



Statement by the NIHR on World Children's Day

Manama on November 20, 2017

Under the slogan (2017 is the year of children), the countries of the world, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, celebrate World Children's Day, since the UN General Assembly has called on all countries of the world to celebrate this day on 20th November every year, coinciding with the launch of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, which was considered a day to strengthen international interdependence and awareness among children around the world, and urged Governments to enact laws and regulations to protect the right of childhood and to make it clear the various kinds of violence suffered by children in some countries of the world.

The World Children's Day provides each one of us with an inspirational entry point to defend, promote and celebrate children's rights and to translate them into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children. The rights of the children are fundamental human rights recognized by heads of the States and representatives of civil society organizations during their consultative meetings on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) beyond 2015, which are primarily related to children, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s statement that six of the eight goals are directly related to children.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) expresses its deep thanks and appreciation for the efforts exerted by the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and relevant civil society organizations to promote and protect the rights of the children, which has had an impact on the Kingdom of Bahrain's status at the international and regional levels by winning the membership of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Children. We also praise the UNICEF's efforts to promote and protect the rights of children and to promote their well-being through improving their health services, raising their educational level in developing countries and developing social services for them and their families.

The NIHR hereby stresses the fundamental human rights enshrined in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Children, which covers the full range of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and recognizes that the enjoyment of a right cannot be separated from the enjoyment of other rights. We also state that the freedom children need to develop their intellectual, moral and spiritual capacities requires, inter alia, a healthy and safe environment, an access to medical care and a minimum level of food, clothing and shelter, in addition to the importance of the child being an active player in expressing his or her own views and that such views should be taken into account in making decisions relating to his or her life.