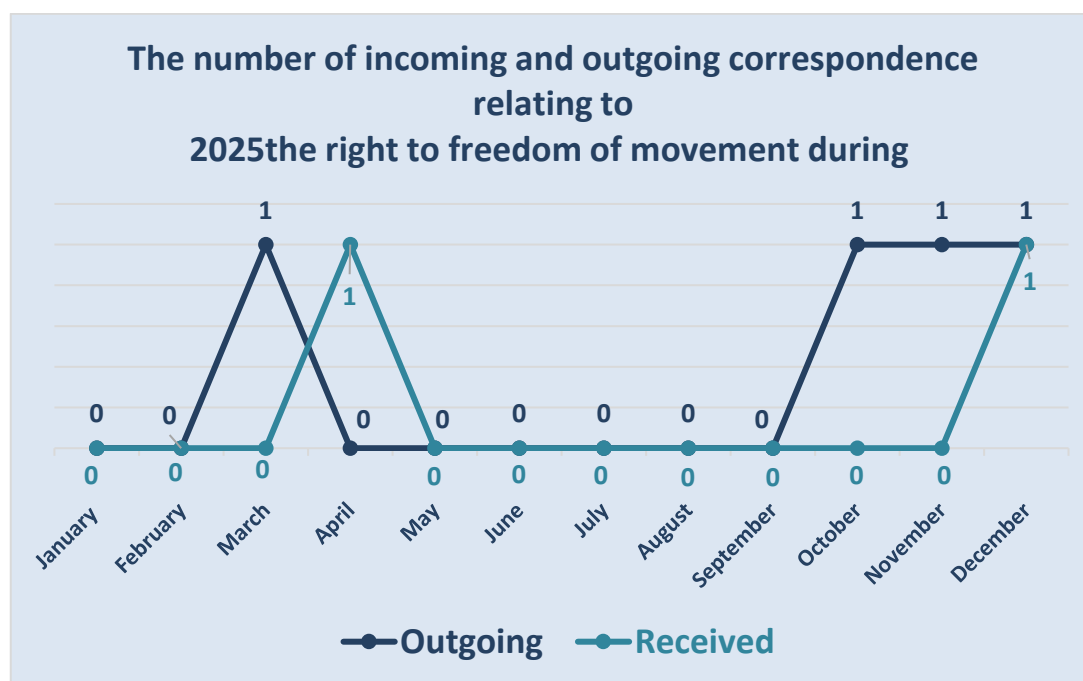


- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and liaising with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	4
Responses received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	2

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the organisation and the relevant authorities in handling complaints.



Third: Verification of procedures and handling of complaints

As part of its oversight role and its monitoring of complaints and reports relating to the right to freedom of movement, during the period covered by this report the Commission wrote to the relevant authorities to verify the measures taken, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which individuals' right to freedom of

movement is guaranteed, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The Commission sent four letters to **the Ministry of the Interior**, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
3	To consider the possibility of granting a mother of Bahraini children (who does not hold Bahraini nationality) a residence permit to join her children.	A general response was received regarding all correspondence, stating that the Ministry was following up on the matter with the parties concerned by the complaint. As part of the NIHR's follow-up on the case, it contacted those involved in the complaint to check on the latest developments, and it emerged that approval had been granted for the mother to be granted a residence permit to join her children, in accordance with the applicable procedures and regulations.
1	An enquiry regarding the legal situation concerning the refusal to allow children holding British nationality to travel outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, given that they hold a ruling issued by the competent Bahraini courts granting them Bahraini nationality.	The response stated that the children's parents should complete the relevant documentation. The NIHR therefore contacted the complainant and found that the children had obtained permission from the Ministry of the Interior to travel on their foreign passports.

It is clear from the above that the NIHR dealt with two communications relating to requests or enquiries concerning the right to freedom of movement, and followed up on both cases with the relevant authorities. The follow-up, based on the information provided and observations made during the process, demonstrated that the individuals concerned were able to exercise their right to freedom of movement and that their access to permits enabling them to enter or leave the Kingdom of Bahrain was facilitated in accordance with the applicable procedures and regulations.

The Commission also verified that the procedures adopted by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, based on the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and national legislation governing freedom of movement, travel and residence, which guarantee this right and set out the legal framework governing its exercise.

As part of its monitoring role, the Commission continues to follow up on any updates it receives regarding complaints relating to the right to freedom of movement after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in order to verify that all persons enjoy the right to freedom of movement in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the right to freedom of movement.

Fourth: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the NIHR concludes that there are certain challenges associated with facilitating the procedures for non-Bahraini mothers to obtain residence visas to join their Bahraini children, a matter which may have implications for promoting family stability and unity. In this context, it is important to continue efforts aimed at streamlining residence-related procedures, thereby contributing to family reunification, and enhancing children's enjoyment of their right to full family care, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of protecting the right to freedom of movement.

Fifth: Recommendation concerning complaints relating to children's right to freedom of movement

- Consider introducing special facilities for mothers who do not hold Bahraini nationality but have Bahraini children, to enable them to obtain permanent residence permits, thereby ensuring the preservation of family unity and enhancing children's enjoyment of their right to full family care without procedural obstacles.

Section VII: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to nationality

Introduction:

This section analyses complaints received through the NIHR's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior, as well as the relevant official responses and details of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of commitment to providing the services and procedures necessary to ensure that individuals enjoy their right to nationality, in light of the national legislative framework and international standards.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, monitored or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of the right to nationality, including: guaranteeing a child's right to acquire nationality; preventing cases of statelessness; non-discrimination in the enjoyment of this right; and the effectiveness of procedures for birth registration and proof of nationality, in line with General Comment No. 17 issued by the Human Rights Committee.¹⁹⁴

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to nationality, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

First: International Standards and National Legislation

The right to nationality is based on a comprehensive system of international and national legal rules. Article 7(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states: "Every child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name and the right to acquire a nationality...", Furthermore, paragraph (2) of the same article stipulates: "States Parties to this Convention shall ensure the realisation of these rights in accordance with their national laws and relevant international obligations, in particular in cases where the child is stateless", As for paragraph 1 of Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to which the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Decree-Law No. 5 of 2002, it provides that: "States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, retain or change their nationality. In particular, they shall ensure that marriage to an alien, or a change in the nationality of the husband during marriage, does not automatically entail a change in the wife's nationality, render her stateless, or impose upon her the nationality of her husband." The second paragraph stipulates that "States Parties shall grant women rights equal to those of men with regard to the nationality of their children."

As regards national legislation, the Bahraini Constitution guarantees the right to nationality in paragraph (a) of Article 17, which stipulates that "Bahraini nationality shall be determined by law, and may not be revoked from those who enjoy it except in cases of high treason and other circumstances specified by law".

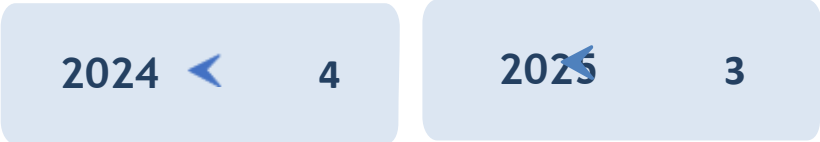
In this regard, the Bahraini Nationality Act of 1963 sets out the provisions relating to the acquisition of nationality, whether by origin or by naturalisation, clarifying the circumstances in which nationality is lost through change or deprivation, whilst also addressing cases of multiple nationality or statelessness.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting the right to nationality and ensuring that individuals are able to acquire and enjoy it, thereby guaranteeing that no one is stateless and protecting all sections of society.

¹⁹⁴ [General Comment No. 17 issued by the Human Rights Committee](#) concerning Article 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, paragraphs 7 and 8.

Second: Complaints data

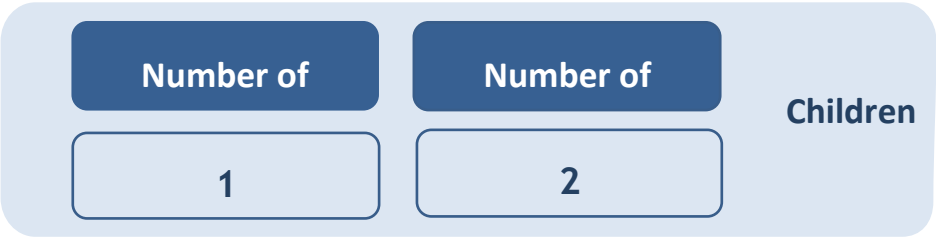
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to nationality



Four complaints were received in 2024, whilst three were received in 2025. A relative decrease in the number of complaints is noted, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or improvements in handling mechanisms. This reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure that individuals can enjoy their right to nationality.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

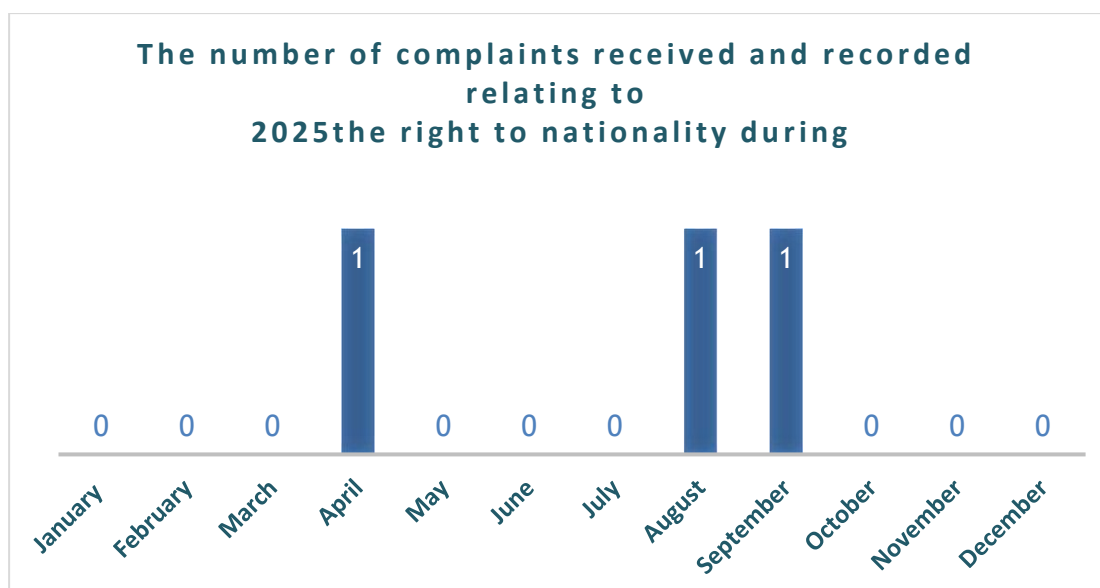
- **Classification of complaints by gender of complainants**



- **Subjects of complaints:**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to the right to nationality, totalling three (3) complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
Application for the issue of an identity card and passport for a child of unknown paternity.	1
Request for the issue of a birth certificate for a child born to a Bahraini father outside the Kingdom of Bahrain.	2
Total	3

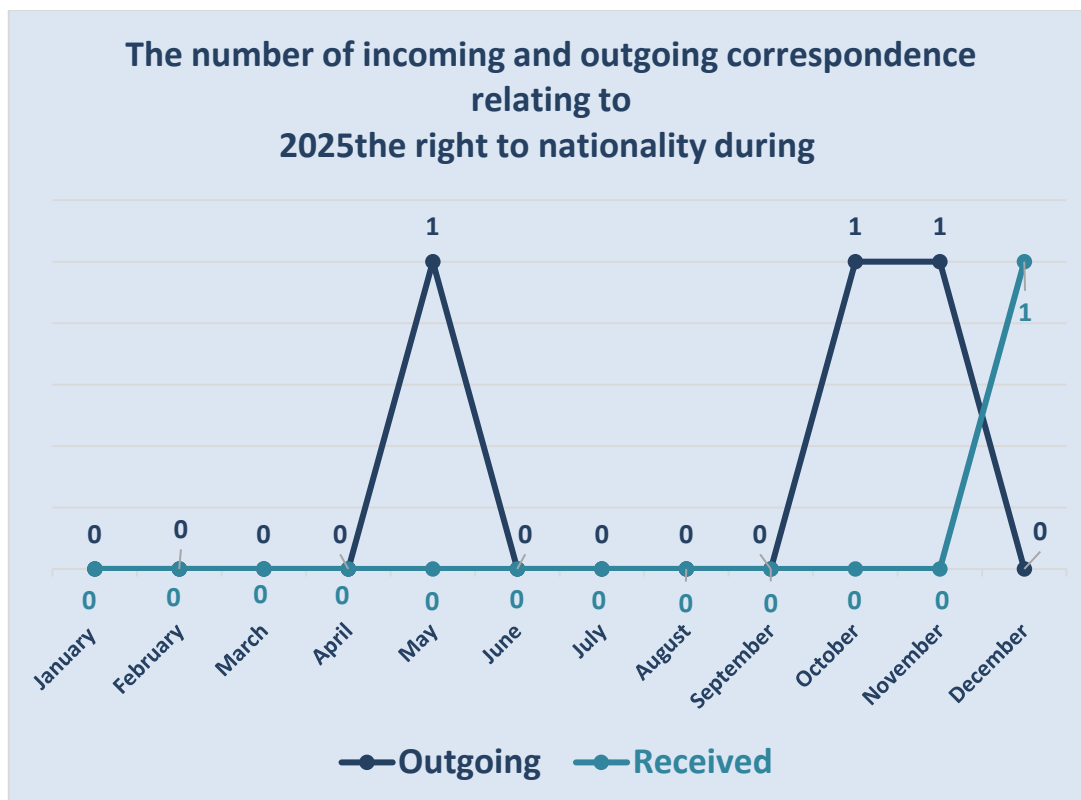


- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined and followed up on the complaints to reach appropriate solutions. Following the preparation of a legal opinion on the matter, a number of practical measures and activities were undertaken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	3
Responses received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	1

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the organisation and the competent authorities to address the complaints.



Third: Verification of procedures and handling of complaints

As part of its oversight role and its monitoring of complaints and reports relating to the right to nationality, the NIHR, during the period covered by this report, wrote to the relevant authorities to verify the procedures taken, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which this right is respected and guaranteed for individuals in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR sent one (1) letter to **the Ministry of the Interior**, as set out in the following table:

Subject of the letter	Action taken
Enquiry regarding the possibility of issuing a birth certificate for a child born to a Bahraini father in the Republic of Ethiopia.	The response, issued by the Ministry's legal department, stated that the child's father had initially completed the procedures for obtaining a birth certificate; however, he subsequently encountered certain difficulties relating to the proof of parentage and the issuance of the certificate, which led him to seek recourse through the courts. Judicial rulings were subsequently issued in his favour regarding the proof of parentage and the issuance of the birth certificate. When the Information and e-Government Authority began to implement these rulings, it emerged that

	there were two entries for the child in the official records at due to the birth having been reported multiple times, which necessitated taking legal action against him and referring the matter to the Public Prosecution. The Authority clarified the legal procedures to be followed to rectify the situation and complete the issuance of official documents for the child. Accordingly, the Authority contacted the complainant and explained the procedures to be followed in this regard.
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It is clear from the above that the Authority dealt with one (1) correspondence relating to requests or enquiries concerning the right to nationality, in which it followed up the case with the relevant authorities. It emerged from this follow-up that the complainant had taken legal action in the civil courts against the Information and e-Government Authority to obtain a birth certificate for his daughter, and a court ruling was issued obliging the Authority to do so.

Whilst the Authority was in the process of implementing the judgement, it emerged that there was a duplicate registration for the child under two different numbers, as a result of the birth being reported twice, which constitutes a breach of the applicable legal procedures¹⁹⁵. Consequently, the matter was referred to the Public Prosecution, and the complainant was advised to bring legal proceedings to have the first registration struck out, thereby enabling the Authority to issue the birth certificate and implement the court ruling in accordance with the approved legal frameworks.

The Authority also verified the extent to which the procedures adopted by the competent authorities were consistent with the standards set out in international instruments relating to the right to nationality, including those set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights regarding the right of every individual to a nationality and not to be arbitrarily deprived of it, as well as the provisions of relevant international conventions emphasising the need to avoid cases of statelessness and to ensure that individuals enjoy their legal identity.

In parallel with this, the NIHR reviewed the relevant national legislative frameworks and examined the measures taken in light of the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which stipulates that matters of nationality shall be regulated in accordance with the law, in a manner that ensures the protection of individuals' fundamental rights. The laws and regulations governing nationality also set out rules and procedures relating to the acquisition, loss or restoration of nationality, whilst emphasising the importance of following legal procedures.

¹⁹⁵ [Law No. 7 of 2019 on the Regulation of the Registration of Births and Deaths](#) criminalises the registration of a person born or deceased in the register more than once as a result of malicious reporting, the submission of incorrect information or the use of unlawful means; It also requires the competent authority to verify the accuracy of the data and documents submitted and to report to the Public Prosecution Service where there is suspicion that they are inaccurate; see Articles 16 and 21 of the aforementioned Act.

As part of its monitoring role, the Commission continues to follow up on any responses or new developments received after the reporting period covered by this report has ended, in line with its monitoring mandate and its ongoing commitment to monitoring the situation regarding children's right to nationality and verifying that they enjoy this right without discrimination, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

Fourth: General Analytical Review

In light of the available data, the NIHR concludes that the competent authorities are processing applications in accordance with the approved legal frameworks, thereby ensuring the accuracy of the data and the soundness of the procedures adopted, whilst the NIHR continues to monitor the situation in coordination with the relevant authorities to ensure that the relevant procedures are completed.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement in the context of protecting the right to nationality.

Section 8: Complaints received or identified relating to the right to the guarantees of a fair trial

Introduction:

This section analyses complaints received through the organisation's various channels, monitoring and follow-up data, as well as correspondence with relevant authorities, including the Public Prosecution Service, as well as the relevant official responses and a statement of the measures taken by the competent authorities to address them. This enables an assessment of the level of compliance with the legal and judicial safeguards necessary for a fair trial, in light of the national legislative framework and international standards.

It should be noted that the complaint data reflect cases that have been received, monitored or addressed, and may not necessarily represent the full picture; however, they provide practical indicators that help to understand the most significant challenges in this regard.

This data has also been analysed in the light of a number of key dimensions of juvenile justice, including: ensuring respect for children's rights at all stages of the justice system; preventive measures and early intervention; the minimum age of criminal responsibility; the use of alternative measures to formal judicial proceedings; limiting the use of detention to the strictest limits or as a last resort; and safeguards for the humane treatment of children deprived of their liberty, in line with General Comment No. 24 issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child¹⁹⁶, which clarifies the scope of children's rights within the juvenile justice system and emphasises the need to adopt an approach centred on the best interests of the child, their rehabilitation and reintegration, and the protection and promotion of their rights at all stages of the justice process.

¹⁹⁶ [General Comment No. 24 of 2019 on the rights of the child in the juvenile justice system](#)

It also identifies the challenges associated with the enjoyment of the right to fair trial guarantees, with a view to making practical recommendations to strengthen the protection of this right and ensure that all individuals enjoy it in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

First: International Standards and National Legislation

The guarantee of a child's right to fair trial safeguards is based on a comprehensive system of international and national rules. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Articles 37 and 40, affirms a set of fundamental safeguards for children in conflict with the law or accused of criminal acts, including the presumption of innocence; the right to be informed promptly and directly of the charges against them; the right to appropriate legal assistance; and the right to have their case decided without delay by a competent, independent and impartial authority, and not to be deprived of their liberty except as a last resort and for the shortest possible period of time.

In the same context, General Comment No. 24 issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child clarified the scope of these safeguards, emphasising the importance of adopting an approach centred on the best interests of the child, promoting alternative measures to formal judicial proceedings, limiting recourse to detention, and supporting rehabilitation and social reintegration.

As for national legislation, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees which sets out a range of safeguards, such as the , this right in Article 20¹⁹⁷ principle of legality—that there shall be no crime or punishment except in accordance with the law—and the prohibition on punishing acts committed prior to the entry into force of the law criminalising them. It also addresses the nature ,of punishment and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty in a fair trial in which all necessary safeguards for the exercise of the right to a defence are guaranteed at all stages, alongside the prohibition of torture, whether physical or .psychological

In the same context, the Juvenile Reform Justice and Protection from Abuse Act No. 4 of 2021¹⁹⁸ marked a qualitative leap in the field of the juvenile justice system through the establishment of **'Juvenile Reform Justice Courts'** and the **'Judicial Committee for Children'**, thereby enshrining a package of specific safeguards, most notably the guarantee of all rights and safeguards stipulated in the Code of Criminal Procedure for Children at all stages of criminal proceedings and during the enforcement of the sentence, prohibiting the placement, detention, confinement or imprisonment of children alongside adults; ensuring complete

¹⁹⁷ Article 20 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain stipulates that: (a) There shall be no crime or punishment except in accordance with the law, and no punishment shall be imposed except for acts committed after the law prescribing such punishment has come into force. (b) Punishment is personal. (c) An accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a lawful trial in which he is afforded the necessary guarantees to exercise his right to a defence at all stages of the investigation and trial in accordance with the law. (d) It is prohibited to inflict physical or psychological harm on an accused person. (e) Every person accused of a criminal offence must have a lawyer to defend them, with their consent. (f) The right to a fair trial is guaranteed in accordance with the law.

