

**Kingdom of Bahrain**  
**Universal Periodic Review**  
**4th Mid-Term Report**



وزارة الخارجية

Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs

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## **Introduction**

- On the 7 November 2022, the Kingdom of Bahrain submitted its fourth national report to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, where it received positively and responsibly 245 recommendations, of which 172 were supported, and 73 noted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, either because they conflict with the application of Islamic law, are incompatible with national laws and, or require further study.
- The National Human Rights Committee, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, held several meetings to study the recommendations of the fourth national report of the UPR mechanism, which was adopted in April 2023. The Committee took many important decisions in order to implement the recommendations accepted by the Kingdom, with its mandate including coordination with government agencies in all matters related to human rights and the preparation of the Kingdom's reports Bahrain submitted to United Nations organizations.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also held a number of meetings with civil society organizations, which were attended by more than twenty organizations. The aforementioned recommendations were reviewed at length, and the efforts and observations of civil society organizations contributed to crystallizing the position of the Kingdom of Bahrain on responding to the recommendations made.
- Through the submission of this voluntary mid-term report, the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms the strengthening and continuation of its efforts to promote human rights and preserve human dignity through cooperation with partners and stakeholders at the national level, and constructive cooperation with the Human Rights Council, the universal periodic review mechanism, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international mechanisms and organizations at the international level.

## **Human Rights Achievements:**

### **National Framework for Human Rights in the Foreign Policy of the Kingdom of Bahrain (2024-2026)**

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has prepared a comprehensive national human rights framework, which defines the general policy and the basic elements and strategies adopted by the Kingdom of Bahrain to promote human rights at the domestic and international levels.
- After the launch of the National Human Rights Plan for the years 2022-2026, which set out 102 diverse human rights projects, with implementation and follow-up of their performance indicators on the ground. The National Framework for Human Rights built on the draft of

this plan, and in fact links it with the obligations of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the international level, to be an integrated human rights work par excellence, in which national initiatives are consistent with international obligations.

- The National Framework outlines the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the field of human rights diplomacy, guided by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, its National Charter, national legislation and international obligations, and the government's work program (2023-2026) while continuing comprehensive development efforts, and while working at the same time to strengthen effective positive cooperation relations with various countries of the world and international and regional organizations.
- The National Framework consists of five main tracks that have been linked to each other in a balanced manner to form a roadmap for all specialists on the local, regional and international entitlements and obligations of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of human rights, and to work on tracking them regularly during the years 2024-2026. These tracks are:
  1. The National Plan for Human Rights.
  2. UPR recommendations.
  3. International instruments.
  4. International reporting.
  5. Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Establishment of the Commission for the Rights of the Child:**

- In July 2023, the Commission for the Rights of the Child was established within the work of the National Institution for Human Rights. The Commission deals with issues facing children, works to protect and promote the best interests of the child, and supports the overall policy of the child, based on the powers vested in the institution under its governing law, which gives it the right to follow up and monitor all topics related to human rights: political, civil, economic, social and cultural, including children's rights.

- Dr. Houria Abbas was appointed as the first Commissioner for the Rights of the Child, and she is considered an independent ambassador for children's rights, ensuring that their views and interests are heard, understands the issues facing them, works to protect and promote their interests, and supports children's overall policy. Her role is based on establishing partnerships with government agencies, civil society institutions, and relevant regional and international non-governmental organizations, communicating with wide and diverse audiences in society, in addition to investigating any matter related to children's rights, including investigating complaints. It also includes support services for children, conducting and following up assessments of the impact of children's rights on new policies and legislation, conducting research and studies related to the rights, opinions and best interests of children, and the General Secretariat of the Foundation will provide technical and logistical support.
- Within the framework of the General Secretariat's desire to strengthen its role in line with legislative developments and coinciding with the issuance of the Restorative Justice Law for Children and their Protection from Abuse promulgated by Law No. 4 of 2021, the Ombudsman issued a decision to establish the Child Placement Centers Monitoring Division to follow up on complaints and requests for children in custody, which are submitted to the Ombudsman in accordance with Establishment Decree No. 27 of 2012 and amended by Decree No. (35) of 2013. In addition, the decision provided for training of a number of Members of the Secretariat to deal with children in a manner consistent with international standards related to children's rights and in the best interest of the child.

**Launch of the "Ask a Child Once in Sexual Assault Crimes" guide:**

- The "Ask a Child Once in Sexual Assault Crimes" project was launched by the Public Prosecution in the Kingdom of Bahrain on November 20, 2023. It unifies criminal procedures by asking the child only once, and not repeating questioning, in order to preserve his/her psychological and mental integrity, by using modern techniques to audio-visually record children's statements in special investigation rooms. A specialized team of

psychologists analyzes those recorded statements and extracts basic information that helps in the conduct of the investigation process, and safeguards the rights and psychological well-being of the child.

**“Reaya” Initiative:**

- The Public Prosecution’s “Reaya” initiative related to the promotion of social welfare is based on the role of the judicial and social prosecution in conducting comprehensive studies of the causes of crime. The initiative prepared an analytical study of 425 criminal cases, with the help of social and psychological experts, to understand the causes leading to the offence, whether social, psychological or material. It then worked to provide the necessary care and protection, in cooperation with government agencies and civil society institutions, for all groups concerned with the initiative. Through this initiative, the Public Prosecution works to inform the concerned authorities in the Kingdom of cases that suggest an urgent need for care, and to submit recommendations and proposals to them, so that the authorities in turn study those cases and provide them with services that fall within their legal mandate.
- Number of cases included in the Initiative during 2023: 123 cases, including 16 inmates, 4 men, 12 women, and 75 children (30 males – 45 females)

In addition to the above, the Kingdom of Bahrain has enacted several laws that promote human rights since the adoption of its fourth UPR report, including, for example:

**Laws and decree-laws:**

- Law No. 7 of 2023 Repealing Article 353 of the Penal Code promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 15 of 1976. Which used to stipulate: " No penalty shall be imposed on anyone who commits one of the crimes stipulated in the preceding articles if he has a valid marriage contract between him and the victim. If a final judgment has been issued before the marriage is concluded, its execution shall be suspended and its criminal effects shall end.

- Law No. 8 of 2023 Ratifying the Artemis Convention on Principles of Cooperation in Civil Exploration and the Use of the Moon, Mars, Comets and Asteroids for Peaceful Purposes
- Decree-Law No. 12 of 2023 Amending Article 4 of Law No. 38 of 2009 Establishing the National Health Regulatory Authority
- Decree-Law No. 13 of 2023 Amending Certain Provisions of Decree-Law No. 15 of 1977 Issuing Development Bonds
- Decree-Law No. 15 of 2023 Amending Certain Provisions of Decree-Law No. 32 of 2020 Regarding the Registration, Safety and Control Rules for Small Vessels
- Decree-Law No. 17 of 2023 Amending Certain Provisions of Law No. 33 of 2006 on Sewage and Surface Water Drainage
- Decree-Law No. 20 of 2023 Adding a New Clause No. 7 to Paragraph (c) of Article 8 of Decree-Law No. 78 of 2006 Regarding Unemployment Insurance
- Law No. 21 of 2023 Amending Certain Provisions of Law No. 18 of 2006 on Social Security
- Law No. 22 of 2023 Amending Paragraph (e) of Article 9 of Decree-Law No. 78 of 2006 on Unemployment Insurance
- Law No. 25 of 2023 ratifying the amendment to paragraph 1 of Article 45 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights
- Law No. (79) of 2023 amending some provisions of the Executive Regulations of the Civil Service Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (48) of 2010 promulgated by Law No. (51) of 2012 repealing item 2 of Article (26) of the Executive Bylaws of the Civil Service Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (48) of 2010 Issued by Law No. (51) of 2012, which stated: "Females may not be employed in any government industrial project or any branch thereof between eight in the evening and seven in the morning, except in exceptional circumstances determined by the Bureau regarding women's work at night."
- Law No. (1474) of 2023 amending some provisions of Law No. (909) of 2015 regarding the housing system, which includes replacing the texts of articles (3) of the fifth category with the following text: Article (3) Fifth category: divorced, widowed, or abandoned by a court ruling, and does not have one or more children, or single orphans of parents, and this category is granted temporary housing service only based on Estimating the Housing Committee in accordance with the requirements and controls in accordance with the decision.
- Law No. 1 of 2024 amending Article 1 of Decree-Law No. 10 of 1976 regarding housing.
- Law No. 2 of 2024 Approving the Kingdom of Bahrain's Accession to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

- Law No. 4 of 2024 Approving the Accession of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Convention on the Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic of 1965
- Law No. 6 of 2024 amending some provisions of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law promulgated by Law No. 18 of 2014.
- Decree-Law No. 7 of 204 amending Article 28 of Decree-Law No. 15 of 2002 on the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives.

**Decrees:**

- Decree No. 39 of 2023 Regarding the Special Pardon for the Remainder of the Sentence of Imprisonment in Some Cases
- Decree No. 62 of 2023 Regarding the Special Pardon for the Remainder of the Sentence of Imprisonment in Some Cases
- Decree No. 111 of 2023 Ratifying the Charter of the Middle East Green Initiative
- Decree No. 113 of 2023 Regarding the Special Pardon for the Remainder of the Sentence of Imprisonment in Some Cases
- Decree No. 33 of 2024 Ratifying the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer as amended up to the Kigali Amendments 2016
- Decree No. 28 of 2024 Regarding the Special Pardon for the Remainder of the Sentence of Deprivation of Liberty Sentenced in Some Cases
- Decree No. 63 of 2024 Concerning the Special Pardon for the Remainder of the Sentence of Deprivation of Liberty Sentenced in Some Cases
- Decree No. 76 of 2024 Concerning the Special Pardon for the Remainder of the Sentence of Deprivation of Liberty Sentenced in Some Cases

— The report presents the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the efforts, steps and actions taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to implement them. (The recommendations are numbered in the document A/HRC/52/4 entitled "Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Bahrain")



Continue to improve the conditions and protection of expatriate workers (10 recommendations)

Recommendation	Implementation
124-23 Continue enhancing its frameworks for the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of migrant workers, especially women and household service workers (Philippines)	<p>The Kingdom of Bahrain has been keen to ensure the rights of expatriate workers, including women and workers in the domestic sector, and has taken steps, measures and procedures without distinction between categories of employment, taking into account the nature and specificity of the relationship within the scope of domestic work, as represented in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A legislative amendment in 2018 to the Private Sector Labor Law prohibits discrimination between workers on the basis of sex, origin, language, religion, or belief, in a move that ensures fair and ethical employment and ensures decent work for foreign workers.</li><li>• Another amendment to the same law stipulates that any worker who sexually harasses an employee during or because of work by gesture, words, deed or any other means shall be punished, with an aggravated penalty if the offender is the employer or his representative.</li><li>• Facilitating procedures for submitting complaints and grievances through the Expat Protection Center at the Labor Market Regulatory Authority, about violations or exploitation they are exposed to, in addition to benefiting from the preventive, guidance and legal services provided by the Center, providing shelter for potential victims and victims of the crime of trafficking in persons, and preventive shelter for vulnerable groups.</li><li>• It is mandatory to sign the tripartite contract between the employer, the licensed recruitment office, and domestic workers, with the requirement that the latter review the contract and approve the terms of the contract before the recruitment stage. This is to prevent domestic workers from being subjected to any violation of their rights or</li></ul>





any exploitation, by concluding the contract in a manner commensurate with its capabilities and nature, specifying the tasks assigned, the amount of the work, the number of the employer's family members, the place and nature of residence, the wage and its additions, working hours, rest times, and vacation. Recruitment, in addition to requiring a permit, is subject to control and inspection by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, in order to ensure that there are no practices that make workers vulnerable or exploited.

- For the purpose of protecting expatriate workers, including domestic workers, from falling victim to exploitation or the crime of trafficking in persons, the Wages Protection System was established and is mandatory for all institutions and establishments in the private sector, in addition to providing optional labor in the domestic sector.
- In order to ensure and protect the rights of the parties to the domestic worker relationship, work has been done to implement the optional insurance system for domestic workers, in cooperation with the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Bahrain Insurance Society, which includes direct and indirect recruitment, as the system aims to:
  - Provide the greatest degree of protection to the employer and domestic worker, and compensate them or their legal heirs.
  - The insurance also includes cases of leaving work in violation of the terms of the work permit.
  - Compensation in cases of injury, incapacity to work, or death, and the consequent cost of repatriation of the body.
- Awareness raising for domestic workers upon their arrival in the Kingdom of Bahrain through its international airport, by providing them with guidebooks in different languages setting out their rights and obligations, and providing them with a hotline number (995) to request support or submit complaints.



- Granting expatriate workers, including domestic workers, the opportunity to amend their legal and administrative status in the Kingdom, by recently launching two grace periods in 2018 and 2020 that enable them to modify any violating status.
- Establishing community partnerships with civil society institutions, embassies and consulates, and non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of the rights of expatriate workers, and raising awareness of indicators of trafficking in persons and means of protection, through various channels, tools and languages. In this regard, the Department Partnership & Outreach Directorate has been established at the Labor Market Regulatory Authority, to promote raising awareness of the rights and obligations of the parties to the labor relationship and combating trafficking in persons. It is also a channel of communication with the concerned authorities, such as consulates, embassies, and civil society institutions, and for the preparation and implementation of programs. In this regard, in addition to international cooperation and partnership with external parties in the field of promoting and protecting the rights of expatriate workers, and combating trafficking in persons.
- Launching an awareness campaign in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, entitled "Working Together", which includes a number of awareness activities in partnership with the private sector and civil society, targeting expatriate workers, including domestic workers, employers, and civil society, through the statement of rights and mutual obligations, in addition to collecting data to measure the level of awareness of laws and regulations, without neglecting to raise awareness of the crime of trafficking in persons and combat it, and identify its indicators. The pilot launch of the campaign took place in April 2024, was officially launched in June 2024 and lasts for a year.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launching an awareness guide for domestic workers, to raise awareness of their rights and duties within the scope of the labor relationship, and another concerned with employers, provided that workshops are held targeting domestic workers after the launch, for training and measuring impact.</li><li>• Introducing the Labour Registration Program (an alternative to the Flexi-Permit), to allow any expatriate worker found in an irregular situation to obtain a registered worker permit, to practice work without being associated with an employer. This avoids any exploitation, creates an integrated framework of protection necessary for expatriate workers, and provides guarantees that prevent them from being exposed to any exploitation or vulnerability by securing the requirements of the labor relationship of wages, health, and securing departure to the country of origin. Some 64,410 people have benefited from the system since its launch in 2022 until May 2024. It should also be noted that the service agreements platform was launched on the LMRA's website as a platform to document service agreements between the registered worker and the service recipient in order to preserve the rights of the employers.</li></ul>
<p>124-152 Develop and implement a national program to provide access for persons most at risk of or affected by HIV, including migrant and domestic workers, to quality, affordable and rights-based prevention, testing, treatment and support services and to combat stigma and discrimination in this regard (Portugal)</p>	<p>Law No. 1 of 2017 on the protection of society from acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and the protection of the rights of people living with it, in particular Article 2, which states: "People living with HIV enjoy the exercise of all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, international conventions ratified by the State and the laws in force, and prohibits any act or omission that constitutes discrimination against them, or leads to degrading their dignity, detracting from their rights, or exploiting them due to infection of different races and ages."</p> <p>Article 3 states, "People living with HIV have the right to receive all kinds of medical attention and regular treatment in public hospitals and specialized government medical centers."</p>



This is an affirmation of the role of the Kingdom of Bahrain, represented by the Ministry of Health, in implementing its national program to provide access to diagnostic and prevention services for infected persons, including workers and expatriates, through awareness programs for the disease and its threat.

The Ministry of Health has also been keen to ensure that a mechanism for diagnosis, follow-up and treatment is provided for expatriates infected with HIV/AIDS to reduce cases of family break-up. The Ministry of Health has been taking into account the promotion of social and health integration of expatriates infected with HIV by improving access to health care, ensuring universal health coverage, and organizing introductory and awareness programs for the local community to combat stigma and discrimination against them. Through partnerships between government health and social sectors to exchange experiences and resources, as well as involving civil society organizations and stakeholders in the development of policies and programs, there is no doubt that the application of these practices in a comprehensive and integrated manner will contribute to enhancing the health and social integration of expatriates and improving their quality of life.

The formation of the National Committee to Combat AIDS under the chairmanship of the Minister of Health reflects the keenness and interest of the Kingdom of Bahrain to implement the political declarations and initiatives taken by the United Nations and other international organizations, and its commitment to possible ways to prevent the disease, through the development and implementation of plans and strategies and the adoption of targeted initiatives, with the participation of representatives of a number of ministries, government agencies, civil society institutions and the private sector.

The Ministry is also keen to participate in periodic regional meetings, scientific sessions, discussions and international meetings, which reflects the Kingdom's commitment to



	achieving the goals set by the World Health Organization to achieve the goal of limiting the spread of the disease and getting rid of its repercussions.
124-220 Strengthen measures to protect and ensure the rights of migrant workers (Indonesia)	Please see response to Recommendation 23
124-221 Strengthen measures to ensure safety, security and dignity of migrant workers, including domestic workers (Nepal)	Please see response to Recommendation 23
124-222 Further strengthen protection and rights of migrant workers (Pakistan)	Please see response to Recommendation 23
124-223 Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers, particularly women migrant workers with a view to protecting them from all forms of exploitation and ill-treatment (Viet Nam)	Please see response to Recommendation 23
124-224 Continue efforts to promote the rights of vulnerable groups, including contractual workers (Oman)	Please see response to Recommendation 23
124-225 Continue to protect the rights of foreign workers, particularly female migrant workers to ensure equal treatment for them (Bangladesh)	Please see response to Recommendation 23
124-228 Continue the efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of foreign workers, including domestic workers (Egypt);	Please see response to Recommendation 23
124-229 Continue the efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of foreign workers, including domestic workers (Iraq)	Please see response to Recommendation 23
<b>Amendment and development of national laws and legislation for the protection and promotion of human rights (6 Recommendations)</b>	
124-27 Work on making amendments to the Press and Electronic Media Law in line with international standards and agreements ratified and joined by the Kingdom of Bahrain (Kuwait)	<p>An amendment to the Press and Printing Regulation Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 47 of 2002 has been finalized in coordination and consensus with the Bahrain Journalists Association, to include better regulation of all forms of audio-visual, print and electronic communication.</p> <p>The draft law is currently before the legislature, and will strengthen and complement the provisions of the current law to guarantee the freedom and independence of the press and publications, regulate its work and protect the rights of its employees. It will also uphold the</p>



	<p>rights of journalists and media professionals to express their views freely, professionally and responsibly.</p> <p>Further, the draft new law confirms the complete abolition of custodial sentences for journalists and the prohibition of their pretrial detention pending investigation.</p> <p>The legislative amendments also provide for the promotion of press and electronic media freedoms, keeping pace with the huge boom in information and communication technology taking place in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Statistics in the World Digital Report for 2023 showed that there are 1.4 million Internet users in the Kingdom of Bahrain (99% of the population) and just under 1.4 million users of social media by (98.7%),</p> <p>Therefore, a new chapter has been introduced to regulate electronic media, as : "one of the components of the media system in the Kingdom, and the freedom to use it, and there is no prior control over the content circulated through media sites", and define it as: "the activity of providing news, information or various programs to the public or subscribers through the Internet or any other electronic technology and others", and allows a more flexible organization of electronic media sites belonging to media institutions such as publishing houses, newspapers, news sites, channels, platforms and programs electronic.</p>
124-38 Continue to activate the new legislation issued in the field of human rights, especially the law on justice and reform (Jordan)	<p>The Kingdom of Bahrain has been keen to adopt and issue a set of laws aimed at harmonizing its legislation with international laws, treaties and conventions, and many laws have recently been issued aimed at promoting and maintaining human rights. Perhaps the most prominent of these is the Penal Code and Alternative Sentencing Measures, No. 18 of 2017, from which the open prisons system emerged, and the Restorative Justice for Children and Protection from Abuse Law No. 4 of 2021 and its executive regulations issued by Resolution No. 85 of 2021 and other decisions issued in implementation thereof, the Personal Data Protection Law No. 30 of 2018 and the decisions issued in implementation thereof. Further, recently issued on 3/6/2024, is an important amendment to the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law No. 18 of 2014, focused on adding new provisions</p>



related to the provision of healthcare to inmates and pretrial detainees, as well as expanding the scope of the category that has the right to visit inmates.

