

# News of the National Institution for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain Related to its role during precautionary measures to combat the emerging coronavirus

1- News from the NIHR's website

[www.nihr.org.bh](http://www.nihr.org.bh)

## NIHR's Committee on General Rights and Freedoms convenes its 16th Teleconference Meeting

14 July 2020



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Committee on General Rights and Freedoms convened its 16th teleconference meeting under the chairpersonship of Dr. Bader Mohamed Adel and membership of Mr. Ahmed Mahdi Alhaddad and Mrs. Wedad Radhi Almoosawi. The Committee discussed the need to develop a legal concept aimed at urging the concerned parties, each in their specialty, especially the legislative authority, to cooperate and act to raise the age of child employment stipulated in the Labor Law to be equal to that stipulated in the Bahraini Child Law and the UN Convention in the Rights of the Child, in light of the conclusion mentioned in the Committee's report on child labor, which has been prepared in light of the US Department of Labor.

During the meeting, the Committee looked at the measures taken on its previous resolutions and recommendations and continued its discussions on what the NIHR can do to activate its oversight role to verify access to various human rights in places designated for workers housing, where the Committee ended up holding a videoconference meeting with the concerned parties in the relevant authorities in this area to shed light on the reality of workers housing, and urged those concerned

parties and employers to adhere to the standards and requirements that must be met in those housing and act to develop appropriate solutions to eliminate this problem.

On the other hand, the Committee approved the proposal prepared by the NIHR Secretariat-General to hold an electronic event on the reality of children with disabilities, within the proposed round table events that the NIHR intends to hold remotely under the current conditions and in line with the future schools project initiated by His Majesty the King of the State.

The Committee concluded its meeting by developing pivots of the forum that the NIHR is going to hold on the impact of the precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus on the practice of human rights and proposing a number of topics for the awareness programs that shall engage embassies, diplomatic missions and civil society institutions, which aim at spreading awareness of the importance of adhering to precautionary measures to limit the spread of the emerging virus (Covid-19).

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/Organisation/Committees/CivilMeetings/14July2020.aspx>

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## NIHR launches Noon Outdoor Work Ban at Monitoring Initiative for the 2nd Year

7 July 2020



For the 2nd year in a row, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) launched an initiative to report violations in the employment of workers whose nature of work requires their presence in the sun and in open areas between 12:00 pm to 04:00 pm during July and August, in implementation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development Resolution no. (3) of 2013 on the prohibition of outdoor work at noon and in the afternoon in open areas during the scheduled ban hours, which states the importance of the right to risk-free work environment, through the prohibition of work at noon and in the afternoon in the hottest months to maintain the health and safety of workers in open work areas,

provide a safe work environment to protect them against the risks of heat stress and sunstroke and strengthen protection tools necessary to prevent summer diseases and potential occupational injuries, including the organization of work hours to ensure the completion of projects and works that contribute to the development process at all levels without being affected.

Whereas the call for preventing occupational hazards and supporting health conditions of workers is an integral part of the NIHR's role within the framework of its action in the area of the promotion and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, which is stipulated by Article (12) of its Incorporation Law, including the right to decent work in a risk-free environment, and in line with the procedures and circulars issued to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), the NIHR calls on employers in private sector to provide preventive face masks and to oblige all employees to use them in worksites in order to limit the spread of infection among them. The NIHR also stresses that employers or their representatives should measure the temperature of all employees upon entering and exiting the worksites and their housing, and to immediately isolate any employee whose temperature is high in order to take the necessary action.

The NIHR also calls on employers to limit mixing in workplaces and reduce the number of employees, especially in rest rooms, waiting areas, changing rooms and transportation vehicles, and to adhere to all the requirements and precautions that need to be taken in the workers housing, due to their great importance and direct impact on the health and safety of their occupants, especially with regard to reducing the number of workers in the same room and increasing the area allocated for one workers to the maximum possible extent to achieve social distancing and keep a safe distance between them by a minimum of two meters between each of them. It is worth mentioning that the area allocated to each employee must not be less than four square meters of free space in the rooms designated for workers' housing, as per the requirements and specifications of workers' accommodation rules.

The NIHR calls for monitoring any violations regarding the work at noon during July and August and photographing, locating time and place and sending them via NIHR's WhatsApp number 17111666. In addition, these violations can be reported via the NIHR toll-free hotline 8000114 and email [complaint@nihr.org.bh](mailto:complaint@nihr.org.bh) for action.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/7July2020.aspx>

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## NIHR participates in a Seminar on “The Future of Education in the Arab Region”

6 July 2020



Mrs. Wedad Almoosawi, member of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)’s Council of Commissioners, participated in an online seminar on “The Future of Education in the Arab Region”, organized by the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions and the Arab Institute for Human Rights, with the participation of male and female representatives from the national human rights institutions in the Arab region, to present the reality and problems of education and make recommendations for the future of education 2050.