¹⁹⁸ [The Juvenile Justice and Protection from Abuse Act No. 4 of 2021.](#)

confidentiality of proceedings to protect the child’s privacy; and prioritising educational measures as an imperative alternative to detention, thereby ensuring a balance between reformative deterrence and the preservation of the child’s human dignity to facilitate their reintegration into society.

These frameworks reflect a clear commitment to promoting and ensuring the right to fair trial guarantees for all sections of society

Second: Complaint Data

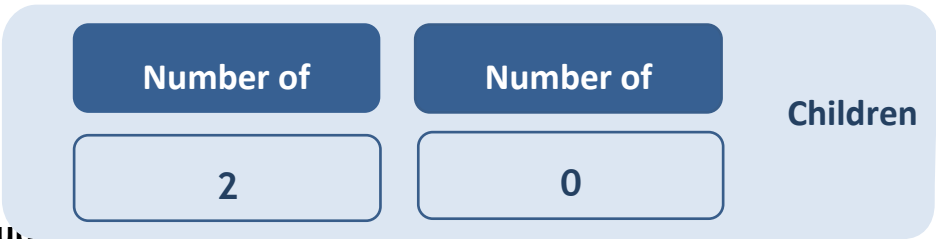
(1) Number of complaints received and recorded relating to the right to fair trial guarantees



No complaints were received in 2024, whilst two (2) complaints were received in 2025. A relative increase is observed in 2025, which may be linked to several factors, including the nature of reporting or developments in handling mechanisms. This reflects the continuing need to monitor this right and assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure a fair trial.

(2) Key characteristics of the complaints:

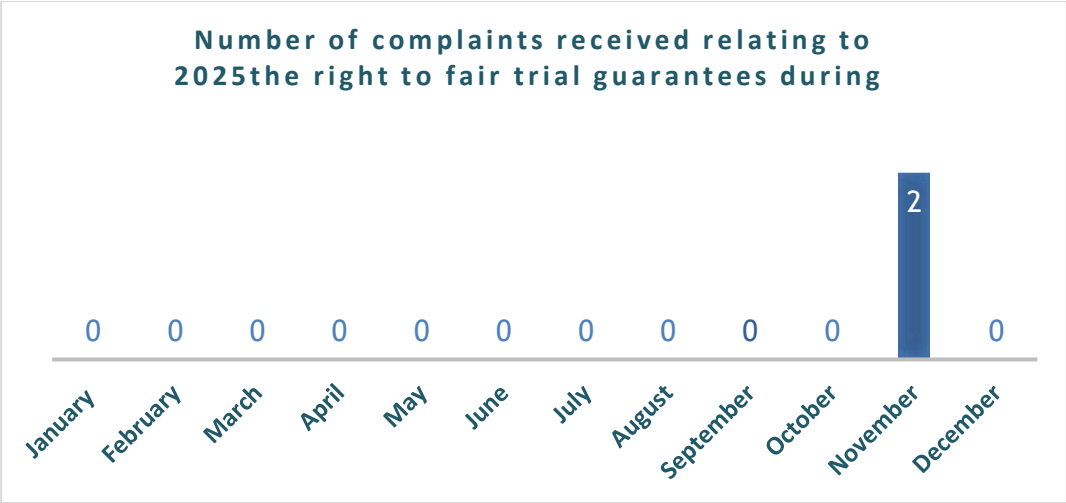
- **Classification of complaints by gender of the complainant**



- **Subjects of complaints**

The NIHR received and recorded a number of complaints relating to fair trial guarantees, totalling two complaints, the subjects of which varied as follows:

Type of complaint	Number
A request by the parents of a child for an alternative measure to be imposed on him instead of pre-trial detention.	1
A request to attend court hearings to ensure that the detainee was afforded fair trial guarantees.	1
Total	2

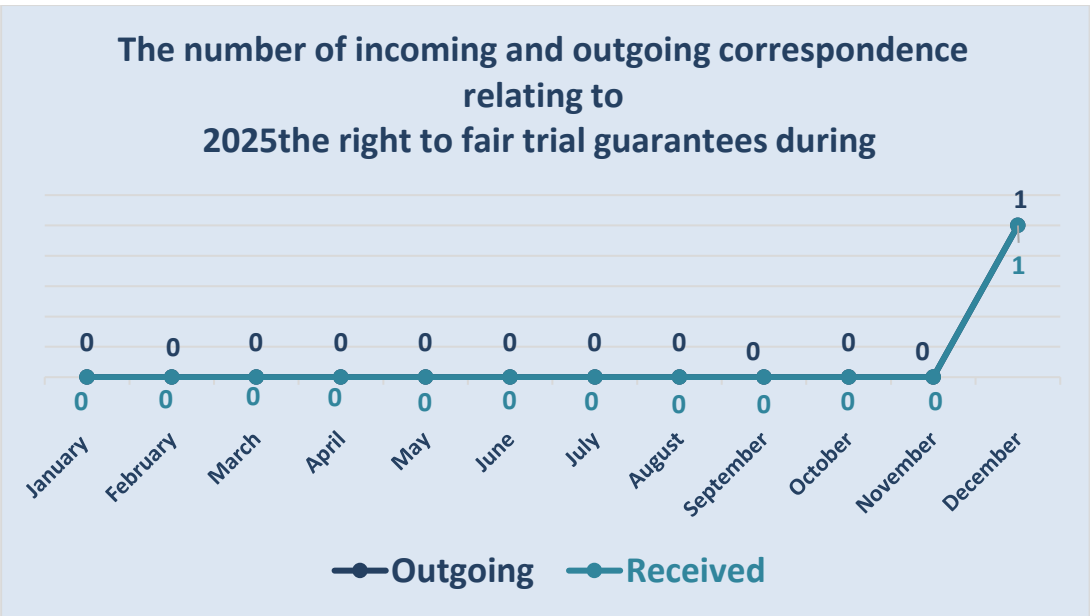


- **Response and follow-up:**

The NIHR examined the complaints and followed them up to reach appropriate solutions. After preparing a legal opinion on them, a number of practical measures and activities were taken to address the complaints, including writing to the relevant authorities and communicating with them directly, depending on the nature of each complaint and the type of right in question.

Total number of communications, whether through written correspondence or direct contact, and follow-ups with the relevant authorities.	1
Replies received during the reporting period; communication and follow-up with the relevant authorities are ongoing.	1

This reflects the ongoing coordination and interaction between the organisation and the relevant authorities in handling complaints.



Third: Verification of procedures and handling of complaints

As part of its oversight role and its monitoring of complaints and reports relating to the right to fair trial guarantees, the NIHR, during the period covered by this report, contacted the relevant authorities to verify the procedures taken, with the aim of monitoring the extent to which the necessary guarantees were provided to enable individuals to exercise their right to a fair trial, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

The NIHR sent one (1) letter **to the Public Prosecution Service**, as set out in the following table:

Number of letters	Subject of the letter	Action taken
1	To consider the possibility of imposing an alternative measure to pre-trial detention for a child.	The response outlined the measures taken by the Public Prosecution Service in this regard and stated that the accused had been afforded all legal safeguards during the criminal investigation.

It is clear from the above that the institution dealt with one (1) correspondence relating to a request to consider the possibility of imposing an alternative measure to pre-trial detention for a child, and the follow-up revealed that the measures taken took into account the relevant legal safeguards, and that what was implemented fell within the scope of the authority's legally established discretion and was proportionate to the circumstances and context of the case.

In addition, the NIHR followed up on the complaint regarding a request to attend court hearings to verify that the child was afforded the guarantees of a fair trial; a representative of the NIHR attended and monitored that hearing and a number of other court hearings before the judicial authorities, with the aim of verifying the extent to which the parties to the proceedings enjoyed those guarantees and monitoring the relevant authorities' compliance with due process throughout the proceedings, including enabling them to exercise their right to a defence, to benefit from appropriate legal assistance, and to ensure that procedural safeguards for children were observed in a manner consistent with their age and specific needs.

The NIHR also verified the extent to which the procedures adopted by the competent authorities were consistent with international standards and relevant national legislation, drawing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and General Comment No. 24, as well as constitutional provisions, the Children's Act and relevant procedural legislation, in order to verify the extent to which the measures taken were consistent with the legal safeguards established for children, whilst taking into account their best interests and promoting their protection and rights.

As part of its monitoring role, the NIHR continues to follow up on any new developments regarding complaints relating to fair trial guarantees received after the reporting period covered by this report, in order to verify that all persons,

including those deprived of their liberty, enjoy their right to a defence in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the right to fair trial guarantees.

Fourth: General Analytical Overview

In light of the available data, the NIHR concludes that it is important to continue monitoring the procedures applied to children deprived of their liberty, so as to ensure that they enjoy the legal safeguards established in national legislation and relevant international standards, particularly with regard to limiting the use of measures involving deprivation of liberty and promoting alternative measures wherever available and appropriate, as well as ensuring their right to a defence and to appropriate legal assistance throughout the various stages of the proceedings.

These aspects are considered areas for improvement within the framework of the ongoing development of fair trial guarantees.

Second requirement: Field visits conducted by the Child Rights Commissioner

pursuant to the role entrusted to the Commission as set out in paragraph (g) of Article 12 of the Commission's Establishment Act No. 26 of 2014, which stipulates that the Commission's powers include: "to carry out announced and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation in correctional institutions, places of detention, workplaces, health and educational establishments, or any other public place suspected of being the site of human rights violations", In accordance with this, the Commission has played a significant role in the protection of human rights by carrying out announced and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation.

Accordingly, in 2025, the Child Rights Commissioner carried out two inspection visits to centres under the Ministry of the Interior, in order to assess the human rights situation in various contexts and circumstances and to ensure that no violations of these rights were taking place.

The findings of these field visits will be reviewed as follows:

Section One: Field visits conducted by the Child Rights Commissioner

1. The Child Rights Commissioner carried out two (2) field visits to centres affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior. The first visit was to the building designated for young people in the Isa Town area, and the second was to the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre for Female Inmates. The following is a summary of these visits and the procedures carried out during them:

The building earmarked for young people – in the Isa Town area –		
Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Action taken
23 January 2025	To review the design plans for the building and verify its compliance with international standards, particularly those relating to children's rights, in order to ensure a safe and supportive environment for this age group in practice.	The delegation met with the centre's management and was shown all the building's facilities, which are designed to facilitate the enjoyment of a wide range of rights, including education and health. A number of observations and recommendations were also recorded, to be submitted to the relevant authority.
Centre for the Reform and Rehabilitation of Female Inmates		
Date of visit	Reason for the visit	Action taken
29 September 2025	Following a complaint received by the Children's Commissioner from one of the female prisoners regarding a number of requests concerning her children.	A meeting was held with the inmate; her requests centred on private visits, video calls and certain living conditions. A number of observations and recommendations were recorded and submitted to the relevant authority.

Section Two: Analysis of the Results of Field Visits

This section will analyse the results of the field visits carried out by the Organisation to centres affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior, in terms of the recommendations made, the response from the relevant authority, and a general analytical assessment in the light of relevant national legislation and international standards.

First: The building designated for young people:

The Child Rights Commissioner issued two recommendations following this visit, which are summarised below:

(a) Recommendations:

1. To consider the possibility of providing a designated prayer area, separate from the recreation room.
2. To hold a consultative meeting with the Ministry of Education to discuss the Ministry's role in providing education to detainees, and to explain the available enrolment pathways and study arrangements.

(b) Follow up on the recommendations with the Ministry of the Interior

The Organisation wrote to the Ministry of the Interior regarding all these recommendations; the Ministry's response stated that a meeting had been held with the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior to discuss the observations.

Section Three: General Analytical Review:

Within the framework of the National Human Rights Institution's supervisory mandate, and based on the findings of field visits to centres under the Ministry of the Interior, this analytical review aims to highlight the observations and challenges identified, and to assess the level of response to the recommendations issued, as well as to evaluate the extent to which practices in the centres visited comply with the requirements of national legislation and relevant international human rights standards.

Based on the findings of the two inspection visits to these centres, the NIHR concludes the following:

1. Communication with the outside world (visits)

The findings highlight the importance of developing visiting arrangements that reinforce the human dimension of family life. In particular, they emphasise the impact of allowing special visits without glass partitions in strengthening family ties and enabling residents to communicate directly with their children. Furthermore, extending visiting hours, including to include evenings, helps strike a balance between children's educational commitments and their right to communicate with family members in correctional and rehabilitation centres.

2. Alternative sentencing and open prison programmes

The findings highlight the importance of expanding the use of alternative sentencing or open prison programmes, particularly for female inmates who are mothers, as these are tools that help maintain family cohesion and minimise the social impact of imprisonment.

3. Psychological support

The findings highlight the importance of providing regular psychological support programmes supervised by specialists, given their role in helping female prisoners cope with psychological stress, anxiety and panic attacks. Such support also helps to promote psychological stability and improve the ability to adapt within the centre, which has a positive impact on mental health and general behaviour.

4. Living conditions

The findings point to structural challenges in the facilities of the building to be allocated to young female inmates, where suitable prayer areas must be provided and separated from the common rooms, thereby enhancing privacy and internal organisation, and takes into account the spiritual and humanitarian needs of young inmates, whilst contributing to improving the quality of the overall environment within the centre.

Third requirement: The role of the Children's Ombudsman in monitoring court hearings

In accordance with the Commission's mandate set out in paragraph (g) of Article 12 of the Establishment Act, which stipulates that the Commission's powers include: "to carry out announced and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation in correctional institutions, places of detention, workplaces, health and educational establishments, or any other public place suspected of being the site of human rights violations".

In accordance with this, the Child Rights Commissioner attends **court hearings at all** levels, without interfering in the work of the judiciary or undermining its independence, with the aim of reviewing and verifying the validity of judicial proceedings and ensuring that the guarantees of a fair trial for child defendants, as set out in international standards and relevant national legislation, are provided. This monitoring is carried out to assess the extent to which accused persons and litigants are able to exercise their procedural rights.

The NIHR considers that the right to a fair trial is a standard of international human rights law, aimed at protecting individuals from any infringement of their rights relating to their legal standing before the courts, and a fundamental pillar of the fair trial principles enshrined in international instruments, beginning with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 11(1) of which provides that: '... he (i.e. the party) shall be afforded the necessary guarantees for his defence', followed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which in Article 14(1) states: 'All persons are equal before the courts. Everyone is entitled, in the determination of any criminal charge against them or of their rights and obligations in any civil suit, to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law.', This is followed by paragraph (3)(b) of the Covenant, which states: "He shall be given adequate time and facilities to prepare his defence ...", and the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain also affirms the right to a defence in Article (20)(c), which provides that: "... the necessary safeguards shall be provided to him to exercise his right to a defence ...".

Accordingly, this section will address the role of the Child Rights Commissioner in monitoring court hearings, beginning with a statement of the number of hearings attended by the Commissioner and representatives of the Commission, and the proceedings that took place during them, and concluding with an analysis of the outcomes of attending those hearings, as follows:

Section One: Monitoring Court Hearings

During 2025, the Organisation attended and monitored a total of 12 court hearings, as part of its commitment to monitoring the conduct of proceedings and strengthening the guarantees of a fair trial set out in international standards and relevant national legislation. This attendance was in response to requests submitted by the families of prisoners or detainees, or as part of monitoring cases of public interest, reflecting the NIHR's commitment to its role in objective monitoring and supporting the principles of transparency and the rule of law.

Schedule of Court Hearings for 2025

Sequence	Type of Case	Competent Court	Reason for Attendance	Number of Hearings
1	Rioting and unlawful assembly by a number of adults and children	High Criminal Court	To observe the proceedings of the trial and monitor any potential violations of the rights of the litigants within the framework of a fair trial in which all legal safeguards are in place.	5
2	Sexual assault by an adult on a child under the age of fourteen	High Criminal Court		1
3	Assault by a number of children on a child	High Court of Juvenile Justice		4
4	Rioting and unlawful assembly by a number of children.	The High Court of Juvenile Justice		2

Section II: Analysis of the results of monitoring court hearings

The National Human Rights Institution, pursuant to its legal mandate and in accordance with the Paris Principles, is responsible for monitoring the human rights situation and assessing the extent to which the relevant authorities comply with relevant international standards, in particular the fundamental guarantees of a fair trial, without prejudice to the independence of the judiciary, interference in its work, or commenting on judicial rulings and decisions.

In this context, during 2025, the Children's Commissioner attended and observed 12 court hearings, with the aim of monitoring the general procedures followed and assessing their consistency with international human rights standards, in particular the provisions of Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which sets out a series of fundamental safeguards guaranteeing the right to a fair trial. It affirms that all persons are equal before the law without any discrimination, and that everyone has the right to have their case heard by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, whilst ensuring that hearings and judgements are held in public, except in exceptional cases justified on grounds of public security, public morals or the protection of vulnerable parties.

The article also enshrines the principle of the presumption of innocence, whereby the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty by a final and binding judgement, and grants them fundamental rights during the trial, including the right to be informed of the charges against them clearly and in a language they understand, to be given sufficient time and facilities to prepare their defence and to communicate with a lawyer of their choice, to be tried without undue delay, to be present at trial hearings, to cross-examine prosecution witnesses and call defence witnesses, to have the assistance of an interpreter free of charge where necessary, and not to be compelled to confess or testify against themselves by any means of coercion or torture (the right to remain silent). The article also guarantees the right of a convicted person to appeal against the judgement to a higher court, and their right to compensation if it is established that a miscarriage of justice led to their conviction, in addition to the principle that a person may not be tried or punished twice for the same offence after a final judgement has been handed down, Article 14 is thus considered a fundamental international standard for assessing the extent to which states respect human rights, guarantees of justice and the rule of law.

This section will address the findings of the monitoring of court hearings attended by the Children's Commissioner and representatives of the Organisation, setting out the Organisation's observations and providing a general analytical review in the light of relevant national legislation and international standards.

First: General Observations

Monitoring of court hearings revealed a number of practices consistent with the requirements of a fair trial and relevant international standards, as follows:

- It was noted that the courts adhered to the fundamental legal safeguards and procedures governing the conduct of proceedings, in particular the principle of public hearings and the pronouncement of judicial rulings, and that this principle was not restricted except within the limits and exceptions prescribed by law to fulfil the requirements of public order or public morals, or to protect the rights of the parties and the integrity of the proceedings, This is consistent with the provisions of Article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the right of every person to a fair and public hearing before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, thereby reinforcing the principles of transparency, judicial review, guarantees of justice and the rule of law.

- It was also noted that lawyers representing the accused were regularly present, alongside representatives of the Public Prosecution Service, at the trial hearings, thereby ensuring that the parties to the proceedings are able to present their defences and submissions and exercise their procedural rights on an equal footing, and reinforcing the principle of equality between the parties and equal opportunities before the courts, in accordance with the guarantees set out in Article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- It was noted that the courts had enabled the parties to the proceedings to exercise their right to a defence and to enjoy all the procedural safeguards guaranteed by law, including the submission of pleadings and defences, access to and discussion of relevant documents and evidence, and the provision of sufficient opportunity to prepare their defence and respond to the requests and allegations of the opposing parties, in accordance with the minimum guarantees of a fair trial set out in Article 14(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and in a manner that ensures the principle of equality of arms between the parties, safeguards the right to a fair trial, and guarantees the integrity of judicial proceedings.

Second: A general analytical review:

Within the framework of the National Human Rights Institution's monitoring mandate, and based on the findings of the monitoring of court hearings and the observations contained therein, this analytical review aims to assess the extent to which current practices in the monitored courts comply with the requirements of national legislation and relevant international human rights standards:

1- Commitment to the principle of public hearings and ensuring transparency

The observation shows that the courts are committed to applying the principle of public hearings and the pronouncement of judgements as one of the most important guarantees of a fair trial, with restrictions imposed only in exceptional cases permitted by law, such as the protection of public order, public morals or the rights of the parties. This commitment is a direct reflection of the requirements of Article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and reinforces the principles of transparency and oversight of the administration of justice, thereby strengthening confidence in the judicial system and curbing any non-transparent practices.

2- Equality of arms and the presence of defence and prosecution representatives

It is evident from the observation that lawyers are regularly present alongside representatives of the Public Prosecution Service, which reflects respect for the principle of equality of the parties before the courts and equal procedural opportunities in presenting defences and submissions. This procedural arrangement is a fundamental element in ensuring balance between the parties to the proceedings and embodies one of the most important applications of the judicial safeguards set out in Article 14 of the Covenant, particularly with regard to the effectiveness of judicial adversarial proceedings and the avoidance of one party being given undue advantage over another.

3- Strengthening the right to a defence and enabling the parties to exercise their procedural rights

The observation highlights the empowerment of defendants and parties to the proceedings to fully exercise their right to a defence, by allowing them to present arguments and defences and to examine and discuss the evidence. This practice is one of the most important guarantees of a fair trial set out in Article 14(3) of the Covenant, as it realises the principle of ‘equality of arms’ between the prosecution and the defence, and ensures that the trial is based on genuine adversarial proceedings and full procedural empowerment, rather than merely formalities.