It should be noted that the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, in cooperation with other relevant authorities, has been taking a number of measures to implement the provisions of the Law on Restorative Justice for Children and Protection from Abuse of Workers since the entry into force of the provisions of the Law. These include the issuance of the executive regulations of the law and other executive decisions, the establishment and formation of restorative justice courts and the Judicial Committee for Childhood, the appointment of experts in the psychological and social fields in the courts and the aforementioned committee. In addition, many workshops and specialized training programs have been held for Law enforcement, court judges, members of the Public Prosecution, legal and social researchers, judicial officers, as well as training and awareness programs for civil institutions, civil society, associations and the like. Further, a specialized prosecution has been established under the name of Family and Child Prosecution, concerned with investigating and disposing of criminal cases involving children, whether the child is accused, or exposed to danger or ill-treatment.

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments affirms that the Kingdom, represented by the legislative and executive authorities, is constantly seeking to develop and improve existing legislation and issue new and new legislation concerned with the promotion of human rights, which would guarantee the basic rights stipulated in the Constitution as well as the provisions of the international treaties to which the Kingdom has acceded.

124-46 Continue developing laws and improving procedures and practices to guarantee human rights in accordance with the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, and in accordance with the reform approach taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain (Oman)

The Kingdom of Bahrain devoted significant attention to the implementation of the report of the Commission, and work continued to implement the Recommendations contained therein from the moment it was announced. The Implementation and Follow-up Agency worked to complete all the recommendations and published comprehensive reports that



that included all the steps taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain. Further, the government prepared a comprehensive program to implement all the recommendations and the program was fully completed, and completion of the implementation of the recommendations was announced on May 9, 2016. The Kingdom has adopted a sustainable approach in continuing the development process, as it exceeded the ceiling of the recommendations contained in the report, taking into account that the Kingdom is determined to continue implementation in respect of its commitments and taking into account human rights beyond the concept of the Commission's recommendations.

Among the ongoing programs arising from the recommendations of the BICI report is the training of judicial personnel, and the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has paid great attention to training Bahraini personnel working in law enforcement in order to upgrade their basic skills and increase their capabilities in the field of supporting the rule of law and protecting human rights. Accordingly, all law enforcement agencies have initiated a comprehensive plan to upgrade the skills of all their personnel in respect for human rights and the rule of law.

One of the most prominent efforts made by the Ministry in this area is the training of judges and members of the Public Prosecution, and engaging them in specialized programs locally and internationally, as the subject of training judges and members of the Public Prosecution is of great importance.

Based on the pivotal role of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the advancement of society in all its components and protecting it from the negative effects, so as to enhance social security and peaceful coexistence, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has paid great attention to the management, follow-up and analysis of the contents of religious discourse. It has embarked on developing a comprehensive national strategy in this field to address social issues and negative phenomena resulting from extremist ideology by modernizing





	the language of religious discourse in a way that enhances social unity, maintains the cohesion of the national fabric and avoids language that breeds extremism.
124-116 Continue to promote freedom of opinion and expression, by working to make appropriate amendments to the Press and Electronic Media Law in line with international standards and conventions ratified or acceded to by the Kingdom of Bahrain (Morocco)	Please see response to Recommendation 27
124-133 Reform laws that regulate publishing in print and online, in order to ensure freedom of expression for independent media and all citizens (Norway);	Please see response to Recommendation 27
124-135 Move quickly to pass the much-delayed Journalism and E-Media Law, to ensure stronger protections for journalists and to enhance wider media freedoms (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Please see response to Recommendation 27
<b>Ensure the effective implementation of the National Human Rights Plan (7 Recommendations)</b>	
124-36 Strengthen further cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to successfully implement the National Human Rights Plan (Turkmenistan)	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a three-day workshop entitled "The Universal Periodic Review Mechanism and Special Procedures" to activate the existing cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the first workshop of its kind. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Beirut, was represented by Mr. Mazen Shaqoura, Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa at the Office, and representatives of the National Human Rights Committee and those concerned with writing reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain benefited from the program. Constructive cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will be intensified to promote and protect human rights in the Kingdom.
124-47 Ensure the effective implementation of the National Action Plan and recommendations of the UN treaty bodies (Uzbekistan)	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has prepared a comprehensive national framework for human rights, which defines the general policy, elements and basic strategies adopted by the Kingdom of Bahrain to promote human rights at the local and international levels. This framework is a key reference for achieving these commitments in a practical and clear



	<p>manner for all stakeholders in the field of human rights by identifying them in five main tracks that are being achieved in parallel and in clear coordination between the relevant authorities during the years 2024-2026 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The National Plan for Human Rights.</li><li>• UPR recommendations.</li><li>• International instruments.</li><li>• International reporting.</li><li>• Sustainable Development</li></ul>
<p>124-48 Continue efforts to strengthen the role of national human rights mechanisms and to implement the projects contained in the National Human Rights Plan, which aim to maintain and respect human rights at all levels in Bahrain (Yemen)</p>	<p>Based on the national approach aimed at promoting the establishment of independent mechanisms in the field of protection, respect and promotion of human rights, the independent national human rights mechanisms are a key partner in the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan, including the Special Investigation Unit, the National Institution for Human Rights and the Ombudsman.</p>
<p>124-50 Implement the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026) effectively, which included cross-cutting human rights issues in order to achieve the main objectives set therein (Azerbaijan)</p>	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs oversees the implementation of all projects of the National Human Rights Plan through close follow-up of the electronic platform concerned with the Plan and by holding periodic meetings with the concerned authorities, to ensure that the Plan's projects proceed according to the specified schedule, and to address any challenges that may hinder the implementation of projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In 2022, 14 projects of the Plan and 13 additional projects were implemented</li><li>• In 2023, 26 projects of the Plan and 26 additional projects were implemented</li><li>• This year's 24 projects are now being implemented.</li><li>• The first and second annual report was submitted to the Council of Ministers, including the most important achievements under the Plan and the statistics of performance indicators for each project.</li></ul>



	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also committed to issuing semi-annual reports (June of each year) to measure the extent of the entities' commitment to implementing projects.</p>
<p>124-52 Continue advancing in the effective implementation of the National Human Rights Plan 2022–2026, prioritizing the axes of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as attention to groups in situations of vulnerability (Cuba)</p>	<p>With regard to the rights of the most vulnerable groups, the plan includes a full focus for those groups, including the elderly, people with disabilities and children.</p> <p><b>In 2022, several projects were implemented for these groups, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ministry of Labor employed 254 people with disabilities during the year 2022, and they were employed in various sectors and disciplines within a well-studied mechanism commensurate with the cases, noting that the target number annually is 200 people.</li><li>• Develop infrastructure to be more adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities to ensure the right to access.</li><li>• Continuing to provide academic, vocational and therapeutic care and rehabilitation through specialized rehabilitation centers. Educational services were provided to all rehabilitation homes and centers for 200 students (110 males and 90 females). Workers in the field of persons with disabilities were trained and professional standards raised, and a training program was implemented for 20 employees of the Social Rehabilitation Department at the Ministry of Social Development in the field of "sensory integration".</li><li>• Doubling the disability allowance for the most needy disability groups according to Law No. 25 of 2023 amending Article (2) of Law 24 of 2008 to double the allowance for severe disabilities by 200 dinars.</li><li>• The Ministry of Social Development continues to provide government support to 12 civil centers affiliated with NGOs amounting to one million and 200 thousand dinars annually, as these centers benefit nearly 400 beneficiaries with disabilities.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ministry of Social Development provides the service of disbursing devices and aids to eligible groups of people with hearing and physical disabilities with an annual amount of up to 70,000 dinars annually and 90 beneficiaries annually.</li><li>• The Ministry of Social Development provides driving training service for people with disabilities free of charge to all persons with disabilities who are able to train, as their number during the years from 2020 to 2024 reached 250 beneficiaries.</li></ul>
124-53 Continue the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan in order to further improve the human rights protection system (Belarus)	Please see response to Recommendation 50
124-55 Continue to implement its National Human Rights Plan (Singapore)	Please see response to Recommendation 50
<b>Further protection and promotion of human rights ,social security and welfare (4 Recommendations)</b>	
124-136 Take the upcoming elections as an opportunity to further enhance human rights of all segments of the society (Türkiye)	<p>Proceeding from the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Kingdom acceded under Law No. 65 of 2007, which recognized the right of every citizen, without any discrimination, to participate in the conduct of public affairs, either directly or through their elected representatives, or to be elected or elected in fair and free elections held periodically by universal suffrage and secret ballot that guarantee the free expression of the will of the voters, the Kingdom seeks to uphold these in every parliamentary election. It is also committed to involving civil society institutions, foremost of which is the National Institution for Human Rights, as well as international and regional bodies in monitoring the entire electoral process in order to achieve the principle of oversight and integrity.</p> <p>The last round of elections in 2022 recorded unprecedented success and a record participation rate of voters, which confirms the integrity of the electoral process and the success of its organization through the turnout and keenness of citizens from all components of society to participate in the voting process in dedication to exercising their constitutional right guaranteed as a candidate and voter. The wide popular participation in</p>



	<p>these elections highlighted the keenness of citizens and their confidence in the democratic process and underlined the right to freedom of expression, transparency, democracy and mutual respect for all within a legal framework that preserves rights and duties. Patriotism is a reality practiced by everyone through legislation that upholds the rights of citizens to active political participation, which the Kingdom seeks to enshrine and promote permanently in every electoral process in the country.</p>
124-147 Continue to strengthen the social security system (China)	<p>There were 17810 beneficiaries of the social security assistance, both families and individuals, until December 2023. This assistance is disbursed in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 18 of 2006 on social security, to Bahraini families and individuals residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain who meet the conditions, from the following categories: Widows, divorcees, abandoned women, families of prisoners, unmarried daughters, orphans, the disabled, the incapacitated, the elderly, and children.</p>
124-149 Implement more measures including allocation of more human, technical and financial resources to the health sector for further promotion of the right to health of the people (Viet Nam)	<p>The Ministry of Health is working to follow the best human resources practices by adopting modern methods of effective human resources management, whereby recruitment strategies are developed according to professional and administrative needs, qualifying and directing employees, managing performance, and providing training and development opportunities for employees.</p> <p>The health system has also been restructured in application of the Health Insurance Law, in order to be in line with the provisions of the law, and to embody the self-management of government hospitals and primary health care centers. In this context, regulations have been issued governing health workers for institutions subject to health insurance, and human resources management has been developed in primary healthcare centers and government hospitals, within the plans to complete the health insurance project, taking into account the requirements of each health institution, in order to achieve integration and efficiency to include all sectors of the health system.</p>



	<p>The technical and information systems used in the management of central stores and support services have also been developed and updated under the direct supervision and follow-up of the Supreme Council for Health, and the expertise of a specialized company has been used to provide a joint system to manage these stores and services in an optimal manner. All of this is in order to improve and enhance the level of service provided in this sector, raise the efficiency of the procedures in place and improve the quality of services provided to all, in accordance with the latest standards in the management of stores and medical supplies in the Kingdom.</p> <p>The Bahrain Council for Health Studies and Specialties was also formed within the framework of training, qualifying competencies and sustaining service delivery. Where plans have been developed to train health professionals in the field of general and subspecialties in various fields.</p>
<p>124-153 Continue to strengthen its efforts to support its society in pandemic recovery (Singapore)</p>	<p>The Kingdom of Bahrain has a pioneering and distinguished experience in creating an integrated institutional work system, in light of the national efforts led by the government, to serve citizens and residents without discrimination, and to achieve their aspirations and visions.</p> <p>The options imposed by the pandemic on various activities and sectors have been seriously invested in, as both a fait accompli and a future option, and work has been done to provide a supporting structure for them, and to develop the necessary preparations, such as ensuring their sustainability and adapting to changes and circumstances, to promote an integrated and advanced health system.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health is also proud of the launch by the World Health Organization of the Kingdom's efforts to confront the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which documents the strategic response of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the virus and its efforts to address it, through preparedness and early response. The Kingdom has provided a distinguished model through its efforts to contain and prevent the spread of the virus in order to preserve the</p>



health and safety of citizens and residents, forming a national team to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to contain and prevent the spread of the virus, as well as developing plans to enhance diagnosis, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms, securing ports, preparing early Bahrain and taking all precautionary and preventive measures in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization. After recovering from the pandemic, the Kingdom of Bahrain has been supporting the continuity of a resilient health system, especially primary care, to facilitate the detection of disease outbreaks, the provision of basic care services, and support the distribution of vaccines and other medical countermeasures. The Kingdom has also strengthened the monitoring systems and strengthened laboratories with the necessary capabilities to detect outbreaks of diseases affecting both humans and animals, as well as with primary health care centers in all governorates of the Kingdom. It works around the clock in providing care for urgent cases, supporting diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities in secondary care, supporting preparedness and response in public health by restructuring, supporting and training human cadres, providing the necessary financial, technical and technical resources to upgrade, while supporting digital transformation.

Awareness-raising and capacity-building in the protection and promotion of human rights (2 recommendations)

124-43 Intensify training programs aimed at educating, raising awareness and strengthen the capabilities of national cadres in the field of human rights (Syrian Arab Republic)

- The Ministry of Interior organizes training courses for the Ministry's employees on human rights and awareness-raising issues through preventive work by upgrading the expertise and culture of its personnel.
- The Royal Police Academy raises awareness of the rights set out in international and national conventions and laws through the establishment of many scientific events (conferences, courses and workshops) in which all segments of society and its institutions participate, as well as through the establishment of youth camps and the dissemination of human rights awareness among them.



- The Ministry of Interior is keen to achieve the widest possible dissemination of the Code of Conduct for Police Officers.
- The Ministry of Interior continues to educate all its employees in all fields, and is keen to raise awareness in the field of human rights, whether specialized theoretical materials or practical training, in addition to overseas missions, in order to ensure that they perform their duties in protecting the capabilities and gains of the country and maintaining the security and safety of citizens and residents in light of the proper implementation of the law and the achievement of justice. Programs at the Royal Academy of Police include the following:
  - The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is included in all education and training programs implemented by the Academy (Bachelor's, undergraduate, university studies, Master's) as well as training courses for the Ministry's employees, while conducting research and related studies, and dealing with students in Master's programs of the Convention in the scientific theses they submit in order to deepen the understanding of the Convention among all students and trainees, so as to adhere to its content in practice.
  - The Master's programs and criminal, administrative and security sciences, include topics on the protection of human rights in international law, international humanitarian law and security performance controls in light of the protection of public rights and freedoms of citizens, with a focus on constitutional, legal and judicial guarantees.
  - A Human Rights Diploma, held for a full academic year.
  - Providing a special diploma for penal institutions, which is an associate diploma for correction and rehabilitation centers, held for a period of one and a half years.





- The annual training plan at the Royal Police Academy includes a series of training courses to train public security forces on human rights and the proportionate use of force both in relation to protests and in places of detention.
- The General Directorate of Correction and Rehabilitation also coordinated with the International Committee of the Red Cross, with workshops held for officers, heads and directors of correction and rehabilitation centers.
- Holding and delivering numerous lectures for individuals working in the centers, which include introducing instructions and duties and how to deal with inmates in accordance with human rights standards.
- Offering a Master's program in human rights in cooperation with the University of Huddersfield.
- Holding intensive special courses for officers, non-commissioned officers and personnel of the Department of Security and Protection related to first response to terrorist incidents, crime scene maintenance, first aid and inspection.
- The National Capacity Building Program for Enforcement and Rule of Law was implemented within the framework of the National Plan for Human Rights (2022-2026), with 15 events conducted.
- Approving the strategic plan for the public administration (2023-2026), which includes, as one of its axes, the training and educating employees of the General Administration for the implementation of alternative judgments and penalties under the theme of promoting human rights values in doing business.
- Establishing the first division concerned with human rights in the Ministry of Interior, affiliated with the General Directorate for the Implementation of Alternative Sentences and Punishments. One of its tasks is to raise awareness of the most im-



portant principles of laws related to human rights, continuous education for employees of the public administration, and participate in seminars and educational courses in this regard.

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments attaches great importance to training Bahraini law enforcement personnel in order to upgrade their basic skills and increase their capabilities in supporting the rule of law and protecting human rights. Accordingly, all law enforcement agencies have initiated a comprehensive plan to upgrade the skills of all their personnel in respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The training of judges and prosecutors is also of great importance, and therefore a comprehensive strategic training plan has been developed based on two main axes: the first is the training of new judges and prosecutors, and the second is the continuous training of judges and prosecutors already working in the judiciary.

The training has taken place and is still taking place at two levels, local and international, in coordination with specialized international institutions and prestigious bodies with a long history in this field, by involving judges and members of the Public Prosecution in specialized training courses and workshops.