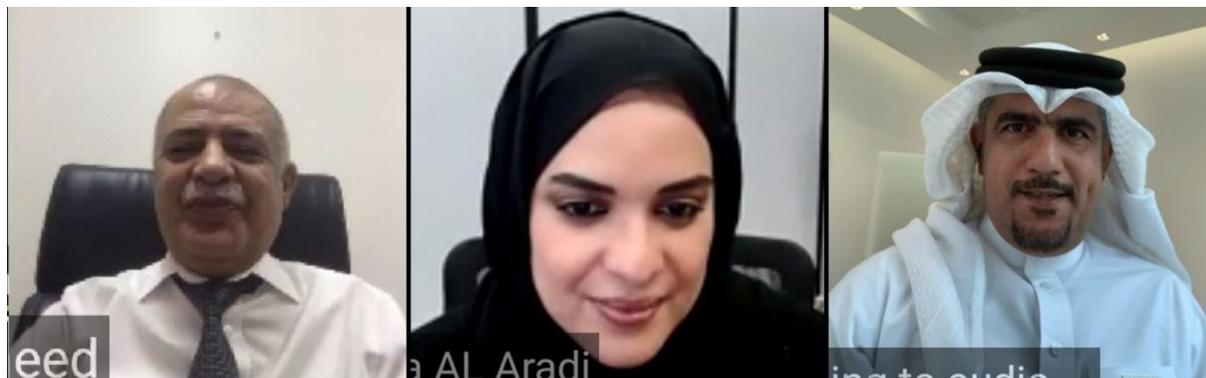
During her participation, Mrs. Wedad Almoosawi talked about the procedures and resolutions taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to ensure the continuation of the educational process under the current exceptional circumstances as well as the efforts of all institutions concerned with education and training in the Kingdom of Bahrain in positive interaction in line with the requirements of the current conditions of the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19).

The seminar discussed the challenges facing education in the region and proposals for development. It also focused on the process of rethinking concept and measures of development, formulating new visions of education in multiple facts and knowledge as a global public good, redefining education frameworks and adopting a humanitarian curriculum for education and development. It also explained the UNESCO and high-level international body global initiative to reimagine the future of education by 2050.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/6July2020.aspx>

## NIHR's Committee on Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up convenes its 15th Regular Meeting by Teleconference

29 June 2020



The monthly meeting of the National institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Committee on Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up headed by Dr. Hameed Ahmed Husain on behalf of the Head of the Committee Ms. Maria Khoury, was held by teleconference. The meeting was attended by Committee Members Mrs. Rawdha Salman Alaradi and Mr. Ammar Albannai.

The Committee opened its meeting by discussing a number of complaints received by the NIHR, the legal aids provided by it and the cases monitored via the media and social media in May and June 2020 and the actions taken thereupon, where the NIHR received 3 complaints with various contents including the right to work and the right to physical and moral integrity, provided 62 legal aids, monitored 14 cases via the media and social media and received 196 phone calls on the NIHR toll-free hotline during the said period.

The Committee discussed the new cases covered by the periodic statement on the cases related to the application of the provisions of the Law no. (18) of 2017 on Alternative Penalties and Measures, as 119 convicts sentenced to custodial penalties applied to the NIHR requesting that their penalties be replaced by other alternative penalties and measures, where 54 of them benefited from the application of the provisions of this Law so far. The Committee stated that it will communicate with the concerned authorities about the remaining convicts and to ensure their fulfillment of the conditions of the Law on Alternative Penalties and Measures.

Due to the current conditions and the precautionary measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to combat the Coronavirus (Covid-19), in compliance with the directives and guidelines of the official

authorities to limit the spread of the virus, based upon its keenness to the health and safety of everyone, the NIHR continues the provision of its services through the smartphone mobile application (NIHR Bahrain), its website ([www.nihr.org.bh](http://www.nihr.org.bh)) or the toll-free hotline (80001144). <http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/Organisation/Committees/ComplaintsMeetings/29June2020.aspx>

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## NIHR's Council of Commissioners convenes its 13th Teleconference Meeting

21 June 2020



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Council of Commissioners convened its 13th teleconference meeting under the chairpersonship of Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the Council. During the meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting and the 14-item agenda were adopted. The attendants reviewed the developments related to the implementation and issuance of the NIHR's annual report for the year 2019 and listened to the reports of the heads of the permanent quality committees on their recent works and accomplishments.

The Chairperson of the Council reviewed the NIHR's recent action in following up the precautionary measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to limit the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) and adopted the NIHR's report on visiting isolation, treatment and precautionary quarantine centres and its observations on the compatibility of the measures with human rights principles.

The Council also reviewed the NIHR's media role to raise awareness of citizens and residents in general and expatriate workers in particular on the precautionary measures applied by the State to limit the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19), as well as its field role to ensure that they practice their basic rights under the pandemic conditions of the Coronavirus.

On the other side, the Council of Commissioners approved a proposal to raise awareness remotely in cooperation with embassies, diplomatic missions and civil society institutions aiming at limiting the spread of the virus. It also approved a proposal to hold a forum on the impact of the precautionary measures to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) on the enjoyment of human rights, where the members of the Council were assigned to set the main points of those events and programs in preparation for their approval and the commencement of their implementation during the coming period. The Council also adopted the draft proposal to prepare an educational and awareness video for the children on the importance of preserving the environment and protecting them against child labor, with the participation of the members of the Council of Commissioners, each in their specialty field, and set up a mechanism for implementation.

At the end of the meeting, the Council was briefed on the action report of the NIHR's Secretariat-General for the 1st quarter of 2020 and approved it. The Council thanked the NIHR's Secretariat-General for its supporting efforts in support under such exceptional circumstances.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/Organisation/CommissionerSchedule/sched1/21June2020.aspx>

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## NIHR's Council of Commissioners convenes its 19th Teleconference Meeting

11 June 2020



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Council of Commissioners convened its 19th teleconference meeting under the chairpersonship of Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the Council, and membership of Mr. Khaled Alshaer, Vice-Chairperson of the Council, Dr. Bader Mohamed Adel, Head of the NIHR's Committee on General Rights and Freedoms, and Dr. Malallah Alhammadi, Head of the NIHR's Committee on Detention & Facilities Visitation.

The Chairperson of the Council reviewed the NIHR's actions during the Corona pandemic, including field visits to places of correction and rehabilitation, follow-up of complaints related to the impact of the precautionary measures taken by the State on human rights, the issuance of statements and news on Coronavirus and awareness messages posted on the social media.