4- Humanitarian considerations, the organisation of hearings and the management of proceedings

The observation highlights the courts’ consideration of the humanitarian dimension in the conduct of proceedings, whether by enabling defendants to present their personal circumstances or by taking special groups into account, in addition to the proper management of hearings and the use of adjournments where necessary. This reflects a balance between the speedy resolution of cases and the guarantee of the rights of the defence, which is consistent with the philosophy of Article 14, which is not limited to procedural form but extends to ensuring the justice of the courts in terms of substance and humanitarian fairness.

Section Two: The Role of the Child Rights Commissioner in Promoting Children’s Rights

The provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the Commission, as amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, affirm the Commission’s role in promoting human rights. Article 12 of the Law sets out a range of powers for the Commission to achieve its objectives in this field, including holding conferences and organising seminars, educational and training courses in the field of human rights; conducting research and studies on this matter; participating in local and international forums and in meetings of regional and international organisations; as well as issuing bulletins, publications, statements and reports.

In accordance with these powers enshrined in the provisions of the Act, the Child Rights Commissioner has played an active role in promoting children’s rights through a range of activities, whether in the form of training or educational programmes organised by the Commission itself, or those organised by other bodies in which the Commission has actively participated, as well as participating in and attending meetings, gatherings and visits with relevant national, regional and international bodies, whilst ensuring the right to participate in decision-making through the establishment of the ‘Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner’ group and the ‘Volunteer Experts Group for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner’. This will be detailed in the following three points.

First Requirement: Training and educational programmes

Section 1: Training and educational programmes organised by the National Human Rights Institution

On 4 February 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, in collaboration with the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Bahrain, organised the first annual forum for the children of the Kingdom of Bahrain under the slogan ‘You Have the Right... You Have a Voice’, with the participation of government bodies and local and international organisations. The Minister for Education, Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, affirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain’s commitment to embedding the concepts of children’s rights in education, whilst the NIHR’s President emphasised that protecting children’s rights is a societal responsibility and an investment in the future. The UK Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain highlighted the importance of empowering children to express their views, The event also featured supportive international addresses and the launch of the Children’s Rights Commissioner’s strategy and action plan for 2024–2025, available at , alongside panel discussions and presentations by children to raise awareness of their rights and encourage their active participation in society ⁽¹⁹⁹⁾ .



On 9 February 2025, the National Human Rights Institution held an educational lecture at Al-Ruya Al-Haditha School, aimed at primary and secondary school pupils. It was delivered by Dr Houria Al-Diri, Child Rights Commissioner and a member of the group of volunteer experts for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner. The lecture included detailed information on the key role of the human rights advocate, emphasising the vital importance of children’s rights and how to protect them through legal and awareness-raising measures ⁽²⁰⁰⁾ .



⁽¹⁹⁹⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/5feb2025.aspx>

⁽²⁰⁰⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/19feb2025.aspx>

On 13 February 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised an introductory lecture aimed at staff of the Family and Child Protection Office at the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate, which addressed the role and remit of the Institution's Child Rights Commissioner. Dr Houriya Al-Diri, Child Rights Commissioner, delivered the lecture, which covered three main topics: the Commission's role in protecting and promoting human rights; an overview of the Child Rights Commissioner; and the key services provided by the Commission to the Family and Child Protection Office. This event forms part of efforts to foster a shared understanding of the tasks and responsibilities entrusted to the Child Rights Commissioner and to highlight how fruitful cooperation between the NIHR and the Family and Child Protection Office can ensure the effective protection of children and their rights ⁽²⁰¹⁾ .



On 10 April 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised an introductory lecture for secondary school pupils at the French School entitled “The Role of the National Human Rights Institution and the Key Responsibilities of the Child Rights Commissioner”, delivered by Dr Houria Al-Diri. She outlined the Institution's role and responsibilities in the areas of monitoring, receiving complaints and raising awareness, as well as the role of the Child Rights Commissioner in protecting and promoting children's rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The lecture also featured an interactive discussion that allowed students to ask questions, thereby helping to raise their awareness of human rights and foster a sense of social responsibility ⁽²⁰²⁾ .



⁽²⁰¹⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/24feb2025.aspx>

⁽²⁰²⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/20april2025.aspx>

20–22 April 2025, the NIHR, in collaboration with Choueifat International School, organised four awareness-raising lectures aimed at primary school pupils under the titles ‘The Human Rights Leader’ and ‘My Rights and My Duties’, with the participation of more than 200 pupils. The lectures were delivered by Dr Houria Abbas Al-Diri, the NIHR’s Child Rights Commissioner, alongside a select group of volunteer experts from the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner team, who enriched the sessions with simplified, interactive content tailored to the target age group. These lectures aimed to reinforce the concepts of rights and duties among the students and to foster a spirit of positive leadership and active citizenship, in line with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child ⁽²⁰³⁾.



On 1 June 2025, the National Human Rights Institution delivered a series of introductory lectures at several international schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain, including Al-Noor International School, Abdulrahman Kanoo International School and the Canadian School. The lectures centred on two main themes, highlighting the Commission’s role and the importance of respecting rights and duties within society ⁽²⁰⁴⁾.



15–16 October 2025: Over two consecutive days, the National Human Rights Institution hosted a group of Scouts affiliated with the Department of Physical Education, Scouting and Girl Guides at the Ministry of Education, as part of its initiatives aimed at promoting a culture of human rights and instilling its principles among young people. They were received by Dr Maha Saleh Al-Shahab, Child Rights Commissioner, who welcomed them and delivered an



⁽²⁰³⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/13May2025.aspx>

⁽²⁰⁴⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/2jun2025.aspx>

awareness-raising lecture entitled ‘The Role of the National Human Rights Institution and the Key Responsibilities of the Child Rights Commissioner’. The visit, in which 90 secondary school scouts took part, included a number of interactive activities delivered by the Commission’s General Secretariat team on the concepts of human rights, and in particular the rights of the child, with the aim of enhancing the participants’ practical understanding and refining their skills in understanding and implementing the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child ⁽²⁰⁵⁾.

On 20 October 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised an awareness-raising event entitled ‘My Body Is a Red Line’ for children at Al-Najah Nursery, with the participation of around 130 children aged between 3 and 5 years. The session was divided into two groups to ensure interaction, and aimed to educate the children about the privacy of the body and its protection through a simplified presentation, role-play activities, an awareness-raising video, and an art activity in which the children expressed their understanding of the messages in a creative way ⁽²⁰⁶⁾.



On 10 November 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised an awareness-raising lecture for pupils from the Children’s Rights Committee and the Scouts at Al-Ru’ya Al-Haditha School, entitled ‘Mockery and Ridicule and Their Impact on Children’s Rights’, which, through interactive activities, introduced the pupils to the dangers of such behaviours and their impact on children’s dignity and rights, whilst raising their awareness of means of protection and appropriate behaviour, and emphasising the role of the school and the family in providing a safe and supportive



⁽²⁰⁵⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/22oct2025.aspx>

⁽²⁰⁶⁾ A press release published on the Foundation’s official website: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/22oct2025.aspx>

environment that fosters respect and self-confidence ⁽²⁰⁷⁾ .

20–22 November 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, represented by Dr Maha Al-Shihab, Child Rights Commissioner, and a number of staff from the General Secretariat, took part in the events of the World Children’s Day Exhibition organised by the National Committee for Children at the Ministry of Social Development under the slogan “Our Dreams Grow”, over two consecutive days at the Avenues Mall, coinciding with the celebration of World Children’s Day. During the event, the NIHR presented a range of awareness-raising and interactive activities aimed at children and their families within the exhibition pavilions. These included a number of distinctive stands, most notably the ‘My Rights and My Duties’ stand, which aimed to familiarise children with their fundamental rights, such as the right to health, education, personal safety, identity and well-being. The programme also included the “Test Your Knowledge” corner, which enabled direct interaction with children by posing awareness-raising questions about children’s rights, as well as a colouring corner where the Commission’s own colouring books were distributed to encourage creative engagement with the children ⁽²⁰⁸⁾ .



⁽²⁰⁷⁾ Press release published on the Foundation’s official website:
<https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/10Nov%202025.aspx>

⁽²⁰⁸⁾ Press release published on the Foundation’s official website:
<https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/3dec2025.aspx>

On 23 November 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised an awareness-raising lecture entitled ‘Bullying and its Impact on Children’s Rights’ for Scout students at Al-Ruya Al-Haditha School. The lecture was delivered by Dr Maha Al-Shihab, Child Rights Commissioner, at the Institution’s headquarters. At the start of the session, Dr Al-Shihab posed a series of interactive questions to gauge the students’ knowledge of children’s rights, emphasising the importance of raising children’s awareness of their fundamental rights and the role that knowledge plays in empowering them to protect themselves and act with confidence in various situations, The lecture then addressed the concept of bullying, its different types and its negative impact on children’s rights, as well as ways to prevent bullying and how pupils should respond if they are subjected to it. It also covered the role of schools and families in protecting children, and the role of the National Human Rights Institution in promoting children’s rights and receiving relevant complaints ⁽²⁰⁹⁾



On 14 December 2025, the National Human Rights Institution, in collaboration with the Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Education, organised field visits for 75 Scouts over two consecutive days at the Institution’s headquarters in the Al-Seif suburb. During the visit, Dr Maha Al-Shihab, Child Rights Commissioner, delivered a lecture entitled ‘The Role of the National Human Rights Institution and the Key Responsibilities of the Child Rights Commissioner’, in which she discussed the Institution’s tasks and roles in protecting and promoting human rights, with a focus on children’s rights and the key national mechanisms concerned with them. The event also included a series of interactive activities



(209) Press release published on the Foundation’s official website:
<https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/23Nov2025.aspx>

organised by the NIHR's General Secretariat team, aimed at raising participants' awareness of human rights principles, particularly the rights of the child, as well as developing practical skills and refining the Scouts' knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, thereby helping to instil a culture of human rights among young people ⁽²¹⁰⁾

Section Two: Training and educational programmes in which the Child Rights Commissioner participated

On 23 September 2025, the National Human Rights Institution took part in the educational Scout exhibition 'Scouting: Safety and Security', organised by the Ministry of Education at Al-Ma'rifah Secondary School for Girls, where Dr Maha Saleh Al-Shihab gave a presentation on the role of the Institution and the Child Rights Commissioner, and their achievements in protecting and promoting children's rights, as part of an event aimed at Scout movement students from various schools, with the participation of official bodies and volunteers, with the aim of raising awareness of children's rights ⁽²¹¹⁾ .



On 30 December 2025, Dr Maha Saleh Al-Shihab, Child Rights Commissioner, took part in the fourth meeting to adopt the Guidelines for Human Rights Education in the Arab Region. The meeting included a discussion of the latest draft of the report and the guidelines, with the aim of having them reviewed by the participating bodies and receiving their final comments ⁽²¹²⁾ .



(210) Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/14Dec2025.aspx>.

(211) Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/23Sep2025.aspx>

(212) Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/Human%20Rights%20in%20the%20Arab%20Region.aspx>

Second Requirement: The Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner and the Group of Volunteer Experts for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner

The Child Rights Commissioner organised a number of awareness-raising lectures to introduce the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner and the Group of Volunteer Experts for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner, highlighting the key eligibility criteria and selection process, as well as the requirements that children wishing to join the team must meet. A number of meetings and gatherings were also held for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner.

Section 1: The ‘Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner’ Team

1. The Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner team was established comprising 30 children, subject to the following requirements:
 - They must be aged between 12 and 18.
 - They must demonstrate responsibility and self-confidence.
 - They must commit to attending meetings and events.
 - They must be keen to undertake voluntary work in the field of children’s rights.
 - They must possess adequate leadership skills, such as dialogue, communication, persuasion, negotiation, planning and innovation.
 - Must be fluent in Arabic and English.
 - Must be resident in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
2. Membership is for one calendar year, renewable a maximum of twice, in order to give as many participants as possible the opportunity to be part of the team and benefit from their diverse expertise.
3. The remit of the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner is as follows:
 - Providing support and assistance for the work of the Child Rights Commissioner.
 - Expressing views on issues relating to children and participating in decision-making.
 - Developing policies relating to children’s rights through national legislation and relevant international instruments.

Section II: The Group of Volunteer Experts for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner

The Group of Volunteer Experts for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner comprises 15 members. Experts must meet the following criteria:

- They must have experience in dealing with family and children's issues, or experience in the field of human rights.
- Commitment to attending and participating in meetings and events.
- They must be willing to undertake voluntary work in the field of children's rights (such as media, photography, content creation, storytelling, remote work, legal practice, behavioural specialisation and social counselling).

The term of membership is eighteen (18) months, renewable a maximum of twice, in order to allow as many participants as possible to be part of the group and benefit from their diverse expertise.

The remit of the group of volunteer experts for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner is as follows:

- Contributing to awareness-raising and promotion programmes relating to the child rights framework in the Kingdom of Bahrain, based on international conventions, instruments and standards, as well as national legislation.
- Participating in consultative meetings on issues and matters relating to the promotion of children's participation in policy-making and development initiatives.
- Holding regular meetings with the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner team to consult on various matters and issues that will support and enhance children's participation in decision-making.
- Provide the necessary support and advice to enhance children's opportunities for growth and develop their capacities to participate positively in various programmes supporting children.

Section III: News update on the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner and the Group of Volunteer Experts for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner

20 January 2025: To mark Gulf Children's Day, which is celebrated annually on 15 January, the National Human Rights Institution organised the first meeting of the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner team at the training centre at its headquarters in the Seef district. The meeting included a visual presentation covering the role and remit of the Child Rights Commissioner, as well as national and international laws and legislation relating to children's rights, and a brief overview of the Commissioner's strategy. The presentation was delivered by Dr Houria Al-Diri with the



participation of a number of volunteer experts. ⁽²¹³⁾ .

On **29 June 2025**, the National Human Rights Institution, in collaboration with Franklin Covey Education – Middle East and a number of supporting organisations, the ‘Seven Habits of Influential Child Rights Leaders’ programme as part of the ‘Influential Child Rights Leaders’ initiative under the slogan ‘You Have the Right’. The programme takes place over four days at the Commission’s headquarters in the Seef district and targets Bahraini youth aged 12 to 18, with the aim of empowering them to defend children’s rights and enhance their participation in society. The programme forms part of the Children’s Rights Commissioner’s strategy for 2024–2025 and reflects the NIHR’s efforts to nurture a generation that is aware and capable of contributing to policy-making relating to children, in line with the Kingdom of Bahrain’s Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals ⁽²¹⁴⁾).



(213) A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/20ajn2025ar.aspx>

(214) Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/Activities/29June2025.aspx>

20 July 2025, as part of the ‘Influential Child Rights Leaders’ programme, launched in collaboration with Franklin Covey Education – Middle East, the ‘Ibtisama’ initiative and the Al-Kooheji Charitable NIHR, under the slogan ‘You Have the Right’, the NIHR organised a field visit for friends of the Child Rights Commissioner to the Human Rights Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The delegation was received by Ambassador Dr Arwa Hassan Al-Sayed, Head of the Human Rights Affairs Sector at the Ministry, who gave a presentation on the Kingdom of Bahrain’s most notable achievements in the field of child rights protection. Interactive activities were also organised to familiarise those present with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its importance in safeguarding the dignity of the child and ensuring their best interests ⁽²¹⁵⁾.

On 22 July 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised a field visit for the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner to the Ministry of Social Development as part of the ‘Influential Children’s Rights Leaders’ programme, with the aim of raising children’s awareness of their rights. During the visit, participants were briefed on child protection services and initiatives, and learnt about the role of the Child Protection Centre and the helpline, as well as being made aware of the risks of cyberspace, digital protection measures and mechanisms for reporting any threats ⁽²¹⁶⁾.



⁽²¹⁵⁾ Press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/10aug2025.aspx>

⁽²¹⁶⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/10aug20251.aspx>

On 24 July 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised a visit for friends of the Child Rights Commissioner to the Embassy of the United Kingdom accredited to the Kingdom of Bahrain as part of the ‘Influential Children’s Rights Leaders’ programme, where participants learnt about the role of embassies in promoting human rights through an interactive workshop and an open dialogue in which they discussed their concerns. This forms part of the NIHR’s efforts to instil a culture of human rights among children and enhance their participation, in line with its strategy and the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026) ⁽²¹⁷⁾.



On 19 November 2025, the National Human Rights Institution organised a consultative meeting bringing together Dr Maha Al-Shihab, Child Rights Commissioner, and a group of volunteer experts from the Friends of the Child Rights Commissioner, as part of the Institution’s efforts to promote community participation and activate the role of young experts in supporting children’s rights ⁽²¹⁸⁾.



⁽²¹⁷⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/10aug20252.aspx>

⁽²¹⁸⁾ A press release published on the official website of the National Human Rights Institution at the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/newsAndEvents/News/20nov2025.aspx>

CHAPTER FOUR: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Introduction and Structure:

With reference to the provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the Commission, we find that Article (14) stipulates that:

“The Commission may request any information, data or documents it deems necessary to achieve its objectives or exercise its powers from the relevant ministries and agencies in the Kingdom, and such ministries and agencies shall assist the Authority in performing its duties and facilitating the exercise of its powers, provide it with whatever it requests in this regard, and prepare responses and comments on the recommendations contained in the Authority’s reports, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force within those bodies.

The Authority may notify the competent authorities in the event that those ministries and agencies fail to cooperate in providing the Authority with the required information, data or documents, or prevent it from accessing them, so that the necessary measures may be taken in accordance with the law.”

In order to give effect to these powers, the Commission has consistently followed up on its recommendations with the relevant authorities, whether these are recommendations contained in its annual reports; or those arising from the training, educational and awareness-raising activities in which the Commission is actively engaged in the field of promoting human rights, with a specific section of the subsequent annual report dedicated to detailing the action taken in response to them.

Accordingly, this chapter will address the recommendations of the National Human Rights Institution under three sub-sections: The first section is devoted to the recommendations contained in this year’s report; the second section to the responses of the relevant authorities to the recommendations contained in the twelfth annual report for 2024; and the third section to the responses of the relevant authorities to the recommendations relating to children’s rights contained in the Commission’s 2024 report.

SECTION ONE: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS BASED ON COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN 2025

Introduction

In accordance with the National Human Rights Institution's remit to receive complaints, monitor the human rights situation and track the extent to which fundamental rights and freedoms are enjoyed, as well as its role in providing advice and recommendations to the relevant authorities on human rights-related matters, the Institution has examined and analysed the complaints it received during the reporting period, and verified the substance of these complaints by following up with the competent authorities and reviewing the responses and measures taken in this regard, in accordance with relevant national and international standards, as set out in Chapter One of this report, entitled 'The Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain: The Mandate of the National Human Rights Institution Regarding Complaints Received and Monitored (Protection of Human Rights)', and Chapter Three, entitled 'The Mandate of the Child Rights Commissioner in the Field of Protecting and Promoting Children's Rights'. The complaints received by the Commission covered a wide range of human rights issues, including a number of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the rights of children and groups most in need of protection. Some complaints also revealed procedural or practical challenges that may affect the full enjoyment of certain rights and freedoms, which calls for the continued development of relevant policies, legislation and procedures, and the strengthening of preventive measures, protection mechanisms and follow-up procedures.

Based on the findings reached by the NIHR through its examination and analysis of the complaints, and with the aim of contributing to the strengthening of human rights protection and the consolidation of safeguards to ensure their preservation, it has drawn up a set of recommendations aimed at supporting national efforts to address the challenges highlighted by the complaints, improving the standard of relevant services and procedures, and enhancing compliance with national and international human rights standards.

Accordingly, these recommendations will be categorised according to the rights and issues addressed in the complaints received by the NIHR, including general recommendations relating to various fundamental rights and freedoms, and recommendations specific to the rights of the child, under two headings, with the aim of highlighting the human rights priorities revealed by the complaints, and to contribute to the development of relevant policies and practices, thereby achieving more effective protection of rights and freedoms and enhancing the enjoyment of these by all individuals without discrimination.

