



NIHR Statement on International Youth Day

Manama, 12 August 2026

On the occasion of International Youth Day, observed annually on 12 August, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) joins the international community in marking this occasion, reaffirming the importance of promoting youth rights, empowering young people to participate effectively in various spheres of public life, and expanding opportunities for their contribution to decision-making, as key partners in advancing sustainable development and building a more just and prosperous future.

This year, the United Nations has designated “Different Circumstances, Shared Aspirations” as the theme for International Youth Day, highlighting the aspirations that unite young people despite the diversity of their circumstances and challenges, including dignity, equal opportunities, meaningful participation, decent work, quality education, and a more sustainable future. The theme also draws attention to the challenges facing young people in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States, while highlighting their resilience, innovation, and contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, NIHR commends the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to support young people and develop their capabilities, as well as the Kingdom’s wide range of initiatives and programs that promote youth participation and create opportunities for creativity, innovation, and leadership, foremost among them Youth City 2030. These efforts strengthen young people’s contribution to national development and to building a more prosperous and sustainable future.

NIHR reaffirms its continued role in promoting and protecting the rights of young people and monitoring the extent to which they enjoy these rights in accordance with relevant international conventions and treaties. It also calls for enhanced cooperation among relevant stakeholders to expand youth participation in decision-making, provide opportunities for education, training, employment, and entrepreneurship, and develop young people’s skills in innovation, digital transformation, and climate action, thereby strengthening their role in development and in building a more just and inclusive society.