



المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان
National Institution for Human Rights



**Strategy and Action Plan
of the Child Rights Commissioner
at the National Institution for Human Rights
2024 - 2025**

Emanating from
the Strategy and Action Plan of
the National Institution for Human Rights,
Kingdom of Bahrain
(2022 - 2025)



Strategy of the Child Rights Commissioner at the National Institution for Human Rights - 2024-2025

Emanating from the Strategy and Action Plan of
the National Institution for Human Rights (2025-2022)

|You have the Right|

Introduction:

The strategy and work plan of the Child Rights Commissioner at the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR-BH) for the years 2024-2025, is based on the provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights, amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, and the strategy and work plan of the NIHR (2022-2025), as the strategy of the Child Rights Commissioner came as a continuation of what was stated in the strategy and work plan of the NIHR-BH, which came in conjunction with the latter's creation of the position of the Child Rights Commissioner; as the NIHR-BH hopes that this will be a tool towards achieving further promotion and protection of children's rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

NIHR Vision and Mission

Vision

We hold the belief that the human rights issue is among national constants. Recognition of public rights and freedoms, civil, political, economic, social and cultural, whether individual or collective rights, is a commitment to the values of justice, equality and human dignity of all human beings without discrimination.

"Human Rights Culture is a Lifestyle"

Message

We strive to develop, promote and protect human rights of the citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain, by providing protection and support for individuals to enable them to gain diverse knowledge to exercise their legitimate rights, determine their needs, how to demand and defend these needs through spreading the culture of human rights by all means available.

"Together to Create a Better Practice of Human Rights"

Introduction

The Kingdom of Bahrain has paid great attention to issues related to childhood, and this was reflected in the issuance of the Child Law (2012) and the Law on Restorative Justice for Children and Their Protection from Abuse (2021), in addition to the Kingdom's accession to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991), and the two Optional Protocols on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography attached to the Convention (2004), in addition to its interaction in submitting national reports periodically and regularly on the progress made in implementing the provisions of that Convention and its Optional Protocols to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

With the growing global interest in children rights, and in order to improve the human rights environment in national systems, the international contractual and non-contractual mechanisms of the United Nations concerned with human rights have called for the adoption of practical ways to ensure the adoption of more policies and measures aimed at strengthening and protecting child rights mechanisms, as the issue of the Commissioner for the Rights of the Child was raised in a number of recommendations of treaty bodies included in their reports and concluding observations on the national reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain, as stated in the reports of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) issued in 2022 and the report of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which prompted the NIHR-BH to study these observations and recommendations and move forward towards effective contribution to their implementation, as the NIHR-BH, through the powers contained in its law, established the position of the Child Rights Commissioner in June 2023, and on 11 July 2023, an official event was organized to inaugurate the position of the Child Rights Commissioner, in an official ceremony attended by many officials and ambassadors accredited to the Kingdom and representatives of civil society institutions, due to the utmost importance of this issue in preserving the best rights of the child and preventing any violations that may affect his life and upbringing.

First: The Competencies of the Child Rights Commissioner

The Child Rights Commissioner derives her role and the tasks assigned to her in the field of promoting and protecting children's rights from the same duties assigned to the NIHR-BH and included in its establishment law No. (26) of 2014, amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016. The NIHR-BH hopes, through its creation of the position of Child Rights Commissioner, that it will be a tool towards achieving further promotion and protection of children's rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, leading to excellence in achieving its vision and mission by making the culture of human rights a way of life that citizens and residents feel without discrimination, by involving everyone to achieve better practice of human rights.

