



UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

Questionnaire on girls' and young women's activism

1. Nature, modalities and trends of girls' and young women's activism

1. The Kingdom of Bahrain's constitution stated that equality and nondiscrimination must be granted to all Bahrainis regardless of their gender. Women are free to practice the civil rights that are granted for Bahraini nationals (e.g.: freedom of speech, participating in national and international NGOs, etc.)
2. Based on the constitution, women are equal to men in their rights and duties and they get the same opportunities and are allowed to participate in various activities and fields.
 - i. Examples of girls and young women engagement are: being a part of NGOs -as members or leaders-, participating in various voluntary activities, freedom of press and presence on social media.
 - ii. As per what the constitution of Kingdom of Bahrain, Article 29 states "Any individual may address the public authorities in writing over his signature...". In addition to that, it is possible to arrange meetings with respective parties on all levels as Bahrain follows an open-door policy.
 - iii. Levels of engagement can vary from: letters, arranged meetings, seminars, conferences. These all happen on both national and international level.
 - iv. The examples of the main spaces of engagement are: school activities, volunteering in the community, local press such as newspapers and local TV and radio channels, social media on various platforms.
 - v. Cooperation and solidarity exist to serve all women and all groups during work.
3. Examples of the forms of women's engagement are: taking the lead in roles enabling them to make decisions as well as working in different fields. Bahrain has multiple NGOs consisting of only women. As well as the governmental part taken by the Supreme Council of Women.
4. The Supreme Council of Women led by her Excellency Princess Sabika Bent Ibrahim Al-Khalifa has taken an effective role in supporting and helping women as well as enabling women's activism on all levels in Bahrain. The progress of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women is ongoing in cooperation with the government and private sector and NGOs.
5. Women have been always engaged and active throughout the different generations.
6. The girl's activism are:

- i. An increase in percentage of women joining the governmental workforce from 17% to 55% and the private sector workforce 11% to 35% as well as Women Entrepreneurs 15% to 47% from 2001 to 2020.
- ii. Issuing Family Code 19-year 2017 law.
- iii. –
- iv. Bahrain was the first country in the GCC to establish the Supreme Council of Women to support women rights, and granting women the right to vote. As well as establishing the first Women led Society (NGO).

2. Enabling factors and good practices

1. Frameworks are available in Bahrain are:
 - i. Constitution of Bahrain.
 - ii. Girls Schools, Girls Religious Centers and Institutions, Women led Societies and NGOs.
 - iii. Supreme Council of Women which completed 20 years since it was established.
 - iv. The concrete ways in which the Bahrain promotes and secures girls' engagement/activism are Constitution of Bahrain and the Supreme Council of Women.
 - v. –
 - vi. –
2. NGOs promote girls' and young women's engagement and activism in Bahrain by having women in leadership roles.
3. –
4. Examples of achievements at the national level in the implementation of laws are that women have appointed roles as members and Head of Council of Representatives, Ministers, Judges, etc.
5. –
6. –

3. Challenges and structural barriers

1. In terms of Challenges and structural barriers, there are no kind of gender and age specific barriers are affecting girls and women, as stated in the constitution.
2. None
3. None
4. None
5. None
6. None
7. None because this is not an issue in Bahrain.

4. Emerging issues

In terms of Emerging issues, this is not applicable for Bahrain.

5. Recommendations/ the way forward

1. The Supreme Council of Women is already adopting and implementing the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women.
2. Gender-based discrimination is none applicable for Bahrain
3. Women's engagement in the political and public life is in order.

4. Women already have a high level of participation and activism in NGOs.