

#أضمن حقك

المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان
National Institution for Human Rights



Updated information* on some paragraphs contained in

the National Institution for Human Rights parallel report

about

The national report of the Kingdom of Bahrain combining the first and second periodic reports: progress made in implementation the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Submitted to the:

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

30th Session

(4-22) March 2024

Geneva - Swiss Confederation

February 2024

*The update was made after a new date for consideration of the Kingdom of Bahrain's report was set by the committee in 2024.

Introduction

1. The National Institution for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain submits this report, which includes **updated information** on some of the paragraphs contained in its parallel report regarding the national report of the Kingdom of Bahrain, combining the first and second periodic reports on the progress achieved in implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which the Kingdom of Bahrain has ratified pursuant to Law No. (22) of 2011, which was previously submitted by the NIHR to CRPD in November 2021.
2. The NIHR appreciates the efforts made by the Kingdom in submitting its national report, despite the delay. NIHR belief in the importance and effectiveness of this international mechanism towards everything that would promote and protect human rights at the national level, and in fulfillment of its international obligations arising from the ratification and accession to international human rights instruments.
3. The NIHR received a request from the Ministry of Labor and Social Development to obtain the NIHR's observations on some information included in the list of issues raised and issued by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)¹, regarding the consideration of the combined report of the first and second periodic reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The NIHR responded to this request in detail, in accordance with its Establishment Law No. (26) of 2016, amended by Decree Law No. (20) of 2016, where paragraph (d) in Article (12) stated that It has the following competencies:

“To submit parallel reports, and participate in the drafting and discussion of the reports which the Kingdom is obliged to periodically submit for the implementation of regional and international conventions concerning human rights together with notifying about such reports in the proper media means.”²
4. Accordingly, this report includes **updated information** about some of the paragraphs contained in its parallel report referred to above, so that both of them complement each other, in some aspects that the institution deemed necessary to highlight some of the developments taking place at the legislative and executive levels (strategies and action plans), in addition to updating statistics on complaints and requests for assistance submitted by the institution regarding this category.

¹ List of issues raised in connection with the consideration of the combined first and second periodic reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain, contained in Document No. (CRPD/C/BHR/Q/1-2).

² To view: Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights, amended by Law No. (20) of 2016, published on the institution's website at the following link: <http://www.nihr.org.bh>

Purpose and general obligations (Articles 1-4)

1) The constitutional and legal framework for implementing the agreement:

- 1.12 The Kingdom has taken clear legislative steps to achieve equality and non-discrimination, including ensuring equality with persons with disabilities in the public sphere. Civil, political, economic, social and cultural, and in the aspect related to the right to work, Decree Law No. (59) of 2018 was issued amending some provisions of the Labor Law in the Private Sector issued by Law No. (36) of 2012, which requires adding Article (2 bis) prohibiting discrimination between workers under the provisions of this law because of gender, origin, language, religion or belief; The NIHR believes that the prohibition of discrimination contained in this article is absolute and includes people with disabilities as well, and that the reasons for discrimination mentioned are for example and not limited to.
- 1.13 It was followed by the issuance of Decree Law No. (16) of 2021 amending some provisions of the Labor Law referred to above, which includes adding an explicit text stating: “**Discrimination in wages between male and female workers in work of equal value is prohibited,**” which will have a significant impact in eliminating all Stereotypes of discrimination of all kinds, including discrimination that may be due to disability.

Specific obligations (Articles 31-33)

1) Implementation and monitoring at the national level (Article 33):

First: Strategies and action plans

- 10.6 In this regard, the NIHR commends the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan for the years (2022-2026)³ as the result of tireless efforts undertaken by ministries and government agencies, along with the legislative authority and the sector, in effective contribution with civil society institutions and stakeholders. The NIHR had an active role in expressing its comments on the draft plan before its adoption, as it came within four main axes, which are civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, the rights of the most vulnerable groups, and the rights of solidarity.
- 10.7 The third axis of the National Human Rights Plan included a strategic goal concerned with promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities; It included two sub-goals, the first was devoted to strengthening the policies, systems, regulations and

³ To view: The National Plan for Human Rights (2022-2026), published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the following link: <https://www.mofa.gov.bh/ar/national-plan-2022-2026>

decisions governing the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while the third sub-goal was to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy their comprehensive rights and develop their capabilities in order to integrate them into the labor market.

Second: The National Institution for Human Rights

10.11 The NIHR had an active role in the field of human rights protection by receiving complaints⁴ related to various types of human rights, studying them and referring what it deems appropriate to the competent authorities, while following them up effectively or informing the concerned parties of the procedures that must be followed, and assisting them in taking them or assisting in settling them with the concerned authorities.