First category: General recommendations relating to various fundamental rights and freedoms based on complaints received in 2025

1. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning the right to health

- Establish a clear legal framework or regulatory mechanism enabling – in medically substantiated cases – the referral of inmates to specialist healthcare providers to receive treatments not available within the clinics of correctional and rehabilitation centres or in public hospitals.
- Expand the scope of specialist services, including dental prosthetics, at no cost to the inmate, taking into account the health and social circumstances of inmates and ensuring the continuity of free healthcare for them.
- To explore the possibility of increasing the frequency of visits by consultant doctors to the clinics of correctional and rehabilitation centres, to ensure that all inmates receive the necessary specialist care.
- To explore the possibility of implementing a ‘telemedicine’ system using video conferencing technology, in coordination between the Ministry of the Interior and government hospitals, with the aim of providing immediate specialist consultations, thereby helping to speed up initial diagnosis and reduce waiting times.
- Work towards establishing a ‘fast-track’ medical priority mechanism specifically for inmates whose conditions require urgent surgical intervention, in order to ensure the smooth running of medical procedures and the provision of surgical services in accordance with the approved timeframes for critical cases.
- Integrate psychological and social support services into the healthcare provided at clinics in correctional and rehabilitation centres and remand centres, to provide the necessary psychological support and explain treatment plans and medical appointments with complete transparency, thereby enhancing inmates’ awareness and psychological stability.
- Examine the possibility of enhancing medical services for patients with multiple sclerosis by providing a consultant specialising in multiple sclerosis on a daily basis at the Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Centre, thereby facilitating the management of emergencies and disease relapses at the Centre’s premises and reducing the burden associated with transferring patients to the Salmaniya Medical Complex.
- To examine the possibility of waiving or reducing parking fees for patients and visitors at the Accident and Emergency Department of Salmaniya Medical Complex, thereby improving access to urgent healthcare services and reducing the financial burden associated with accessing them

2. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning the right to education

- Joint coordination between the Ministry of Education and the Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari College of Teachers at the University of Bahrain to adopt and publish an 'Admissions Criteria Guide' in advance and make it available to all, clearly setting out the weighting mechanism for each component of the assessment (e.g. 40 per cent for the cumulative grade point average, 30 per cent for the aptitude test, 30 per cent for the personal interview), so that applicants are fully aware of the assessment process before applying.
- Examine the possibility of updating the electronic systems in the event of rejection, to ensure that rejection decisions include an appropriate level of justification, by providing applicants with explanatory indicators – such as a statement of shortcomings or their competitive ranking against the minimum admission threshold – thereby reinforcing the principle of transparency and supporting the applicant's right to appeal with full knowledge of the reasons.

3. Recommendation relating to complaints concerning the right to social security

- Explore the possibility of establishing a coordination mechanism between the security authorities, on the one hand, and the General Social Insurance Authority, on the other, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, to contribute to the automatic updating of individuals' records immediately upon the termination of their service or the issuance of decisions relating to their release, with the aim of ensuring data is up to date, minimising the administrative consequences of delayed updates, and guaranteeing their seamless access to services, including entry into the labour market and access to social assistance.

4. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning the right to work

- Strengthen vocational reintegration programmes for those released following a royal pardon, sentence substitution or the completion of a custodial sentence, by developing national mechanisms for coordination between the relevant authorities, thereby facilitating their return to the labour market, providing appropriate training and rehabilitation opportunities, and strengthening channels for follow-up and communication with beneficiaries
- Strengthen vocational reintegration programmes for those released following a royal pardon, sentence substitution or the expiry of a custodial sentence, by developing national coordination mechanisms amongst the relevant authorities, thereby ensuring their smooth return to the labour market, providing appropriate training and rehabilitation opportunities, and strengthening channels for follow-up and communication with beneficiaries,

and removing administrative obstacles that may restrict their right to access employment opportunities

- To consider the possibility of reviewing the regulations and criteria for suspending unemployment benefit or compensation for unfair dismissal, or for closing cases resulting from jobseekers' inability to attend interviews for health, compelling or technical reasons, by:
 - Examining the possibility of making available a feature for 'immediate confirmation of attendance or absence from interviews' via the Ministry of Labour's website, in addition to allowing appeals against rejection decisions via within a timeframe determined by the Ministry as it deems appropriate, to enable jobseekers to submit their medical or emergency documentation before a decision to automatically close their file is issued.
 - Develop the notification system for interview attendance or rejection by requiring the relevant authorities to exhaust three documented communication channels (recorded call, text message and email) before finalising a rejection decision, whilst ensuring that the reasons for rejection issued by the employer are clearly explained to ensure that the jobseeker is not held responsible.
- Intensify awareness-raising efforts to familiarise jobseekers with the nomination policies applied to vacancies advertised on the Ministry's online job fair via social media, thereby ensuring the transparency of the procedures followed and reducing related complaints.

5. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning the right to an adequate standard of living

- Work to strengthen and develop the procedures governing the reactivation of suspended housing applications and the payment of housing allowances to beneficiaries released under the Royal Pardon.
- Examine the possibility of paying a housing allowance to the families of inmates whilst the head of the household is serving their sentence in a correctional and rehabilitation centre, based on the principle of protecting the family as an independent social unit, and ensuring that their living conditions or housing are not affected during that period.

6. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning the right to liberty and personal security

- Joint coordination between the Ministry of the Interior and the Public Prosecution Service to intensify training and rehabilitation programmes for law enforcement and investigation personnel on national and international standards relating to the right to liberty and personal security, thereby enhancing the practical application of legal and procedural safeguards associated with arrest and detention.

- Joint coordination between the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and the Ministry of the Interior to expand the scope of awareness-raising programmes for migrant workers on their legal rights and the available reporting and redress mechanisms, particularly with regard to freedom of movement and protection from any practices that may involve coercion or unlawful restriction of liberty.

7. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning the right to physical and psychological safety

- The Ministry of the Interior should continue its efforts to strengthen monitoring and follow-up mechanisms within correctional and rehabilitation centres and places of detention, thereby contributing to an effective response to any allegations of physical or psychological ill-treatment, and taking the necessary measures in accordance with the approved legal frameworks.
- It is important that the Ministry of the Interior continues its efforts to develop training programmes for members of the security forces and staff at correctional and rehabilitation centres, thereby raising awareness of national and international standards relating to the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, and establishing practices that ensure the preservation of human dignity and the protection of physical and psychological integrity.
- Strengthen awareness-raising programmes within correctional and rehabilitation centres regarding inmates' rights and the mechanisms for lodging complaints and appeals, thereby ensuring that they are empowered to report any practices that compromise their physical or psychological well-being.

8. Recommendation relating to complaints concerning the right to fair trial guarantees

- Urge the relevant authorities, in coordination with civil society organisations, to raise legal awareness of fair trial guarantees and the legal remedies available in criminal proceedings, thereby helping individuals to understand their legal rights and obligations, supports the exercise of the rights of the defence, and promotes the enjoyment of fair trial guarantees in accordance with national legislation and relevant international standards.

9. Recommendation concerning complaints relating to the right to nationality

- Enhancing the efficiency of procedures for renewing and issuing identity documents, and developing mechanisms for follow-up and communication with beneficiaries, so as to ensure that applications are processed swiftly and that individuals can access the relevant services without delay.

10. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning the right to communicate with the outside world:

- Establish a clear regulatory framework that guarantees the continued right of persons deprived of their liberty to communicate with the outside world, including mechanisms to address sudden interruptions to means of communication, provide notification of the reasons for such interruptions, and take measures to prevent their recurrence, thereby preserving inmates' family and social ties.
- Ensure a minimum level of communication free from financial barriers, by reviewing the mechanism linking telephone calls to the availability of credit, and work to establish safeguards ensuring that all detainees are able to communicate regularly with their families, including the provision of a minimum level of free or subsidised communications, particularly for those without the financial means, in line with international standards which emphasise that this right must not be subject to unjustified restrictions.
- It is essential to standardise the procedures governing visits and various means of communication (such as in-person visits, video calls and telephone calls), and to establish clear and publicly stated criteria that guarantee equality for all detainees, whilst simplifying application procedures and reducing bureaucratic requirements, thereby ensuring easy access to this right without procedural complications.
- Systematically promote the use of alternative means of communication by expanding the use of modern communication technologies, particularly video calls, and implementing them as a primary and complementary option to traditional visits, especially in cases where in-person attendance is not possible, thereby ensuring the continuity of family and social contact for detainees in all circumstances.
- Establishing an urgent and flexible mechanism to deal with humanitarian cases, such as deaths, illness or emergency circumstances, so as to expedite procedures for approving special visits or communication, without compromising security controls, and in a manner that strikes a balance between humanitarian considerations and the requirements of the system within correctional and rehabilitation centres.
- The need to develop effective internal mechanisms for handling communication requests and related complaints, ensuring a prompt response to such requests and complaints and minimising the need for repeated follow-up, by setting clear timeframes for responses and enhancing coordination between the relevant bodies within and outside the institution.

11. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning the right to freedom of movement:

- The need to develop mechanisms for coordination and information exchange between the authorities involved in travel ban decisions, ensuring clarity of jurisdiction and expediting decision-making.

- Efforts should be made to prepare and publish a standardised procedural guide setting out the circumstances in which travel bans are imposed, the competent authorities, the mechanisms for lodging appeals or requesting the lifting of a ban, and the available channels for follow-up, to be made available via official online platforms.

12. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms:

- Work to enhance the clarity of procedures relating to the submission of applications and complaints concerning penalties, alternative measures and the open prison programme, by publishing procedural information and facilitating access to it through various available means.
- Strengthen awareness-raising programmes concerning the rights and services available to persons deprived of their liberty and their families, thereby contributing to raising awareness of legal procedures and established safeguards.
- To continue supporting initiatives aimed at expanding the application of alternative sanctions and measures, as well as reintegration and rehabilitation programmes, in line with national legislation and relevant international standards, thereby enhancing opportunities for rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Second requirement: Recommendations arising from complaints received by the Organisation concerning children's rights

1. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning children's right to education

- Consider adopting flexible educational policies to reintegrate children who have dropped out of school due to sanctions or social circumstances, and provide alternative educational pathways suited to their abilities and legal status.
- Work to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring school absenteeism by activating channels of communication between schools and parents, and developing early intervention plans for such cases, thereby ensuring the continuity of educational attainment.
- Examine the possibility of expanding school transport services or providing suitable alternatives for pupils who face difficulties in reaching their schools, thereby ensuring their regular attendance in the educational process.
- Facilitate the enrolment of children in basic education by streamlining administrative requirements and establishing flexible mechanisms to deal with cases where documentation is incomplete, in the best interests of the child.

2. Recommendation relating to complaints concerning children's various rights and freedoms

- Work to strengthen coordination between the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Social Development to raise awareness of the procedures and competent authorities involved in family disputes, by disseminating procedural information and facilitating access to it through various available means.

3. Recommendations relating to complaints concerning children's right to health

- Strengthen mechanisms for monitoring and supervising the quality of health services provided, particularly in critical medical cases, by establishing clear protocols to minimise medical errors and ensure effective accountability where they occur.
- Emphasise the need to provide comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation programmes for cases involving serious health complications, particularly for children, including physiotherapy, psychological support and long-term care, taking into account their specific health needs.

4. Recommendation relating to complaints concerning children's right to physical and psychological safety

- To examine the possibility of strengthening training programmes for staff in schools, educational institutions and care centres, with a view to developing their ability to recognise early signs of violence and abuse, and enhancing their competence in dealing professionally with cases of physical and psychological abuse.

5. Recommendation relating to complaints concerning children's right to communicate with the outside world

- To examine the possibility of granting humanitarian exceptions to female detainees who have children, including those over the age of 12, by permitting direct family visits without a glass partition for all children, whenever security and regulatory controls permit, in a manner that ensures the best interests of the children are taken into account, contributes to supporting the psychological and emotional stability of the children and their families, and strengthens family ties.

6. Recommendation relating to complaints concerning children's right to freedom of movement

- To examine the possibility of introducing special arrangements for mothers who do not hold Bahraini nationality but have Bahraini children, to enable them to obtain permanent residence permits, thereby ensuring the preservation of family unity and enhancing children's enjoyment of their right to full family care without procedural obstacles.

7. Recommendation relating to complaints concerning children's right to fair trial guarantees

- Expanding the application of alternative measures for persons deprived of their liberty, in line with the principle of protecting the best interests of the child, and promoting the objectives of restorative justice, rehabilitation and social reintegration.

SECTION TWO: RESPONSES FROM RELEVANT BODIES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Introduction:

As part of the National Human Rights Institution's commitment to monitoring the implementation of the recommendations issued in its annual reports – given that these recommendations constitute a roadmap towards further consolidating and promoting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain – the Commission has contacted the relevant official bodies to seek their views on the recommendations contained in its twelfth annual report for 2024, or in its activities for 2025, and on the feasibility of adopting them or the progress made in their implementation; Accordingly, this section will be divided into three parts: the first addresses the authorities' responses to recommendations relating to the protection of human rights; the second is devoted to their responses to recommendations relating to the promotion of human rights; whilst the third part sets out their responses to recommendations relating to the rights of the child.

Section One: Responses from the relevant authorities to recommendations concerning the protection of human rights

Introduction:

As part of the role undertaken by the National Institution in monitoring the implementation of its recommendations, particularly those relating to the protection of human rights – given that this is a fundamental pillar in strengthening the legal and institutional safeguards for rights and freedoms – the Commission took the initiative to contact the relevant official bodies to seek their views on these recommendations, to assess the extent of their response to them, and to ascertain the steps and measures taken towards their implementation. In this context, the Commission wrote to the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

The NIHR extends its thanks and appreciation to those authorities which demonstrated clear cooperation and responded positively to the NIHR's requests; their replies helped to shed light on the efforts being made to promote and protect human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

It is worth noting that the total number of recommendations set out in the twelfth annual report for the year 2024 amounted to 16, comprising 9 recommendations addressed to the Ministry of the Interior, one (1) recommendation concerning the Ministry of Education, five (5) recommendations concerning the Ministry of Labour, and one (1) recommendation concerning the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. These, together with the responses from the relevant authorities, will be divided into four sections, as follows:

Section One: The Ministry of the Interior's response to the Commission's recommendations contained in the 2024 Annual Report

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
1	Work towards implementing training programmes for law enforcement officers on the legal procedures relating to arrest and detention, including informing detainees of the reasons for their arrest and their rights whilst in detention.	Regular training and awareness-raising courses are provided to security personnel on the application of the law and due legal process, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international human rights standards. Furthermore, upon admission, detainees or those held on remand are immediately informed of their legal rights and obligations, including the reasons for their arrest and their rights whilst in custody, in accordance with the principles of procedural justice and the safeguards set out in ratified international conventions. A fundamental requirement upon admission is the documentation of all procedures in the forms provided for that purpose, alongside a precise explanation of the reason for admission, thereby ensuring transparency, accountability and the protection of detainees' legal rights in accordance with the provisions of the law and relevant international standards.
2	Enhancing the transparency of investigation and arrest procedures by developing a procedural manual to be applied by all detention centres, which sets out how detainees are to be promptly informed of the charges against them, as well as ensuring they have access to appropriate legal advice.	The operational manual on arrest and pre-trial detention procedures has been drawn up in accordance with applicable local laws and regulations and in line with relevant international standards and norms. This manual aims to standardise the procedures applied in all detention and pre-trial detention facilities under the Ministry of the Interior, thereby enhancing transparency and consistency in

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		the application of the law. Upon admission, detainees are immediately informed of the grounds for their arrest. There is also an electronic form relating to procedures for detainees and those held in pre-trial detention, which must be signed by the detainee to confirm that they have been made aware of their rights and obligations. The admission procedures include informing the accused of the grounds for their arrest and their right to contact the lawyer representing them in cases to which they are a party, thereby ensuring respect for the legal safeguards and rights of defence set out in national legislation and relevant international conventions.
3	Providing detainees with a written legal notice fully explaining their rights immediately upon arrest, including the right to remain silent, the right to lodge a complaint, and the right to a fair trial	There is an approved form setting out the rights and obligations of detainees, which is read to the detainee upon their admission and signed by them, thereby ensuring that they are fully aware of their legal rights and obligations from the moment of their arrest. This procedure forms part of the commitment to fair trial guarantees and due process, and is in line with national legislation and international standards relating to the rights of detainees, particularly with regard to the right to remain silent and the right to a fair trial.
4	Intensifying awareness-raising and providing ongoing training in human rights for members of the Public Security Forces who deal directly with detainees, in addition to providing awareness-raising courses for detainees aimed at enhancing	The General Directorate of Corrections and Rehabilitation works to involve staff at correctional and rehabilitation centres in specialised courses on human rights, as well as organising regular awareness-raising lectures on the latest developments in the field of corrections and rehabilitation.

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
	their understanding of their rights and obligations, and encouraging them to interact positively with the correctional environment; these courses shall cover topics relating to mental health, social relations, vocational rehabilitation and human rights.	It also holds regular meetings to discuss issues relating to correctional policy, thereby ensuring that the principles of the rule of law and respect for human dignity are firmly established in the workplace. In this context, the administration has also taken a number of measures, including promoting and embedding a culture of respect for human rights amongst staff at correctional and rehabilitation centres, and delivering numerous training courses that support this approach in coordination with the Training College of the Royal Police Academy, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the General Directorate of Civil Defence. This is in line with relevant international standards. With regard to providing awareness-raising courses for inmates, the General Directorate of Corrections and Rehabilitation strives, through a professional and methodical approach, to offer integrated and effective correctional and rehabilitation programmes for inmates and those in pre-trial detention, covering various aspects, including cultural and sporting programmes and religious guidance programmes, as well as providing inmates who wish to continue their education with the opportunity to enrol at the Nasser Training and Rehabilitation Centre, with the aim of enhancing their understanding of their rights and duties, and supporting their positive reintegration into society in accordance with relevant national and international standards.

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
5	Work is carried out to review the contents of the shop (the inmates' shop) on a regular basis and ensure the availability of all essential goods, including clothing and sports shoes in all sizes, cleaning and personal care products, and foodstuffs, to guarantee that all inmates can purchase what they wish, whilst also monitoring prices to ensure they are affordable for everyone.	There is regular and ongoing coordination with the Public Security Markets regarding the supply of goods available in the inmates' shop in accordance with the requirements and needs of inmates and those in pre-trial detention, including all essential items such as clothing and sports shoes in all sizes, cleaning and personal care products, and foodstuffs. A regular review of approved prices is also carried out to ensure they are in line with market prices outside correctional and rehabilitation centres, thereby guaranteeing fair pricing and preventing inmates from being burdened with unjustified financial costs. This is in accordance with the principles of transparency and the protection of beneficiaries' rights, in line with applicable regulations and relevant standards.
6	The Correctional, Rehabilitation and Pre-trial Detention Centre is called upon to facilitate direct communication between detainees or convicted prisoners and their lawyers, and to work towards providing a suitable environment for this purpose, ensuring confidentiality and privacy.	In accordance with the provisions of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority Act and its implementing regulations, inmates and remand detainees of both sexes are permitted to communicate with their legal representatives in accordance with the procedures in force at the centres, whether through face-to-face visits, telephone calls or video calls, based on a request submitted by them or via a lawyer appointed under a formal power of attorney. Such communication takes place in a manner that guarantees complete privacy and confidentiality, thereby ensuring the protection of the right to defence and legal advice in accordance with national legislation and international standards relating to the rights of detainees.

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
7	Coordination between the relevant authorities (the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecution Service, and the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments) is undertaken with the aim of expediting the procedures for granting formal power of attorney to detainees and convicted persons, and setting maximum time limits for the completion of submitted requests.	There is ongoing coordination with the relevant authorities to complete the procedures relating to the General Administration of Corrections and Rehabilitation centres without any delay, within the framework of institutional cooperation between the relevant authorities. As for setting time limits for the processing of applications, this falls within the remit of other relevant authorities and is handled in accordance with the applicable legal and procedural frameworks, ensuring due process and the proper administration of justice.
8	Efforts are being made to strengthen coordination with counterpart authorities in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, through the implementation of electronic links or the establishment of an information-sharing mechanism that enables citizens to be alerted in advance to any restrictions imposed on their entry into those states, before they depart via border crossings, thereby enabling citizens to rectify their legal status prior to travel and reducing the number of cases of refoulement at border crossings. The Authority also calls for exploring the possibility of incorporating this into approved electronic applications or permit platforms, to enhance transparency and the efficiency of procedures.	There is ongoing coordination with the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Evidence regarding cases involving restrictions on citizens' entry into certain GCC countries; the competent authority is contacted on a case-by-case basis to take the necessary measures, and upon receipt of official responses, the person concerned is informed of the outcome, in accordance with the established channels for dealing with such cases. In this context, it is worth noting that this recommendation is subject to the principle of a state's sovereignty over its territory, which is established in international legal doctrine and jurisprudence. This principle stipulates that every state enjoys absolute discretionary power to regulate the entry of foreigners into its territory, to prevent such entry, or to determine the conditions of their residence therein, in accordance with its supreme interests and the requirements of its security and

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		safety. Consequently, every state has the right to accept or refuse entry to any person into its territory without being obliged to disclose the reasons in advance; this makes it legally impossible to establish a binding mechanism for prior notification or electronic linkage regarding decisions to refuse entry, as these fall within the core of states' sovereign competence.
9	Foreign nationals subject to administrative deportation proceedings must be formally and clearly informed of the reasons for their deportation, and granted a reasonable period of time to regularise their legal status or lodge an appeal against the decision, particularly in cases where the foreign national is one of the parents of a Bahraini child residing in the Kingdom.	Where a foreign national is subject to an administrative deportation order, they shall be summoned to the Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence and formally notified of the grounds for deportation; they shall be granted a reasonable period of time to regularise their legal status or prepare for travel, and shall sign a declaration confirming their awareness of the measures taken against them. Any person in this situation is also entitled to appeal to the competent court against the deportation decision, in order to guarantee the right to a fair trial and to ensure due process, in accordance with relevant national legislation and international standards.

