



Statement by NIHR on the International Day of the Girl Child

Manama, 11 October 2026

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) joins countries around the world in observing the International Day of the Girl Child, marked annually on 11 October. Established by the United Nations, this occasion aims to highlight the rights of girls and the challenges they face, reaffirm the importance of protecting them from all forms of violence, abuse, and discrimination, and empower them to fully enjoy their rights, develop their capabilities, and achieve their aspirations in a safe and supportive environment.

On this occasion, the NIHR commends the Kingdom of Bahrain's continued commitment to protecting and promoting children's rights through the development of a legislative and institutional framework that safeguards their dignity and upholds their best interests. In this regard, the NIHR notes that Law No. (4) of 2021 on Restorative Justice for Children and Their Protection from Maltreatment represents a significant milestone in advancing these rights, having established an approach grounded in restorative justice and legal protection in accordance with relevant international standards.

The NIHR emphasizes the importance of continuing to strengthen the child protection system through coordinated efforts among the competent authorities, families, educational, healthcare and social institutions, and civil society organizations. Such cooperation is essential to enhancing the prevention of violence, exploitation, and discrimination, raising awareness of girls' rights, and ensuring equal opportunities for girls in education, development, and participation, while addressing the challenges that may hinder the full enjoyment of their rights.

The NIHR further reaffirms its continued independent role in promoting a culture of human rights, monitoring challenges, providing recommendations, and following up on compliance with relevant international conventions. It also highlights that the establishment of the position of Commissioner for Children's Rights within the NIHR represents an important institutional step towards strengthening the protection and promotion of these rights within its mandate and supporting national efforts to further develop the child protection system, thereby ensuring that girls enjoy a safe environment and equal opportunities for growth and meaningful participation in society.

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