The Supreme Judicial Council has also contracted with international experts specialized in designing training courses to suit the needs of members of the judiciary. These courses are being implemented in partnership with the Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies and a number of international institutions and organizations, including UNDP and UNODC.

At the local level, the Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies (JLSI) provides basic and continuous training to all elements of law enforcement in the Kingdom. Since 2012, the Institute has provided special training to all judges and prosecutors on international standards of human rights and criminal justice, the prevention of torture, and support for



	<p>the rule of law, with the annual plan approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute including a pillar related to this type of training.</p>
<p>124-45 Expand human rights education and awareness programs to target more public servants (Algeria)</p>	<p>As part of its strategy and work plan for the years 2022-2026, the National Institute for Human Rights has raised awareness and built capacities in the field of protecting and promoting human rights for various groups and segments of society. Some 10,369 individuals have benefited from the Foundation's activities during the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, equal to 1600, 2217, 2970, 3581 in each respective year.</p> <p>In general, the share of beneficiaries of the Foundation's activities during the year 2023 was 50.5% males and 49.5% females.</p> <p>As for public employees, 2085 benefited from the Foundation's activities during the years 2021, 2022, 2023, and up to March 2024, equal to 1102, 754, 908, 41 beneficiaries for each period, respectively.</p> <p>The Legislation and Legal Opinion Authority has also provided many educational courses and programs in this field, for example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The role of Bahraini legislation in the field of climate change</li><li>2. Applications of artificial intelligence in the judiciary</li><li>3. The legislative renaissance in the prosperous era</li><li>4. Civil liability for errors resulting from robotics work</li><li>5. Protecting the rights of women and children is safeguarding the rights of society</li><li>6. The experience of open prisons in the Kingdom of Bahrain</li><li>7. Constitutional rights and their impact on promoting sustainable development goals in the Kingdom of Bahrain</li><li>8. Legal protection of children in the Kingdom of Bahrain</li><li>9. Criminal response to crimes related to information technology and their impact on cybersecurity</li></ol>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>10. Mediation in disputes and its impact on the development of the justice system in the Kingdom of Bahrain</li><li>11. Rights of persons with disabilities in the Kingdom of Bahrain</li><li>12. Legal regulation of the gift contract in Bahraini legislation</li><li>13. The National Plan for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain "Achievements and Challenges"</li><li>14. Civil and political rights in digital transformation</li><li>15. Advisory Jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice</li></ol>
<b>Strengthening remedies and ensuring their independence, especially the National Institution for Human Rights and the Ombudsman (8 recommendations)</b>	
<p>124-56 Consider further strengthening the National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (India)</p>	<p>Based on the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Accreditation (SCA), accredited by the Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (GANHRI), the NIHR has accreditation status B. In order to strengthen this institution and give it more powers to achieve the objectives for which it was established and raise its international classification in a way that embodies the Kingdom's commitment to safeguarding human rights, Decree-Law No. 20 of 2016 was issued amending some provisions of the law establishing the National Institution for Human Rights, taking into account all Observations and recommendations concluded by the Global Alliance and its Subcommittee.</p> <p>In order to achieve full transparency in the mechanism for selecting the members of the NIHR Board of Commissioners in line with the relevant UN decisions, the provisions of Royal Order No. 17 of 2017 were amended by Royal Order No. 39 of 2023 to recognize a qualitative mechanism regarding the selection of members of the Foundation, through the establishment of a special committee headed by the Minister of the Royal Court, and the membership of a sufficient number of experts and human rights defenders, including one or more former members of the Board of Commissioners. A decision is issued by the</p>



	<p>Minister of the Royal Court to appoint the members of the Committee, and its Chairman shall choose one of them as its rapporteur.</p> <p>In 2023, the NIHR submitted a request to the Subcommittee on Accreditation (SCA) that included a statement of its compliance with the relevant Paris Principles, and accordingly, the Subcommittee decided during its session held on 23-27 October 2023 to "postpone the review of the NIHR in Bahrain for 12 months or two sessions".</p> <p>The Council of Ministers Resolution No. 21 of 2024 was recently issued, granting the NIHR observer status in a number of national committees, in order to grant more powers to the NIHR in national committees, as the aforementioned decision obligated the heads of national committees to invite the NIHR to attend their meetings.</p> <p>In this regard, the NIHR will take into account all the observations contained in the report of the Sub-Commission, both legally and practically, as the NIHR hopes that these efforts in the field of promotion and protection of human rights will culminate in the upgrading of its deserved classification to accreditation status A by the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.</p>
124-57 Support and strengthen the independence of its national human rights institution to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles (Gambia);	Please see response to Recommendation 56
124-58 Exerting more efforts to ensure that the National Human Rights Institution complies with the Paris Principles and to enable it to carry out its tasks effectively and independently (State of Palestine);	Please see response to Recommendation 56
124-59 Take all necessary measures to strengthen the National Human Rights Institution within the framework of the Paris Principles (Uzbekistan)	Please see response to Recommendation 56
124-60 Take further measures to strengthen the independence and capacity of the National Human Rights Institution and achieve its full compliance with the Paris Principles (Bulgaria)	Please see response to Recommendation 56



<p>124-61 While noting the existence of a National Human Rights Institution partially compliant with the Paris Principles, establish an independent National Human Rights Institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Finland)</p>	<p>Please see response to Recommendation 56</p>
<p>124-62 Strengthen the Special Investigations Unit and the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior to allow these institutions to fulfill their mandates in an effective, independent, and impartial manner (Canada);</p>	<p><b>The Ombudsman</b></p> <p>The Ombudsman is already exercising the role entrusted to it effectively, impartially and independently in accordance with the legal mandate contained in Decree No. 27 of 2012 regarding the Ombudsman, as amended by Decree 35 of 2013, which guaranteed the Ombudsman all means of functional, financial and administrative independence, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The Ombudsman shall exercise his powers and functions with complete independence with regard to complaints submitted to him and related decisions in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of Decree No. 27 of 2012 regarding the Ombudsman at the Ministry of Interior, as amended by Decree No. 35 of 2013, which is achieved through:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Directing, supervising and controlling the Ministry of Interior's Internal Audit and Investigation Department, including the distribution of work in relation to complaints.</li><li>2. Estimating the necessary funding required to conduct the Ombudsman's work.</li><li>3. Providing recommendations and advice regarding the work system of the Internal Audit and Investigation Department to achieve the objectives set forth in Article 6 of this Decree.</li><li>4. Proposing the appropriate disciplinary sanction to be imposed on employees of the Ministry of Interior by the competent authority.</li></ol></li><li>● The Ombudsman shall be allocated a separate item from the budget of the Ministry of Interior, and the Ombudsman alone shall have the authority to dispose of the financial allocations determined in accordance with the provisions of Article</li></ul>



16 of the Decree, establishing the Ombudsman in order to strengthen its work to fulfill its mandate. The Decree stipulates that the Ombudsman has the authority to:

1. Access to places, information, data and documents, including those saved in the computer.
  2. Access to anyone for information or evidence.
  3. Consider requests for reconciliation and civil settlement and express an opinion thereon.
- The same decree also obliges all entities and institutions to cooperate fully with the Ombudsman and provide it with all the information and documents it requests in a manner that enables it to complete its work efficiently and effectively.

The Ombudsman is thus identical to The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), which has the same mechanism of appointment, budget approval and administrative autonomy.

Within the framework of the Secretariat's keenness to enhance its role and exercise the mandate entrusted to it in caring for inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, a mechanism has been developed to submit requests to the Ombudsman through which it follows up on the needs of inmates that do not constitute wrongdoing complaints, in fields such as health, social and educational care, which amounted to 542 requests during 2023.

#### **The Special Investigation Unit**

The Special Investigation Unit was established by the Attorney General's Decision ]No. (8) of 2012 with the competences of investigating, disposing and initiating criminal proceedings in crimes of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment committed or committed by members of the public security forces during, because of or while performing their duties, in accordance with international standards, including as the most important



element of the Istanbul Protocol for the Investigation and Documentation of Cases of Torture, with the aim of revealing their truth and identifying those responsible for their commission as original actors or accomplices. The principle of command responsibility and follow-up of their criminal and disciplinary prosecution remained.

The Unit's jurisdiction in relation to criminal proceedings in the crimes subject to its competence extends to representing the prosecution before the courts, preparing pleadings, responding to defenses and appealing judgements, as the case may be.

The Unit is an independent entity in the Public Prosecution, and its legal competencies are exercised under the full authority of its head, and it is staffed by a number of full-time investigators to carry out the work entrusted to it, and it is independent in its work from all investigation and trial bodies that deal with cases in which the person alleged torture, ill-treatment or cruel punishment is accused, in accordance with the decision establishing it and the instructions for its work.

#### **Objectives of the Unit**

1. To spread a culture of accountability and the rule of law.
2. Ensure that perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment are criminally and disciplinarily held accountable
3. Gain litigants' confidence in the independence and professionalism of the Special Investigation Unit.
4. Ensure protection for the victims and witnesses in accordance with the law.
5. Defend the dignity of victims and their right to life, protecting their physical and moral sanctity, and upholding the right to seek compensation, care and rehabilitation for them.

124-63 Consider establishing a national ombudsman mechanism for reporting and follow-up on rights of the child (Poland)

Within the framework of its keenness to enhance its role in line with legislative developments, and coinciding with the issuance of the Restorative Justice Law for Children and their Protection from Abuse promulgated by Law No. 4 of 2021, the Ombudsman issued a decision to establish the Child Placement Centers Monitoring Division to follow up





on complaints and requests for child inmates, which are submitted to the Ombudsman in accordance with Decree No. 27 of 2012, as amended by Decree No. 35 of 2013. In addition, a number of Members of the Secretariat have been trained to deal with children in a manner consistent with international standards related to the rights of the child and in the best interest of the child.

In implementation of the recommendations arising from the United Nations human rights mechanisms, in July 2023 the NIHR created the position of Commissioner for the Rights of the Child, and the nominated a member of the Board of Commissioners to carry out this mandate. The Commissioner for the Rights of the Child derives his role and tasks entrusted to him in the field of promotion and protection of children's rights from the same mandate entrusted to the Institution and contained in its founding Law No. 26 of 2014, as amended by Legislative Decree No. (20) of 2016. It therefore has a general mandate to represent the views of children and youth, advocate on issues related to children's rights, in addition to studying national legislation and verifying its compatibility with relevant international conventions. It also follows up on issues facing children, working to protect and promote their best interests, in addition to conducting follow-up assessments of the impact of children's rights on new policies and legislation. It does so without losing sight of its role in verifying any matter related to children's rights, including the adequacy of the mechanism for receiving complaints and the support services provided to them, and working to establish partnerships with government agencies, civil society institutions, regional and international non-governmental organizations relevant to the rights of this group, with the possibility of conducting research and studies on the rights, opinions and best interests of children.

Continue building capacity and efforts with regard to law enforcement and improving conditions in detention and detention centers (4 Recommendations)

124-93 Continue efforts in improving prison conditions and treatment of people in detention involving also possible bilateral and international cooperation (Indonesia)

**Ministry of Interior:**



- The Ministry of Interior is committed to implementing all laws and regulations related to correction and rehabilitation centers and the conventions to which the Kingdom of Bahrain has joined in this field. The Bahraini legislator has issued a special law (Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law No. 18 of 2014 and the executive regulations) to ensure the preservation of the rights and duties of inmates in correctional centers, which are set out by law. They include the right to health, psychological and social care, continued education and communication with the outside world such as telephone calls, freedom to practice religious rites and visits, and others. The law expanded the right of inmates to resort to the judicial authorities to submit complaints and requests, and a guide to the work of arrest and pretrial detention was prepared in accordance with local laws and regulations and international standards and rules.
- The General Directorate of Correction and Rehabilitation has obtained international accreditation from the American Correctional Society (ACA)
- A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Ministry of Interior and the International Committee of the Red Cross, under which it is allowed to visit prisons and detention centers.
- A law on alternative penalties and measures was issued, which aims to integrate convicts into society, and the "Open Prisons Program" was launched, which is an expansion in the field of alternative punishments.
- The first batch of the Open Prisons Program was successfully graduated in October 2023, which is a typical and successful start for the Open Prisons Program, as the second batch (47 people) of inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center was enrolled in the program, which includes well-researched rehabilitation programs based on a modern vision of the correctional and rehabilitation thought for inmates.
- The Open Prisons Program has received international accreditation for community housing from the American Correctional Association. After passing the principles and criteria



established by the ACA as the first entity from outside United States to obtain accreditation, the programs also won two Stevie Awards for the Middle East.

- Applying "Tamam" and "Samaa" programs to implement alternative punishments, based on the highest international training and qualification standards in the field of integrating convicts into society.
1. "Fael Khair" program for people to donate sums of money for the benefit of the insolvent who have been sentenced by the judiciary, which aims to help the troubled and insolvent convicts and build a societal spirit aimed at unity and helping individuals. The number of beneficiaries reached (539) and the total amount of money reached BD 2,847,051,395.
    - 
    - Training courses in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law are also held for workers in correction and rehabilitation centers in particular for the purpose of developing their skills and consolidating and disseminating a culture of human rights, with the aim of improving conditions in detention centers.
    - Implementing agreements related to the transfer of inmates, which enhances the values of cooperation between the signatory states to the Convention, fulfills the wishes of the inmates, and gives them the opportunity to meet with their families and serve their sentence in their home country.
    - A Royal pardon was issued to 2586 convicts in riot and other criminal cases on the occasion of the silver jubilee of His Majesty the King's accession to power and coinciding with the celebrations of Eid al-Fitr.
    - His Royal Highness the Crown Prince issued directives to register those covered by the pardon among the beneficiaries of unemployment benefit for job seekers, and the Ministry of Interior to develop a rehabilitation and employment plan for those covered by the Royal pardon in cooperation with the Information and eGovernment Authority and the Ministry of Labor to provide job opportunities and training and rehabilitation courses for those covered by the



Royal pardon and register them among the beneficiaries of unemployment benefit for job seekers.

- Law No. 6 of 2024 was also recently issued amending some provisions of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law.
- Law No. 18 of 2014 and Resolution No. 49 of 2024 were issued, amending some provisions of the executive regulations of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, and the amendment included the transfer of healthcare for inmates from the Ministry of Interior to government hospitals, and widening the degree of kinship with regard to visiting inmates was to include relatives of the inmate without being restricted to kinship up to the second degree, in addition to increasing the period allowed to practice sports activities.

#### **Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission:**

Within the framework of the role entrusted to the Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission under Decree No. (61) of 2013 establishing and defining the competencies of the Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission, the Commission began its visits to correction and rehabilitation centers and places of detention to determine the situation of inmates and detainees and verify the environment in which they are present and its compatibility with the required international standards in order to continue working to improve the conditions of inmates and detainees in correction and rehabilitation centers and various places of detention and detention.

the visits resulted in a number of recommendations that were implemented by the Ministry of Interior within the framework of cooperation to improve the environment of inmates, including, but not limited to:

- Installing surveillance cameras in various places in correction and rehabilitation centers and places of arrest and detention.
- Increasing medical staff working in reform and rehabilitation centers.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intensifying educational and educational plans and programs for inmates.</li><li>• Increase the number of dial booths.</li><li>• Establish a clear mechanism on complaints.</li><li>• Preparing the place and its facilities for inmates with disabilities.</li><li>• Develop a mechanism to provide special diets for patients.</li><li>• Training of security personnel working on the legal use of force and risk assessment and management plans.</li></ul>
<p>124-96 Pursue the changes initiated with regard to the situation in prisons, particularly those concerning minors and those aimed at facilitating and improving access to care for all prisoners. Generalize the use of alternative penalties to imprisonment (France)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ministry of Interior is committed to implementing all laws and regulations related to correction and rehabilitation centers and the conventions to which the Kingdom of Bahrain has joined in this field. The Bahraini legislator has issued a special law (Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law No. 18 of 2014 and the executive regulations) to ensure the preservation of the rights and duties of inmates in correctional centers, which are set out by law. They include the right to health, psychological and social care, continued education and communication with the outside world such as telephone calls, freedom to practice religious rites and visits, and others. The law expanded the right of inmates to resort to the judicial authorities to submit complaints and requests, and a guide to the work of arrest and pretrial detention was prepared in accordance with local laws and regulations and international standards and rules.</li><li>• A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Ministry of Interior and the International Committee of the Red Cross, under which it is allowed to visit prisons and detention centers.</li><li>• The General Administration of Correction and Rehabilitation has received international accreditation from the American Correctional Society (ACA).</li><li>• Law No. 6 of 2024 was also recently issued amending some provisions of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law.</li></ul>



- Law No. 18 of 2014 and Resolution No. 49 of 2024 were issued, amending some provisions of the executive regulations of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law. The amendment included the transfer of healthcare for inmates from the Ministry of Interior to government hospitals, and widening the degree of kinship with regard to visiting inmates to include relatives of the inmate without being restricted to kinship up to the second degree, in addition to increasing the period allowed to practice sports activities.
- A law on alternative penalties and measures was issued, which aims to integrate convicts into society, and the "Open Prisons Program" was launched, which is an expansion in the field of alternative punishments.
- The Open Prisons Program has also received international accreditation for community housing from the American Correctional Society. (ACA)
- Applying "Tamam" and "Samaa" programs to implement alternative punishments, based on the highest international training and qualification standards in the field of integrating convicts into society.
- "Fael Khair" program for people to donate money for the benefit of the insolvent who have been sentenced by the courts.
- Training courses in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law are also held for workers in correction and rehabilitation centers in particular for the purpose of developing their skills and consolidating and disseminating a culture of human rights. With a view to improving the conditions of detention centers.
- The Restorative Justice and Protection from Abuse Law was issued, which is a pioneering step in the justice system and the protection of children's rights.
- Transfer the control of the Juvenile Care Center under the above-mentioned Restorative Justice Law to the Ministry of Social Development.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allocating a special center for child inmates completely separate from adult inmates (Correction and Rehabilitation Center for Young Inmates) and providing all needs commensurate with their ages.</li><li>• Cooperating with a number of experts in the field of restorative justice and taking their recommendations towards this category of convicts to benefit from their experiences in this field to achieve the best interests of the child.</li><li>• Seeking to grant children early release in addition to benefiting from all alternative measures (such as alternative sentencing and the open prisons program) and including their names in the lists of beneficiaries of the measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to contribute to their return to society and family life and rehabilitate them as good and effective members of society.</li></ul>
<p>124-97 Continue the process of capacity building in terms of law enforcement, the rule of law and restorative justice (Mauritania)</p>	<p>- The Ministry of Interior continues to educate all its employees in all fields, and is keen to raise awareness in the field of human rights, whether specialized theoretical materials or practical training, in addition to overseas missions, in order to ensure that they perform their duties in protecting the capabilities and gains of the country and maintaining the security and safety of citizens and residents in light of the proper implementation of the law and the achievement of justice. Programs at the Royal Academy of Police include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include a basic subject in the master's programs and criminal, administrative and security sciences, which is the protection of human rights in international law, international humanitarian law and security performance controls in light of the protection of public rights and freedoms of citizens, with a focus on constitutional, legal and judicial guarantees.</li><li>• Offering a Master's program in human rights in cooperation with the University of Huddersfield.</li></ul>