During the meeting, the Council discussed the results of the visits conducted by the NIHR to places of isolation, treatment and precautionary quarantine in order to identify the national efforts to combat Coronavirus (Covid-19) and meetings with some medical staff and isolated and quarantined persons. The Council report has been adopted and shall be submitted to the concerned authorities over the coming days.

The Council also discussed the request received from the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women on the impact of the Coronavirus on domestic violence against women, where Ms. Khoury stated that a number of government bodies and civil society institutions have been contacted to obtain information on that issue. It was agreed that the heads of the NIHR's permanent committees shall develop proposals for action in the next stage relating to expatriate workers, their responsibilities and the methods of their protection, as well as the responsibilities of the employers, and shall inform the Council of Commissioners of such proposals to be presented at the next Council meeting. The Chairperson of the Council also presented a brief on the videoconference call with the Asia-Pacific Forum (APF) on the development of technical work and cooperation that the APF shall provide in support of the NIHR's work under such circumstances.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted the NIHR Secretariat-General's proposal for the action plan in the area of training and education during the second half of 2020 that has been prepared based upon NIHR's strategic points and action plan for the years 2019 - 2021, which will focus on holding a number of lectures, round tables and training programs remotely by videoconference on the Coronavirus (Covid-19) and its effect on a number of basic human rights, such as the right to health and the right to work, as well as on the expatriate workers and to what extent they enjoy their human rights, and on combating trafficking in persons. Such events shall be presented by the members of the Council of Commissioners, each in their field of specialty. They shall also invite the public, interested parties and human rights defenders to participate.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/Organisation/CommissionerSchedule/sched2/11June2020.aspx>

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## Statement by NIHR's Chairperson on the Measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to protect the Elderly

8 June 2020



Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), stated that the Kingdom of Bahrain has taken a number of measures and resolutions that support human rights in general and the rights of the elderly in particular under the current exceptional circumstances.

Ms. Khoury pointed out that the NIHR, through its human rights position, and out of its supervisory responsibility and terms of reference assigned to it under its Establishment Law, has closely examined such resolutions and procedures, and the mechanism of the competent authorities to deal with the elderly in order to protect them against Coronavirus infection.

The NIHR's Chairperson stated that some of the procedures were not specially designated for the elderly but they are aimed at ensuring their safety. For example, providing medicine delivery service from the pharmacies of government hospitals to prevent personal presence, queues and infection, delaying housing installments for six months, pausing the collection of monthly rents from tenants and beneficiaries of stores owned by the Housing Bank for three months, reducing contact with the elderly in food and catering stores by designating the first opening hour for the elderly and pregnant women only and delivering medicine to the homes of the elderly and the patients through volunteers working under supervision of the Royal humanitarian Foundation (Fina Khair Campaign). The application of alternative penalties has also been extended under high royal directives to include the most vulnerable categories, including the elderly. Some other services include reservation of traffic services through smart phone applications to avoid overcrowding, activation of work from home and giving priority to the elderly, employees with chronic diseases and other health conditions, pregnant employees and women entitled for two-hour care. The State also secured the return of Bahraini citizens abroad giving priority to the elderly.

Ms. Khoury stressed the importance of adhering to precautionary measures and procedures and implementing health instructions and directives issued by official authorities in order to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), calling on citizens and residents to be more watchful and cooperative through active participation in national efforts to confront and respond to this pandemic, stressing at the same time that the NIHR,

despite the exceptional circumstances in the world in general and the Kingdom of Bahrain in particular, is following-up and monitoring the extent of the commitment of the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain to the relevant international agreements and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain on the promotion and protection of human rights.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/8June2020.aspx>

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## **Chairperson of the NIHR is participating in an Online Seminar on the Impact of Coronavirus on Trafficking in Persons**

**1June 2020**



Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), participated in an online seminar organized by the OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa on the effect of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on trafficking in persons. A number of chairpersons and members of the national human rights institutions around the world participated in the seminar.

The seminar discussed the effect of the current pandemic on trafficking in persons and how to treat the effect of the pandemic on victims of trafficking by the State members and other stakeholders, in addition to the basic requirements of the measures of combating trafficking in persons that are based on human rights.

During her intervention, Ms. Khoury pointed out that migrant and expatriate workers are one of the most vulnerable groups to the crime of trafficking in persons, and that the Kingdom of Bahrain is

addressing this phenomenon in full through the concerned authorities (Labor Market Regulatory Authority and the Ministry of Interior) to develop appropriate solutions and mechanisms to combat all aspects of trafficking in persons.

Ms. Khoury also noted the precautionary measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) among expatriate workers and to prevent them from becoming victims of such crime, in order to preserve the right of everyone to health while observing human rights according to international standards in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, noting at the same time that the Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved for the second year in a row the first category in the report of the US State Department on Combating Trafficking in Persons.

During the seminar, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, Mr. António Vitorino, praised the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain in correcting the situation of 17,000 irregular migrant workers as one of the best international practices to deal with the Coronavirus crisis and its impact on labor traffic.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/1June2020.aspx>

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## **NIHR's Committee on Detention & Facilities Visitation convenes its 14th Video Conference Meeting**

**28 May 2020**



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Committee on Detention & Facilities Visitation convened its 14th video conference meeting under the chairpersonship of Dr. Malallah Jaffar Alhammadi and membership of Mr. Khaled Alshaer and Dr. Fawzeya Alsaleh.

The Chairperson of the Committee opened the meeting by extending his warmest thanks and appreciation to the members of the Committee for their great efforts during their visits and

communication with the quarantined and isolated persons in the quarantine and isolation centres visited by them and the medical staff at those centres. This visit reveals the NIHR's approach with regard to its competence to conduct declared and undeclared visits to such centres especially in the conditions of the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid-16) in order to ensure the exercise of various human rights that should be watched under such conditions pursuant to the Constitution as well as international conventions and instruments.