10.12 In order for the NIHR to provide the necessary protection to the groups most cared for, including persons with disabilities, it received one (1) complaint from this group in the year (2020) related to the right to education, in addition to three (3) complaints in the year (2021). Its contents varied between one complaint for each of the right to education, the right to physical and moral integrity, and the right to health. In 2022, the NIHR also received two complaints, one of which centered on the right to work, while the other complaint was about not receiving treatment and health care. In the year (2023), the NIHR received (5) five complaints, the contents of which varied between two complaints regarding the right to education, and (3) three complaints related to the right to social security, and the NIHR immediately contacted the relevant authorities regarding them.

10.13 The NIHR provided (3) three legal aids to persons with disabilities in the year (2019), in addition to (6) six legal aids in the year (2020), and (3) three legal assistances in the year (2021). NIHR provided in the year (2022) (3) three legal assistances, and in the year (2023) the NIHR provided (4) four legal assistances, as the NIHR addressed the relevant authorities regarding these cases for humanitarian reasons, and some of them were also informed of the procedures that must be followed.

10.14 While the institution monitored one (1) case in the year (2019), in addition to two (2) cases in the year (2020), and five (5) monitoring cases in the year (2021) related to persons with disabilities, while it did not monitor any case regarding people with disabilities in the year (2022). The NIHR also monitored two (2) cases in the year

⁴ To view the guide to receiving complaints and the legal assistance provided:

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/PDF/NIHRComplaint%20ProceduresManualEN.pdf>

(2023), one of which relates to the right to education, while the second case relates to not receiving treatment and health care. The NIHR addressed the relevant authorities regarding these cases.

10.15 Through the role played by the NIHR in the field of promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom - simple examples of which were reviewed in this report - the NIHR was able to touch the practical reality of the rights of persons with disabilities, and know the most important difficulties and challenges they face on an almost daily basis, including a number of important recommendations have been formulated with the aim of improving the conditions of persons with disabilities in the Kingdom in order to ensure that the Kingdom implements its international obligations arising from the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

10.16 During the years (2021-2022), the NIHR held a number of forums aimed at deepening community partnership with relevant civil society institutions, through which tangible developments and challenges in practical practices were highlighted, while proposing developmental solutions.

10.17 The NIHR began its meetings with institutions working in the field of human rights in general, followed by meetings with institutions working in the field of environmental rights, followed by institutions working in the field of the right to health, leading to holding its consultations with the rest of the institutions, especially those working in the field of the rights of groups most vulnerable to care (such as children, women, people with disabilities, and the elderly). All of these forums concluded with a number of recommendations, after which the NIHR addressed ministries and government agencies to obtain their views on the possibility of adopting these recommendations and to know the difficulties and challenges that prevent their full implementation⁵

Final recommendations

From the above, the National Institution for Human Rights renews its adherence to the recommendations contained in its last parallel report submitted to the Committee, and is making some updates to them as follows:

⁵ To view the recommendations reached by the forums with civil society institutions and the responses of the competent authorities regarding them, review the tenth annual report of the National Institution for Human Rights for the year 2022, which is published on its website at the following link: <http://www.nihr.org.bh>

- (1) Expedite the issuance of a new comprehensive and advanced law on the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant international decisions.
- (2) The need to update the national strategy for people with disabilities in cooperation with national stakeholders in this regard, with an emphasis on the importance of expanding the projects proposed within the National Human Rights Plan for the years (2022-2026) for the category of people with disabilities.
- (3) Work to improve the infrastructure by taking into account the appropriate engineering needs of people with disabilities in public facilities, especially in modern buildings and complexes.
- (4) Providing instructional signs that simulate some cases of disability (deaf-mute) and in forms that are easy to read and understand and placed on public buildings and other facilities, to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to available services and accessibility.
- (5) Expedite the opening of the Comprehensive Disability Complex, which includes specialized centers, including special centers for autism, behavioral and communication disorders.
- (6) Incorporating the basic concepts of human rights education and the International Convention for Persons with Disabilities into the curricula of primary, middle and secondary education in a way that contributes to strengthening the rights of this group.
- (7) Increased interest in preparing specialized technical cadres to work in the field of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, and introducing a subject specialized in the care and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities within university education curricula for some related specializations.
- (8) Giving more care and attention to the educational services provided to the category of persons with disabilities, in a way that makes them able to continue and follow their entire levels of education (primary, preparatory, and secondary), and to make them equal to their normal peers.
- (9) The need for the private sector to expand its field of employing to cover the persons with disabilities, through the authorities concerned with labor affairs, by providing incentives to private companies and institutions that take the initiative to attract them.
- (10) The contribution of all media outlets in raising awareness of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, and how to deal with them, and to inform their families of the government services and facilities provided to them.