The most prominent competencies assigned to the Commissioner for Children's Rights:

- (1) Representing the views of children and youth, and defending issues related to child rights.
- (2) Studying national legislation and verifying its compatibility with relevant international conventions.
- (3) Following-up on issues facing children, and working to protect and promote their best interests.
- (4) Conducting follow-up assessments of the impact of child rights on new policies and legislation.
- (5) Verifying any matter related to child rights, including the adequacy of complaints, support and assistance services provided to them.
- (6) Working to establish partnerships with government agencies, civil society institutions, and regional and international non-governmental organizations related to the rights of this group.
- (7) Conducting research and studies related to the rights, views and best interests of children.

Second: The Main Activities of the Child Rights Commissioner

(1) The efforts made by the Child Rights Commissioner in the field of promoting child rights

The provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the NIHR-BH, amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, confirmed the role of the NIHR-BH in the field of promoting human rights, as Article No. (12) thereof approved a number of competencies for the NIHR-BH in order to achieve its goals in this field, including holding conferences, organizing seminars and educational and training courses in the field of human rights, conducting research and studies in this regard, participating in local and international forums, and in meetings of regional and international organizations, in addition to issuing bulletins, publications, statements and reports.

In implementation of the powers included in the provisions of the law, the Child Rights Commissioner plays an active role in promoting children's rights through a number of activities it has carried out, whether at the level of training or educational programs organized by the NIHR-BH, or those established by other entities in which the NIHR-BH participated effectively, in addition to participating and attending meetings, gatherings and visits with relevant national, regional and international entities.

(2) Efforts made by the Child Rights Commissioner in the field of protecting child rights

In implementation of the role assigned to the NIHR-BH and the powers granted to it under the establishment law, which grant it the right to follow up and monitor all issues related to human rights: political, civil, economic, social and cultural, which include children's rights. The position of "Child Rights Commissioner" was established to deal specifically with children's issues, receive complaints, provide assistance, and communicate with official and civil authorities, with the aim of protecting and promoting the best interests of the child, to ensure that children enjoy their full rights.

Third: Strategic reference of the Child Rights Commissioner

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and its optional protocols.
- Decree-Law No. (16) of 1991 regarding Bahrain's accession to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Law No. (19) of 2004 approving the Kingdom of Bahrain's accession to the two optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography attached to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Law No. (37) of 2012 issuing the Child Law.
- Law No. (4) of 2021 Promulgating the Restorative Justice Law for Children and their Protection from Maltreatment.
- Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights, amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016.
- Strategy and Action Plan of the National Institution for Human Rights – Kingdom of Bahrain (2022-2025).
- National Human Rights Plan (2022-2026).
- National Childhood Strategy (2023-2027).
- Sustainable Development Goals (2030).

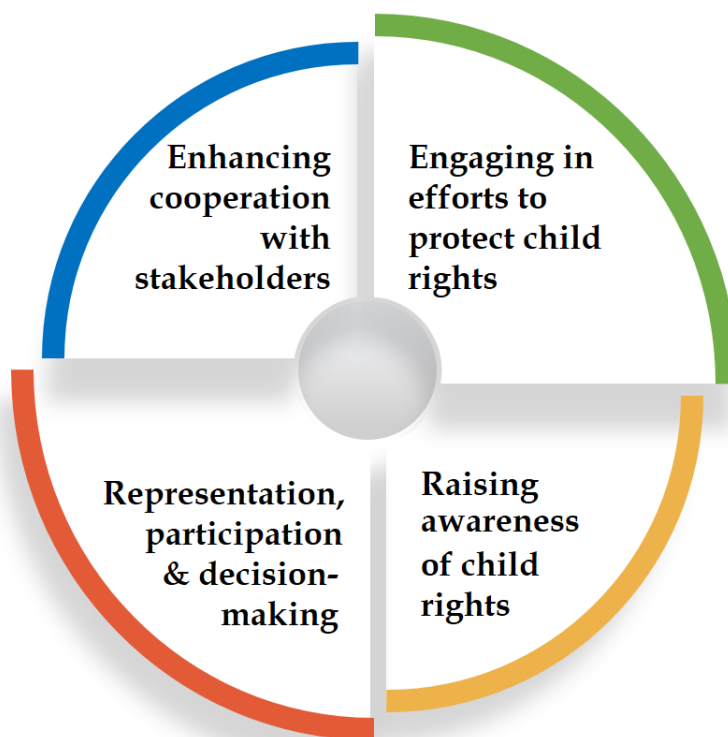
Fourth: Preparation, Partners and Stakeholders