- A Human Rights Diploma, held for a full academic year.
- Providing a special diploma for penal institutions, which is an associate diploma for correction and rehabilitation centers, held for a period of one and a half years.
- The annual training plan at the Royal Police Academy includes a series of training courses to train public security forces on human rights and the proportionate use of force both in relation to protests and in places of detention.
- The General Directorate of Correction and Rehabilitation also coordinated with the International Committee of the Red Cross, with workshops held for officers, heads and directors of correction and rehabilitation centers.
- Holding and delivering numerous lectures for individuals working in the centers, which include introducing instructions and duties and how to deal with inmates in accordance with human rights standards.
- The Royal Police Academy supports cooperation and coordination with the concerned authorities through the preparation of seminars and conferences, conducting studies and scientific research, and preparing training plans and curricula.
- Scientific materials are being prepared in the rules of ethical and legal conduct for policemen - a professional charter document for the ethics of security work - a guide to the duties of policemen to protect human rights - a guide to the rights of citizens and residents when dealing with security services - preparation of training courses to prepare lecturers in human rights).
- Training courses in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law are held for workers in correction and rehabilitation centres in particular for the purpose of developing their skills and consolidating and disseminating the culture of human rights. With a view to improving the conditions of detention centres.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ministry of Interior affirms its keenness to work continuously to achieve the widest dissemination of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, and to ensure compliance with its principles.</li><li>• Implementation of the National Capacity Building Program for Enforcement and Rule of Law within the framework of the National Plan for Human Rights (2022-2026), with 15 events conducted.</li><li>• Decision of His Excellency the Minister of Interior No. 24 of 2014 Concerning the Issuance of the Basic Principles for the Use of Force and Firearms. These principles are in line with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials issued by the United Nations. The Ministerial Resolution also stressed that the police personnel licensed to carry weapons and use force are committed to strictly implementing the provisions contained in those principles. in accordance with the rules of criminal and disciplinary liability.</li></ul>
<p>124-98 Continuing to build the capacities of law enforcement personnel of both sexes on how to deal with accused and convicted persons (Tunisia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The Ministry of Interior continues to educate all its employees in all fields, and is keen to raise awareness in the field of human rights, whether specialized theoretical materials or practical training, in addition to overseas missions, in order to ensure that they perform their duties in protecting the capabilities and gains of the country and maintaining the security and safety of citizens and residents in light of the proper implementation of the law and the achievement of justice. Programs at the Royal Academy of Police include the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include a basic subject in the master's programs and criminal, administrative and security sciences, which is the protection of human rights in international law, international humanitarian law and security performance controls in light of the protection of public rights and freedoms of citizens, with a focus on constitutional, legal and judicial guarantees.</li></ul></li></ul>



- Offering a Master's program in human rights in cooperation with the University of Huddersfield.
- A Human Rights Diploma, held for a full academic year.
- Providing a special diploma for penal institutions, which is an associate diploma for correction and rehabilitation centers, held for a period of one and a half years.
- The annual training plan at the Royal Police Academy includes a series of training courses to train public security forces on human rights and the proportionate use of force both in relation to protests and in places of detention.
- The General Directorate of Correction and Rehabilitation also coordinated with the International Committee of the Red Cross, with workshops held for officers, heads and directors of correction and rehabilitation centers.  
Holding and delivering numerous lectures for individuals working in the centers, which include introducing instructions and duties and how to deal with inmates in accordance with human rights standards.
- Training courses in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law are held for workers in correction and rehabilitation centers, in particular for the purpose of developing their skills and consolidating and disseminating the culture of human rights with a view to improving the conditions of detention centers.
- The Ministry of Interior affirms its keenness to work continuously to achieve the widest dissemination of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, and to ensure compliance with its principles.
- Decision of His Excellency the Minister of Interior No. 24 of 2014 Concerning the Issuance of the Basic Principles for the Use of Force and Firearms. These principles are in line with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials issued by the United Nations. The Ministerial Resolution also stressed that the police personnel licensed to carry weapons and use force are



	committed to strictly implementing the provisions contained in those principles. in accordance with the rules of criminal and disciplinary liability.
<b>Continuation of counter-terrorism efforts (one Recommendation)</b>	
124-102 Further strengthen efforts to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations (Somalia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Ministry of Interior is proceeding in accordance with a clearly defined strategy with regard to combating terrorism, in cooperation with Gulf, Arab and international countries, and within the framework of the general principles of the United Nations in this regard.</li><li>- The Kingdom of Bahrain has acceded to numerous international and regional conventions on combating terrorism.</li><li>- The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed in its strategy for the protection of human rights by adhering to the laws and international treaties contained in the United Nations Convention against Terrorism, the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the GCC Convention on Combating Terrorism, all of which include principles and strategies aimed at achieving justice and protecting human rights in a manner that ensures a balance between the rights of the accused and the rights of the victims' families.</li><li>- The Ministry exchanges experiences with regional and international security bodies with the aim of continuously updating the counter-terrorism strategy, and participates in a number of specialist national and international conferences in the field of terrorism.</li><li>- The Royal Academy of Police held a coordination meeting with a number of entities to implement the national program "Strengthening the right to security and combating terrorism within the framework of respect for human rights".</li><li>- Decree No. 50 of 2020 was issued to establish and form the Committee for Combating Extremism and Terrorism, its Financing and Money Laundering.</li><li>- Recently, several counter-terrorism resolutions have been issued, including:</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issuance of Resolution No. 14 of 2023 on the mechanisms for implementing the decisions listed on the national terrorist lists and the United Nations Security Council resolutions issued under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations on preventing and suppressing terrorism and its financing and preventing, suppressing and halting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their financing</li><li>• Issuance of Resolution No. 116 of 2023 Concerning the Formation of the Committee for Setting Policies for Preventing and Combating Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism.</li><li>• Issuance of Resolution No. 115 of 2023 appointing the Implementing Unit entrusted with implementing the provisions of Decree-Law No. 4 of 2001 regarding the prohibition and combating of money laundering and terrorist financing and Resolution No. 148 of 2023 regarding determining the competencies of the Implementing Unit in the field of implementing the provisions of Decree-Law No. 4 of 2001 regarding the prohibition and combating of money laundering and terrorist financing.</li></ul>
<p>Continue to spread the culture of interfaith dialogue and promote a culture of peaceful coexistence and religious freedom (8 Recommendations)</p>	
<p>124-68 Ensure that everyone is able to exercise their right to take part in cultural and religious life without discrimination or undue restrictions (Iran (Islamic Republic of))</p>	<p>The Kingdom of Bahrain attaches great importance to laying the foundations of the state of citizenship and social justice and spreading lofty human values, through respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of gender, origin, religion, sect, race or affiliation, and in spreading the values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and peace, rejecting divisive conflicts, religious or racial hatred and conflicts, and promoting dialogue among different religions, civilizations, religious denominations and sects.</p> <p>The Kingdom has a unique and distinguished experience in the field of religious freedoms, the freedom to hold religious ceremonies and the freedom to practice religious rites for all religions and sects, as proven by the long history of coexistence in the country.</p>



	<p>Through a sustained and ongoing approach, the Kingdom is keen to promote this right by consolidating the values and principles of religious tolerance, national unity and peaceful coexistence among all religions and sects and among all parts of society. It does so through various media and religious platforms, by implementing a number of educational and awareness initiatives and programs to promote the values of pluralism and dialogue among cultures and civilizations, and to guarantee the freedom to practice rites and ideological ceremonies of different religions and sects without any restrictions. With a large number of churches and temples, everyone practices their religious rites within the framework of constructive coexistence between religions, sects, civilizations and diverse cultures.</p> <p>The Kingdom reaffirms its commitment to taking all means in accordance with the available capabilities to promote the principle of respect for the law, preserve the foundations of citizenship based on coexistence, tolerance and respect for others, and provide a democratic environment conducive to political action.</p> <p>Based on the pivotal role of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the advancement of society in all its components and protecting it from the negative effects, so as to enhance social security and peaceful coexistence, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has paid great attention to the management, follow-up and analysis of the contents of religious discourse. It has embarked on developing a comprehensive national strategy in this field to address social issues and negative phenomena resulting from extremist ideology by modernizing the language of religious discourse in a way that enhances social unity, maintains the cohesion of the national fabric and avoids language that breeds extremism.</p>
124-103 Engage in a genuine national dialogue in an open and inclusive manner with all stakeholders (Iran (Islamic Republic of))	Please see response to Recommendation No. 68
124-110 Continue to enhance the promotion of interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance (Indonesia)	Please see response to Recommendation No. 68



124-111 Ensure the equal rights of all persons to freedom of religion (Iran (Islamic Republic of))	Please see response to Recommendation No. 68
124-112 Expedite the formulation of national plan to consolidate the values and principles of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence among the religions to enhance national unity (Botswana);	Please see response to Recommendation No. 68
124-113 Continue to take measures to restore damaged religious sites (Iran (Islamic Republic of))	Please see response to Recommendation No. 68
124-121 Continue to consolidate the culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and continuing to promote national harmony and unity (United Arab Emirates)	Royal Order No. 52 of 2023 was recently issued amending some provisions of Royal Order No. 15 of 2018 establishing the King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence. This underlined the independence of the Center in managing its affairs, stating that the Board of Trustees shall have an office called (the Office of the Council), whose competencies shall be formed and determined in accordance with the provisions contained in the internal regulations, to manage the daily affairs of the Center. In order to enhance the powers of the Board of Trustees, the amendment allows the Chairman to invite whomever he deems to be experienced and competent to attend the meetings of the Board. He is also to ensure that the Center has an Executive Director who manages the administrative and financial affairs of the Center and its executive management under the supervision of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, assisted by a sufficient number of employees and advisors. In order to grant financial independence to the Center, the aforementioned Royal Decree stipulates that it shall have its own budget that includes its revenues and expenses.
124-122 Continue to consolidate the culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and enhancing national harmony and unity, by reviewing laws and decisions related to freedom of religion and belief and proposing appropriate amendments to develop them (Morocco)	Please see response to Recommendation No. 68

Continuing efforts to combat trafficking in persons (6 recommendations)



124-138 Strengthen its efforts to combat, prevent, eradicate and punish practices of human trafficking and forced labour against all persons (Gambia)

The Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms its keenness to continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, and has taken a number of measures and measures in several aspects, namely:

**Prevention:**

- Establishing a comprehensive and specialized center, the first of its kind in the Middle East, concerned with protecting and supporting expatriate workers by providing various preventive, guidance and legal services, and sheltering victims, potential victims and vulnerable individuals in accordance with international standards and best practices followed in this regard. Since its launch in 2016 until May 2024, the center has received 92,437 cases.
- Establishing a hotline (995) operating around the clock and in multiple languages, through which 58,773 cases were received until May 2024.
- Establishment of the Regional Center for Training and Capacity Building to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in which 332 certified trainers from frontline workers were trained to identify indicators of trafficking in persons and referral mechanisms, and to deal with potential victims and victims.
- Raise awareness of expatriate workers about their rights and obligations upon their arrival in the Kingdom of Bahrain through the airport by providing them with guidebooks in nine languages.
- Establishing and launching an official website specialized in promoting awareness of trafficking in persons [www.endtrafficking.bh](http://www.endtrafficking.bh), to work on introducing the concept of trafficking in persons, raising awareness of its indicators, means of reporting it, and communication mechanisms.
- Holding awareness campaigns by various means, with a focus on social media to reach the largest possible number of expatriate workers.



- Announcing a grace period to correct the conditions of irregular expatriate workers until the end of 2020. The expatriate worker can apply for rectification without paying any additional fines or fees, with the issuance of a new work permit and residence permit free of charge, and the concerned authorities will help the worker obtain an appropriate work permit with an employer or a flexible work permit, while ensuring that no deportation will be imposed on any expatriate worker.
- Launching the Screening Initiative for domestic workers upon their arrival in the Kingdom of Bahrain through the airport, to verify the validity of the contract as agreed upon between the two parties to the relationship, in addition to ensuring that there are no initial indicators of exploitation, and immediate referral to the competent authorities when suspected.

**Protection:**

- Establishing Victims of Trafficking Assistance Fund, to provide financial support during legal proceedings as well as a lump sum upon being classified as victims of trafficking to assist in reintegration, with 174 victims having benefited from it since its establishment in 2018 until May 2024.
- Establish the National Referral System for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, as a tool of protection and assistance to potential victims of trafficking in persons, and a working map of the procedures and measures that must be taken by the authorities concerned with combating trafficking in persons, to ensure that all cases are managed according to a correct procedural sequence.





- Establishing a shelter center for victims and potential victims of the crime of trafficking in persons, and vulnerable groups, providing comprehensive and specialized services. Since establishment, 1,333 people have benefited from its services until May 2024.
- Establishing a specialized medical clinic at the Expat Protection Center to provide health care and primary care services, and refer cases to specialists when needed, and in coordination with psychiatrists, to provide psychological care.
- Developing protection tools that monitor cases of forced labor and trafficking in persons in the work environment, such as intervening to retrieve the worker's passport if it is retained by a person other than the person to whom it was issued, to avoid any vulnerability to exploitation or victimization. The number of cases in which the intervention was carried out reached 10,074 cases from 2018 until May 2024.
- Establishing a mechanism that facilitates for expatriate workers their right to litigation via simplified procedures, by preparing the case file, fulfilling all procedures and requirements, and referring it to the competent judiciary, with follow-up until the dispute is resolved, in addition to providing support and legal assistance. Registered labor cases reached 4,629 lawsuits since the launch of the mechanism in 2020 until May 2024.
- Launching the Initial Screening Tools for indicators of trafficking in persons to be applied to cases in administrative deportation centers and prostitution cases.

**Institutionalization of work:**



In a step towards organizing and institutionalizing work in a way that contributes significantly to strengthening efforts in combating forced labor and trafficking in persons, work has been done to restructure the concerned authority, the Labor Market Regulatory Authority, through the creation of departments that assume specialized roles in the field of combating trafficking in persons, namely:

- **The Protection and Grievance Center includes the following sections:**

- The Protection Section and the National Referral System as a protection and assistance tool for potential victims of trafficking in persons, and a work map for the procedures and measures that must be taken by the concerned authorities through an electronic link, and to ensure that all cases are managed according to a correct procedural sequence.
- Suits Coordination Section, to facilitate the procedures for filing labor lawsuits by expatriate workers, and civil lawsuits by registered workers.
- Grievance Section, to receive grievances from expatriate workers regarding notifications of leaving work.
- The Shelter Section provides shelter to victims and potential victims of both sexes, and provides medical, psychological and legal assistance and services according to the nature and legal status of the case, reintegration or voluntary return to the home country or another country.
- The Office for the Protection of Victims and Witnesses in the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, to work to provide security and social protection for victims and witnesses in coordination with the Trafficking in Persons Prosecution.

- **Preventive Monitoring Department to operate as:**



- A proactive tool to monitor, investigate and document labor violations of all kinds, especially those that carry indicators of forced labor or trafficking in persons. It is staffed by trained inspectors with the status of judicial officer, and conducts inspection visits to establishments and workplaces. Since the establishment of the department in 2019 until May 2024, 37,098 visits were carried out.
- A direct link with the Public Prosecution and the judiciary, and reporting to them, which will increase investigations and convictions in cases of forced labor and trafficking in persons.
- **Wages Protection Department, to work on:**
  - Documenting the processes related to the payment of workers' wages in institutions subject to the Labor Law, and following up on the progress of labor dues transfers.
  - Ensure employers commitment to paying workers' wages continuously and on time in accordance with the laws and conditions stipulated by law.
- **Awareness and Partnerships Department, to:**
  - Promote the raising of awareness regarding the rights and obligations of the parties to the labor relationship and combating trafficking in persons.
  - Act as a channel of communication with the concerned authorities such as consulates, embassies, and civil society institutions, and the preparation and implementation of awareness programs in this regard.
  - International cooperation and partnership with external parties in the field of promoting and protecting the rights of expatriate workers, and combating trafficking in persons.



Collectively, these departments constitute a proactive tool in monitoring, investigating and documenting labor violations, and detecting exploitation practices in the work environment. It should be noted that 97 cases were classified as a crime of trafficking in persons, between the forms of forced labor and sexual exploitation, for the period from 2016 to 2024.

**Prosecutions:**

Work has been done to develop the judicial and executive system to be more specialized in dealing with cases of trafficking in persons, or any kind of exploitation, through:

- Establishment of a specialized department within the Ministry of the Interior to combat trafficking in persons.
- Establishment of a specialized prosecution to look into and investigate cases of trafficking in persons.
- Designation of a court to adjudicate cases of trafficking in persons.