The Committee discussed all its previous resolutions and recommendations and the actions taken thereupon. Then it continued its discussion of the mechanism of continuing the visits to correction, rehabilitation, shelter and health and social care centres and houses during this exceptions period with a view to reviewing the living, humanitarian and human rights conditions of inmates in those centres and ensuring that they enjoy their basic rights guaranteed under the constitution, domestic laws and the relevant international conventions and instruments to the fullest without any discrimination. The Committee stated the importance of continuing its visits to those centres and listening to the inmates through modern communication and videoconference means in consideration for the exceptional conditions of the country and in compliance with the directives issued by the concerned bodies with regard to the preventive and precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) to maintain the health and safety of all, and at the same time contacting the officials of those centres to examine the various conditions of inmates and the procedures taken on appropriate solutions for their observations, if any, under the current conditions.

The Committee also stated the importance of working to find an appropriate mechanism to monitor the conditions of migrant workers in light of the current exceptional conditions, to ensure the availability of various services provided to them in general, whether by employers or by the relevant authorities, and to ensure that they enjoy all human rights enshrined in international treaties and instruments to the fullest.

The Committee concluded its meeting by highlighting the issue of foreign convicts covered by the Royal Pardon issued by His Majesty the King of the State, and stating that the NIHR is following-up on this issue to finalize the procedures of travel to their homelands.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/Organisation/Committees/EconomicMeetings/28May2020.aspx>

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## NIHR: Remote Trial is a Qualitative Shift in the Justice System of Bahrain

19 May 2020

المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان  
National Institution for Human Rights



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) commends the resolution of His Excellency Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs adopting a temporary headquarters for courts in the Jaw region, in the context of achieving the requirements and facilitating the procedures of remote trial, pursuant to the Law (7) of 2020 amending some provisions of the Criminal Procedures Law.

The NIHR states that the application of remote trial complies with, completes and enhances all the precautionary measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) in order to maintain the health and safety of all litigants and individuals and enhance criminal justice requirements.

Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the Council of Commissioners, appreciated the issuance of new amendments to the Criminal Procedures Law, which would provide more solutions to facilitate investigation and trial procedures of all parties to the criminal case, by taking advantage of advanced technical means, without prejudice to the requirements of fair trial, defense rights or legally-established guarantees, and in a manner that meets the requirements of the Criminal Procedures Law, permitting the Public Prosecution and the court to use teleportation techniques when the Public Prosecution deems necessary upon exercising its competencies and subject to the authority, discretion and full supervision of the court. The NIHR, within its broad mandate set forth in its Incorporation Law relating to attending court trials to monitor fair trial guarantees, will undoubtedly communicate with the judicial authorities to activate its oversight role in ensuring that such trials comply with international guarantees and standards of fair trials.

Ms. Khoury noted that the new amendment to the Criminal Procedures Law and the application of the idea of remote work comes in line with fair trial guarantees and elements, which include the publicity and documentation of the trial, the right to a lawyer who has the right to choose either to be present at the courtroom held in the diplomatic area or the one held remotely in the Jaw region, ensuring the principle of confrontation, listening to and discussing witnesses and the presence of a member of the prosecution who will take control of all necessary procedures to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the trial in that place, while considering that the defendant's location is an extension of the courtroom and an essential part thereof, which will be subject to the authority and full control of the

court. She also affirmed that teleportation will enhance the guarantees of human rights, as it intends to ensure access to justice in more accessible faster ways with minimal efforts and is considered a qualitative shift in the justice system in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In addition, such electronic justice shift will enhance and support the principles of justice and human rights.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/19May2020.aspx>

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## **NIHR's Committee on Detention & Facilities Visitation convenes its 13th Videoconference Meeting**

**22 April 2020**



The Committee opened its meeting by thanking and appreciating the national team to deal with Coronavirus (Covid-19) for their great efforts represented by precautionary measures and various medical and logistical services provided to all in order to combat this pandemic. The Committee also extended many thanks to Her Excellency Mrs. Faeqa Bint Saeed Al-Saleh, Minister of Health, and officials of isolation, treatment and precautionary quarantine centres, to all workers in the health sector for their attention and the outstanding efforts under the current conditions in the face of Coronavirus, to medical team officials for their cooperation in facilitating and coordinating the mission of field visits by members of the Committee to isolation, treatment centres and precautionary quarantine centres, and to everyone, especially volunteers, for their professional and humanitarian cooperation, which reflects excellence in such exceptional circumstances.

The Committee continued its discussions of the possibility of continuing its field visits to correction and rehabilitation centres and shelter, health and social care houses, in light of the current circumstances and the preventive measures and precautions taken by those centres in order to maintain the health and safety of all and limit the spread of Coronavirus. The Committee emphasized the continuation of its supervisory role to monitor the human rights situation in these centres with a

view to assessing the extent to which all inmates of these centres enjoy their basic rights to the fullest without any discrimination under such circumstances.

The Committee ended its meeting by discussing all its previous resolutions and recommendations and the measures taken thereupon, especially those related to the Committee's proposal to establish a permanent central library in the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre at Jaw region, stating the need to prepare a study on the proposal that includes the operational mechanism and other logistical matters related to the establishment of the library.

At the end of the meeting, the Chairperson of the Committee thanked the members for their great efforts in protecting human rights in general, especially under such exceptional conditions.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/Organisation/Committees/EconomicMeetings/22Apr2020.aspx>

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## **NIHR communicates with Expatriate Workers in Isolation, Treatment and Precautionary Quarantine Centres**

**19 April 2020**

المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان  
National Institution *for* Human Rights



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has continued its field visits to isolation, treatment and precautionary quarantine centres as well as meeting with medical teams and communicating with some of the isolated or quarantined persons in order to ensure that all the centres adhere to the precautionary measures followed in dealing with Coronavirus and that all human rights that should be watched in such conditions are being practiced.