- The Strategy of the Child Rights Commissioner was prepared in cooperation with NI-CO - Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas Ltd, in the United Kingdom, and the British Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain, during the period from (January 2023) to (May 2024).
- The Strategy was presented to a group of national experts, some human rights defenders, civil society institutions working in the field of childhood, and stakeholders for expressing opinions and advice on its axes and implementation mechanism.
- Official bodies represented by ministries, government agencies, public bodies and institutions, in addition to companies and private sector institutions, are key partners towards advancing the implementation of the strategic objectives of the plan, ensuring best practices that enhance children's rights.



Fifth: The strategic objectives of the Child Rights Commissioner

The strategy and work plan of the Child Rights Commissioner was construct on four main objectives, which together constitute a roadmap towards achieving the vision and mission of the NIHR-BH, derived from the previous reference as a main pillar in formulating these objectives:



Action Plan – Strategy of the Child Rights Commissioner

Strategic Objective 1: Engage in efforts to protect child rights

Project/Initiative	Responsible Authority	Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Receiving and studying complaints from children and referring them to the relevant authorities	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Time frame according to the NIHR guide for receiving complaints and providing legal assistance
Providing legal assistance and advice to ensure that the best interests of the child are achieved.	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Time frame according to the NIHR guide for receiving complaints and providing legal assistance
Monitor any violations of child rights	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	The time period for taking the necessary action from the time the violation is detected until it is decided upon
Conducting announced and unannounced visits to detention centers or any place where child rights are suspected to be being violated	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Number of visits
Attend court sessions concerned with child rights, to ensure fair trial guarantees	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Number of child rights related sessions attended

Strategic Objective 2: Raising awareness of child rights

Project/Initiative	Responsible Authority	Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Providing training programs to students of public and private schools, aiming to spread the culture of children's rights.	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Number of people trained
Participation and attendance in training and educational events related to children's rights	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Number of events participated in

Project/Initiative	Responsible Authority	Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Conducting awareness programmes to introduce the role, objectives and powers of the Child Rights Commissioner	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Conduct an assessment survey
Contributing to official and community initiatives related to child rights	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Number of contributions to official and community initiatives
Employing various media (official and private) and social media to raise community awareness of child rights	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Conduct an assessment survey

Strategic Objective 3: Representation, participation and decision- making

Project/Initiative	Responsible Authority	Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Forming a volunteer team of experts in various fields interested in child rights issues	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Announcement of the formation of the Group of Experts on Childhood and the number of meetings held
Involving the child in formulating public policies related to his rights by forming a team concerned with friends of the Child Rights Commissioner	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Announcing the formation of the Child Friends Team and the total number of recommendations resulting from it
Holding consultative meetings with community groups and initiatives consisting of children and youth	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Number of consultative meetings
Support the establishment of teams, groups or forums for children within the formation of civil society institutions working in the field of human rights	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Number of consultative meetings and the extent of response to the formation of teams, groups or forums for childhood

Strategic Objective 4: Enhancing collaboration with stakeholders

Project/Initiative	Responsible Authority	Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Communication and cooperation with local civil society institutions and regional and international organizations - governmental and non-governmental - working in the field of protecting and promoting child rights	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Number of civil society institutions with which cooperation has been made
Building the capacity of civil society workers working in the field of child rights	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Measuring the development of performance among workers in civil society institutions concerned with childhood
Submitting parallel reports to international and regional mechanisms concerned with child rights	Council of Commissioners/Child Rights Commissioner/General Secretariat	Commitment to the deadline for submitting reports.



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