**Partnerships:**

- The Kingdom of Bahrain continues its participation in the Government Forum to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Middle East for the fifth year. It has assumed the functions of the Permanent Secretariat to review regional challenges in the field of combating trafficking and to discuss ways to address them, while exchanging experiences in this regard, along with mechanisms for dealing with crime from the perspective of the countries of the region.
- Continue cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as the International Labor Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the National Crime Agency in the UK,



	<p>and the Office of Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons at the US Department of State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continuing cooperation with civil society organizations for expatriates to hold awareness workshops in the field of preserving the rights of expatriate workers, combating trafficking in persons, and protection services provided by the Expat Protection Center.</li><li>- Continuing cooperation with embassies and consulates in raising awareness of the crime of trafficking in persons, and the protection services provided by the Expat Protection Center.</li></ul>
124-139 Strengthen further efforts to combat, prevent and eradicate forced labour and trafficking in persons (Sri Lanka)	Please see response to Recommendation 138
124-140 Strengthening efforts to combat human trafficking and ensuring that all cases are investigated (State of Palestine)	Please see response to Recommendation 138
124-141 Continue strengthening Bahrain's efforts addressing the crime of trafficking in persons (Kyrgyzstan)	Please see response to Recommendation 138
124-142 Pursue the efforts undertaken in the fight against human trafficking and the effective protection of workers, including migrants (France)	Please see response to Recommendation 138
124-145 Continuing to take the necessary measures to protect vulnerable groups in the labour market and to provide them with adequate care (Tunisia)	Please see response to Recommendation 138
<b>Continuing the promotion of women's rights and gender equality (29 Recommendations)</b>	
124-150 Continue with policy and legislative measures for promoting gender equality and combatting gender-based violence, including by ensuring access to safe reproductive health services (India)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The National Action Charter provides that citizens are equal before the law in rights and duties, without discrimination based on gender, origin, language, religion or belief.</li><li>- The amended Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain provides that:</li></ul>



- Article 4: “Justice is the basis of Government. Cooperation and mutual respect provide a firm bond between citizens. Liberty, equality, security, trust, knowledge, social solidarity and equality of opportunity for citizens are pillars of society guaranteed by the State.”
- Article 5.b: “The State guarantees reconciling the duties of women towards the family with their work in society, and their equality with men in political, social, cultural, and economic spheres without breaching the provisions of Islamic canon law (Shari’a).
- Article 18: “People are equal in human dignity, and citizens are equal before the law in public rights and duties. There shall be no discrimination among them on the basis of sex, origin, language, religion or creed.”
- Implementing the “National Strategy to Protect Women from Domestic Violence” launched by the Supreme Council for Women in full partnership with ministries, official institutions, the private sector, and relevant civil society institutions, which includes six main pillars (prevention/protection and services/legislation/awareness and media support/studies and research/follow-up and evaluation), with a focus on the first objectives, which is “prevention,” which includes primary prevention of domestic violence before it occurs, and secondary prevention of domestic violence by addressing risk factors.
- Within the framework of achieving the first objective of the National Strategy for the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (preventing domestic violence before it occurs and addressing risk factors), family reconciliation, guidance and awareness services are provided to work on enhancing and increasing knowledge and understanding of family life, spreading the concepts of sound family culture, its duties and responsibilities, promoting positive behavior and developing life



skills to prepare young men and women for the stage before, during and after marriage to achieve adaptation to the new life in a way that contributes to strengthening family and household ties, promoting awareness, communication, cohesion and compassion skills, especially for those about to get married, and laying solid foundations for establishing and maintaining the family.

- The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women launched the guidelines for media coverage of family affairs in 2023, which aims to enhance media responsibility and the supporting role of the media in conveying what is achieved for women, the family and society, as an influential force in shaping convictions, consolidating values and raising awareness of the importance of family stability and what must be focused on to maintain family and societal stability. A workshop was organized for media professionals and journalists at the headquarters of the Supreme Council for Women during June 2023 in this regard.
- The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women continues to provide consultations, prevention, guidance and counselling services, in addition to many educational, awareness and media programs.
- Among the most important legislation and legal measures to combat violence against women and girls are:
  - Law No. 18 of 2022 amending Article 231 of the Penal Code issued by Law No. 15 of 1976, which stipulates that “whoever, while practicing a medical or health profession, examines a deceased person or provides first aid to a person with a serious injury in which there are signs indicating that his death or injury is the result of a felony or misdemeanor or if other circumstances exist that call for suspicion of its cause and does not report this to the public authority, shall be punished by imprisonment and a fine or one of these two penalties.” This will contribute to achieving



	<p>further prevention of domestic violence and will constitute a deterrent to anyone who refrains from reporting cases of domestic violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law No. 7 of 2023 repealing Article 353 of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976, which stipulated that “No penalty shall be imposed on anyone who commits one of the crimes stipulated in the previous articles if a valid marriage contract is concluded between him and the victim. If a final judgment has been issued against him before the marriage contract is concluded, its implementation shall be suspended and its criminal effects shall end.”</li> <li>- The total number of domestic violence reports decreased from 3,017 in 2022 to 2,807 in 2023, a decrease of 7%. The number of protection orders issued in domestic violence cases by the Public Prosecution increased from 7 in 2020 to 8 in 2023, with 18 protection orders during the period 2020-2023 (Source: Public Prosecution).</li> </ul> <p>As for guaranteed reproductive health, government health institutions provide services related to family planning and contraception to citizens and residents in accordance with the provisions of the Health Insurance Law.</p>
<p>124-162 Continue reinforcing its successful policies in the field of gender equality (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of))</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Supreme Council for Women has continued to exercise its mandate in line with its founding Royal Decree and its amendments, and to follow up on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, which was approved in 2005 by His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This was followed by the development of the National Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2007), and subsequent plans to achieve qualitative gains for the Kingdom of Bahrain, whether in terms of the development of the legislative system or the services provided to</li> </ul>





women and the Bahraini family. These included initiatives and programs that support the integration of women's needs into the development path and the achievement of equal opportunities and gender balance, in addition to protection and prevention from all forms of violence against women and the creation of a supportive societal culture for them.

- The government program (2023-2026) "From Recovery to Sustainable Growth" includes among its general objectives the promotion of Bahraini women's advancement and their contributions to public life and the national economy.
- Follow up on the implementation of the "National Model for Gender Balance", which is a roadmap for spreading a supportive culture and infrastructure to integrate women's needs, achieve equal opportunities for gender balance, govern equal opportunities applications, and monitor progress made in women's participation in key and qualitative development areas.
- In implementation of the Civil Service Council's decision in 2013 to establish permanent committees in the entities and institutions affiliated with the Civil Service Bureau, all government entities have formed equal opportunity committees, while some official entities not affiliated with the Civil Service Bureau have also taken the initiative to establish equal opportunity committees, with the number of equal opportunity committees in the public sector reaching 63 by September 2024. As for establishing equal opportunity committees in the private sector, this is optional. However, several private sector institutions have taken the initiative to establish equal opportunity committees, with 25 private sector and 21 civil society



institutions taking the initiative to form committees concerned with integrating women's needs.

- Cabinet Resolution 01-2455 was issued approving the preparation of a national report to measure gender balance in public sector institutions on a periodic basis (every two years), with the Supreme Council for Women tasked with preparing and disseminating it in cooperation with relevant government agencies. The report aims to evaluate the performance of the public sector in terms of following up on the application of the principle of equal opportunities and integrating women's needs to achieve gender balance in all development fields. It also serves as a tool for "self-monitoring" and periodic performance evaluation to measure the effectiveness and impact of national policies, legislation and plans in applying equal opportunity methodologies and achieving gender balance in all development fields, which raises the competitiveness of Bahraini women and its positive impact on national economy.
- The Ministry of Finance and National Economy's commitment to include budgets that respond to women's needs within the circulars for preparing and implementing the state's general budget, in a way that ensures measuring women's contribution to national development.
- The Financial and Administrative Control Bureau monitors the extent to which government agencies comply with the instructions issued by the Civil Service Bureau on the establishment of Equal Opportunities Committees, and issues observations regarding them in its annual control report.



- The Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to achieve equality and non-discrimination in the field of work, and to create a supportive environment for the empowerment and advancement of women in all development fields. The most prominent examples of legislation, measures and policies taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain during the period 2022-2024 are the following:

**At the level of supporting women's economic participation:**

- Law No. 13 of 2022 amending some provisions of Law No. 13 of 1975 regulating pensions and retirement benefits for government employees, which granted men and women alike the right to continue working voluntarily until the age of sixty-five after reaching the normal retirement age.
- Resolution No. 79 of 2023 amended some provisions of the Executive Regulations of the Civil Service Law issued by Decree-Law No. 48 of 2010 by cancelling Clause 2 of Article 26 of the Executive Regulations, which stipulated: "It is not permissible to employ women in any government industrial project or any branch thereof between eight o'clock in the evening and seven o'clock in the morning, except in exceptional circumstances determined by the Bureau regarding women's work at night."
- Decree-Law No. 16 of 2021 amending some provisions of the Private Sector Labor Law issued by Law No. 36 of 2012, which prohibited discrimination in wages between male and female workers for work of equal value, and repealing Articles 30 and 31, which prohibited women from working at night or in some professions.

**At the level of participation in company boards of directors:**



- Instructions of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain dated September 28, 2022, regarding enhancing women's representation on the boards of directors of joint stock companies listed on the Bahrain Bourse, by introducing amendments to the rules related to corporate governance within the Higher Controls Chapter of Volume Six of the Bank's directives.
- Resolution of the Minister of Commerce and Industry No. 91 of 2022 amending the provisions of the Companies Charter to include the representation of women within the formation of the Board of Directors of the public joint-stock company. The company must disclose the membership statistics on its Board of Directors within the annual corporate governance report, with these statistics classified according to gender.
- **The HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award for the Advancement of Bahraini Women**, which is awarded every two years, aims to highlight the efforts of ministries, official and private institutions, and civil society institutions that support the empowerment and advancement of Bahraini women, and to appreciate the efforts, initiatives, projects, and individual achievements aimed at integrating women's needs and empowering them in a way that contributes to bringing about positive change in society and achieving sustainable community development.
- Statistics indicate that the percentage of women in the government sector as a proportion of the total number of workers in the sector increased from 38% to about 56%, an increase of 18% over the period 2001-2022. The percentage of women in executive positions increased from 12% to 48%, an increase of 36%, over the same



period, while the percentage of Bahraini women in specialized positions increased from 50% to 64% between 2012-2022. (Source: Civil Service Bureau).

- The percentage of new Bahraini female workers in the public sector out of the total Bahrainis increased from 44% in 2014 to 65% in 2023, an increase of 21%. (Source: General Organization for Social Insurance).
- The percentage of Bahraini women working in the private sector increased from 24% to 36%, an increase of 12% during 2001-2023. The percentage of new Bahraini women workers in the private sector out of the total Bahrainis increased from 46% in 2014 to 50% in 2023, an increase of 4%. (Source: General Organization for Social Insurance).
- As for women's political participation, the percentage of women's participation in voting in parliamentary and municipal elections reached 48% in 2022. (Source: Legislation and Legal Opinion Authority).
- In 2022, the number of female candidates for the parliamentary elections reached 74, representing 22% of the total number of candidates. (Source: General Secretariat of the Representatives Council).
- In 2022, the number of female candidates for the municipal elections reached 20, representing 12% of the total number of candidates. (Source: Capital Municipal Council, Muharraq Municipal Council, Northern Municipal Council, Southern Municipal Council).

In 2022, the number of female winners in the municipal elections reached 3 women, representing 10% of the total members. (Source: Capital Municipal Council, Muharraq Municipal Council, Northern Municipal Council, Southern Municipal Council).



<p>124-163 Continue its efforts to promote the principle of equality of opportunity and gender balance in work, society, and the public sector (Singapore)</p>	<p>In light of its firm belief in the ability and competence of Bahraini women, which has qualified them to occupy advanced positions in decision-making positions, the new government structure issued in accordance with the Royal Decree on November 21, 2022, included five women to assume responsibility as ministers in service ministries of vital importance, namely Health, Housing and Urban Planning, Sustainable Development, Tourism, and Youth Affairs.</p> <p>The percentage of women ministers increased from 10% in 2006 to 22% in 2022, an increase of 12% during this period, and by 5 ministers in 2022, according to the new ministerial formation that came in Royal Decree No. 68 of 2022 forming the Cabinet.</p> <p>In the government sector, the percentage of women in executive positions in the government sector increased from 33% to 48% during the period (2012-2022), and the percentage of female employees in specialized jobs in the government sector increased from 50% to 64% during the same period, and the percentage of women's representation on the boards of directors of companies in the private sector increased from 14% in 2014 to 17% in 2023.</p> <p>The Kingdom guarantees women, on an equal footing with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent the Kingdom at the international level and participate in the work of international organizations, such as the United Nations and its agencies, such as the World Trade Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there was an increase in the percentage of Bahraini women working out of the total Bahrainis from 27% in 2016 to 36% in 2023.</p>
<p>124-164 Strengthen measures to ensure gender equality and repeal all discriminatory provisions against women and girls (Czechia)</p>	<p>Please see Recommendation 162</p>
<p>124-165 Strengthen the processes of empowerment and autonomy of women and girls through a normative framework that allows them to enjoy all their human rights ,including education ,the right to health in all its dimensions ,the safe exercise of freedom of expression ,a life free from violence of any kind ,and their participation in the different decision-making processes in the political ,civil ,economic ,social and environmental spheres (Costa Rica)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Article 7a of the Kingdom of Bahrain Constitution stipulates: "The State sponsors the sciences, humanities and the arts, and encourages scientific research. The State also guarantees educational and cultural services to its citizens. Education is compulsory and free in the early stages as specified and provided by law. The necessary plan to combat illiteracy is laid down by law."</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Since working on the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, and the subsequent plans that all addressed “education and training” due to its importance, the Supreme Council for Women has been implementing qualitative programs in cooperation with the relevant authorities.</li><li>- The “School Awareness Bag” program was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, aiming to raise awareness of the concept of integrating women’s needs and the principle of equal opportunities among school students. The bag has contributed to educating more than 900 male and female students in 23 middle and secondary schools since 2016. The awareness kit was also included in the citizenship education curricula to achieve its sustainability.</li><li>- The percentage of female beneficiaries of scholarships and grants out of the total beneficiaries of scholarships and grants reached 66% for the academic year 2022/2023.</li></ul> <p>Female students accounted for 62% of the total number of students in government higher education institutions (Bachelor’s level or equivalent) for the academic year 2022/2023.</p>
124-166 Incorporate in their plans and policies measures that aim to achieve gender equity in the public and private spheres ,including the participation of women in leadership positions (Chile)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-167 Step up its efforts to strengthen policies and programs for empowerment of women in accordance with its socio-cultural ethos (Bangladesh)	Please see Recommendation 165
124-168 Strengthen the policy of access for girls and women to education at all of its levels (Algeria)	The National Action Charter and the Constitution guarantee women full citizenship, and this is evident in all fields, most notably education, as academic and technical education opportunities are available to both sexes equally. The Minister of Education issued Decision No. 477/M.A.N./2015 of 2015 regarding the admission and registration system



at the Bahrain Training Institute, including many non-traditional, industrial and professional specializations available to both sexes equally.

The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Labor Market Regulatory Authority and the Higher Education Council, has also worked to develop technical and vocational education and link it to the needs of the labor market. In 2015, it adopted the “Takween” training program, which embraces technical and vocational education students in order to provide them with job opportunities by making them an ideal choice for employment in the labor market.

The Bahrain Training Institute, a specialized institution in post-school technical and vocational education, does not differentiate in its admission policies between males and females, but rather has opened registration in all specializations. For example, the Advanced Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, Vehicles Specialization, which was restricted to male applicants for a period of time, has now been opened to females as well as males. In 2016, the first female trainee was registered in this specialization, and admission is still open to join this specialization.

One of the most prominent qualitative programs rarely joined by both genders is the Quantity Surveyors program. However, because of marketing qualitative programs to encourage young people to join these programs, there has been a significant increase of 71.4% for females to 28.6% for males.

In 2022/2023, the percentage of female students in STEM specializations in higher education institutions reached 42%, the percentage of female students in the field of natural sciences, mathematics and statistics was 84%, and their percentage in the field of communications and information technology was 37%. (Higher Education Council)

The Kingdom of Bahrain also achieved strong results according to the 2024 Annual Gender Gap Report issued by Davos Forum. The Kingdom of Bahrain closed the gender gap in Primary and higher education to rank first globally for these two indicators. The





results of the report indicate that the Kingdom of Bahrain closed 99.5% of the gender gap in the educational attainment axis, which is a result higher than the global average of 94.4%.

The World Bank's Human Capital Report 2020 also indicates that the Kingdom of Bahrain is among the top five countries in the world, fourth internationally, in terms of girls' outperforming boys in learning outcomes. Females achieved a score of 470 in the standardized test results, outperforming males who achieved a score of 434 in these tests. The result achieved by females is also ranked first in the Arab and Gulf countries and 48<sup>th</sup> internationally.

124-169 Improve further national legislation in order to ensure gender balance , guarantee equal opportunities and take into account the needs of women in all areas of activity ,including within the framework of the next National Plan for the Advancement of Women for 2023-2030 ,which is planned to be developed (Belarus)

- The National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women is the main reference when following up on the implementation of the state's general policy in empowering and advancing Bahraini women. Since its launch in 2005, its working methodology has proven the feasibility of activating mechanisms of cooperation and coordination with all partners concerned with implementation.
- Numerous legislative measures have been issued to ensure equal opportunities and gender balance, including:
  - Instructions of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain dated September 28, 2022, regarding enhancing women's representation on the boards of directors of joint stock companies listed on the Bahrain Bourse, by introducing amendments to the rules related to corporate governance within the Higher Controls Chapter of Volume Six of the Bank's directives.
  - Resolution of the Minister of Commerce and Industry No. 91 of 2022 amending the provisions of the Companies Charter to include the representation of



women within the Board of Directors of the public joint-stock company. The company must disclose the membership statistics on its Board of Directors within the annual corporate governance report, with these statistics classified according to gender.

- Law No. 13 of 2022 amending some provisions of Law No. 13 of 1975 regulating pensions and retirement benefits for government employees, which granted men and women alike the right to continue working until the age of sixty-five after reaching the normal retirement age.
- Resolution No. 79 of 2023 amending some provisions of the Executive Regulations of the Civil Service Law issued by Decree-Law No. 48 of 2010 by cancelling Clause 2 of Article 26 of the Executive Regulations, which stipulated: “It is not permissible to employ women in any government industrial project or any branch thereof between eight o’clock in the evening and seven o’clock in the morning, except in exceptional circumstances determined by the Bureau regarding women’s work at night.”
- The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women is working to follow up on the results of integrating the National Plan into the government’s program for the years 2023-2026. The program stipulates: “Enhancing the advancement of Bahraini women and their contributions to public life and the national economy, and continuing national efforts directed at enhancing the participation of Bahraini women in national development by activating and developing policies and initiatives of the national model for gender balance”.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The priorities of the Supreme Council for Women’s work for the year 2024 have been set in line with the programs and initiatives included in the 2013-2022 Plan. Work is underway to develop the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women 2025-2026.</li></ul>
124-171 Continue enhancing programs on the economic participation of women and youth (Brunei Darussalam)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-172 Building on the results achieved in implementing the national plan for the advancement of women for the period 2013–2022, in order to prepare a new plan for the coming period (Lebanon)	Please see Recommendation 169
124-173 Development of the next phase of the National Plan 2023–2030 to ensure that the needs of women are integrated in the development programs and hence promote the advancement of women (United Republic of Tanzania)	Please see Recommendation 169
124-175 Consider taking additional steps to increase women’s representations at the decision-making levels (Cambodia)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-176 Raise awareness about the importance of equal participation of women and men in public and political life and undertake apt steps towards this end (Cyprus)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-177 Continue its efforts to finalize the implementation of the national plan for the advancement of women (Gabon)	Please see Recommendation 169
124-178 Redouble efforts to achieve equitable representation of women in public and political spheres, particularly in decision-making positions (Gabon)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-179 Continue to take measures to enhance the participation of women in political and public life (Iraq)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-180 Continue efforts to enhance participation of women in political and public life (Nepal)	Please see Recommendation 162



124-181 Redouble efforts to enhance gender equality and women representation in public and political spheres (Indonesia)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-182 Increase the number of women in political and public life at all levels and in all areas and promote women in leadership positions (Kazakhstan)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-183 Pursue efforts to promote the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking effective measures to increase the participation of women in political and public life (Djibouti)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-185 Continue to follow up on the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women to ensure the achievement of its objectives of empowering women (Jordan)	Please see Recommendation 169
124-187 Work to strengthen gender equality procedures in access to adequate housing (Malaysia)	<p>The Kingdom of Bahrain has fulfilled its obligations to provide adequate housing for citizens and to improve housing and neighborhoods. It has committed to its responsibility to provide legal protection to ensure tenure and equality in the right to land ownership, including the right to inheritance and ownership for all citizens. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain has guaranteed complete equality and non-discrimination among members of Bahraini society, as national legislation prohibits discrimination in housing and access to public facilities and social services on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national origin, or any other status.</p> <p><b>Women's Right to Housing</b></p> <p>Women have a significant share of housing rights, which have appeared clearly in all housing decisions and their amendments issued during the past few years, most notably Ministerial Resolution 909 of 2015 and its amendments, which guaranteed women from all categories specified in the housing standards access to various housing services. The number of female citizens benefiting from various housing services has exceeded 4,500 from 2010 until the beginning of this year. The tables in Annex1 show details of the</p>



submitted applications and the applications allocated for all types of housing services for the years from 2022 to the end of March 2024.