The NIHR communicated with some expatriate workers, examined their living conditions in isolation, treatment and precautionary quarantine centres and ensured that they enjoy safety, cleanliness and healthcare in accordance with the established standards, and that they are provided with water and appropriate varied food, including basic meals and drinking water around the clock.

During its direct follow-up, the NIHR praised the measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to provide an appropriate environment for expatriate workers under such exceptional condition, and the humane dealing with all residents, which is part of the culture and ethics of Bahraini society based on tolerance, cooperation and mercy in general, and principles and laws related to international covenants and agreements related to human rights in particular.

In this regard, Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the NIHR, pointed out that the decision to use the radio station (FM 104.2) in broadcasting health education messages is of great human rights importance, calling on all to adhere to the directives issued by the concerned authorities, stressing that the NIHR will be in contact with the radio to support its activity in providing health and human rights guidelines within the framework of the national efforts of the National Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (Covid-19), noting at the same time that the NIHR stands at the forefront of national and international human rights institutions that support the human rights file in dealing with Coronavirus.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/19Apr2020.aspx>

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## **NIHR launches a System for Remote Management of Calls and Receiving Complaints**

**16 April 2020**



In line with its keenness to achieve the highest levels of protection and promotion of human rights, and as part of the development and modernization of its communication mechanisms, in an attempt to provide its services in an integrated manner and find out solutions to communicate with citizens and residents under the current challenges, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has launched an integrated system for managing phone calls (CMS) for receiving complaints and inquiries remotely, as part of the national precautionary efforts and preventive measures taken to contain and

prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), and within the measures previously taken by the NIHR to implement the remote work by 80%.

In this context, Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the NIHR, noted that this service will enhance the prevailing trends to reduce the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) through social distancing and working remotely without affecting the quality of the services provided by the NIHR, where an experienced and knowledgeable team, trained on the mechanisms and skills of receiving complaints and dealing with them, are receiving calls on complaints and legal assistance in a professional and prompt manner, following-up, monitoring, registering and indexing human rights situations monitored through the media and social media and following-up the NIHR's initiatives announced from time to time on the public monitoring of human rights situations through an advanced electronic system for listing and sorting complaints received according to the type of rights, expressing her thanks and appreciation to all NIHR staff in all sites for the continuation of administrative and humanitarian services under such exceptional circumstances, whether they work inside the NIHR or in the field.

Ms. Khoury stressed that one of the basic goals is customer satisfaction with the quality of the services provided by the NIHR with regard to the mechanism of receiving complaints and applications for assistance, calling on service recipients not to hesitate to submit complaints and inquiries to the NIHR by calling the toll-free hotline (80001144).

It is worth mentioning that the NIHR Secretariat General has obtained ISO certificate in its updated version (ISO 9001:2015) in Quality Management System issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as the first national human rights institution to obtain the ISO certification at the regional level, as part of its plan to upgrade the quality of services provided by the customer service team. The ISO certificate was successfully renewed for the second year in a row, due to its commitment to all Quality Management System requirements.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/16Apr2020.aspx>

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## NIHR's Committee on Detention & Facilities Visitation Has Proceeded its Field Visits to Isolation and Quarantine Centers Begin

11 April 2020



The Kingdom of Bahrain has taken precautionary measures and preventive actions to limit the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19), taking into consideration common human rights, namely the right to health, which is a basic human right, and the right to privacy, in addition to the adoption of transparency and clarity in the transfer of information, continuing the enhancement of its position in the respect for human rights on national and international levels.

In activation of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s supervisory role stipulated in its Incorporation Law and within its plan to follow-up the application of standards relating to the protection and enhancement of human rights in examination, isolation and quarantine procedures under such exceptional circumstances, the NIHR's Committee on Detention & Facilities Visitation has proceeded on its field visits to isolation, treatment and precautionary quarantine centers, while meeting with medical staff and communicating with some of the isolated and quarantined persons, in order to practically review the extent of availability of human rights that should be watched under such circumstances and to closely ensure that the safety, nutrition, cleanliness, medical care and various support services provided to them are consistent with the preventive measures recognized by the World Health Organization.

The Committee shall continue its field visits to various sites and meet with the concerned people in order to ensure the application of appropriate standards in this regard and the provision of medical and psychological consultancy to the isolated and quarantined persons in a manner that complies with various human rights.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/11Apr2020.aspx>

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## **NIHR conducts an inspection visit to Correction and Rehabilitation Centre in Jaw**

7 April 2020



Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), stated that human dignity and respect for all human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain are guaranteed in all conditions, the matter which comes out from the leadership's belief in the importance of human rights that reflects of its commitment to all international human rights instruments, and that the Kingdom's reputation has become prominent in this field, as confirmed by the broad powers given to the NIHR, including the declared and undeclared field visits, in order to conduct its work without limitations or restrictions, stressing that Bahrain is a country of law and institutions, which requires disregarding any suspicious invitations trying to undermine our national gains.

This was on the sidelines of the visit conducted by a team of the NIHR to the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre in the Jaw, where Khoury explained that the visits conducted by the NIHR to the correction, rehabilitation and detention centers are not new, but the visit this time is to review the human rights conditions and medical care provided to inmates in light of the precautionary measures taken by the center's administration as part of the national efforts and preventive measures to limit the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Ms. Khoury said "members of the NIHR, having reviewed closely and on the ground the precautionary and preventive measures followed by the Centre's administration in dealing with inmates and security men, I'd like to confirm that it complies with the international standards recommended by the World Health Organization for prevention of the spread of Coronavirus among the inmates, and that there is a medical staff that provides the necessary medical care and services", stressing at the same time that there are not any infection cases among the inmates, and that all rumors in this regard are groundless.