Section Two: The Ministry of Education's response to the Organisation's recommendations contained in the 2024 Annual Report

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
1	Work to facilitate the integration of individuals - covered by the Royal Pardon or whose sentences have been replaced by alternative	The Ministry of Education permits the enrolment of all students covered by the Royal Pardon or whose sentences have been replaced with alternative sanctions

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
	penalties and measures – to enrol in the vocational stream, and to overcome the difficulties they face, either by enrolling them in vocational education through the home-based system or by designating evening schools specialising in the same stream, so that they may complete the remainder of their education.	in secondary education, whether within the unified streams system or the technical and vocational education system, provided they are not over 21 years of age, in accordance with the approved educational calendar. As for the possibility of enrolling in technical and vocational education via the home-based enrolment system, the Ministry clarifies that the nature of the courses in this stream consists of practical, applied subjects that require physical attendance for a certain number of hours as a prerequisite for success and assessment, depending on the nature of each course. Consequently, those wishing to continue their education through the home-study system may benefit from the track standardisation system, which is tailored to the requirements of home-based study.

Section Three: The Ministry of Labour's response to the NIHR's recommendations contained in the 2024 Annual Report

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
1	To consider the possibility of identifying the appropriate jobs for which unemployment benefit has been suspended for jobseekers, as this varies from person to person.	The Ministry wishes to emphasise that all procedures relating to the entitlement to, or suspension of, unemployment benefit are subject to the provisions of Law No. (78) of 2006 on Unemployment Insurance (the Unemployment Insurance Law), which is considered one of the leading pieces of legislation and is in line with international labour standards. The Act sets out precise rules and criteria for the suspension of entitlement to unemployment

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		benefit and the forfeiture of that entitlement, the most notable of which is the unemployed person's unjustified refusal to take up suitable employment on two occasions. Several factors are taken into account when determining the suitability of the job offered, including the unemployed person's abilities, qualifications and practical experience, the possibility of their retraining, their age, the length of service in their previous job, and the duration of their unemployment, provided that the offered wage is higher than the amount of the unemployment benefit, in accordance with the provisions of Article 24 of the Unemployment Insurance Act. This regulation forms part of efforts to uphold the principle of fairness in the entitlement to insurance benefits, to ensure the commitment of jobseekers, and to achieve the fundamental objectives of the Unemployment Insurance Act, which are to encourage jobseekers , particularly young people, to enter the labour market and contribute to economic development. The Ministry also emphasises that all support programmes and financial subsidies in countries around the world are subject to specific criteria and controls designed to ensure they are directed towards those who are genuinely eligible, thereby achieving their intended social and economic objectives.
2	Strengthening the Ministry's supervisory role over organisations that advertise job or training opportunities to jobseekers offering a specific salary or remuneration, only	With regard to job vacancies advertised on the National Employment Platform, the Ministry assesses each vacancy before it is published to ensure that wage levels meet or exceed the amounts

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
	for some of these organisations to subsequently reduce the amount after the applicant has completed the interview process.	stipulated for each qualification. Specifically, the salary for a jobseeker with a university degree must not be less than 500 dinars, for diploma holders 430 dinars, and for those with a secondary school certificate or below, it must not be less than 350 dinars. Salary levels rise according to supply and demand, and depending on the specialisation; employers cannot reduce the salary below these thresholds, as the Ministry is responsible for approving employment contracts to facilitate the processing of employment and insurance applications with the General Social Insurance Authority. As for the training allowance, should an employer reduce the amount of the allowance below what has been agreed and what is stated on the platform, jobseekers may contact the Ministry via the online service for communication and enquiries, or call the helpline, so that the Ministry can investigate and take the necessary measures, which may include excluding the offending establishment from the on-the-job training programme and removing the trainee from the offending establishment.
3	The importance of upholding transparency and fairness in the management of jobseekers' files, and of not suspending the payment of unemployment benefit until it has been verified that the jobseeker has actually rejected suitable job opportunities, whilst providing sufficient opportunity for them to respond or lodge an appeal.	Jobseekers apply for suitable vacancies via the National Employment Platform, where provides full details of each vacancy, including salary, job title, qualifications, specialisation, the name and location of the employer, and the type of working hours—whether fixed hours, full or part-time shifts—as well as any requirements for a uniform or other specific criteria. The online system is also designed to automatically

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		match the jobseeker's qualifications and specialisation with the requirements of the vacancy, as specified by the employer. Once a jobseeker has applied for a vacancy, they are invited to attend an interview with the employer via the government notification system, through text messages (SMS), email, and via the National Employment Platform. Each in-person job interview with an employer counts as a single job opportunity; the initial online application is not counted as a job opportunity. To enhance transparency and clarity, the Ministry has made available, within the jobseeker's account on the platform, an online service displaying the history of jobs for which they have applied, as well as the outcomes of these applications as reported by employers. This system enables jobseekers to lodge an appeal or seek clarification from the Ministry should they have any comments regarding the outcomes of applications and interviews. The electronic system used on the platform also requires employers to enter the reason for rejection if a candidate is not accepted or if a jobseeker declines the offer, so that both parties can view the outcome, which is confirmed by the Ministry official present at the job interview. The platform also allows the interview result to be updated should either party change their mind after the interview, whether regarding a request for a second interview or setting a date to sign the contract.

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		In this context, the Ministry clarifies that jobseekers can track their entitlement to unemployment benefit directly via the National Employment Platform, where they can view the reasons for their entitlement or lack thereof through their personal information screen, thereby ensuring the highest levels of transparency and equality in access to information and data. With regard to the procedures for appealing against a decision to suspend or withdraw unemployment benefit, the Ministry has provided an online service enabling jobseekers to submit their appeals freely and in detail, without restrictions, via the electronic system. Appeals are considered by a specialised committee, appointed by ministerial decree, which examines them impartially and objectively, in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Unemployment Insurance Act. The Act also guarantees jobseekers the right to challenge the committee's decision before the competent court, thereby ensuring they have access to all levels of appeal both within and outside the Ministry. This underscores the Ministry's commitment to protecting the rights of jobseekers and ensuring that unemployment benefits reach those entitled to them in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
4	No decision to suspend unemployment benefits shall be taken unless the jobseeker has been formally notified in advance, with a clear explanation of the reasons	The Ministry confirms that it notifies the jobseeker in the event of their rejection of any job opportunity, via the notification system adopted on the National Employment Platform; and in the event of a second

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
	and the timeframe available to them to submit evidence proving their entitlement to the benefits.	rejection of a job opportunity, they will be notified again of this rejection, with clarification of their right to lodge an electronic appeal via the system within 15 days of the date of receipt of the notification, in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Unemployment Insurance Act. The Ministry also confirms that all employment and training services, as well as referrals for job vacancies and training programmes, remain available to all jobseekers without interruption, even in cases where the payment of benefits or compensation is suspended; no jobseeker will be removed from the Ministry's records in such cases.
5	Working to improve channels of communication with jobseekers and ensuring that all decisions relating to their entitlement to unemployment benefit are accompanied by clear procedures that can be appealed or contested.	As part of the Ministry's commitment to strengthening communication channels with jobseekers and providing them with accessible and comprehensive services, the Ministry has made available, via the National Employment Platform, an enquiry service covering employment, training and unemployment insurance. This service handles complaints and enquiries from jobseekers regarding employment services, job and training vacancies, group interviews, attendance dates, the acceptance of excuses for inability to attend, as well as requests to book appointments with employment and training specialists and other related services. The Ministry's Customer Service Centre also receives visitors, answers their enquiries and guides them to make the best use of all the services provided by the Ministry in the

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		areas of employment, training and unemployment insurance. In line with the Ministry's commitment to ensuring transparency and fairness in its procedures, beneficiaries are able to submit their appeals via the dedicated online system, enabling them to submit and track their appeals and view the outcome online with ease and convenience. The Appeals Committee carefully examines the cases submitted, taking into account the objective reasons and humanitarian considerations put forward by jobseekers, with the aim of reinstating those eligible onto the payment lists in accordance with the approved legal regulations.

Section IV: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning's response to the NIHR's recommendations contained in the 2024 Annual Report

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
1	Establish a unified electronic linkage system between the Ministry of Housing and other government bodies to ensure the integration of information and to avoid any delays that may arise due to a failure to update the housing applicant's details.	The Ministry has previously expanded the scope of the electronic linkage from four to 11 government and private bodies. The electronic linkage system facilitates the immediate and secure exchange of data between the Ministry and these bodies, thereby enhancing operational efficiency as well as the accuracy and speed of transactions, as part of its efforts to improve service quality, streamline procedures and reduce reliance on paper-based transactions through automated data updates.

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		The Ministry has also recently developed 35 new e-services as part of the Government Services Development Project, within the framework of its ongoing efforts to develop government services, support digital transformation and improve the quality of services provided to citizens. This project aims to reduce the number of required documents by at least 50 per cent, and to reduce service level agreement (SLA) times by at least 25 per cent, thereby ensuring the acceleration of procedures, the achievement of full digital transformation, and the improvement of the user experience through the standardisation of information and procedures across various government channels.

Second requirement: Responses from authorities to recommendations regarding the promotion of human rights

Introduction:

This section will address the follow-up on the responses from the competent authorities regarding the recommendations issued by the National Human Rights Institution in the field of promoting human rights, specifically concerning training and awareness-raising programmes for the year 2024, divided into three sections as follows:

Section One: Responses from the relevant authorities to the recommendations of the roundtable discussion on 'Support for persons covered by the Royal Pardon and beneficiaries of alternative sanctions and measures' ⁽²¹⁹⁾

⁽²¹⁹⁾ The National Human Rights Institution wrote to the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments; the Ministry of the Interior subsequently responded with its views regarding the recommendations issued by the roundtable discussion. At the time of printing this report, the Institution had not received a response from

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry of the Interior's response
1	Ensure that alternative sanctions relating to community service – as provided for in Article (2) of Law No. (18) of 2017 on Alternative Sanctions and Measures – are carried out within the same professional field in which the beneficiary was previously employed, or at the same place of work where they were previously employed	Since the implementation of Law No. (18) of 2017, alternative sanctions have been selected on the basis of a comprehensive individual assessment that takes into account rehabilitative, social and professional aspects. In the case of community service, care is taken to ensure that the work is aligned with the beneficiary's skills and experience, thereby achieving a dual benefit and promoting their reintegration. This is in line with the provisions of the law and its reformist philosophy, alongside the development of rehabilitation and training programmes in collaboration with various bodies to support beneficiaries' readiness for the labour market, making consideration of professional background a fundamental practice within a balanced legal framework that serves the public interest.
2	Emphasising the possibility of establishing a guidance manual setting out the criteria for the implementation of alternative sanctions or measures, and how beneficiaries may benefit from them	The General Directorate for the Enforcement of Judgments and Alternative Sanctions provides a comprehensive and user-friendly online platform that serves as a complete guide containing legal and procedural information, eligibility criteria, application procedures, forms and legislation, as well as rehabilitation programmes. This enhances transparency and facilitates beneficiaries' access to services and their understanding of their rights and obligations, whilst the content is continuously updated to ensure it keeps pace with developments and provides a reliable online reference that supports the optimal application of alternative sanctions.
3	Ensuring that agencies and institutions receiving beneficiaries of alternative sanctions and measures are	The General Directorate for the Enforcement of Judgments and Alternative Sentences adopts an integrated approach to community awareness-raising and coordination with government and private

the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, despite having followed up on the matter with them.

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry of the Interior's response
	guided on how to deal with them, thereby achieving their rehabilitation and reintegration into society	bodies responsible for beneficiaries, including those involved in medical care and psychological and social support, through regular meetings, guidance manuals and training workshops aimed at standardising understanding and strengthening the role of these bodies in supporting beneficiaries, in addition to implementing rigorous field monitoring mechanisms through judicial enforcement officers and sentence enforcement officers via regular visits and direct communication with supervisors, to ensure compliance and proper implementation, and to address challenges as they arise, thereby enhancing the quality of supervision and institutional integration and achieving the rehabilitative and social objectives of alternative sanctions.
4	Expanding the list of venues where community service can be carried out as one of the alternative sanctions	The General Directorate for the Enforcement of Sentences and Alternative Sanctions is working to expand its partnerships with government and private sector bodies through memoranda of understanding and cooperation agreements with educational, health and vocational institutions, with the aim of providing diverse work environments that accommodate beneficiaries and take into account their needs and experiences, thereby contributing to the diversification of areas in which community service is carried out, and to enhance opportunities for skills development and positive integration, whilst continuing efforts to broaden the partner base in order to achieve social integration and support the reform model based on effective partnership.
5	Inviting the National Human Rights Institution to organise a panel discussion, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments and the	The criteria for the substitution of penalties are set out in clear and explicit provisions in Law No. (18) of 2017 on Penalties and Alternative Measures, whereby the law establishes a precise legal framework governing the conditions for eligibility and the application procedures; Applications for substitution are subject to a comprehensive

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry of the Interior's response
	Supreme Judicial Council, on the criteria for imposing sentences and alternative measures	procedural process, beginning with an examination of the convicted person's file by the General Directorate for the Enforcement of Judgments and Alternative Penalties, followed by an opinion from the Public Prosecution, and culminating with the sentencing judge, who has exclusive authority to issue the final decision to grant or reject the substitution in accordance with the specified criteria, which ensures transparency, accuracy and standardisation of procedures in the application of alternative penalties, whilst the Ministry reaffirms its welcome of initiatives that promote legal awareness and support institutional dialogue.

Section Two: Recommendations of the NIHR regarding the effectiveness of the round table on 'Regulations Governing the Accommodation of Expatriate Workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain'

The NIHR took the initiative to organise a special round-table event entitled 'Regulations Governing the Accommodation of Expatriate Workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain', comprising four consecutive meetings held between 30 June 2025 and 15 September 2025. The aim was to examine the issue of migrant workers' accommodation within residential neighbourhoods from various angles and to develop practical solutions that ensure the provision of decent housing which preserves human dignity and promotes the health, safety and quality of life of migrant workers.

The meetings were attended by the relevant government bodies, namely: the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, with the Ministry of the Interior being briefed on the outcomes; the recommendations of the event were as follows:

(1) Adoption of a regulatory model:

- Licensing of buildings operating as workers' hostels designated for workers and those in similar circumstances, linking them to a government platform that determines capacity, monitors the number of residents, and regulates the issuance of residence cards for that address in accordance with the licensed capacity.
- Reorganising shared collective accommodation under an individual tenancy system linked to a government platform, as detailed above.

- Developing the requirements for existing workers' accommodation and the possibility of converting it into shared collective accommodation or buildings operating as workers' hostels.
- Include the permitted number of occupants (licensed capacity) for the building in the licence details, and link this to the number of individual tenancy agreements issued, so that the actual number of occupants does not exceed the specified capacity, and link this to the number of identity cards permitted to be issued to the building's occupants.

(2) Requiring employers to provide suitable accommodation:

- Enact legislation obliging employers to provide accommodation in licensed housing and linking this obligation to the worker's wage level, provided that this obligation is included in employment contracts and work permits.
- Establishing controls to limit the granting of cash housing allowances and restricting them to exceptional, justified cases based on the worker's income level, whilst ensuring the provision of formal housing alternatives.

(3) Regulating occupancy density and minimum service standards:

- Set a maximum occupancy limit for every building licensed for workers' accommodation (approved capacity), whether in the form of workers' hostels or any other category, including shared accommodation, at a rate of one occupant per 4 m² of the building's total floor area, with a maximum of 6–8 people per room. A special licence shall be issued specifying the permitted number of occupants, and residence permits for occupants shall be issued in accordance with the building's authorised capacity.
- Issuing building regulations that set minimum standards for essential facilities required in the building in accordance with international standards (sanitary facilities, bathrooms, kitchens, laundry facilities), thereby ensuring public health, whilst requiring adequate ventilation and air conditioning that take into account temperatures and climatic conditions in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

(4) A unified digital platform and residential ID:

- Registering all residents at the licensed address, not exceeding the approved capacity, and linking their details to the population register in collaboration with the Information and e-Government Authority.
- Issuing a resident card to the worker, confirming their address in the building, not exceeding the approved capacity.
- Install an identification sign on the building at the entrance to workers' accommodation, including a QR code.

(5) Safety and Prevention:

- Full compliance with the requirements of the General Directorate of Civil Defence, including emergency exits, fire alarm systems, fire-fighting equipment, and regular training on evacuating the building in emergencies.

(6) Spatial Framework:

- Restrict licences for collective accommodation, workers' hostels and workers' accommodation on commercial and service streets, as well as in areas currently classified as 'workers' accommodation', whilst updating the requirements in line with these recommendations and providing essential services and parking spaces for vehicles and bicycles in those areas.

(7) Rents and curbing exploitation:

- Amend the Rent Act to enable the owner of a licensed building to enter into multiple direct individual tenancy agreements with occupants, provided that the total occupancy does not exceed the capacity specified in the building licence, thereby limiting subletting and holding the owner directly liable for any breaches.
- Prohibit the withholding of personal documents and the imposition of unauthorised fees, and require landlords and operators to be transparent in their pricing and to issue official invoices/receipts that are verifiable and traceable.

(8) Institutional and municipal governance:

- Amend planning regulations in line with these recommendations, and delegate the authority to licence workers' accommodation to a competent executive body responsible for licensing, monitoring and enforcement in coordination with other government bodies.
- Involve municipal councils in approving the issuance or transfer of licences, and link licensing to the actual number of residents as recorded in the population register.

(9) Inspections and enforcement of violations:

- Carry out joint day and night inspection campaigns, with a streamlined access mechanism to accommodation identified by clear signs featuring a QR code.
- Implementing a system of progressive and deterrent penalties: escalating fines, partial closure if the violation is not rectified, and organised and safe eviction without harming workers.

(10) Complaints and awareness-raising:

- Establish a multilingual complaints mechanism that ensures confidentiality (hotline and digital apps), with clear timeframes for handling reports.
- Launch awareness campaigns for workers and property owners regarding their rights, obligations and the necessary regulatory requirements.

(11) Licence renewal:

- Licences for all workers' accommodation, workers' hostels and shared collective accommodation must be renewed annually, following an inspection confirming compliance with health, regulatory and safety

requirements in accordance with civil defence standards, with occupancy data updated on the digital platform prior to issuance or renewal.

(12) Regulatory and urban planning review and updating of requirements:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning shall be responsible for reviewing and periodically updating the regulatory and urban planning requirements for workers' accommodation, in line with the final outcomes of this proposal and the other recommendations contained therein.
- The update includes the setting of density standards, permitted uses, setbacks, requirements for vehicle and bicycle parking, communal spaces, and linking actual occupancy to authorised capacity.
- The addition of specific requirements for workers' hostels, including at least:
 - Design and functional standards for hostels: secure entrances, reception/site management, communal living areas, bedrooms in accordance with approved capacities, and adequate service facilities.
 - Minimum ratios for sanitation, hygiene, catering and laundry facilities that exceed the general minimum standards for collective accommodation, in line with the nature of the hostels.
 - Environmental and operational specifications: ventilation and air-conditioning rates, waste management, noise insulation, and energy and water management.
 - Additional safety requirements: Enhanced fire alarm and suppression systems, clearly marked emergency exits, documented evacuation plans and regular training.
 - Identification and operation: An external identification sign displaying the licence number, capacity and a QR code; the appointment of an accredited operations supervisor; and a record of regular maintenance.
- These requirements are drawn up in coordination with the relevant authorities, including the General Directorate of Civil Defence, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, municipal councils, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, and the Information and e-Government Authority, to ensure their consistency and feasibility.

SECTION THREE: RESPONSES FROM AUTHORITIES TO RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Introduction:

As part of the role undertaken by the National Human Rights Institution in following up on the implementation of its recommendations and monitoring the extent of the response to them, particularly those relating to the protection and promotion of children's rights—which are fundamental pillars for ensuring that children enjoy their legally guaranteed rights and freedoms—the Commission has made a point of liaising with the relevant official bodies to seek their input on the procedures and measures taken to implement these recommendations, and to ascertain the results achieved and practical steps taken in this regard.