**Bahraini women's housing gains:**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has paid attention to women and their right to adequate housing by working on a number of initiatives that guarantee women's right to housing services, including:

- Adding the fifth category to those eligible for housing services, which is temporary housing, which guarantees the right to housing for divorced, abandoned, widowed women who have no children, and single women who have lost their parents.
- Including Bahraini women married to foreigners and who have children, or at least one minor son, of Bahraini nationality, among the categories eligible for basic housing services, not temporary housing.
- Equality between men and women in terms of eligibility criteria and the rights resulting from benefiting from them, as the wife, widow, and divorced woman who has custody of minor children has the same right as a man who meets the criteria and conditions for eligibility for housing services, and the same applies to the son and daughter.
- Separating the wife's financial status from the husband's by separating the monthly income of each of them upon acceptance of the housing application and until allocation.
- Disbursement of housing allowance to divorced and widowed women who have housing applications immediately after the application is accepted (a Royal grant).
- The husband may share ownership of the housing unit with his wife, without requiring her to pay the installments.

- The possibility of registering ownership of the housing service allocated by the Ministry in the husband's name, if the wife pays its value or registers part of it in common in proportion to the monthly installments paid.
- It is permissible to transfer the housing application to the wife's name if her husband dies or loses one of the eligibility conditions for the housing service, provided that she meets the eligibility conditions for this service and forms an independent family.
- Exempting a widow who has custody of one or more minor children from paying the remaining installments of the housing service value given to her deceased husband (a Royal grant).

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has paid attention to women within special categories in society, such as "divorced, abandoned, or widowed women who do not have one or more children, or single orphans over the age of forty," by granting this category housing services as a lifelong usufruct right according to the assessment of the Housing Committee. The "Masakin" project, which includes about 68 residential apartments, has been implemented and allocated as a unique and distinguished project through cooperation with the Supreme Council for Women, to provide suitable housing for this category to ensure a sense of security and stability.

The total number of applications for the fifth category that were studied and presented to the Housing Committee was 99 applications, 68 of which were approved for the period from 2022 until now.

Please see Annex 1.



<p>124-188 Continue to empower women in the labour market, economically, politically, and socially, and to allow them to effectively participate in the various work sectors (South Sudan)</p>	<p>Please see Recommendation 162</p>
<p>124-189 Expand women's development portfolio for commercial activities, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises (Pakistan)</p>	<p>- The Supreme Council for Women continues its efforts, in cooperation with all relevant entities in the public and private sectors and civil society institutions, to empower women and support their participation in the field of entrepreneurship through a number of initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Bahraini Women's Development Center "Riyadat"</b>: Established in 2013, it is considered the first economic incubator dedicated to women. It aims to support women and encourage them to enter the field of entrepreneurship by providing a range of advisory and marketing services, logistical support, and easy financing services that support them to become businesswomen in the future, and enhance the culture of entrepreneurship among them. The center also contributes to supporting and encouraging women to be creative and innovative to expand their commercial activity.</li><li>● <b>Bahraini Women's Business Development Portfolio "Riyadat"</b>: Launched in 2016, it aims to support commercial establishments owned by Bahraini women to encourage them to grow and develop by providing financing solutions supported by profits that are compatible with Islamic Sharia. The value of the portfolio is \$100 million (37,700,000 Bahraini Dinars). In December 2022, a second version of the portfolio was launched to keep pace with the economic recovery plan and the urgent and emerging changes in the business fields, by expanding the scope of the portfolio's solutions to cover the needs of institutions and projects of various sizes</li></ul>



	<p>through flexible and qualitative financing solutions that target the growth of these institutions and support their expansion locally and globally, with a focus on supporting promising and innovative economic sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>“Bahraini Women Exports” Initiative:</b> Launched in 2021 in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, represented by Bahrain Exports, with the aim of supporting Bahraini women-owned projects towards exporting, and enhancing their participation in the global economy, by intensifying opportunities for Bahraini women to participate in international trade, developing their products and services, and raising their competitiveness regionally and globally.</li><li>● The “Imtiyaz” Initiative for Young Bahraini Women Entrepreneurs: Launched in 2011 as an initiative that aims to encourage and highlight distinguished efforts and ability in the field of entrepreneurship, spread the culture of entrepreneurship among young women and encourage them to innovate and create, and increase the number of young women by adopting and supporting new competencies. It also enhances women’s economic participation, highlights the successful experiences of young women entrepreneurs, and sheds light on new economic investment sectors in the Kingdom.</li></ul>
124-190 Continue to implement legislation that protects women in their work place and at home, and provide effective tools to overcome the obstacles that still exist for their full legal integration (Spain)	Please see Recommendation 162
124-197 Continue intensifying efforts to eliminate violence against women (Cambodia)	Please see Recommendation 150
124-198 Continue its work in order to combat violence against women (Georgia)	Please see Recommendation 150
124-199 Improve further policies and measures to better protect the rights of women and children (China)	Please see Recommendation 162



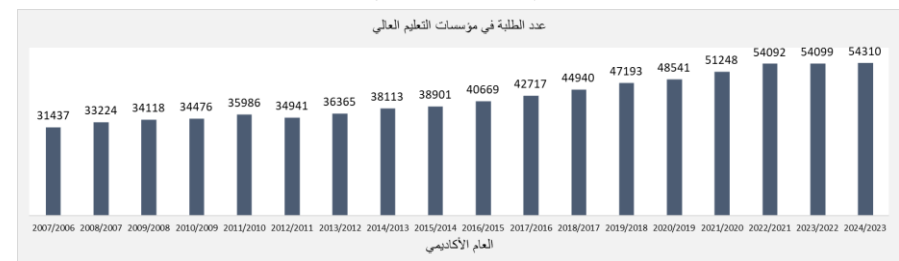
Continue to ensure full access to education and promote the right to education (one Recommendation)

124-157 Further strengthen strategies for the achievement of greater access to higher education ,especially for persons with disabilities (Brunei Darussalam)

Based on the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the National Action Charter of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Higher Education Council is committed to achieving the principle of equal educational opportunities by providing higher education opportunities to all students in governmental and private higher education institutions as follows:

**First - Enhancing opportunities for high school graduates to complete their university education in all higher education institutions, regardless of their governmental or private affiliations:**

- In general, the number of students enrolled in higher education institutions increased from 31,437 in 2006/2007 to 54,310 in 2023/2024, an increase of 73%. The graph below shows the growth in the number of students enrolled in higher education institutions during the academic years.



- The number of non-Bahraini students in higher education institutions also increased from 5039 in 2013/2014 to 5864 in 2023/2024, an increase of 16%. This indicates the growth in the number of non-Bahraini students enrolled in higher education institutions and the enhancement of the opportunities for non-Bahraini students who have obtained a high school certificate to complete their university education in all higher education institutions.



**Second: Enhancing opportunities for people with disabilities who have obtained a high school diploma to complete their university education in the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

- Resolution 206 of 2023 was issued, laying down the regulations for organizing the work of private higher education institutions. Article 56, entitled “Providing facilities for people with special needs,” stipulates:
  1. The institution’s buildings, facilities and installations must provide the necessary facilities to assist people with special needs to access or exit the building, ensuring that they can use its facilities on an equal footing with others.
  2. The institution may not remove the facilities, installations or facilities necessary to assist people with special needs, change their purpose, cause a limitation in the use of them by people with special needs, or delay their repair in an unreasonable manner.
  3. The Board of Trustees may issue a decision specifying the facilities that must be available when designing or implementing buildings, projects, installations or facilities that must be provided or installed by the institution.
- Several practical measures have been implemented to preserve the rights of people with disabilities and ensure their successful integration into Bahraini society, including:
  - In implementation of the decisions issued by the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council regarding the establishment of higher education institutions or the establishment of academic programs, field inspection teams are formed that include representatives of the departments of the General Secretariat of the Higher Education Council to ensure the readiness of higher education institutions to establish academic programs. The inspection team



ensures that the higher education institution takes into account the needs of people with disabilities in each of its facilities according to the type of need (disability).

- Referring to the admission criteria for all higher education institutions, it is found that they focus primarily on the academic average in high school, and some of them require passing an admission test without exception for any applicant (this includes students with disabilities).
- Each institution has a unit/center (for student guidance and counseling) that provides its services to all students (including students with disabilities) and works to remove any problem facing their academic progress (academic problem, psychological problem, health problem), and follows up to ensure the provision of all required facilities as needed.
- Higher education institutions provide all facilities for people with disabilities as needed, with regard to attending lectures or taking exams, including the presence of companions or providing other support (human and material), and other facilities.
- Several students with disabilities are registered in public and private higher education institutions and they receive support and facilities that enable them to continue obtaining higher education. The table below shows the numbers of students with disabilities registered in public and private higher education institutions for the year 2023/2024

<b>Statistics on the number of students with disabilities enrolled in public and private higher education institutions</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>



		234	118	116	234	
Protection and promotion of children's rights and development of children's capacities (8 recommendations)						
124-202 Continue to support initiatives for developing children's abilities and skills (India)						<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Continue implementing and enhancing training programs and workshops throughout the year in the evening period and intensifying them in the summer period to include the morning period in children and youth clubs.</li><li>– Organizing and participating throughout the year in forums, conferences and exhibitions to display projects, innovations, and creativity of children and youth.</li><li>– Cooperating with the parties concerned with childhood inside and outside the Kingdom of Bahrain in providing support for the programs offered in the clubs.</li><li>– Preparing and developing analytical studies to follow up on the implementation process of programs and workshops and evaluating them considering the achievement of actual development.</li><li>– Continuous support for the gifted through developing and implementing advanced special programs in several fields with the help of academic experts specialized in the field of developing the skills of the gifted and caring for them in the educational field.</li><li>– Working on continuously updating the detailed information base for everything related to children and youth in coordination with governmental and civil authorities.</li><li>– Continuing to prepare awareness and training workshops for parents and focusing on self-development and enhancing the cognitive and scientific skills of their children and youth.</li></ul>
124-203 Continue to support projects related to children and the development of their capabilities (Libya)						Please see Recommendation 202



124-204 Continue to support projects related to childhood and the development of abilities and skills in children (Malaysia)	Please see Recommendation 202
124-205 Continue to support the National Committee for Childhood to carry out its work aimed at developing childhood at all stages of life, educationally, culturally and psychologically (Oman)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— The National Committee for Childhood in the Kingdom is the official body concerned with coordination between all governmental and civil society agencies and institutions related to childhood through several mechanisms. The Committee is responsible for coordinating all efforts provided by governmental and civil entities for children, as well as providing advice from a childhood perspective on many projects, decisions, and many regulatory and technical issues for all ministries.</li><li>— Cabinet Resolution No. 9 of 2023 was issued to reconstitute the National Committee for Childhood and increase its financial allocations, reflecting the leadership's recognition of the importance of the role played by the committee. This committee was formed from the ministries and agencies concerned with childhood, with 17 members, in addition to two members from civil society associations.</li><li>— Two members were recently added to the committee, namely the Commissioner for Child Rights and the Head of the Child Protection Unit in Cyberspace.</li><li>— One of the most important programs resulting from coordination with governmental and civil society agencies and institutions, the National Committee for Childhood's initiative to prepare the National Strategy for Childhood in partnership with all these sectors and coordinating work between them, in addition to updating the Childhood Situation Analysis (Sit-An) - Bahrain in 2012, where the role of civil society organizations emerged in participating in producing this analysis and involving children from all segments living in the Kingdom of Bahrain.</li><li>— The National Childhood Strategy (2023-2027) was launched in November 2023 by the Council of Ministers. The National Childhood Strategy, which is supervised by the National Childhood Committee through various partners from gov-</li></ul>



	<p>ernment and private entities and civil society institutions, is responsible for implementing the strategy's initiatives, which are based on 8 main axes, 34 sub-goals and 163 initiatives. These initiatives are monitored periodically by members of the National Committee from 2023-2027.</p>
<p>124-206 Strengthen the rights of children by effective implementation of the newly adopted law on Restorative Justice for Children and Their Protection from Ill-Treatment (Türkiye)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Child-friendly legislation has been issued, including: The Law on Restorative Justice for Children and Their Protection from Abuse, issued by Law No. 4 of 2021, which aims to achieve restorative justice for children, and to care for and protect them from abuse. This law is considered a qualitative leap in the protection of children in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as Article 10 of the law stipulates that: "The child shall be guaranteed all the rights and guarantees stipulated in the Criminal Procedures Law at all stages of the criminal case and during the enforcement of the sentence."</li><li>- The law included the formation of a special committee and specialized courts for children with the aim of adding privacy and quality when considering cases related to children. The Judicial Committee for Childhood was formed, which specializes in considering cases in which a child under the age of 18 is in the danger zone specified in the law, and in cases in which children are exposed to psychological, physical, sexual, or economic abuse, and in crimes committed by children under the age of 15.</li><li>- Transferring the affiliation of the Juvenile Care Center to the Ministry of Social Development under the Restorative Justice Law.</li><li>- In addition, according to the law, a minor and major children's restorative justice court was formed, where both courts consider crimes committed by children between the ages of (15-18 years) in felonies and misdemeanors according to the jurisdiction of each court.</li><li>- The Judicial Committee for Childhood issues decisions of a judicial nature and may only issue one or more of the measures stipulated in the law, such as placement in social or health care homes, or obligating the child to participate in certain activities, or subjecting them to training and rehabilitation programs to rehabilitate them and integrate them into society.</li></ul>



- Establishing a specialized unit for the protection of children in cyberspace and adopting the national strategy for the protection of children in cyberspace with the aim of providing a safe environment for children when they use the Internet and protecting them from online harassment and fraud. In addition, the head of the unit was nominated as a representative in the National Committee for Childhood.
- Implementing the penalty issued to restrict the freedom of children (15-18) years and placing them in centers separate from other adults in places designated for this age group and giving them all their rights stipulated in the law.
- The Ministry of Interior is responsible for receiving reports and complaints and referring them to the competent authority.
- To consolidate the principles of children's rights and implementing family cohesion through family and child protection offices, "family and child protection offices in the security directorates" have been established to consider family and child cases within a framework of confidentiality and privacy. Employees in these offices have their capabilities developed according to the case's nature.
- The Public Prosecutor launched the "Ask a Child Once" project in sexual assault crimes, unifying criminal procedures by questioning the child only once and not repeating the question to preserve their psychological and mental safety by using modern technologies to audio-visually record children's statements in special investigation rooms.
- The Royal Academy of Police organized a scientific forum within the framework of implementing the national program "Building capacities for law enforcement and rule of law and restorative justice" entitled Legal protection for the most vulnerable groups (including children).
- The Ministry took the initiative to prepare the Maan (Together) program, which is a national project to combat violence and addiction.



**Efforts of the Ministry of Social Development:**

- Issuing Resolution No. 94 of 2021 regarding authorizing some employees of the Ministry of Social Development to be judicial officers for crimes that occur within their jurisdiction in violation of the provisions of the Law on Restorative Justice for Children and Their Protection from Ill-Treatment issued by Law No. 4 of 2021 and the decisions issued in implementation thereof.
- Cooperating and coordinating with all governmental and civil bodies concerned with implementing the Law on Restorative Justice for Children and Their Protection from Ill-Treatment in order to ensure the validity of the procedures of the law to preserve the best interests of the child.
- The National Committee for Childhood is the body responsible for supervising the submission of the UN periodic report on the rights of the child and works to follow up and monitor everything related to childhood issues in Bahrain.
- The National Committee for Childhood achieves the principle of cooperation with specialized Arab and international organizations and bodies working in the field of childhood and benefiting from their expertise and programs to achieve its goals.