Ms. Khoury appreciated the measures taken by the Centre's administration to implement all the standards to contain and prevent the spread of the virus among inmates, without prejudice to their rights, in such a way that maintains the health and safety of everyone, calling on all at the same time not to broadcast rumors and false news, especially in such sensitive health condition of the country, which requires sincere national affiliation.

For his part, Mr. Khaled Alshaer, Vice-Chairperson of the NIHR, stressed that the precautionary and preventive measures taken by the center's administration are so ideal and in line with the internationally recognized standards, where appropriate medical examinations are carried out for inmates and before their release, and physical visits are replaced by video calls as part of the precautionary measures to maintain the health of all, calling on to take information from its official

sources and to benefit from the services provided by the NIHR in receiving complaints and assistances by calling the toll-free hotline.

For his part, Dr. Malallah Alhammadi, Chairperson of the NIHR's Committee on Detention & Facilities Visitation, pointed-out the precautionary measures taken both at the level of inmates and staff, which have been closely reviewed while interacting with both of them, stating that they rise to a very high and professional level in line with Bahrain's international standing and human rights achievements.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/7Apr2020.aspx>

### **NIHR's Committee on Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up convenes its 12th Regular Meeting by Teleconference**

31 March 2020



Under the chairpersonship of Ms. Maria Khoury and membership of Dr. Hameed Ahmed Husain and Mrs. Rawdha Alaradi, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Committee on Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up has convened its 12th regular meeting by teleconference.

The Committee opened its meeting by appreciating the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, in implementing a system of work from home for the ministries and government bodies and institutions, taking into account social distancing under the current situation, and praising the efforts made by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, in leading and following-up the national efforts to combat the Coronavirus (Covid-19).

The Committee praised the great attention paid by the Kingdom of Bahrain to the right to health, which was explicitly reflected by dealing with the current crisis, and valued the provision of information and statistics for all, the precautionary and preventive measures and steps taken in

order to spread awareness and educate the community about this disease, and the actions taken to reduce its spread in order to preserve the health and safety of citizens and residents, as well as the efforts of the relevant authorities in the country to evacuate citizens abroad. The Committee greatly appreciated the logistical and administrative measures taken in the evacuation process in a manner that maintains health of all.

The Committee then discussed and examined the measures taken with regard to all its previous resolutions and recommendations. It reviewed a number of complaints received, legal assistance provided and cases monitored via the media and social media in March 2020, with contents varied between the right to health and the right to physical and moral safety, where each case was discussed separately and appropriate measures were taken thereupon. It is worth mentioning that from January to March 2019, the NIHR dealt with (23) complaints, provided (84) legal assistances and monitored (8) cases via the media and social media. In addition, it received (247) calls through the toll-free hotline compared to the period from January to March 2020, where it received (20) complaints, provided (152) legal assistances, monitored (40) cases via the media and social media and received (422) calls via the toll-free hotline.

Based upon the Committee's keenness to the enjoyment by all citizens and residents of their basic rights guaranteed by the constitution and relevant laws, especially those arrested in correction and rehabilitation centers, the Committee continuously and directly follows-up with those concerned with the management of correction and rehabilitation centers in order to ensure the continuation of precautionary measures to prevent infection of inmates with the Coronavirus and ensure continued provision of health services. The Committee further appreciated the decision by the administration of Correction and Rehabilitation Centers to stop the visits indefinitely in order to maintain the safety and health of the inmates.

The Committee also discussed the cases listed in the statement of alternative penalties and measures, which contained all cases received by the NIHR from 2017 to March 2020, which are related to the application of the provisions of Law No. (18) of 2017 on Alternative penalties and measures. In the same context, Ms. Khoury explained that the NIHR, based upon its keenness to actively participate in the application of the provisions of this Law and to contribute to the reintegration of those to whom the provisions of this law are applicable, has allocated a number of job opportunities that are in line with the goal for which the Law was enacted.

Due to the current conditions and the precautionary measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to combat the Coronavirus, in compliance with the directives and guidelines of the official authorities to limit the spread of the virus, based upon its keenness to the health and safety of everyone, the NIHR continues the provision of its services through the smartphone mobile application (NIHR Bahrain), its website ([www.nihr.org.bh](http://www.nihr.org.bh)) or the toll-free hotline (80001144).

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/Organisation/Committees/ComplaintsMeetings/31Mar2020.aspx>

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## NIHR discusses its Plan to conduct Field Visits to Quarantine Centers

30 March 2020



Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), held a teleconference with Mr. Khaled Alshaer, Vice-Chairperson of the NIHR, and

Dr. Malallah Alhammadi, Chairperson of the NIHR's Committee on Detention & Facilities Visitation, discussing the NIHR's action plan to conduct field visits to quarantine centers and to meet medical teams and some of the isolated and quarantine ones, in order to ensure that the measures taken watch the right to health and humanitarian care and to closely review the various support services provided to them, in line with the preventive measures adopted by the World Health Organization.

During the meeting, everyone stressed the importance of ensuring the observance of the various human rights of the isolated and quarantined ones and the staff in the centers, mainly the right to health and the right to personal freedom, praising at the same time the State's care for the right to

health, and the great efforts made by the government aimed at ensuring the provision of food, water, and healthcare for all citizens and residents.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/30Mar2020.aspx>

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## Minister of Health and NIHR Chairperson hold a meeting via video conference

28 March 2020



A via video conference was held on Friday March 27 between HE Mrs. Faeqa bint Saeed Al-Saleh, Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), during which they discussed the procedures of the Ministry to apply human rights standards in facing Coronavirus in places of isolation, quarantine and examination. The Minister gave a full explanation of the places of isolation and quarantine as well as the capacity and precautionary measures in this regard. The Minister explained that the capacity and actual numbers reveal that there is no overcrowding in the places designated for isolation or quarantine.