In this context, the NIHR has written to a number of government bodies as part of its follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations falling within each body's remit. The NIHR expresses its thanks and appreciation to these bodies for their constructive cooperation and positive response to its requests, and for the responses and information they provided, which have helped to highlight the national efforts made to protect and promote children's rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. These responses will be addressed in four sections, three of which are dedicated to the 2024 recommendations, whilst the fourth section is dedicated to the recommendations **of the First Annual Forum for the Children of the Kingdom of Bahrain, entitled: 'You Have the Right... You Have a Voice'**, which was held in February 2025, as follows:

Section One: The Ministry of the Interior's response to the NIHR's recommendations contained in the 2024 Annual Report

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
1	To consider establishing a mechanism to reward young inmates and detainees who wish to continue their education, and to grant them special privileges during their time at the centre, such as an increase in outdoor time, contact time or visiting time, or eligibility for a royal pardon or alternative sanctions, or a reduction in the length of their sentence in cooperation with the relevant authority and others, in order to encourage those who are not keen to learn to continue their education.	With regard to continuing education, interviews are conducted with all young inmates and detainees, and they are encouraged to continue their studies whilst at the centre; their names are then submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval to allow them to continue their education. All inmates who have applied to continue their studies have already been accepted. This is part of efforts to uphold the right to

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		education and promote rehabilitation. Furthermore, correctional and rehabilitation centres organise competitions and educational and recreational activities, including traditional games, mental and intellectual games, and memorising passages from the Holy Qur'an. Based on the results of these activities, inmates are awarded financial rewards in the form of shopping vouchers , granted special visits with their families, and given an increase in their allotted outdoor recreation time, in addition to other non-monetary rewards. It should be noted that these incentives are not limited to inmates wishing to continue their studies, but are granted to all inmates who are disciplined and adhere to the centre's instructions and regulations, with the aim of promoting positive behaviour and discipline within the correctional environment. As regards nomination for a royal pardon, alternative sentences or other privileges mentioned in the recommendation, the relevant committee is periodically provided with the names of all inmates for consideration of their inclusion in a special royal pardon or other measures, in accordance with the approved conditions and criteria relating to the inmate's behaviour, the length of the sentence, the nature of the offence, and other regulations falling within the remit of the competent authority. Furthermore, the Public Prosecution, represented by the Family and Child Prosecution, shall be provided with periodic reports on

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		the inmate's condition and behaviour within the centre once half of the sentence imposed on them has been served, in order to support its decisions and enable it to monitor the inmates' circumstances in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks.
2	Taking the necessary measures to expedite the mechanism for enforcing judicial rulings issued by the competent courts concerning children, which require the Department of Nationality, Passports and Residence to issue or renew passports for children.	The Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence works to ensure the enforcement of court rulings relating to the issue or renewal of passports for children in accordance with legal and administrative regulations and in the best interests of the child, It also coordinates with the relevant authorities to streamline procedures and reduce the time required to implement the rulings, whilst taking into account the administrative requirements imposed by the regulations to ensure the secure issuance of passports. The Department is committed to implementing final and binding rulings as soon as the requirements for implementation are met.
3	Reconsider the requirement for the child to be present in person when collecting their passport following its issue or renewal, and allow those holding a special, notarised or certified power of attorney to collect the passport on the child's behalf under that power of attorney, particularly in cases where there are no security restrictions on the passport holder.	The handover of a passport is a sensitive procedure, as it is a highly secure official document that could be misused if handed over to an unauthorised person; consequently, the passport may only be handed over to the holder or to a person holding a certified power of attorney proving their entitlement to collect the passport, in accordance with the applicable legal standards for the protection of official documents and the prevention of any unlawful use thereof, This procedure is governed by Article 13 of the Passports Act,

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		which stipulates that 'persons lacking legal capacity shall not be issued with individual passports, except with the consent of their legal representatives', It should be noted that the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs Department has established a procedure for recognising the custodial mother as the legal representative of her minor children, which involves verifying the legal status of the applicant. This is fulfilled by submitting the following requirements: ○ An administrative court ruling authorising the issue and collection of the passport, provided that it is final and binding. ○ Or a final and binding court ruling appointing a legal representative or establishing custody. ○ Or a special power of attorney from the father. ○ Or a certificate from the Sharia courts appointing a legal representative.
4	The establishment of a specialised unit to handle children's complaints within correctional and rehabilitation centres and remand centres, comprising staff trained in psychology and law, reporting directly to the Ministry of Social Development , and responsible for immediate investigation and preventive intervention.	In accordance with Law No. (4) of 2021 enacting the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, a child who has reached the age of 15 but has not yet reached the age of 18 at the time of committing the offence shall be subject to reduced penalties, and children shall not be detained or imprisoned alongside adults in the same facility; furthermore, children shall be categorised according to their age, gender , the nature of the offence and the length of the sentence.

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
		There is a complaints box in the inmates' block, which is managed by the Internal Audit and Investigations Department. Inmates write their complaints on a form provided for this purpose and place them in the designated box, where an officer from the Internal Audit and Investigations Department visits the centre, opens the box, collects the complaints and forwards them to his department for consideration and a decision.

Section Two: The Ministry of Education's response to the Organisation's recommendations contained in the 2024 Annual Report

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
<u>1</u>	To consider adopting flexible educational policies to reintegrate children who have dropped out of school due to disciplinary measures or social circumstances, and to provide alternative educational pathways suited to their abilities and legal status.	The Ministry reaffirms its ongoing commitment to implementing the principle of compulsory education. It fulfils its supervisory role to ensure that the child's guardian complies with the obligation to guarantee the right to education, in accordance with Article 8 of Law No. (27) of 2005 on Education. The Ministry also works within the framework of integrated educational and administrative policies to reintegrate children who have dropped out of school into the formal state education system or by providing alternative and flexible educational pathways, enabling them to complete their studies and ensuring that no child is deprived of their right to formal education.

		In this context, the Ministry of Education succeeded in reintegrating 33 Bahraini children who had dropped out of school into the education system during the first term of the academic year (2024–2025), thanks to the concerted efforts of the Ministry’s Compulsory Education Unit. The main reason for children dropping out of school is family breakdown and the social problems of which they are victims, which has a negative and serious impact on their legal and constitutional rights and their educational security. The Ministry of Education annually reviews the records of all children of school age, and ensures that their parents or guardians have enrolled them in school. If it transpires that a child of school age has not been enrolled, the relevant departments within the Ministry immediately investigate the reasons by contacting the child’s parents or guardian; if this proves impossible, they contact relatives or investigate the child’s social environment.
2	Developing a joint, multidisciplinary intervention protocol amongst the relevant authorities (Education, Health, the Ministry of the Interior, Child Protection and the Commissioner for Children’s Rights) in cases of child abuse	The Ministry works to provide all possible forms of support and assistance in cases where children are subjected to physical or psychological abuse, through ongoing coordination with the relevant authorities, namely the Public Prosecution Service, the Child Protection Centre under the Ministry of Social Development, the Child Protection in Cyberspace Unit under the Ministry of the Interior, and the Children and Adolescents Unit at the Psychiatric Hospital under the Ministry of Health. The Ministry emphasises its commitment to implementing any future cooperation protocol aimed at standardising

		reporting and intervention mechanisms.
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		The Ministry also highlights the effective role played by the National Human Rights Commission, whose membership includes a number of relevant bodies, including the Ministry of Education, as this Commission is responsible for all matters relating to human rights, including issues concerning children.
3	Establishing a mechanism to enable inmates and detainees to enrol in vocational training programmes, and to allow their enrolment at the Nasser Scientific and Technical Centre, as it is the closest to the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre, or to cooperate with them to provide resources and equipment and fit out the premises where the Ministry of Education lacks the necessary capacity, with the aim of harnessing the inmates' potential and channelling it towards education and meaningful vocational work, thereby facilitating their reintegration into society, as education will benefit them and enable them to become effective and constructive members of society upon their release from the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre.	This recommendation falls outside the remit of the Ministry of Education, as the Nasser Scientific and Technical Centre is not part of the Ministry's approved organisational structure.

4	Consider enriching the library at the Reform and Rehabilitation Centre for Young People and equipping it with all the necessary books and resources.	The Ministry of Education is committed to providing textbooks on a regular basis to resident students wishing to continue their education at the Reform and Rehabilitation Centre, and reaffirms its full readiness to cooperate in enriching this library with educational resources and reference materials in accordance with established procedures, within the framework of community partnership and national responsibility.
5	Consider appointing a dedicated coordinator to oversee the education of young inmates and ensure they have access to the materials and tools that aid their learning. Information available on the Ministry's educational portal may be utilised to ensure that all inmates enjoy their right to education.	The Educational Operations Department in Educational Zone No. 3 is responsible for monitoring matters relating to young inmates and providing them with the necessary educational and logistical support to ensure they receive a continuous education. This department acts as the de facto coordinator to ensure effective coordination with the Ministry of the Interior's Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre. The Ministry of Education also makes the curriculum available via its official educational portal, in addition to providing televised lessons that enable inmates to revise lessons and benefit from the educational content, thereby enhancing opportunities for continuous self-directed learning, in close coordination with the Ministry of the Interior and the Centre for Correction and Rehabilitation.

Section Three: The Ministry of Social Development's response to the NIHR's recommendations contained in the 2024 Annual Report

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry's response
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1	Extending social security coverage to include children in exceptional circumstances such as: cases where there is no source of income or where living conditions are inadequate	The Ministry includes the following exceptional categories within its services: ○ A child, meaning any male or female under the age of eighteen, or over that age but with no one to support them or sufficient funds to rely on, provided that they can prove they are continuing their education until they obtain their first university degree. ○ An orphan: any person whose father has died and who has no financially capable relative obliged to provide for them, nor sufficient funds on which to rely for their livelihood; a person of unknown parentage or whose father is unknown shall be deemed an orphan, subject to the provisions of paragraph (6) of this Article (Article 1 of Law No. 18 of 2006 on Social Security)
1	○ . ○ Children living with non-Bahraini mothers or suffering from parental separation without adequate maintenance shall be provided with 'special assistance' to ensure a minimum standard of living.	○ The family of a prisoner: any family whose sole breadwinner has been sentenced to a final custodial sentence of more than one month and which does not have sufficient financial means on which to rely for its livelihood. ○ Disability allowance: This allowance is paid to eligible recipients in accordance with Ministerial Decision No. (24) of 2008 regarding the eligibility criteria for the disability allowance, and the amount is paid according to the classification of the disability (mild or severe), whether the recipient is a child or an adult. The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that these groups are covered in a manner that fulfils humanitarian and social objectives, in accordance with the criteria and conditions set out in Law No. (18) of 2006 on social security.
2	Recommendation concerning the Child Protection Centre: Ensure the prompt referral and investigation of cases of physical or	The following procedures are to be followed at the Child Protection Centre immediately upon receipt of reports: 1. Adoption of the Centre's procedures: Implementation of procedures relating to children at risk or subject to abuse, in

	psychological abuse of children, and take the necessary preventive measures in cooperation with the relevant authorities.	accordance with Law No. (4) of 2021 on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, and its implementing regulations, with the aim of achieving restorative justice for children, providing for their care and protecting them from abuse, whilst ensuring that the best interests of the child are taken into account in all decisions made. 2. The Centre's commitment to the prescribed procedures: To comply with the provisions of the Act and its implementing regulations upon receipt of any report through official and approved channels 3. Procedures for receiving reports: Upon receipt of a report by the Centre from the relevant authorities specified in Article (45) of the Act, or through personal attendance or the helpline, the Centre must take the following steps: ○ Open the report and assign it an official reference number to ensure that each case is followed up accurately. ○ Record all the required details from the complainant, including their name and status, and the details of the incident. ○ Examine and verify the report to determine whether it constitutes a felony or a misdemeanour punishable by law. ○ If this is confirmed, the competent security authority must be notified immediately so that the necessary measures can be taken. ○ Notifying the competent public prosecutor's office for children and following up on legal proceedings in accordance with the law. ○ Record all procedures in an official report, including the date and time of the report, the party who made the report, the reporter's capacity, the child's basic details and the subject of the complaint. ○ Record the date and time of the summons of the child, their guardian or
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		the person responsible for them, as well as any subsequent developments or updates, in the report. ○ Follow up on the report in accordance with legal and administrative procedures, and ensure that the necessary measures are taken to protect the child as soon as the validity of the report is confirmed, including: - Summoning the child or their guardian to give evidence. - Conducting the necessary medical examination to determine the extent to which the child has suffered any physical, psychological or medical harm as a result of exposure to danger or ill-treatment. ○ Taking appropriate preventive or therapeutic measures in accordance with the law to ensure the child's safety and rights. 4. Substantive measures: If the complaint is found to be substantiated, appropriate measures shall be taken in accordance with Article 48 of the Act, which include: ○ Taking the necessary steps to treat the child for any illness they may have contracted as a result of being exposed to danger or ill-treatment. ○ Keeping the child within their family environment with their guardian or carer, whilst taking the necessary steps to remove the danger to which they are exposed, within specified timeframes and under the supervision of the Centre. ○ Keeping the child within their family environment whilst organising social intervention measures by the relevant authority to provide the necessary social, educational and health services to the child and their family and to assist them. ○ Keeping the child within their family environment whilst taking the necessary
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		precautions to prevent any contact between them and persons who may pose a threat to their health or physical or psychological safety. ○ To recommend to the Judicial Committee for Children that the child be placed – until the danger to him or her has ceased – with a trusted family, a social welfare or educational institution or association, or a health or therapeutic institution, in accordance with the procedures laid down in this Act. ○ Refer the matter to the competent Sharia court – where appropriate – to consider ordering the child’s guardian or the person responsible for him or her to pay temporary maintenance for the child; the court’s decision in this regard shall be enforceable even if it is under appeal. ○ Taking the necessary urgent measures – in cases where the child is in imminent danger. ○ Remove the child from the place where they are at risk and transfer them to a safe place; the Centre may, where necessary, seek the assistance of public authorities in doing so. 5. Emergency measures pursuant to Articles 49 and 50 of the Act: In emergency situations, the Centre shall take the necessary measures relating to the transfer of custody; these measures are set out in Articles 49 and 50 of the Act, as follows: ○ The Child Protection Centre may – after obtaining authorisation from the Specialised Public Prosecutor’s Office for Children – transfer a child who is at risk or subject to abuse, and for whom it is impossible to remain with the person with whom they reside, to a safe place and provide care for them, provided that the child is brought before the competent court within twenty-four hours for the court to issue its decision regarding the child; The Centre may
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		request the competent court to issue an order transferring the child's custody to a foster family, provided that they are relatives up to the fourth degree; in the absence of relatives within this degree, custody shall be transferred to a person deemed suitable by the court. ○ If the child is at risk or is being mistreated by their guardian or the person responsible for them and is in urgent need of protection, the Child Protection Centre may request the Specialised Public Prosecutor's Office for Children to issue a temporary order transferring the child to another safe location chosen by the Centre, provided that the child's case is brought before the competent court on the first working day for a decision to be made, or to designate the person or body that may supervise or care for the child on a temporary or permanent basis, and to determine the amount of maintenance and who is responsible for paying it. 6. Guidelines for taking measures: ○ The measures must aim to end the child's exposure to danger or ill-treatment. ○ A graduated approach must be taken when implementing measures to avoid any delay in eliminating the source of danger, whilst giving priority to preventive, guidance and remedial measures. ○ Measures must be reviewed periodically to ensure that they serve the child's best interests. ○ Preference should be given to keeping the child in a family environment, whilst obtaining an undertaking from the head of the family or their equivalent to provide the necessary protection. ○ Prevent any contact between the child and persons who may pose a threat to their safety. ○ Request the removal of the child from their family environment if it is not
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		possible for them to remain there, specifying the proposed placement and the duration of the placement in accordance with legal procedures. ○ Disclosing the child's place of placement where necessary, in consultation with their guardian or the person responsible for them, unless this is contrary to the child's best interests. 7. Preventive, advisory and therapeutic measures: ○ Implementing preventive programmes for children, parents and professionals, using an approach that takes into account age groups and areas most at risk. ○ Raising awareness of children's rights and means of protection, and providing positive educational alternatives that do not involve physical or psychological punishment. ○ Providing therapeutic interventions to promote children's mental and social well-being and to reintegrate them into their family and social environments. ○ To train staff and professionals to ensure rapid and professional intervention. ○ Strengthening social and community support networks to prevent domestic violence, crime and the economic or sexual exploitation of children. 8. Accountability and oversight: ○ The Centre is subject to oversight by the Ministry of Social Development and is committed to implementing advanced mechanisms for assessment, intervention, protection and psychosocial support. ○ Developing and updating coordination mechanisms with partners in the protection system to ensure a rapid response and high-quality intervention
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		in accordance with approved national and international standards. ○ Taking the best interests of the child into account in all policies and programmes, and making child protection a national priority whilst reducing the future economic burdens resulting from neglect or delinquency. Furthermore, the programmes implemented by the Centre constitute an integrated national strategy to ensure the protection of children's rights, promote their psychological, social and educational development, and build more stable and secure families and communities. The Centre is responsible for monitoring the circumstances of children in respect of whom decisions have been issued by the Judicial Committee for Children or the Juvenile Courts to place them in social care institutions, in accordance with the provisions of Decision No. (43) of 2025 concerning the Regulations Governing Social Care Institutions , These regulations set out procedures for oversight and compliance to safeguard the dignity of the child and ensure the provision of a safe environment that serves their best interests, in accordance with the approved guidelines.
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Section IV: Responses from the competent authorities ⁽²²⁰⁾ regarding the recommendations of the First Annual Forum for the Children of the Kingdom of Bahrain, entitled: 'You Have the Right... You Have a Voice' for the year 2025

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry of Social Development's response
1	Development of the national system for the	The Kingdom of Bahrain continues to develop its legislative framework for the protection and care of children through

⁽²²⁰⁾ The National Human Rights Institution wrote to the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments; the Ministry of the Interior subsequently provided its views on the recommendations issued by the roundtable discussion. At the time of printing this report, the Institution had not received a response from the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, despite having followed up on the matter with them.

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry of Social Development's response
	protection of children's rights	ongoing reviews in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, thereby enshrining the principle of the best interests of the child through a comprehensive and integrated approach, This has been reflected in the enactment of recent legislation, most notably Law No. (21) of 2025 amending the Juvenile Justice Law No. (4) of 2021, which granted the Child Protection Centre additional powers to implement and supervise measures issued by the juvenile courts and the Judicial Committee for Children, alongside Decision No. (43) of 2025, which issued the regulatory by-laws for social care institutions; these established clear management standards, defined staff responsibilities and ensured adherence to the principles of protection and dignity, It also regulated the role of these institutions in providing integrated services, including psychological support, educational and vocational rehabilitation, and social reintegration, whilst assigning the tasks of supervision, evaluation and monitoring to the Ministry, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the institutional framework and achieving the desired humanitarian and social objectives.
2	Strengthening international and regional cooperation in the field of children's rights	The Ministry of Social Development reaffirms its commitment to strengthening partnerships with international and regional organisations concerned with children's rights, in line with the Juvenile Justice Act, by activating channels of cooperation to exchange expertise and best practices, participating in international conferences and forums to develop national staff, and by concluding memoranda of understanding and cooperation agreements that support the development of working mechanisms and the standardisation of procedures, as well as establishing joint monitoring and evaluation systems to assess compliance with international standards and improve the quality of services, thereby contributing to

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry of Social Development's response
		the provision of a safe and supportive environment that protects children from various forms of abuse and exploitation.
3	Promoting children's participation in decision-making	Children's participation in decision-making is one of the principles that the Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to promote by enabling them to express their views and involving them in consultative forums relating to their rights, in coordination with the National Committee for Children, which works to activate institutional mechanisms for conveying children's voices and proposals, alongside the role of the Child Development Directorate at the Ministry of Social Development in organising interactive initiatives and programmes that enhance their community participation and foster in them a sense of responsibility and belonging, thereby contributing to the development of a generation that is aware and capable of contributing to the development of policies and programmes, and of establishing a culture of dialogue and active citizenship.
4	Promoting awareness and education on children's rights	The Child Protection Centre attaches great importance to promoting a culture of children's rights and raising community awareness of them, in line with the Juvenile Justice Act and its implementing regulations, by implementing awareness-raising programmes and initiatives targeting various sections of society to consolidate concepts of protection and foster a culture of reporting and early intervention, and to inform children, parents and professionals about protection mechanisms and how to contact the Child Helpline and Support Service, as well as integrating messages on children's rights into training and awareness programmes and using modern digital tools to disseminate them. This contributes to raising children's awareness of their rights, developing positive parenting practices within families, and promoting children's psychological and social well-being,

No.	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry of Social Development's response
		enhancing the competence of professionals working in the field of child welfare, and strengthening social support networks and prevention of various forms of violence and abuse.