**The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf has begun the following in implementation of the provisions of the law:**

- Establishing and forming the Judicial Committee for Childhood based on the mandate set out in the law, which is responsible for examining cases of child exposure to danger or abuse referred to it by the specialized prosecution for children in the Public Prosecution.
- Assigning specialized experts and specialists in the social and psychological fields to work within the cadre of the administration of the reformative justice courts at various levels and in the Judicial Committee for Childhood.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Establishing specialized courtrooms for children and the Judicial Committee for Childhood and equipping them with all technical, administrative and office requirements and designing them in accordance with the approved standards in this regard, to ensure a judicial environment appropriate to the needs of the child.</li><li>– Issuing executive regulations for the provisions of the law aimed at ensuring that restorative justice for children, their care and protection from abuse is a supreme goal, and the best interest of the child is the basic starting point for protecting them and preserving their rights in all procedures. It takes into account that the child's personality, social and psychological circumstances, etc. are integrated and do not negatively affect their upbringing or future in any way, so that the child is guaranteed all the rights and legal guarantees stipulated in national legislation and international agreements, ensuring the provision of all forms of legal assistance necessary to protect their entity and preserve their rights.</li></ul>
<p>124-231 Promote further the development of children at all ages, with special attention on children of migrant workers, stateless children and children of Bahraini women married to foreigners, by ensuring their access to primary and secondary education, health care, and other necessary social services (Thailand)</p>	<p>The Kingdom of Bahrain has taken many legal measures in favor of the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners and treating them as Bahraini citizens based on Law No. 35 of 2009, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Exemption of Fees for government health and education services, residence, and the use of services provided by the Alimony Fund. They also benefit from the advantages and facilities enshrined in the Law on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities for Bahraini persons with disabilities regarding entitlement to a disability allowance, provided that they reside permanently in Bahrain.</li><li>– The Minister of Interior issued Resolution No. 24 of 2022 regarding granting an entry visa and a family residence permit to first-degree relatives of Bahrainis, wives of Bahrainis, and foreign husbands of Bahraini women, in accordance with several conditions.</li><li>– There is no discrimination against girls and children with disabilities and there are no marginalized minorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Freedom of movement and residence is a personal freedom for individuals guaranteed by the Constitution in Article 19, as they have the freedom to move and choose their place of residence.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Ministry of Social Development provides many services, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Child Care Home Services for children of unknown parents / or unknown fathers of a Bahraini mother, the most important of which is the internal shelter service, the goal of which is to house the child in the home and provide them with all care and living services.</li> <li>– Family custody service, which is the transfer of the residence of the child placed in the shelter to an independent family that cares for them according to a set of conditions and procedures, in addition to issuing proof documents for them. This is in implementation of Decree Law No. 22 of 2000 regarding family custody.</li> <li>– The shelter provides temporary residence for children from broken families of all races and nationalities, providing them with all care and living services.</li> </ul>
<p>Continue to protect and promote the rights of vulnerable groups and ensure their full integration into society (9 recommendations)</p>	
<p>124-158 Ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools and to continue to give priority to measures facilitating their full inclusion (Gambia)</p>	<p>To achieve this comprehensive integration, the necessary measures were taken to promote inclusive education without discrimination and on an equal footing with others, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The establishment of a special education department in the academic year 2006-2007. Its mission is to provide specialized services to people with disabilities. This department includes a group of specialized departments that follow up on all cases of disability integrated into government schools.</li> <li>2. People with hearing disabilities have been integrated into government schools, and educational personnel have been qualified and trained to acquire the skills</li> </ol>



	<p>necessary to deal with people with hearing disabilities, or people who have had cochlear implants, where hearing and verbal therapy sessions are held.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Visually impaired people were integrated into all educational stages, after completing their training in using the Braille method. The curriculum was also printed in Braille, and the distribution of the talking computer to every blind person in regular classes was completed.</li><li>4. The integration of children with Down's syndrome and people with mental disabilities into government schools was adopted, with a binding ministerial decision was issued in this regard, and standardized and appropriate classes were opened for this category in regular schools, with specialized cadres in them.</li><li>5. Autistic children were integrated into government schools in the 2012 academic year, by opening standardized classes in regular schools, staffed by personnel specialized in the field of autism.</li><li>6. All people with physical disabilities have been integrated into regular schools for years. All schools have been prepared to receive this category of students, with facilities that help them move around.</li><li>7. A comprehensive plan was developed to train workers on how to deal with people with various disabilities.</li></ol>
124-207 Continue implementing initiatives that improve the services to the elderly (Kyrgyzstan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Restructuring the National Committee for the Elderly by Resolution No. 11 of 2023, which aims to implement the general policy for the care of the elderly in the Kingdom of Bahrain, prepare and implement programs and projects related to the care of the elderly, cooperate with the relevant authorities to develop the services provided to the elderly, find sources to finance the programs and activities of the committee, raise public awareness of the issues of the elderly, and organize conferences and workshops.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The draft of the National Strategy for the Elderly has been completed, based on the three axes: development in an ageing world, health and well-being with ageing, and the creation of an enabling, supportive and stable environment, in addition to the strategy's implementation plan.</li><li>- The Ministry of Social Development is responsible for providing the necessary devices and aids for the elderly with limited income according to their needs, such as medical hearing aids, mechanical and electric wheelchairs, as requests to obtain these devices are subject to study by the Elderly Care Department of the Social Care Department.</li><li>- Expanding the provision of special discounts for the elderly in the public and private sectors, which is a service of reducing service fees and prices of goods in many government agencies and the private sector in the Kingdom.</li></ul>
<p>124-209 Continue strengthening the legal framework and public policies to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities, including their access to food, medical care and social security (Cuba)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The government provides therapeutic, preventive and rehabilitative healthcare services in the Kingdom of Bahrain to all citizens and residents through 27 health centers distributed across all governorates of the Kingdom to ensure easy access for all residents of Bahrain.</li><li>– All health centers and public and private hospitals are equipped to receive people with disabilities.</li><li>– Early screening to detect signs of disability is conducted in health centers periodically in all stages for all citizens and residents.</li><li>– Mobile units are provided for people with disabilities to provide healthcare services at home.</li><li>– A service for delivering medical medications to their homes is provided.</li><li>– A follow-up service and remote medical consultations are provided for some cases.</li><li>– Psychological support and counseling services are provided for people with disabilities.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The online Seha application has been provided with the ability to book and follow up on medical appointments online.</li></ul>
124-210 Continue to strengthen the policies and regulations concerned with ensuring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Saudi Arabia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The executive plan for the National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2023-2027 was launched, including 71 initiatives in various fields.</li><li>– A monitoring and follow-up team was formed by all relevant governmental, civil and private entities, to work on implementing and monitoring the activities, programs and projects from the strategy's executive plan. A comprehensive report was prepared on what was accomplished from the executive plan.</li></ul>
124-214 Intensify its efforts to enhance the enjoyment of human rights of women, children and persons with disabilities by implementing relevant legislative and policy measures (Azerbaijan)	<p>The amended Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees equality among all members of society, and does not discriminate in rights, freedoms and duties based on gender. The Kingdom of Bahrain has also been keen to implement the requirements of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women since its accession.</p> <p>Respecting and enabling human rights is one of the most important pillars of the Kingdom of Bahrain's comprehensive development process, as emphasized in the principles of the National Action Charter and the amended Constitution. That is why the Kingdom has joined and ratified international instruments directly or indirectly related to women's rights, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Labor Organization conventions, and regional human rights charters. The Kingdom of Bahrain also continues to submit periodic reports on the progress made in implementing these conventions.</p>



124-215 Continue to promote incorporation of persons with disabilities who seek employment into diverse sectors of the labor market (Bulgaria)

Government agencies work in light of the provisions of Law No. 74 of 2006 regarding the care, rehabilitation and employment of disabled persons and within the framework of the executive plan of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities for the years 2023-2027. The Strategy was launched in accordance with the vision of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain to build a Bahraini society based on a comprehensive approach and an integrated framework to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities and their care, and a national commitment to the support and assistance provided by the government to empower this group and integrate them into Bahraini society and the labor market. The Ministry of Labor provides the following services in this regard:

1. Registering job seekers with disabilities and providing them with all employment, training and unemployment insurance services in accordance with the applicable regulations and legislation, taking into consideration the professions that are appropriate for them.
2. Preparing the electronic system to be easily accessed by persons with disabilities by sorting out suitable vacancies for persons with disabilities in cooperation with employers, displaying suitable jobs, and facilitating their nomination for suitable jobs.
3. Providing various training and rehabilitation programs for persons with disabilities, facilitating their integration into the labor market.
4. Continuing cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development in the field of disability classification and framing mechanisms for cooperation in the rehabilitation and integration of persons with disabilities into the labor market through the training and rehabilitation institutes affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development.
5. Facilitating access for persons with disabilities who have been employed to wage support programs provided by Tamkeen in accordance with the terms and regulations.



6. Issuing a statement of employment of persons with disabilities to employers to be counted at a double rate when calculating the percentage of Bahrainization in private sector establishments.
7. Ensuring that the employment site is appropriate, and the work environment and facilities are prepared for their needs and special circumstances, given what is required to employ persons with disabilities in some private sector establishments.
8. The Ministry of Labor has appointed a marketing team to employers to highlight vacancies that are appropriate to the capabilities of persons with disabilities registered for employment. 1,086 persons with various disabilities were employed during the years 2022-2023.
9. Providing training programs to facilitate joining available jobs. The trainee on the job receives a payment for the training period of \$530 per month in addition to a payment from the employer, in addition to the unemployment insurance amount.
10. The number of beneficiaries of people with disabilities reached 182 from both genders during the years 2021-2023
11. Including people with disabilities in the wage support program for new employees, by supporting private sector institutions to employ Bahraini competencies.
12. Granting financial support (unemployment insurance) to people with disabilities, until job opportunities are found that are appropriate for their abilities. 269 people with various disabilities have benefited from the support.
13. Preparing the electronic recruitment system to be easy to use and suitable for people with disabilities and facilitate their access to information related to vacant jobs and applying for them.

The Ministry of Labor emphasizes the cooperation of the private sector in terms of employing persons with disabilities. There are more vacancies available than the number of



	persons with disabilities registered with the Ministry, as the Ministry received 1,500 vacancies during the year 2023, some of which are entirely dedicated to persons with disabilities or are available for them to nominate for those vacancies, taking into account that the recruitment process requires that the job seeker and their type of disability have been compatible with the tasks required in the offered vacancy, as well as the approval of the job seeker and the employer, as they are the final decision-makers in the recruitment process.
124-216 Continue the efforts to integrate people with disabilities into the labor market and provide them with the necessary skills (Libya)	The Ministry of Social Development works by unifying governmental, civil and private efforts represented in the implementation of a number of initiatives within the executive plan for the rights of persons with disabilities (2023-2027) by providing and supporting rehabilitation programs provided to persons with disabilities to ensure facilitating their integration into the labor market later, as well as technical supervision and periodic inspection by a specialized team for 53 governmental, private and private rehabilitation centers, to ensure compliance with laws and regulations and reach the desired goals in this aspect.
124-217 Continuing inclusion of the category of persons with disabilities in the labor market and providing them with appropriate job opportunities (Tunisia)	Please see Recommendation 215.
124-219 Increase the human and financial resources allocated to the High Committee for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities to enable it to carry out optimally the tasks entrusted to it (Syrian Arab Republic)	The Ministry of Social Development allocates a fixed annual amount to the budget of the Higher Committee for the Care of Persons with Disabilities to carry out the tasks assigned to it. In addition, a committee member is tasked of monitoring and following up on the implementation of initiatives, programs and projects related to the system of enhancing services for persons with disabilities in all governmental, civil and private entities with budgets allocated by the entities responsible for implementing the programs and plans of the strategy.

Protecting human rights defenders journalists and civil society (4 recommendations),





124-39 Align national legislation with international standards, enabling members of the opposition, as well as political societies, journalists and human rights defenders, to exercise these rights (Spain)

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf is responsible for supervising the implementation of the political associations law in Bahrain. Law No. 26 of 2005 regarding political associations regulates the right of men and women to form political associations and join any of them in accordance with the provisions of the law and its executive regulations. These set out the requirements for establishing political associations, the nature of their work and their continuity. The Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees the freedom to form political associations within the framework of respect for the rule of law, as associations have a prominent role through their effective presence and constructive participation at various national forums reflecting the democratic sphere of the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Information is committed to protecting and promoting responsible freedoms in the written, printed, audio, visual and electronic media, as they are among the most important legal gains protected within the framework of the state of law and institutions in accordance with the Constitution and the government's program.

Currently, the Press, Printing and Publishing Regulation Law issued by Decree-Law No. 47 of 2002 guarantees the freedom and independence of the press in the Kingdom of Bahrain, defines the tasks and duties of its workers and regulates the work of the press. The articles of this law reflect what was emphasized by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the accompanying legislative amendments considering the National Action Charter after the popular consensus on its provisions, within the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2001. The first chapter of the Charter, under the title "Basic Components of Society," states that personal freedoms, equality among citizens and equal opportunities are basic pillars that the state is responsible for guaranteeing for all citizens. National legislation also preserves the human dignity of the citizen and respects him, guarantees freedom of expression and publication, and gives every citizen the right to express their opinion verbally, in writing or in any other way of expressing opinion or personal creativity. According to this principle, freedom of scientific



research and freedom of publication, press and printing are guaranteed within the limits that the law states.

Article 29 of the same law stipulates that "journalists are independent and are not subject to any authority other than the law in performing their work." The law includes guarantees for the rights of journalists and media professionals to express their opinions freely, safely and independently, and to obtain and circulate information according to Articles 29-36, and to punish those who attack them with the penalties prescribed for assaulting a public employee, and not to infringe on their security because of their opinion or publishing correct information, and not to force them to disclose their sources of information, with the prohibition of their arbitrary dismissal in accordance with the Labor Law in the Private Sector. In addition, other provisions prohibit any restrictions that impede the flow of information or prevent equal opportunities between different newspapers in obtaining information, or that would disrupt the citizen's right to information and knowledge, all without prejudice to other applicable laws.

In order to reinforce the principle of responsible freedoms, in 2023 a new Board of Directors was elected for the Bahrain Journalists Association for the 2023-2026 period, to continue its role in defending the rights and gains of journalists. The association has an accredited membership in the "International Federation of Journalists", and by the aforementioned law, it was granted the sole authority to carry out accountability procedures for any journalist without any interference from the Ministry of Information. The newspaper may not be suspended, the website blocked, or the license revoked except by a court ruling if either of them is convicted of one of the crimes stipulated in the law. In addition to many related professional associations and institutions such as the Foreign Media Correspondents Club and the Gulf Journalists Union in Manama.

124-41 Develop the capacities of civil society institutions to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights (Egypt); (Kuwait)

Through training programs organized by the Ministry of Social Development and delivered by certified trainers, whether in the field of human rights or other fields, it seeks to raise the



	capabilities of organizations, with 35 training courses delivered between January 2023 to February 2024.
124-132 Design effective mechanisms to guarantee the protection of human rights defenders, non-governmental organizations and journalists, so that they can carry out their functions without fear of acts of intimidation or reprisals (Uruguay)	Please see Recommendation 39
124-137 Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents against acts of intimidation and reprisals (Luxembourg)	Please see Recommendation 39
<b>Continue efforts to promote freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly (7 recommendations)</b>	
124-114 Amend legislation with a view to lifting restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly (Canada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The Ministry of Interior is keen to make optimal use of the media in order to increase awareness of the rights and guarantees of individuals, based on what is stipulated in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the laws in force in the country, and international conventions.</li><li>– The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly under Articles 22, 23, 27 and 28(b). The Bahraini Constitution also grants freedom to form associations and unions, stipulating that these associations and unions shall be established on national foundations, for legitimate objectives and by peaceful means, guaranteed in accordance with the terms and conditions specified by law, provided that there is no prejudice to the foundations of religion and public order.</li><li>– The Kingdom of Bahrain takes all means and capabilities to enhance the principle of respect for the law and preserve the foundations of citizenship based on coexistence, tolerance and respect for others, and to provide a democratic environment suitable for political work. The dissolution of political associations can only be done through the judiciary and judicial rulings.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The Press, Printing and Publishing Regulation Law of 2002 confirmed that journalists are independent and are not subject to any authority other than the law in performing their work. It also defined the legal framework for the right of the press to express its opinion, which is the same framework contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is represented by respect for the rights or reputation of others, and not harming national security, public order, public health, or public morals.</li></ul> <p>See also the response to Recommendation 39.</p>
124-115 Remove restrictions on peaceful assembly and association by eliminating the continuing prohibition on public demonstrations and allowing political societies to engage in meetings without restriction (United States of America)	<p>The Kingdom of Bahrain takes all means and capabilities to enhance the principle of respect for the law and preserve the foundations of citizenship based on coexistence, tolerance and respect for others, and to provide a democratic environment suitable for political work, and that the dissolution of political associations can only be done through the judiciary and judicial rulings.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf is responsible for supervising the implementation of the political associations law in Bahrain. Law No. 26 of 2005 regarding political associations regulates the right of men and women to form or join political associations in accordance with the provisions of the law and its executive regulations. These set out the requirements for establishing political associations, the nature of their work and their continuity. The Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees the freedom to form political associations within the framework of respecting the rule of law, as associations have a prominent role through their effective presence and constructive participation at various national forums reflecting the democratic sphere of the Kingdom.</p>
124-118 Fully respect the freedoms of expression, association, religion or belief of all people, without discrimination (Costa Rica)	Please see Recommendation 115



124-127 Continue efforts aimed at creating a safer and enabling environment for increasing levels of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Italy)	Please see Recommendation 114 and 115
124-128 Promote and protect the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and media freedom, as well as the safety of journalists (Latvia)	Please see Recommendation 114 and 39
124-130 Guarantee all citizens and political parties the right to participate in public affairs and in political life (Islamic Republic of Iran)	<p>The Kingdom of Bahrain takes all means to promote the principle of respect for the law and preserve the foundations of citizenship based on coexistence, tolerance and respect for others, and to provide a democratic environment suitable for political work.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf is responsible for supervising the implementation of the political associations law in Bahrain. Law No. 26 of 2005 regarding political associations regulates the right of men and women to form or join political associations in accordance with the provisions of the law and its executive regulations. These set out the requirements for establishing political associations, the nature of their work and their continuity. The Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees the freedom to form political associations within the framework of respecting the rule of law, as associations have a prominent role through their effective presence and constructive participation at various national forums reflecting the democratic sphere of the Kingdom.</p>
124-134 Revise the Press, Printing and Publication Act to ensure the protection of freedom of expression, online and offline, in line with target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland)	Please see Recommendation 27
<b>Abolition of death penalty (2Recommendations)</b>	
124-88 Ensure that the death penalty is not under any circumstances imposed in violation of the guarantees provided for in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium)	The Kingdom of Bahrain has been keen to create a balance between the need for deterrence required to confront dangerous situations that may threaten the safety of society and the lives of individuals on the one hand, and the seriousness of the death penalty, given that it involves depriving convicts of their life by the means specified by law on the other hand.

Therefore, the Bahraini legislator embedded numerous safeguards in relation to the death penalty that were not established for any other penalty, whether in relation to crimes for which the death penalty may be imposed or in relation to the procedures and guarantees that must be adhered to in order to achieve the highest degree of justice and a fair trial that prevents this penalty from being imposed unjustly.

With regard to crimes for which the death penalty is issued, it is limited to the most severe and serious types of crimes that pose a danger to society or to the lives of individuals, such as crimes that harm the internal or external security of the state, or in the case of premeditated murder, or murder preceded by intent, or in conjunction with another felony. With regard to the procedural guarantees surrounding the trial procedures and the implementation of the penalty, the Bahraini Penal Code requires the unanimity of all the judges of the court to issue a death sentence. It also requires the court to send the ruling to the Court of Cassation as the highest court, as the ruling is not implemented except after it is reviewed by that court. Then the case papers are sent to HM the King, and the ruling is not implemented without approval of HM the King.