Ms. Khoury expressed the NIHR's full appreciation for the transparency and clarity in the continuous detection and announcement of the numbers of infections and recoveries. She also stated that the precautionary and preventive measures in those places must take into consideration the various human rights, especially the right to health and the right to personal freedom.

On her part, Mrs. Faeqa welcomed the NIHR's plan to conduct field visits to places of isolation and quarantine, in activation of its supervisory role stipulated in Article (12/g) of its Incorporation Law No. (26) of 2014, and to meet medical teams and some of the isolated and quarantined people in order to obtain their opinions on the procedures taken and be closely familiarized with the healthcare and support services provided to them in consistency with the preventive measures recognized by the World Health Organization.

The NIHR appreciates the unwavering national humanitarian efforts led by His Royal Highness, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, First Deputy Prime Minister to counter the emerging

Coronavirus (Covid-19), and the successes achieved through the work of the national team to combat this virus, and calls on all citizens and residents to abide by formal procedures and health and preventive directives issued by the National Committee and its supporting bodies.

The NIHR also appreciates the government's alternative and emergency plans aimed at ensuring the provision of food and healthcare to all citizens and residents, which reflects the State's concern for the right to health and the right to food and water, the application of health monitoring and the protection of public health for all without any violation of personal freedoms.

NIHR's field visits are expected to begin next week to several locations such as the Hidd Centre, the examination center in Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, which has been converted into an integrated center for examining those coming to the country from abroad and those who have contacted the ones suspected of being infected with the virus, the field hospital in Sitra and the Elderly Centre in Muharraq, which has been dedicated for examining those coming from abroad. The NIHR states that the aim of the field visits is to follow-up the application of standards relating to the protection and promotion of human rights during examination, isolation and quarantine procedures in such exceptional circumstances.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/28Mar2020.aspx>

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## **NIHR Calls on All to Refraining from Spreading Rumors on Social Media about Coronavirus**

26 March 2020



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) followed-up reports posted on social media about the appearance of a Corona case inside the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre in Jaw region, and listened to an audio recording of one of the inmates claiming the appearance of a case of infection.

Through its human rights position, monitoring role, close follow-up with correctional, rehabilitation and detention centers, and its recent visit to the detention centers, the NIHR states that it has closely monitored, on the grounds, the precautionary and preventive measures followed by the Ministry of

Interior in accordance with international standards recommended by the World Health Organization to prevent or limit the transmission of the Coronavirus among the inmates, as no inmate is transferred from the detention centers except after conducting a comprehensive medical examination, including Coronavirus examination, and if the test result is positive, he is isolated and quarantined, and his condition is continuously monitored under the supervision of a specialized medical staff who provide the necessary care for him around the clock without distinction of any kind.

Through its constant communication and continuous follow-up with the correctional and rehabilitation centers, the NIHR affirms that there are no cases of infection with Coronavirus among the inmates, and that everything rumored in this regard is unfounded, stating that broadcasting false news and rumors in this exceptional condition is considered an explicit violation of the right of the citizen to live safely by spreading fear and anxiety.

The NIHR highly appreciates the precautions and preventive measures taken by all concerned authorities to implement all the procedures to contain and prevent the spread of the virus in the Kingdom of Bahrain without any prejudice to human rights, and in such a manner that preserves the health and safety of everyone, calling on everyone on social media sites not to spread rumors and false news, especially with regard to infection with Coronavirus, and the collection of information from its official sources rather than being led by rumors and false news.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/26Mar2020.aspx>

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## **NIHR calls on everyone to adhere to Precautionary Measures to combat Coronavirus**

**23 March 2020**



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) in the Kingdom of Bahrain monitored the news published in newspapers and on social media about the gathering of a large number of people in public places in violation of the precautionary measures issued by the National Team for Combating Coronavirus (Covid-19).

The NIHR calls on all citizens and residents in the Kingdom of Bahrain to adhere to all procedures and instructions issued by the competent authorities, in order to protect the right of everyone to enjoy the highest levels of health, which is one of the most essential human rights that all international covenants and instruments have been keen to pay great attention to, given its close connection with human life in general and human daily practices and activities in particular, which reflects on life within the family and the community, since the failure of some people to adhere to the instructions aimed at containing the virus may affect the rest of the community and cause others to fail to enjoy their right to health.

The NIHR appreciates Bahrain's efforts to provide various qualified medical staff and equipment, as well as the provision of appropriate treatments and various medications, to reduce the spread of this disease. The NIHR further appreciates the high professionalism and transparency of the relevant authorities in providing all information related to the disease, prevention methods and the numbers of infected people, those in contact with them and the recovered ones. The NIHR confirms that it works with its wide mandate through its incorporation Law to follow-up the directives and procedures issued by the concerned authorities aimed at promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with all relevant international conventions and instruments.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/23Mar2020.aspx>

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## The NIHR emphasizes the Right to Health and Other Human Rights

03 March 2020



The right to health is considered one of the most essential human rights to which all the international covenants and instruments have paid great attention, given its close connection with human life in

general and human practices and daily activities in particular, which reflects on life within the family, community and society.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has given this right the proper attention by providing various qualified medical devices and personnel in addition to the provision of appropriate treatment and various medications.