Number	Recommendation	Summary of the Ministry of Information's response
1	Developing the national system for the protection of children's rights	The Ministry of Information believes in the pivotal role of the media in promoting human rights and raising awareness of children's rights. It works to utilise various visual, audio and digital media to produce content aimed at children and families that reinforces educational values and concepts of protection and citizenship, through radio programmes such as 'I Want to Understand', 'What Does the Pen Write?', 'Zekaa' and 'Let's Start Together', and television programmes such as 'Mashawir', 'Sabah al-Bahrain' and 'Your Summer, Yana', whilst also providing a platform for children to participate and express their views. The Ministry also seeks to utilise digital platforms to disseminate innovative awareness-raising messages in collaboration with national bodies, thereby contributing to raising children's awareness, supporting their positive participation and enhancing their image as active partners in society.
2	Strengthening international and regional cooperation in the field of children's rights	
3	Promoting children's participation in decision-making	
4	Promoting awareness and education on children's rights	

No.	Recommendation	Response from the Ministry of Education
1	Developing the national system for the protection of children's rights	Education Act No. (27) of 2005 provides the fundamental framework for regulating the educational process in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It guarantees the right to education for all and aims to prepare learners academically, nationally, culturally and professionally, whilst integrating human rights principles into the curriculum and

No.	Recommendation	Response from the Ministry of Education
		promoting cooperation to enact legislation regulating private educational institutions in a manner that protects students. Furthermore, the Student Discipline Regulations have been issued to govern behaviour within schools and various educational settings—whether in person, online or during activities—through educational and guidance measures that promote compliance with the law and instil the values of discipline, national identity and positive citizenship in students.
2	Strengthening international and regional cooperation in the field of children's rights	The Ministry of Education is working to strengthen its partnerships with national bodies concerned with human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, through the 'Together' programme in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, and through cooperation with civil society organisations such as Injaz Bahrain, alongside its participation in national efforts via the National Human Rights Commission. It also strengthens its international cooperation with organisations such as UNESCO , UNICEF and the World Health Organisation to exchange expertise and develop educational policies and curricula, and is committed to implementing international conventions and initiatives and participating in regional and international dialogues to support the development of protection policies and the promotion of human rights in the educational environment.
3	Promoting children's participation in decision-making	The Ministry of Education provides children and pupils with the opportunity to express their views and participate in decision-making regarding their educational pathways, and has established organised platforms for dialogue and consultation. For instance, the Secondary Schools Student Advisory Committee has been formed, comprising 40 students representing all secondary schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain, to review and approve the final examination timetable and raise various issues relating to education. Students from

No.	Recommendation	Response from the Ministry of Education
		the Kingdom of Bahrain also participate in the Arab Children's Parliament, as well as in numerous student committees and working groups formed within schools. The school curriculum, activities and student competitions play an active role in fostering a culture of participation in decision-making and developing a sense of responsibility.
4	Promoting awareness and education on children's rights	The Ministry of Education is working to integrate human rights concepts into the Citizenship and Human Rights curriculum as a compulsory subject, whilst also incorporating them into other subjects such as Islamic Education and Arabic, with the curriculum being continuously updated to reinforce concepts of social education and early childhood education and to instil a sense of national identity from the earliest stages. It also implements programmes, activities, workshops and annual competitions to raise awareness of human rights, involving pupils, parents and teachers, and activates the 'Protection' national campaign to combat online exploitation and blackmail. In addition, educational staff are trained and awareness-raising visits to human rights organisations are organised, whilst digital platforms are utilised to enable students to produce creative content that enhances their participation in raising awareness. The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to cooperating with the National Human Rights Institution and to developing curricula that entrench children's rights and ensure their sustainability.

Number	Recommendation	Response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1	Development of the national system for the protection of children's rights	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised the importance of the recommendations and their contribution to further strengthening children's rights

2	Strengthening international and regional cooperation in the field of children's rights	and ensuring that their best interests are taken into account. Accordingly, it proposed that the recommendations be referred to the National Committee for Children, chaired by His Excellency the Minister of Social Development, to consider the feasibility of their implementation, given that the National Committee for Children is the competent authority.
3	Promoting children's participation in decision-making	
4	Promoting awareness and education on children's rights	

No.	Recommendation	Response from the Shura Council
1	Developing the national system for the protection of children's rights	The Shura Council's Committee on Women's and Children's Affairs commends the recommendation's aim to strengthen the system for the protection of children's rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain and to develop its legislative frameworks in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, emphasising that the protection of children is a legislative priority that reflects the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to safeguarding their rights as the NIHR of the future. Through the Committee, the Council has worked to review and develop a number of relevant pieces of legislation, most notably the Children's Act No. (37) of 2012, the Juvenile Justice Act No. (4) of 2021, and the Protection from Domestic Violence Act No. (17) of 2015, in addition to proposing amendments to the Children's Act. The Council has also enacted a series of supporting laws, such as the Family Law, the Private Sector Labour Law, the Law on the Care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, and the Education Law, thereby forming a comprehensive legislative framework for the protection of children, whilst continuing to review and update these laws to keep pace with international developments and strengthen legal safeguards for children in the Kingdom.

No.	Recommendation	Response from the Shura Council
2	Strengthening international and regional cooperation in the field of children's rights	As part of its approach to parliamentary diplomacy, the Shura Council is committed to strengthening international and regional cooperation in the field of child rights protection through its participation in relevant international parliamentary conferences and meetings, which have included meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, as well as joint virtual meetings on children's rights, social justice, the protection of children and refugees, combating human trafficking and illegal adoption, as well as workshops on promoting the integration of children's rights into legislation and budgets, thereby contributing to the transfer of international best practices to the national system and highlighting the Kingdom of Bahrain's experience in this field. The Committee also emphasises that it consults with government bodies and civil society organisations when reviewing relevant legislation to ensure that efforts are coordinated and that laws are developed in a manner that serves the best interests of the child.
3	Promoting children's participation in decision-making	The Committee on Women's and Children's Affairs of the Shura Council expresses its appreciation for the recommendation calling for the promotion of children's participation in decision-making through the establishment of platforms and consultative councils to convey their views and proposals, emphasising the importance of this approach in instilling the values of participation and responsibility in the younger generation, whilst noting that its implementation falls within the remit of the executive authorities. At the same time, the Committee reaffirms its full support for national efforts in this area, noting that the Shura Council promotes this approach through its awareness-raising role by hosting 57 school visits in which some (1,650) pupils, to familiarise them with the mechanisms of legislative work, thereby helping to enhance parliamentary

No.	Recommendation	Response from the Shura Council
		awareness and foster a spirit of citizenship and community participation among the younger generation.
4	Promoting awareness and education on children's rights	The Shura Council's Committee on Women's and Children's Affairs emphasises that raising awareness and providing education on children's rights are fundamental pillars of preventive protection and the establishment of a culture of human rights from an early age, whilst recognising that this area falls within the remit of executive and educational bodies and acknowledging the national efforts made in this regard. The Committee also encourages the use of school curricula, modern technologies and the media to raise awareness and promote the values of tolerance and responsible citizenship. It reaffirms the legislative authority's commitment to monitoring this issue through its oversight mechanisms, including parliamentary questions addressed to His Excellency the Minister of Education regarding the development of curricula that promote children's rights, whilst expressing its readiness to examine any future proposals or draft legislation that contribute to the development of the legal framework for human rights education and the strengthening of the national partnership for child protection.

Number	Recommendation	Response from the House of Representatives
1	Development of the national system for the protection of children's rights	The Kingdom of Bahrain has strengthened its national system for the protection of children's rights by enacting a number of important pieces of legislation, most notably the Children's Act No. (37) of 2012, the Births and Deaths Registration Act No. (7) of 2019, the Decree-Law on Family Custody No. (22) of 2000, the Law on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities No. (74) of

Number	Recommendation	Response from the House of Representatives
		2006, the Law on Combating Begging and Homelessness No. (5) of 2007, the Family Act No. (19) of 2017, the Protection from Domestic Violence Act No. (17) of 2015, as well as the Juvenile Justice Act No. (4) of 2021, alongside its commitment to international conventions relating to the rights of the child, The Council of Representatives also continued its role in developing the legislative framework by debating and proposing bills, including a proposal to regulate children's use of social media, a draft law on child allowances to support Bahraini families, and a proposal to lower the compulsory school age, reflecting the ongoing national efforts to strengthen child protection and support their family and educational stability.
2	Strengthening international and regional cooperation in the field of children's rights	As regards strengthening international and regional cooperation in the field of children's rights, the Parliamentary Division of the Kingdom of Bahrain participated in a number of international events and meetings, including a workshop on children's rights in the digital environment held on the sidelines of the 151st General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva in 2025, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union's virtual meeting entitled 'Making Children's Rights a Priority' in February 2024, as well as participation in the 147th Assembly meetings and joint seminars and programmes with UNICEF on child protection. Furthermore, MP Zainab Abdul-Amir was elected Chair of the Committee on Social Affairs, Women, Children and Youth at the Arab Parliamentary Union, and MP Mariam Al-Tha'an took part in international activities highlighting Bahrain's efforts to protect children and orphans, alongside other parliamentary engagements that reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to relevant international conventions.

Number	Recommendation	Response from the House of Representatives
		Official statements also emphasised the effectiveness of national legislation in combating child labour and cyber-extortion, as well as the enactment of Law No. (19) of 2004 approving accession to the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the involvement of children in armed conflict and their exploitation.
3	Promoting children's participation in decision-making	With regard to enhancing the role of children in decision-making, in 2020 the House of Representatives organised the 'Youth Parliament' programme as part of initiatives to involve young people in the legislative process, including a remote mock session on 26 November 2020, alongside annual events and programmes on parliamentary culture targeting various sections of society, including those under the age of 18, to raise awareness of legislative and oversight work. The General Secretariat of the House of Representatives also continues to welcome students to introduce them to the parliamentary experience and enable them to follow sessions, in addition to publishing the 'Little Parliamentarian' newsletter aimed at children, which includes educational content, competitions, drawings and cartoon characters to simplify parliamentary concepts, as well as hosting virtual workshops on the Children's Parliament to promote participation and political education among young people.
4	Promoting awareness and education on children's rights	With regard to raising awareness of children's rights, the Council of Representatives joins the international community in marking relevant international days. On 1 October, the Services Committee issued a statement to mark the International Day for the Rights of the Child, in which it highlighted

Number	Recommendation	Response from the House of Representatives
		significant legislative and legal achievements in this field, most notably the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, the Children's Act, and the Family Act, alongside the Kingdom of Bahrain's accession to a number of relevant international treaties. Furthermore, the General Secretariat of the House of Representatives has published a series of specialised publications on laws relating to women and children, making them available to researchers and interested parties, thereby promoting the dissemination of legal knowledge and supporting studies on children's rights.

CHAPTER FIVE: ADVISORY OPINIONS SUBMITTED BY THE NIHR TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITIES

Introduction and Structure:

With reference to the provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the Institution, Article 12(b) stipulates that the Institution shall be responsible for:

“Studying the legislation and regulations in force in the Kingdom relating to human rights and recommending any amendments it deems appropriate, particularly with regard to the consistency of such legislation with the Kingdom’s international human rights obligations; it shall also be empowered to recommend the enactment of new legislation relating to human rights.”

In exercising these powers, the NIHR issued its opinions on a number of requests received concerning various matters referred to it by the Government and the Shura and People’s Councils; the number of opinions submitted to the Government amounted to one (1) advisory opinion, whilst the number of opinions submitted to the Shura Council amounted to two (2) advisory opinions, whilst the number of advisory opinions submitted to the House of Representatives was fourteen (14), making a total of seventeen (17) advisory opinions during the reporting period ⁽²²¹⁾.

The advisory opinions submitted by the Institution to the constitutional authorities and public institutions in 2025 were characterised by two notable features worthy of mention: firstly, the marked increase in the use of international references; and secondly, the shift in the nature of the Institution’s advisory role from oversight to initiative; With regard to international standards, these opinions were not limited to the provisions of international human rights instruments in general, but extended to include relevant specialised international principles and rules, perhaps the most notable of which are: the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), and the United Nations Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules).

Furthermore, these opinions focused on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights in this regard, ensuring that the opinion at the time was built on solid international and regional human rights NIHRs, whilst at the same time reinforcing the Institution’s standing as a supervisory body with a well-established national and international dimension, Furthermore, the Institution did not neglect to base its opinions on the rulings of the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Bahrain, given that the Court represents the bulwark of protection for fundamental rights and freedoms, and its rulings are binding on all, whether individuals or public authorities.

⁽²²¹⁾ For full details of the advisory opinions submitted by the National Human Rights Institution to the constitutional authorities during the period 2013–2026, please visit the Institution’s website: Advisory Opinions section, via the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/Consultative>

The year 2025 saw a marked increase in the number of advisory opinions, rising by 63.6 per cent compared with 2024; this increase reflects the growing advisory role of the Commission and the confidence of the constitutional authorities in its human rights-based advisory opinions.

An analysis of the advisory opinions issued during the reporting period reveals that in nine (9) cases, the Commission concluded that it fully agreed with the matter in question, whilst partial agreement was expressed in six (6) other opinions, accompanied by some relevant observations; meanwhile, the number of advisory opinions in which the Commission considered the matter to be inconsistent with international, regional and national standards stood at three (3).

Accordingly, this chapter will examine the advisory opinions submitted by the Commission to the constitutional authorities under four sub-sections: The first section is devoted to reviewing the extent to which the views of the National Human Rights Institution were taken into account by the executive and legislative authorities during 2025; the second section provides a summary of the views referred to the executive authority; the third section provides a summary of the views referred to the Shura Council; whilst the fourth section is devoted to a summary of the opinions referred to the House of Representatives on matters which the Commission considers to have a direct bearing on or impact upon human rights and fundamental freedoms, taking into account the provisions of the Constitution and relevant regional and international instruments and standards.

SECTION ONE: THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION'S OPINIONS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY DURING 2025

Section 1: Advisory opinions submitted by the National Human Rights Institution to the legislative authority (the Shura Council)

During 2025, the National Human Rights Institution issued two advisory opinions on draft laws submitted to the Shura Council. The extent to which the Institution's views and observations were taken into account is as follows:

Firstly: All of the Institution's views and observations were adopted

- 1- Draft law amending certain provisions of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, promulgated by Law No. (4) of 2021, accompanying Decree No. (95) of 2024. It was enacted pursuant to Law No. (21) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, enacted by Law No. (4) of 2021.

Secondly: The NIHR's views and observations were partially taken into account

- 2- A draft law amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. (47) of 2002 on the regulation of the press, printing and publishing, annexed to Decree No. (77) of 2021, which was enacted by Law No. (41) of 2025 amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. (47) of 2002 on the regulation of the press, printing and publishing.

Section 2: Advisory opinions submitted by the National Human Rights Institution to the legislative authority (the House of Representatives)

During 2025, the National Human Rights Institution submitted to the House of Representatives (14) advisory opinions on a number of legislative instruments and dossiers. The Institution's views and observations were taken into account in respect of (5) of these, whilst (9) legislative dossiers remain under consideration during the current legislative session and have not yet been finalised, as follows:

Firstly: Legislative instruments on which all the Commission's views and observations were adopted

- 1- A draft law amending certain provisions of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, promulgated by Law No. (4) of 2021, annexed to Decree No. (95) of 2024, which was enacted by Law No. (21) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, enacted by Law No. (4) of 2021.
- 2- A draft law amending certain provisions of Law No. (18) of 2017 on penalties and alternative measures, annexed to Decree No. (96) of 2024, which was enacted pursuant to Law No. (20) of 2025 amending the provisions of Law No. (18) of 2017 on penalties and alternative measures.
- 3- Decree-Law No. (30) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Traffic Act promulgated by Law No. (23) of 2014.
- 4- Decree-Law No. (31) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976.

- 5- Decree-Law No. (32) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure issued by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002.

Secondly: Legislative bills still under consideration in the current legislative session

- 1- The draft law amending Article (222) of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976.
- 2- The draft law amending Article (391) of the Code of Criminal Procedure issued by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002.
- 3- A draft law amending certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, promulgated by Decree-Law No. 46 of 2002, prepared in the form of a bill by the House of Representatives.
- 4- Draft law amending Article (9) of the Code of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002.
- 5- Proposed Bill to add a new Article 351 bis to the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976.
- 6- A draft law amending certain provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976, in particular Articles 350 and 351 of the Penal Code.
- 7- Draft law on the register of citizens residing abroad.
- 8- Draft law amending certain provisions of the Law on Enforcement in Civil and Commercial Matters, promulgated by Decree-Law No. (22) of 2021.
- 9- Draft law on the preservation of public decency.

SECTION TWO: ADVISORY OPINIONS SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION TO THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

Proposal submitted by the National Human Rights Institution regarding the right of civil society organisations (non-governmental organisations) to secure financial resources to meet their operational expenditure obligations

Content and objectives of the proposal:

Based on meetings held by the Institution with a number of civil society organisations, it has become apparent that the Law on Fundraising for Public Purposes, promulgated by Decree-Law No. (21) of 2013, and its implementing regulations, issued by Decision No. (47) of 2014, constitute an obstacle to civil society organisations carrying out their functions, particularly with regard to meeting their operational expenses, as they do not permit such organisations to raise funds to cover rent, electricity, water and municipal charges, maintenance and similar costs, in the absence of any ongoing government support to cover these obligations. This leads to a situation in which these organisations are unable to fulfil their obligations towards tenants and government bodies.

It should be noted that international human rights standards have established a broad concept of the right to freedom of association, which is not limited to legal and regulatory aspects, but extends to enabling such associations to operate freely and effectively. In this context, relevant international decisions have affirmed that the ability of civil society organisations to access resources – in whatever form, whether donations, grants, financial or in-kind assistance, or logistical and human resources, including operational expenses – is a vital and fundamental component of this right.

The current ban has had a profound impact on the ability of civil society organisations to continue carrying out their tasks and achieving their objectives, as operational and administrative expenses are a fundamental pillar of an organisation's survival and its ability to provide its services in accordance with its articles of association. It is unreasonable to expect associations to continue fulfilling their roles whilst, at the same time, being prohibited from accepting donations intended to cover their basic expenses, such as rent for their premises, electricity and water bills, council charges, maintenance costs and similar expenses.

At the international level, United Nations mechanisms concerned with the right to freedom of association have affirmed that restricting associations' access to more than 10 per cent of donations and grants to cover their operational expenses constitutes a restriction that is incompatible with the requirements of a democratic society, and is inconsistent with the provisions of Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Conversely, these decisions have not overlooked the state's right to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism; however, they have emphasised that this right does not justify

restricting the legitimate work of civil society organisations or limiting their sources of operational funding.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

The NIHR's opinion contained a series of legal and human rights findings and recommendations, which can be summarised as follows:

- **On the legal basis:**

- (a) It was noted that Decree-Law No. (21) of 2013 and its implementing regulations contain no explicit or implicit reference to a prohibition on raising funds for the association's administrative purposes, and that the concept of 'public purposes' set out in Article (1) of the implementing regulations – described as 'all lawful forms of public benefit' – can be interpreted as including the association's operational and administrative expenses, given that other forms of expenditure (charitable, social, educational, cultural or religious) are mentioned by way of example only.
- (b) Furthermore, sums provided by individuals to settle the association's operational liabilities need not be classified as fundraising; In such cases, they may be deposited into the association's main account and earmarked for the purpose of settling financial obligations (rent for the premises, electricity, water, telephone and internet charges, council rates, maintenance and cleaning costs, etc.), with this clarified in the financial report submitted to the Ministry at the end of each financial year.
- (c) The NIHR considers that the current legal frameworks relating to the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, and the collection of funds for public purposes, are sufficient to provide a legal and regulatory framework that ensures effective accountability, thereby limiting the likelihood of donated funds being spent for unlawful purposes, as the competent Ministry has been granted the authority to request the Financial and Administrative Control Authority to audit the accounts of civil society organisations where necessary.

The NIHR notes that the proposed amendments do not in any way require amendments to the provisions of the current law; rather, it is sufficient for the Honourable Council of Ministers to make the necessary amendments to the provisions of the Executive Regulations of the Law on Fundraising for Public Purposes.

- **With regard to recommendations:**

- (a) Make the necessary amendments to Decision No. (47) of 2014 to explicitly state that 'operating (administrative) expenses' for civil society organisations fall within the scope of 'public purposes', to remove the 10 per cent ceiling set out in Article 16 of the implementing regulations, and to allow associations to receive donations and support to cover their basic operational expenses.

- (b)** Call on the relevant ministries to apply a graduated approach when imposing administrative sanctions and to limit, as far as possible, recourse to criminal proceedings, in accordance with the graduated mechanism explicitly set out in Article 21 of the Implementing Regulations, and to raise legal awareness amongst the boards of directors of civil society organisations, particularly chairpersons and treasurers.

SECTION THREE: ADVISORY OPINIONS SUBMITTED BY THE NIHR TO THE SHURA COUNCIL

During the reporting period, the NIHR submitted a total of two (2) advisory opinions to the Shura Council; the key points contained therein may be summarised as follows:

First recommendation: A draft law amending certain provisions of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, promulgated by Law No. (4) of 2021, annexed to Decree No. (95) of 2024

Content of the draft law:

The Institution has issued its advisory opinion on the draft law amending certain provisions of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, promulgated by Law No. (4) of 2021, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first provides for the replacement of the texts of Articles (18), first paragraph; (25); (27), (28) (second paragraph), (30) and (51) of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse with new provisions; the second article is an implementing provision concerning the authorities responsible for implementing the provisions of this law and the date on which its provisions come into force.

Purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR welcomed the NIHRs and objectives that the draft law in question aims to achieve, namely – as set out in the memorandum of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Committee – to ensuring that the Child Protection Centre contributes to the preparation of judicial assessments of children, to expanding the range of measures that may be taken in respect of them, to enabling the relevant department within the Ministry of the Interior to participate in monitoring children's cases, allowing for the imposition of measures in criminal cases where there is an excuse or mitigating circumstance for the offence; enabling the court to monitor the progress made by the child during the implementation of the sentence; and supporting the Child Protection Centre in monitoring and strengthening oversight of the implementation of such measures.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its advisory opinion, the NIHR concluded that it agrees with the amendments finalised by the House of Representatives' resolution on the draft law, on the grounds that the essence of the proposed amendments contained in the draft law will constitute a qualitative addition to the legislative framework, particularly in the field of juvenile justice and the criminal protection of children, and therefore these amendments do not affect individuals' enjoyment of their fundamental rights and

freedoms, nor do they constitute a violation of human rights as set out in the relevant international human rights instruments.

Second item: A draft law amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. (47) of 2002

concerning the press, printing and publishing, annexed to Decree No. (77) of 2021

Content of the draft law:

The Commission has issued its advisory opinion on a draft law amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. (47) of 2002 on the press, printing and publishing, annexed to Decree No. (77) of 2021, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of eight articles. These provisions collectively entail changing the title of the law to ‘Decree-Law No. (47) of 2002 on the Press and Electronic Media’, the replacement of certain provisions, and the addition of other provisions to the same Decree-Law; Article 8 is an implementing provision relating to the authorities responsible for implementing the provisions of this law and the date on which the provisions contained therein come into force.

