

Pledge by Bahrain

Acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 13 February 1992

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 21 September 2004

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 21 September 2004



Pledge

1. Adopt a unified draft law entitled the "Restorative Justice Law" for a child justice system that includes specialized child-friendly courts and judicial proceedings for children aged 15 and above.

1) In light of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have undertaken the following to highlight our commitment to the promotion, protection and realization of the rights of the child in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention:

- **What?**

The Kingdom of Bahrain always accords high attention to Child rights, which further reflects its outstanding achievements in various fields. It is also keen to create an environment that provides a safe and promising life for childhood. In the context of the aforementioned, the Kingdom of Bahrain is in the process of adopting a unified draft law entitled the "Restorative Justice Law", which is currently under consideration, for its presentation and promulgation by the legislative power as per the Constitution. The draft law on Restorative Justice includes a child justice system, including specialized child-friendly courts and judicial proceedings for children aged 15 and above involved in committing crimes. The child justice system will include social experts, including a female member, whose presence at the trial session is mandatory.

- **Why is the government enacting such a legislation?**

The Kingdom of Bahrain is determined to adapt its child-related legislation related to the criminal system to bring it into conformity with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all other international instruments, to which Bahrain is signatory, together with the best practices from around the world. The outcome legislation will be the "Restorative Justice Act".

- **Who and how?**

The Ministry of Labor and Social Development, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, the Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission and the National Commission for Childhood, are currently studying the draft law. After thorough evaluation, the bill will be submitted to the legislature for further study, discussion and consideration for approval prior to its submission to His Majesty the King for ratification and issuance in its final form.

- **When?**

The draft law on Restorative Justice has reached advanced stages of consultation and discussion with the relevant authorities. The Kingdom hopes to complete it and submit it to the legislature for consideration within a maximum of two or three years.

2) We have made the following plans to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention:

The Ministry of Labor and Social Development is working, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the human rights institutions, the National Committee for Childhood and other stakeholders to establish various events and activities in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.