



## **Statement by NIHR on International Day of Non-Violence**

**Manama on October 02, 2016**

The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Non-Violence on the second of October each year, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly at its 61<sup>st</sup> session upon the Resolution No. (61/271) dated 15 June 2007, in commemoration of the birth of the Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, founder of the philosophy of non-violence strategy and one of the pioneering voices who believed that non-violence is the greatest power within humanity's reach.

This day is considered an occasion to spread the message of non-violence, through education and awareness of citizens and residents, as the UN resolution affirms the universal importance of the principle of non-violence in securing a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence, and takes into account that non-violence, tolerance, full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, democracy, development, mutual understanding and respect for diversity are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The principle of non-violence has also been affirmed in the UN Charter by urging tolerance, good-neighbourliness, and keenness not to use armed force. The United Nations works to achieve these lofty principles in life, by promoting human rights, striving to resolve conflicts by peaceful means, eliminating violence against women, building bridges between cultures, and combating hatred and extremism everywhere.

On this occasion, the NIHR calls on the society to adopt the approach of non-violence in all its forms, and to adopt the principle of dialogue and understanding as a solution to all problems that plague society, in order to achieve the principle of respect for the other, to spread a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for human rights principles and charters, and to stand in balance and wisdom in the face of local events, all of which will enhance a culture of non-violence among the entire segments of society.

The NIHR calls upon local, regional and international organisations and bodies to doubly activate their voluntary and societal role to popularise a culture of non-violence and make it a human value that is respected and valued, through the implementation of activities and events that ensure the delivery of messages of respect for the heavenly religions that have prohibited abuse and violence, and the provisions of international charters and agreements in this regard.