The purpose of the draft laws:

In principle, the NIHR welcomed the NIHRs and objectives that the draft law in question aims to achieve, which are – as set out in the memorandum of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Committee – to ensuring that the Child Protection Centre contributes to the preparation of judicial assessments for children, to expanding the range of measures that may be taken in relation to them, to enabling the relevant body within the Ministry of the Interior to participate in monitoring children’s affairs, allowing for the imposition of measures in criminal cases where there is an excuse or mitigating circumstance for the offence; enabling the court to monitor the progress made by the child during the implementation of the sentence; and supporting the Child Protection Centre in monitoring and strengthening oversight of the implementation of such measures.

Summary of the NIHR’s opinion:

In its advisory opinion, the Institute concluded that it agrees with the aims and objectives that the draft law seeks to achieve; however, it hopes that Articles (71), (78), and (85) of the House of Representatives’ resolution on the draft law, as they appear to contravene Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Law No. 56 of 2006, and General Comment No. 34 issued by the Human Rights Committee (CCPR) established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in the light of the detailed observations set out in the advisory opinion.

SECTION FOUR: ADVISORY OPINIONS SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION TO THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

During the reporting period, the Institution submitted a total of fourteen (14) advisory opinions to the House of Representatives; the most important points contained therein may be summarised as follows:

Requirement 1: Draft law amending Article 391 of Decree-Law No. 46 of 2002 enacting the Code of Criminal Procedure

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR issued its advisory opinion on the draft law amending Article (391) of Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002 enacting the Code of Criminal Procedure, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article provided for the replacement of the text of Article (391)(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure with a new text, whilst the second article is of an implementing nature.

The purpose of the draft law:

The NIHR welcomed, in principle, the NIHRs and objectives that the draft law in question aims to achieve, which – as set out in the explanatory memorandum attached to it – are to reduce the period prescribed for the restoration of good standing following the expiry of a sentence or the granting of a pardon; which results in the reintegration of the convicted person into society, accelerated rehabilitation and re-socialisation, and a reduction in recidivism through the expungement of their criminal record, thereby facilitating the issuance of a certificate of good conduct for job applications as quickly as possible; as the period between the completion of the sentence and the submission of an application for rehabilitation poses a risk and significantly increases the likelihood of reoffending, not to mention the sense of inadequacy and social isolation they experience in the eyes of their family and the wider community.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its advisory opinion, the NIHR concluded that it agrees with the objectives and principles that the draft law seeks to achieve by reducing the period for rehabilitation, which is a commendable approach consistent with modern criminal policy and with international human rights standards relating to fair trial guarantees; The NIHR emphasised the importance of subjecting the draft law to further scrutiny; for the reduction in the period of rehabilitation must reflect the genuine rehabilitation of the convicted person, and must not be a temporary measure that undermines the intended deterrent effect, thereby allowing them to reoffend against society.

Requirement 2: A draft law amending certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure issued by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002, drafted on the basis of the draft law ‘as amended’ by the House of Representatives, namely ‘Articles (390) and (391), paragraph (b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure’

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on a draft law amending certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002 (drafted on the basis of the bill ‘as amended’ by the House of Representatives) “Articles 390 and 391(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure”; which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles; the first article provides for the replacement of the texts of Articles 390 and 391(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure with new texts, whilst the second article is of an implementing nature.

The purpose of the draft law:

The Institution, in principle, appreciated the NIHRs and objectives that the draft law in question aims to achieve, as set out – as set out in the memorandum of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Committee – to regulate the provision on the restoration of civil rights by easing its restrictions and conditions; this is achieved by ensuring that the loss of civil rights applies only to felonies and misdemeanours for which the perpetrator is sentenced to a custodial sentence of not less than one year, as well as shortening the period required after the completion of the sentence for the restoration of legal capacity, which is consistent with the criminal justice policy that adopts an approach of reform, rehabilitation and enabling the convicted person to reintegrate swiftly into society.

Summary of the Institution’s opinion:

In its advisory opinion, the NIHR concluded that it agrees with the objectives and principles that the draft law aims to achieve by regulating the provision on rehabilitation through the relaxation of its restrictions and conditions; this is a commendable approach that is consistent with modern criminal policy and with international human rights standards relating to fair trial guarantees; However, the NIHR emphasised the importance of subjecting the draft law to further scrutiny to ensure that its provisions uphold the principle of equality before the law, which requires that those convicted of a single category of offences be treated in a uniform manner with regard to the regulation of rehabilitation, provided that the sentence has been served or a pardon has been granted, in order to ensure justice for all without discrimination; Bearing in mind that any reduction in the period of rehabilitation must reflect the convicted person’s genuine rehabilitation, and must not be a circumstantial measure that undermines the intended deterrent effect, thereby allowing them to reoffend against society.

Requirement 3: A draft law amending certain provisions of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, promulgated by Law No. (4) of 2021, accompanying Decree No. (95) of 2024

Content of the draft law:

The Institution has issued its advisory opinion on the draft law amending certain provisions of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse, promulgated by Law No. (4) of 2021, annexed to Decree No. (95) of 2024, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article replaces the texts of Articles (18), first paragraph; (25); (27), (28) (second paragraph), (30) and (51) of the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Protection of Children from Abuse with new provisions, whilst Article 2 is of an implementing nature.

Purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR welcomed the NIHRs and objectives that the draft law in question aims to achieve, namely – as set out in the memorandum of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Committee – to ensure the Child Protection Centre’s contribution to the preparation of judicial assessments for children, to expand the range of measures that may be taken in respect of them, to enable the relevant body within the Ministry of the Interior to participate in monitoring the child’s affairs, allowing for the imposition of measures in criminal cases where there is an excuse or mitigating circumstance for the offence; enabling the court to monitor the progress made by the child during the enforcement of the sentence; and supporting the Child Protection Centre in monitoring and strengthening oversight of the implementation of such measures.

Summary of the Institution’s opinion:

In its advisory opinion, the NIHR concluded that the substance of the proposed amendments contained in the draft law does not affect individuals’ enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms, nor does it constitute a violation of human rights as set out in the relevant international human rights instruments.

Requirement 4: Draft Law amending certain provisions of Law No. (18) of 2017 on penalties and alternative measures, accompanying Decree No. (96) of 2024

Content of the draft law:

The Commission has issued its advisory opinion on a draft law amending certain provisions of Law No. (18) of 2017 on penalties and alternative measures, annexed to Decree No. (96) of 2024, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of three articles. The first article provides for the replacement of the texts of Articles (1) first paragraph, (2), (3) third paragraph, (5), (8) (second paragraph), (12) and (14) of the Penal Code and Alternative Measures with new provisions;

Article 2 adds two new articles, numbered (9) bis and (9) bis (1), to the same Act; whilst Article 3 is an implementing provision

Purpose of the draft law:

The NIHR welcomed, in principle, the NIHRs and objectives that the draft law in question aims to achieve, namely – as set out in the memorandum of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Committee – in expanding the application of alternative sanctions by adding new alternative sanctions, designating a single competent authority to implement all matters relating to alternative sanctions and measures, and specifying the authorities responsible for implementing alternative sanctions by decision of the Minister of the Interior.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its advisory opinion, the NIHR concluded that the substance of the proposed amendments contained in the draft law does not affect individuals' enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms, nor does it constitute a violation of human rights as set out in the relevant international human rights instruments; Rather, the amendments are consistent with modern legislative policy, which is based on limiting the application of custodial sentences and resorting to alternative sanctions capable of reintegrating the convicted person into society.

Requirement 5: Draft Bill to amend Article 9 of the Code of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Decree-Law No. 46 of 2002

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on the draft law amending Article 9 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, promulgated by Decree-Law No. 46 of 2002, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article provides for the replacement of the text of Article (9) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, promulgated by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002; by allowing any representative of the victim to lodge a complaint on their behalf, whilst extending the prescribed time limit for lodging a complaint in respect of certain specified offences; the second article is of an implementing nature.

The purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR welcomed the NIHRs and objectives that the draft law in question aims to achieve, which are – as set out in the explanatory memorandum attached to it - to allow any representative of the victim to lodge a complaint on their behalf, whilst extending the prescribed time limit for lodging a complaint in relation to certain specified offences, thereby affording the victim greater scope to reflect calmly and carefully on the appropriate course of action regarding the complaint.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its advisory opinion, the NIHR concluded that the draft law does not affect individuals' enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms, nor does it constitute a violation of human rights as set out in the relevant international human rights instruments; however, it recommends that it be subject to further study to ensure it is consistent with the philosophy and legal considerations underpinning complaint-based offences, as one of the restrictions on the Public Prosecution's right to initiate criminal proceedings.

Requirement 6: The draft law amending certain provisions of the Law on Enforcement in Civil and Commercial Matters, issued by Decree-Law No. (22) of 2021

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on the draft law amending certain provisions of the Enforcement Act in Civil and Commercial Matters, promulgated by Decree-Law No. (22) of 2021, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of three articles. The first article replaces the text of Article (1) of the Enforcement Act in Civil and Commercial Matters under consideration, whilst Article 2 added two new articles, numbered (39 bis) and (39 bis 1), to the Act; Article 3 is an implementing provision.

Purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR welcomed the objectives and general principles contained in the draft law, as set out in the accompanying explanatory memorandum, which aim to achieve balance and equity in the relationship between creditor and debtor by establishing an effective mechanism to ensure that the debtor fulfils their obligations towards the creditor.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its opinion, the NIHR concluded that the NIHRs and objectives which the draft law seeks to achieve are already realised in practice, and that the provisions should be retained as they stand in the current law without amendment; as the proposed amendment, in its current form, contravenes the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Law No. (56) of 2009, in Article (5), paragraph (2), and Article 11 thereof, and the provisions of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded by Law No. (7) of 2006, in Article 18 thereof.

Requirement 7: A bill proposing the addition of a new Article 351 bis to the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on the draft law proposing the addition of a new Article 351 bis to the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article provides for the addition of a new Article 351 bis to the Penal Code, whilst the second article is of an implementing nature.

The purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR commends the objectives and general principles contained in the draft law, as set out in the accompanying explanatory memorandum, which aim to protect women's privacy by criminalising and punishing any man who disguises himself as a woman, enters a place reserved for women, or enters a place to which non-women are prohibited from entering, and this shall constitute an aggravating circumstance if a crime is committed as a result of such acts, with a view to providing legal protection for the values and traditions of society.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its opinion, the NIHR concluded that it agrees in principle with the general objectives and principles that the draft law seeks to achieve, and recommended that the honourable Committee and Council take the following observations into account:

- (a)** Ensuring that the criminalisation and punishment of the acts covered by the draft law apply equally whether the perpetrator is a man or a woman, as such acts may be committed by a man (male) as the perpetrator against a woman (female) as the victim, and they may also be committed by a woman as the perpetrator of the offence against a male victim; these are acts that may conceivably be committed by either gender against the other.
- (b)** The criminal conduct set out in the draft law must be accompanied by specific criminal intent as defined by law, and these acts must be qualified by the phrase 'with knowledge thereof', that is, the perpetrator's knowledge of all the material facts upon which the criminal conduct is based, and that their free and deliberate will is directed towards committing the criminal act, whilst anticipating the criminal outcome and desiring to bring it about.
- (c)** Reconsider the maximum proposed penalty, whether in terms of the duration of imprisonment or the amount of the fine, so that it is proportionate to the seriousness of the acts criminalised by the draft bill.

Requirement 8: A bill to amend certain provisions of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976, namely ‘Articles (350) and (351) of the Penal Code’.

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on the draft law proposing the addition of a new Article 351 bis to the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article replaces the texts of Articles 350 and (351) of the Penal Code, whilst the second article is an implementing provision.

The purpose of the draft law:

The NIHR welcomed, in principle, the objectives and general principles contained in the draft law, as set out in the accompanying explanatory memorandum, which aims to impose stricter penalties in order to achieve general and specific deterrence against certain acts and behaviours that violate public decency and are committed using modern means of communication; particularly those committed against women, with a view to safeguarding them and providing them with greater protection.

Summary of the NIHR’s opinion:

In its opinion, the NIHR concluded that the increase in penalties provided for in the draft law; namely the replacement of the provisions of Articles 350 and 351 of the same Act, were intended to achieve the aims of establishing stability and deterring the commission of this type of crime, as well as helping to minimise the criminal harm they pose to individuals and society; and does not constitute an arbitrary tightening of penalties that would affect individuals’ enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms; furthermore, the proposed amendments do not constitute a violation of human rights as set out in the relevant international human rights instruments.

The NIHR proposes that the second paragraph of Article (351) as set out in the present draft, so that the offence is punishable where it is committed using ‘information technology’; this is consistent with the general objectives and principles underpinning the draft law, namely to extend the scope of legal protection to certain offences that may be committed using modern means of communication and connectivity.

Requirement 9: The draft law on the preservation of public decency

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on the draft law on the preservation of public decency, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of nine articles, which together set out regulatory and punitive legal provisions concerning public decency, whilst Article 10 is an implementing provision.

Purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR welcomed the objectives and general principles contained in the draft law, as set out in the accompanying explanatory memorandum, which aim to preserve cultural identity and societal values, strengthen public order and public peace, and protect public and private property, whilst providing an environment conducive to tourism and investment. The explanatory memorandum also noted that the draft law included mechanisms to ensure fairness and redress in its application.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its opinion, the NIHR concluded that the general objectives and principles that the draft law on the preservation of public decency seeks to achieve are already realised in practice in various provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976, as previously explained. Should the Honourable House of Representatives proceed with its approval, it is essential that, in drafting the provisions of the bill, the criminal conduct constituting the offence be explicitly defined with clear and precise parameters, and that such conduct be linked to a criminal intent defined by law, as the draft bill, in its current form, will give rise to practical difficulties and is deemed to restrict personal liberty without justifiable grounds or clear legal basis, exceeding the scope of the discretionary authority held by the legislator and contravening the principle of legality of offences and penalties.

Accordingly, the NIHR emphasised the importance of subjecting the draft law to further careful drafting and thorough consideration, in a manner that strikes a balance between achieving the objectives and general principles on which it is based, and constitutional rules and international standards, and in a manner consistent with sound legal drafting practice in this regard.

Requirement 10: Decree-Law No. (30) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Traffic Act

enacted by Law No. (23) of 2014

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on Decree-Law No. (30) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Traffic Act promulgated by Law No. (23) of

2014, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of three articles. The first article replaces a number of legal provisions contained in the Traffic Act promulgated by Law No. (23) of 2014, whilst the second article adds new articles to the same Act, and the third article is an implementing provision.

Purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR acknowledged the justifications for issuing the Decree-Law, as set out in the memorandum from the Legislation and Legal Opinion Authority attached to the Decree-Law, namely that official security statistics and field data had revealed a marked increase in the rates of road traffic accidents resulting in bodily injury, and the resulting severe human and material losses, whilst there are shortcomings in the current legislation in terms of providing sufficient deterrence, both in terms of the severity of penalties and the scope of their application, which necessitates an immediate amendment to address these shortcomings.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its opinion, the NIHR concluded that the tightening of traffic penalties set out in Decree-Law No. (30) of 2025, amending certain provisions of the Traffic Act promulgated by Law No. (23) of 2014, served the purposes and objectives of establishing stability and deterring the commission of this type of offence, as well as helping to reduce the criminal harm they pose to individuals and society; this does not constitute arbitrary tightening that affects individuals' enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms, nor do the proposed amendments constitute a violation of human rights as set out in the relevant international and regional human rights instruments.

Requirement 11: Decree-Law No. (31) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976

Content of the draft law:

The Commission has issued its advisory opinion on Decree-Law No. (31) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article provides for the replacement of the texts of Articles (342) and (343) of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976, whilst the second article was of an implementing nature.

Purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR endorsed the justifications leading to the issuance of the Decree-Law, as set out in the memorandum of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Committee attached to the Decree-Law, namely that, in conjunction with the amendments prescribed by Decree-Law No. (30) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Traffic Act No. (23) of 2014 and the tightening of penalties for

traffic offences, it has become necessary to make a number of amendments to the Penal Code in Articles (342) and (343) by increasing the penalties prescribed for the offences of manslaughter and causing bodily harm through negligence, with a view to achieving consistency between the laws within the national penal system and ensuring uniformity of standards and equivalence of penalties.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its opinion, the NIHR concluded that the increase in the penalties prescribed for the offences of manslaughter and causing bodily harm, in accordance with the amendment set out in Articles (342) and (343) of Decree-Law No. (31) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976, served the purposes and objectives of establishing stability and deterring the commission of such offences, as well as helping to reduce their incidence in order to better protect the individual and society; this does not constitute an arbitrary tightening of penalties that would affect individuals' enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms, nor do the proposed amendments constitute a violation of human rights as set out in the relevant international and regional human rights instruments.

Requirement 12: Decree-Law No. (32) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure issued by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on Decree-Law No. (32) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article provides for the replacement of the texts of Articles (273), (274) and (280 bis), first paragraph, of the Code of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002, whilst the second article was of an implementing nature.

Purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR appreciated the justifications leading to the issuance of the Decree-Law, as set out in the memorandum of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Committee attached to the Decree-Law, namely that, in conjunction with the amendments provided for in Decree-Law No. (31) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976 regarding the increase in financial penalties for the offences of manslaughter and causing bodily harm through negligence, it has become necessary to make the required amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure by raising the ceiling on the amount of fines for which criminal orders may be issued by both a magistrate and a member of the Public Prosecution Service. These amendments were introduced with a view to expediting the adjudication of minor cases without compromising the guarantees of a fair trial, and in a manner that ensures proportionality between the offence and the penalty.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its opinion, the NIHR concluded that raising the upper limit on fines for which criminal orders may be issued by both magistrates and members of the Public Prosecution Service, in accordance with the amendments set out in Articles (273), (274), and (280) bis, first paragraph, of Decree-Law No. (32) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure issued by Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002, was intended to achieve the aims of establishing stability and deterring the commission of this type of offence, as well as helping to minimise their criminal threat to individuals and society. This does not constitute excessive judicial strictness that would affect individuals' enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms; nor do the proposed amendments constitute a violation of human rights as set out in the relevant international human rights instruments.

Requirement 13: The draft law amending Article 222 of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on the draft law amending Article 222 of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article provides for the replacement of the text of Article 222 of the Penal Code, whilst the second article is an implementing provision.

Purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR welcomed the objectives and general principles contained in the draft law, as set out in the accompanying explanatory memorandum, which aims to increase the fines for the offences specified in the article subject to the proposed amendment, given the ineffectiveness of the current penalty in achieving general and specific deterrence against certain acts committed in the course of public office.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

The NIHR concluded in its opinion that the increase in fines set out in the draft law serves the purposes and objectives of establishing stability and deterring the commission of this type of offence, as well as helping to reduce the criminal harm they pose to individuals and society; This does not constitute an arbitrary tightening of penalties that would affect individuals' enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms; furthermore, the proposed amendments do not constitute a violation of human rights as set out in the relevant international human rights instruments.

Fourteenth Proposal: Draft Law on the Register of Citizens Residing Abroad

Content of the draft law:

The NIHR has issued its advisory opinion on the draft law concerning the register of citizens residing abroad, which, in addition to its preamble, consists of five articles; Article 1 provides for the establishment of an electronic platform enabling citizens residing abroad to register their details, whilst Articles 2 and 3 set out the obligations of the persons to whom its provisions apply regarding the deadlines for registering data and the method of submitting information; Article 4 entrusts the Minister for Foreign Affairs with the task of issuing the relevant implementing regulations; and Article 5 is an implementing provision.

Purpose of the draft law:

In principle, the NIHR welcomed the objectives and general principles contained in the draft law, as set out in the accompanying explanatory memorandum, which aim to protect the rights of Bahraini citizens and safeguard their security both within and outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, by mandating the full registration of citizens' details and information with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or its diplomatic missions abroad, with a view to facilitating communication with citizens in emergency situations, such as security emergencies abroad, disasters, conflicts and other such events.

Summary of the NIHR's opinion:

In its opinion, the NIHR concluded that the objectives and purposes sought by the draft law on the register of citizens residing abroad—namely, to record citizens' full personal details and information with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or its diplomatic missions, with a view to facilitating communication with citizens in emergency situations—have, in fact, already been achieved in practice through the 'Wajhati' service; its regulation in the form of a 'law' is a matter subject to the legislator's discretion in accordance with specific and legitimate considerations, whilst ensuring that such regulation safeguards the individual's right to freedom of movement and choice of residence, and the freedom to leave any country, including one's own, and must not give rise to the imposition of unnecessary or disproportionate restrictions that would render these rights and freedoms subject to infringement or violation.

* * *

Encourages all States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to consider designating or including national human rights institutions as part of one or more independent monitoring mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention, taking into account the Paris Principles, consistent with article 33 (2) of the Convention;

Paragraph 27 of United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. A/RES/80/214 on national human rights institutions

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