Every citizen and resident must enjoy the blessing of health that Allah Almighty has bestowed upon us, and preserve it by all means so that our life's path continues towards achieving our goals in all fields, each in to his/her location. As it was said, "Health is a crown on the heads of healthy people, which only the sick can see".

In this regard, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) continues to pay great attention to educating the community and spreading awareness related to Corona disease (COVID-19), and appreciates the steps and preventive precautions taken by the State to combat this disease to limit its spread in order to preserve the health and safety of citizens and residents.

The NIHR, as a body concerned with various human rights, and in accordance with its oversight role in this regard, urges all government and non-government agencies to continue implementing the directives, instructions and procedures issued by the competent authorities to limit the spread of this disease, and at the same time urges citizens and residents to undergo various medical examinations and tests according to official instructions and directives to preserve their health and the health of their families, community and society, so that everyone can enjoy their health and life in general.

The NIHR always confirms its readiness to provide opinions and proposals aimed at upgrading the various services provided in order to promote and protect various human rights.

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/News/3Mar2020.aspx>

## 2- News on Instagram and Twitter



7 July 2020

### Awareness Messages

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CCX-DMasBpt/>

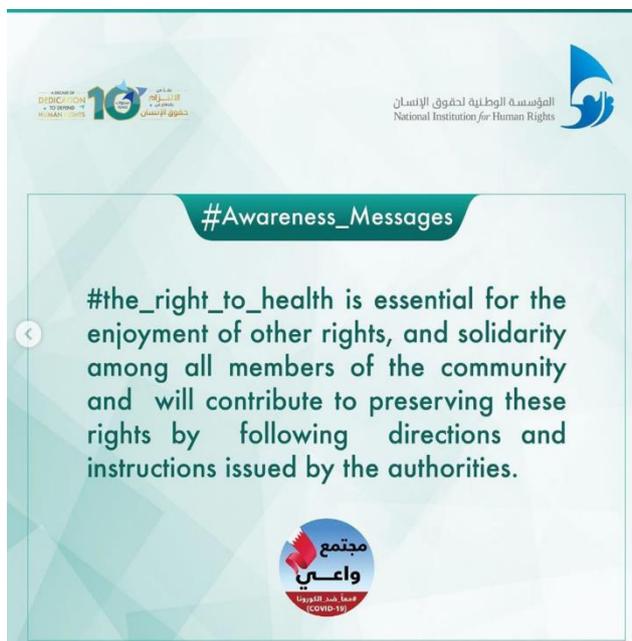
<https://twitter.com/nihrbh/status/1280782054716817408/photo/2>



22 June 2020

### Awareness Messages

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBxHN8oFx9v/>



14 June 2020

### Awareness Messages

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBaSEs3F6Yg/>

<https://twitter.com/nihrbh/status/1272100963722186752>

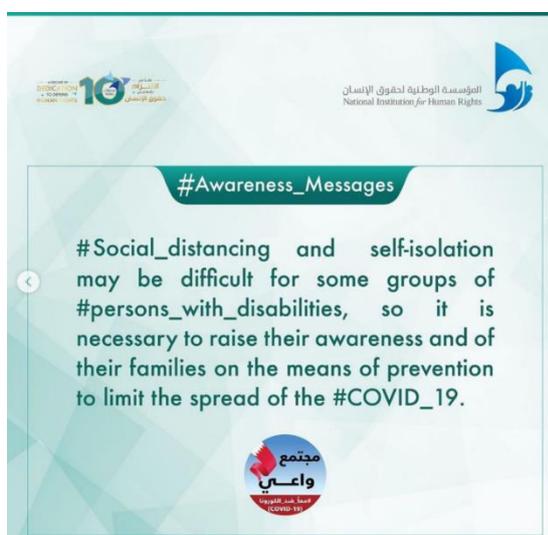


7 June 2020

### Awareness Messages

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBH-sFHtEt/>

<https://twitter.com/nihrbh/status/1269526823131648001>



2 June 2020

### Awareness Messages

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CA7YDRDIEFz/>

<https://twitter.com/nihrbh/status/1267750615188484096/photo/1>



31 May 2020

### Awareness Messages

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CA18\\_hIFBRt/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CA18_hIFBRt/)

<https://twitter.com/nihrbh/status/1266987438788009984/photo/2>

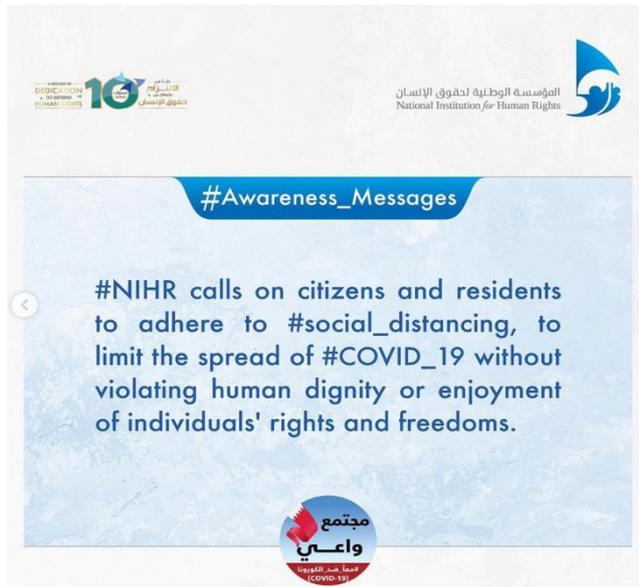


19 May 2020

### Awareness Messages

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CAXT7g1Fhdz/>

<https://twitter.com/nihrbh/status/1262675025389391872/photo/1>



17 May 2020

### Awareness Messages

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CAR7DLVlfZ0/>

<https://twitter.com/nihrbh/status/1261916665073319937/photo/1>

