



Statement by NIHR on Visit to Women's Reformation and Rehabilitation Center (WRRC),

Manama on October 27, 2018

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) conducted a declared exploration visit on Tuesday 23/10/2018 to the Women's Reformation and Rehabilitation Center (WRRC) in Isa Town. The visit comes in line with the powers stipulated by the Law No. (26) of 2014 on the Incorporation of the NIHR modified by the Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016. The purpose of the declared visit was to validate the allegations regarding the conditions of the women inmates in the Center for Reform and Rehabilitation of Women Inmates in Isa City center, where 13 women inmates were met to verify the allegations of violations of their rights as circulated by the social media.

The staff of the NIHR reviewed the medical, disciplinary and other records and relevant information and met with the women inmates. It found out that they were being treated with respect, the visit dates were regular, special places were provided to directly meet with their families and the communication system was in line with the executive regulations of the Law on the Reform and Rehabilitation Institutions, whereby each of them was given a two-hour visit per week. It also found out that there was no hunger strike case. In addition, the Center's administration provides sports programs for the women inmates and training at the special workshop. It also provides medicines and regular attendance at health centers as scheduled. The NIHR staff also verified that the Center provides each woman inmate with outdoors space for two hours per day distributed over two periods in addition to the times allocated for various activities.

The NIHR calls on international organizations to follow a clear methodology in assessing the status of reform and rehabilitation centers in Bahrain and to verify from reliable sources that operate based upon a human rights methodology in accordance with international standards in monitoring the human rights situation. The NIHR receives complains, applications for assistance and inquiries either personally or via the toll-free hotline (80001144), the NIHR's website (www.nihr.org.bh), or the (NIHR Bahrain) smartphone application.