

Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on the International Day of Older Persons

Manama – 1 October 2025

On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, observed annually on October 1, the Kingdom of Bahrain joins the international community in celebrating this day, reaffirming its commitment to supporting and protecting the rights of older persons and raising awareness of the challenges they face. According to United Nations statistics, the number of people over the age of 60 worldwide exceeds one billion, with around 66% living in developing countries, where they encounter multiple issues related to health, social care, dignity, and integration into their communities.

The United Nations has designated this year's theme: "Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights" to emphasize that older persons constitute an essential element of the social fabric and that enabling their active participation is an inherent human right. This theme further highlights the vital role they play in driving both local and global action, grounded in their aspirations and aimed at ensuring their well-being and protecting their rights, while underscoring the importance of providing a supportive environment that empowers them to live with dignity and contribute meaningfully to the development of their societies.

In this context, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) values the special attention that the Kingdom of Bahrain accords to the rights of older persons, stemming from its steadfast commitment to promoting the values of respect and social solidarity. This includes enabling older persons to live in dignity, ensuring their participation in various areas of life, providing appropriate health and social care services, and enhancing public awareness of their role and the importance of benefiting from their experience through awareness initiatives and community activities. The NIHR also continues its cooperation with regional and international organizations to further strengthen the status and protection of older persons' rights at both local and global levels.

On this occasion, the NIHR reaffirms its ongoing commitment to supporting the rights of older persons and enhancing their role in society as an integral part of the human rights system. The Institution also follows up on the Kingdom of Bahrain's implementation of its obligations under relevant international conventions and treaties, and stresses the importance of continuing to provide a supportive environment that guarantees their care, protection, and active participation. This is considered a key component in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by ensuring the meaningful inclusion of older persons in all matters related to their rights and well-being.

* * *