**Guarantees for the imposition of the death penalty in Bahraini criminal legislation:**

A. Guarantees relating to the manner in which the judgment containing the penalty is issued and the procedures that the criminal case must go through after it is issued:

1. The necessity of unanimity of opinion in the case of a death sentence:  
Article 260 of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure issued by Decree-Law No. 46 of 2002 stipulates that “The court may not issue a death sentence except by unanimous opinion of its members. It must state in the ruling that it was issued by unanimity of opinion.”
2. HM the King’s approval is required to carry out the death sentence:  
Article 328 of the Code of Criminal Procedure states that “Whenever the death sentence becomes final, the case papers must be immediately submitted to the King



through the Minister of Justice, and the death sentence shall not be carried out except after the King's approval."

3. The death sentence shall not be executed unless it is final, i.e. issued by the Court of Cassation:

According to Article 40 of the Court of Cassation Law issued by Decree-Law No. 8 of 1989, the judgment issued by a signature is considered to be appealed by force of law before the Court of Cassation, and the court that issued the judgment must send the case file to the technical office of the Court of Cassation.

4. Non-imposition of the death penalty on juveniles and persons with limited comprehension and choice:

With regard to the age of the convict, according to Article 32 of the Bahraini Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976, no responsibility is imposed on anyone who has not exceeded fifteen years of age at the time of committing the act constituting the crime, and the provisions stipulated in the Juvenile Law shall be followed in this regard. Accordingly, the death penalty shall not be imposed on anyone under the age of fifteen, but rather one of the measures stipulated in Article 2 of the Juvenile Law issued by Decree-Law No. 17 of 1976 shall be imposed on them.

In addition, Article 70 of the Penal Code considers the young age of the accused, who has exceeded fifteen years of age and has not reached eighteen years of age, as one of the mitigating factor. Based on the provisions of Article 71 of the same law, if a mitigating factor is available in a felony punishable by death, the penalty shall automatically be reduced to temporary imprisonment or detention for a period of at least one year.



	<p>Finally, with regard to imposing penalties on those suffering from mental disabilities, according to Article 33 of the Penal Code, if the person at the time of committing the crime was lacking in awareness or choice due to a medical condition, the person shall be sentenced to a reduced penalty in accordance with the provisions of Articles 71 and 73, or to be placed in a healthcare facility.</p> <p>B. The most important guarantees related to the procedures that should be taken when implementing the death penalty:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The death penalty may not be carried out on official holidays of the religion of the convict. (Article 333 of the Criminal Procedure Code)</li><li>2. The execution of the death penalty on a pregnant woman shall be suspended until three months after giving birth. (Article 334 of the Criminal Procedure Code)</li><li>3. The penalty shall be carried out in the presence of the execution judge, a member of the Public Prosecution, the prison warden, and the prison doctor (Article 332 of the Criminal Procedure Code)</li><li>4. If the religion of the convict requires them to confess or perform other religious rituals before death, the necessary facilities must be provided to enable a clergyman to meet them unless this is impossible (Article 330 of the Criminal Procedure Code)</li><li>5. The operative part of the death sentence and the charge for which the convict was sentenced must be read out to the convict at the place of execution within the hearing of those present. If the convict wishes to make a statement, the execution judge shall draw up a report thereon. (Article 332 of the Criminal Procedure Code)</li></ol>
124-89 Reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and limit them to the most serious crimes, in accordance with article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland)	Please see response to Recommendation 88





Investigate and stop allegations of torture (6 Recommendations)

124-91 Comply with the Convention against Torture including by ensuring all detainees are fully protected against torture and other cruel inhumane or degrading treatment (Australia)

**Ministry of Interior**

- The Ministry of Interior affirms its commitment to its established policy of respecting human rights and not allowing any violations in the treatment of individuals by public security personnel.
- The National Action Charter stipulates that no person shall be subjected under any circumstances to any form of physical or mental torture, or to any inhumane, degrading or undignified treatment. Any confession or statement made under torture, threat or enticement shall be null and void. In particular, it is prohibited to harm the accused physically or mentally. The law guarantees the imposition of punishment on anyone who commits the crime of torture or physical or psychological harm.
- Article 19(d) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain states that: “No person shall be subjected to physical or mental torture, enticement, or degrading treatment, and the law shall determine the punishment of anyone who does so. Any statement or confession proven to have been made under torture, enticement, or such treatment or threat thereof shall be null and void.” Articles 208 and 232 of the Bahraini Penal Code have been amended to include a specific definition of torture consistent with its definition in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code by adding Article 22 bis, which states that: “Anyone who claims to have been subjected to reprisal for filing lawsuits related to torture, mistreatment, inhumane or humiliating treatment shall be entitled to claim civil rights against the accused in the course of collection of evidence, the initiation of the investigation, or before the court before which the criminal case is



heard in any case until the issuance of the decision to close the pleadings, and this is not accepted before the courts, if reprisal was considered a crime”

- Article 81 bis was also added, which states that: “The Public Prosecution shall exercise its jurisdiction to consider allegations related to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or death associated therewith whenever they occur to an accused, witness or expert during the investigation or evidence stage or the course of the case before the court, and in other cases the Public Prosecution shall exercise its jurisdiction with respect to the Public Security Forces based on what is referred to it by the Secretary-General of Ombudsman or the Inspector-General, as the case may be.”
- The Public Security Forces Law is consistent with international human rights standards and stipulates that violators shall be punished with disciplinary penalties, up to and including dismissal from service. The Kingdom has institutions concerned with achieving remedies and providing advice and assistance, including the General Secretariat of Ombudsman, the Special Investigation Unit, the National Institution for Human Rights, the Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission, the Committee for the Assessment of the Situation of Foreign Victims of Trafficking in Persons, and the Internal Audit and Investigations Department, which is responsible for receiving and examining complaints filed against members of the Public Security Forces.
- The decision of the Minister of Interior to issue the basic principles for the use of force and firearms, which are consistent with the principles of the United Nations. The decision also stressed that police forces licensed to carry weapons and use force must strictly implement the provisions contained in those principles, as any deviation from them is considered an individual act for which the perpetrator will



be held accountable in accordance with the rules of criminal and disciplinary responsibility.

- The decision of the Minister of Interior regarding the Police Code of Conduct, which includes the principles and obligations that must be followed and the legal accountability of those who violate them, to ensure that security personnel are committed to not carrying out any violations.
- The Ministry of Interior is also committed to implementing all laws and regulations related to correctional and rehabilitation centers and the agreements to which the Kingdom of Bahrain has acceded in this field. In addition it ensures the preservation of the rights and duties of inmates in correctional centers as stipulated by law, such as the right to health, psychological and social care, continuing education, communication with the outside world such as telephone calls, freedom to practice religious rituals, weekly visits, etc. The law expanded the right of inmates to resort to judicial authorities to submit complaints and requests, and a work guide for detention and pretrial detention was prepared in accordance with local laws and regulations and international standards and rules.
- Training courses are also held in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law for personnel in correctional and rehabilitation centers in particular, in order to develop their skills and consolidate the culture of human rights with the aim of improving the conditions of detention centers.
- There are several national mechanisms that the inmate can resort to if subjected to torture or ill-treatment (Special Investigation Unit, National Institution for Human Rights, General Secretariat of Ombudsman).

#### **Special Investigation Unit**

#### **First: Statistics of the Special Investigation Unit**



In light of the statement of the procedures taken by the Unit in the complaints it receives, the Unit received 124 complaints during the past 2 years. The allegations varied between torture, ill-treatment and the use of excessive force by members of the Public Security Forces. In confirmation of its role in addressing these allegations, the Unit initiated all legal procedures in all these complaints, and heard the statements of 205 complainants and witnesses, while it questioned 210 accused and suspects from Public Security personnel, and referred 72 complainants to the Forensic Medicine and Psychological Support Division. To ensure accountability, the unit referred 8 members of Public Security personnel to criminal trial during the period, and those who were found guilty were sentenced to sentences ranging from fines to imprisonment from ten days to one year. It also referred 9 members of Public Security personnel for disciplinary action. The penalties were issued that varied between warning, reprimand, rebuke, censure, deprivation of the annual bonus, and postponement of promotion.

In general, the unit has sought throughout the years of its work to deal seriously with all allegations received by it, and to take all necessary legal measures in accordance with the approved international standards, which resulted in a continued decrease in the rates of crimes that it specializes in by more than 80%.

#### **Second: Launching the website of the Special Investigation Unit**

Within the framework of the digital and technological progress strategy, and to enhance the principle of transparency that the Unit has adopted since its establishment, the Unit announced on February 27, 2023 the launch of its website through which complaints can be submitted, and where all news and periodic and annual reports issued by the unit can be viewed.

#### **Third: Training and Capacity Building**



- The National Training Program to Enhance the Capacities of those Concerned with Protecting Human Rights in the Criminal Justice System

On October 26, 2022, the Unit launched a national training program entitled “The National Training Program to Enhance the Capacities of those Concerned with Protecting Human Rights in the Criminal Justice System”, which was jointly organized by the Unit, the United Nations Development Program, the Royal Academy of Police, and the Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies. Its activities extended for six months until March 2023. The program included 3 main axes related to international human rights standards, national legislation, the powers of national mechanisms, the role of law enforcement officers, and the limits and controls of the legality of the use of force. These were addressed in 9 events. The number of participants in the program reached 891 individuals from officials and members of national institutions, mechanisms, and agencies concerned with protecting human rights, law enforcement officers, and civil society organizations. It addressed 50 different topics, in which 49 national and international experts spoke, with over 80% of the experts being Bahrainis, and 30% were women.

- Workshop on International Human Rights Procedures and Mechanisms

The Unit, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program and the Human Rights Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized a workshop entitled “International Human Rights Procedures and Mechanisms”, in which about 70 international experts, officials and members of national bodies and agencies and relevant civil society organizations participated. The five workshop sessions over the course of two days, November 13-14, 2023, addressed several specialized topics, the most prominent of which were international conventions related to human rights and states’ obligations towards them, and the United Nations mechanisms concerned with human rights.



124-92 Implement recommendations on the use of torture, the fight against impunity and the judiciary safeguards for fair trial rights (Slovenia)	Please see response to Recommendation 91.
124-104 Investigate all allegations of torture and ensures prosecution of those responsible (Norway)	Please see response to Recommendation 91.
124-105 Investigate all allegations of acts of torture and ill-treatment committed in the context of criminal investigations to obtain confessions and take measures to prevent these acts and end their impunity (Luxembourg)	Please see response to Recommendation 91.
124-106 Investigate all cases of torture and ill-treatment in detention by public officials and strengthening measures to prevent those acts (Poland)	Please see response to Recommendation 91.
124-107 Ensure that perpetrators identified in the course of fully impartial and effective investigations into torture and ill-treatment are prosecuted (Austria)	Please see response to Recommendation 91.
<b>Allowing the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners to obtain Bahraini citizenship (8 recommendations)</b>	
124-170 Repeal all discriminatory provisions against women in the legislation, including on the freedom of movement, on the right to transmit nationality, to divorce and to inherit, in order to ensure gender equality (Belgium)	<p>The issue of nationality for the children of Bahraini women is still before the legislative authority. It falls within the scope of the legislative authority's powers, and the freedom to discuss the draft laws presented to it. The executive authority does not interfere in the legislative authority's work in accordance with the principle of separation of powers, as the issue of nationality is a sovereign project.</p> <p>The Kingdom of Bahrain has taken numerous legal measures in favor of the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners and treating them as Bahraini citizens based on Law No. 35 of 2009, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Exemption of Fees for government health and education services, residence, and the use of services provided by the Alimony Fund. They also benefit from the advantages and facilities enshrined in the Law on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities for Bahraini persons with disabilities regarding entitlement to a disability allowance, provided that they reside permanently in Bahrain.</li></ul>



- The Minister of Interior issued Resolution No. 24 of 2022 regarding granting an entry visa and a family residence permit to first-degree relatives of Bahrainis, wives of Bahrainis, and foreign husbands of Bahraini women, in accordance with several conditions.
- There is no discrimination against girls and children with disabilities and there are no marginalized minorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Freedom of movement and residence is a personal freedom for individuals guaranteed by the Constitution in Article 19, as they have the freedom to move and choose their place of residence.

As for the provisions of inheritance, they are regulated by Islamic law. Out of respect for sects and beliefs, citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain are subject to the sect of the person themselves in the matter of inheritance, not to their gender. As for non-Muslims, civil courts apply their provisions according to their religion, and upon their request in accordance with the law of the country to which they are subject. Islamic law has determined specific shares for women by virtue of their kinship to the deceased, which may exceed the share of men in some cases.

Bahraini law also guarantees women the right to ownership in all its forms, and establishes the principle of the independence of the wife's financial status and its separation from the husband's financial status. The husband has no right to dispose of her money, benefit from it, or exploit it except with her will and consent. It is also not permissible to use the wife's money to recover debts owed by the husband.

As for the right to divorce, according to the provisions of the Family Law, the wife has the right to stipulate in the marriage contract document her right to divorce her husband if he marries another woman. She also has the right to stipulate that the husband not marry



	another woman. If he violates the condition, she has the right to annul the contract or divorce.
124-233 Take steps to end discrimination against women, including allowing Bahraini women to transfer their Bahraini citizenship to their children (Norway)	Please see Recommendation 170
124-234 Amend legislation so as to allow Bahraini women to pass on their nationality to their children (Cyprus)	Please see Recommendation 170
124-235 Amend the Citizenship Law of 1963 prohibiting the passage of citizenship from a woman to her child (Sierra Leone)	Please see Recommendation 170
124-236 Amend the 1963 Citizenship Law, by allowing the passage of citizenship from women to her child, while introducing legislation to protect and guarantee the rights of stateless children (Brazil)	<p>- The Bahraini Nationality Law stipulates that Bahraini nationality be granted to the children of Bahraini women in specific cases aimed at preventing the child from falling into statelessness. Article 4(b) of the law states that “a person is considered Bahraini if they were born in Bahrain or outside, and their mother was Bahraini at the time of their birth, provided that the father is unknown or the lineage to the father has not been legally proven.”</p> <p>- As for the children of a Bahraini woman married to a foreigner, they naturally hold the nationality of their father.</p> <p>- The Kingdom of Bahrain has taken many legal measures in favor of the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners and treating them as Bahraini citizens based on Law No. 35 of 2009, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Exemption of Fees for government health and education services, residence, and the use of services provided by the Alimony Fund. They also benefit from the advantages and facilities enshrined in the Law on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities for Bahraini persons with disabilities regarding entitlement to a disability allowance, provided that they reside permanently in Bahrain.</li></ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The Minister of Interior issued Resolution No. 24 of 2022 regarding granting an entry visa and a family residence permit to first-degree relatives of Bahrainis, wives of Bahrainis, and foreign husbands of Bahraini women, in accordance with several conditions.</li></ul>
124-237 Amend the Bahraini Citizenship Act to grant citizenship to the children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men (United States of America)	Please see Recommendation 170
124-238 Amend and harmonize laws and policies to ensure Bahraini women to pass citizenship to their children (Slovenia)	Please see Recommendation 170
124-240 Amend its nationality laws so that Bahraini women married to foreigners can transmit Bahraini citizenship to their children (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Please see Recommendation 170

Annex1

**Statistics for Recommendation 187: “Working to promote gender equality in access to adequate housing”**

All submitted and allocated applications in 2022 (according to type of application)

Type of service	Number submitted applications		Female applications	Number of allocated applications		Female applications
	Female	Male		Female	Male	
Housing unit	545	3812	%12.5	59	340	14.8%
	4357			399		
Ownership apartment	292	279	%51.1	41	31	56.9%
	571			72		
Residential plot	49	367	%11.8	10	189	5.0%
	416			199		
Housing financing	118	1665	%6.6	50	876	5.4%
	1783			926		
Renovation financing	14	282	%4.7	8	210	3.7%
	296			218		
Mazaya	289	1998	%12.6	184	1215	13.2%
	2287			1399		
New Mazaya	32	289	%10.0	0	0	0
	321			0		
Masakin	11	0	%100.0	0	0	0
	11			0		
Temporary housing	16	0	%100.0	17	0	%100.0
	16			17		
<b>Total</b>	1366	8692	14%	369	2861	11%
	10058			3230		



All submitted and allocated applications in 2023 (according to type of application)

Type of service	Number submitted applications		Female applications	Number of allocated applications		Female applications
	Female	Male		Female	Male	
Housing unit	543	3484	13%	49	537	8.4%
	4027			586		
Ownership apartment	298	226	57%	30	8	78.9%
	524			38		
Residential plot	38	313	11%	6	72	7.7%
	351			78		
Housing financing	211	2838	7%	119	1865	6.0%
	3049			1984		
Facilitation + Plot	0	0	0	0	4	0.0%
	0			4		
Renovation financing	16	793	2%	10	430	2.3%
	809			440		
Mazaya	159	1442	10%	125	986	11.3%
	1601			1111		
New Mazaya	33	286	10%	0	0	0
	319			0		
Masakin	33	0	100%	0	0	0
	33			0		
Temporary housing	8	2	80%	11	3	78.6%
	10			14		
<b>Total</b>	1339	9384	12%	350	3905	8%
	10723			4255		

All submitted and allocated applications in 2024 – to end of March (according to  
type of application)

Type of service	Number submitted applications		Female applications	Number of allocated applications		Female applications
	Female	Male		Female	Male	
Housing unit	160	1003	13.8%	39	340	4.5%
	1163			867		
Ownership apartment	93	65	58.9%	3	31	75.0%
	158			4		
Residential plot	13	91	12.5%	0	189	0.0%
	104			15		
Housing financing	71	872	7.5%	40	876	6.0%
	943			671		
Renovation financing	10	408	2.4%	4	210	2.3%
	418			171		
Mazaya	25	379	6.2%	20	1215	8.8%
	404			227		
New Mazaya	5	79	6.0%	1	0	50.0%
	84			2		
Masakin	2	0	%100.0	0	0	0
	2			0		
Temporary housing	2	0	%100.0	5	0	%100.0
	2			5		
Total	381	2897	12%	112	1850	6%
	3278			1962		



**Applications for the Fifth category that were studied and presented to the Housing Committee**

**The Fifth 5<sup>th</sup> category guarantees the right to housing for divorced, abandoned, widowed women without children, and single women who have lost their parents.**

**During the period between 2022 - end of March 2024**

Year	Total number	Approval	Rejection
2022	43	24	19
2023	47	38	9
2024	9	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>31</b>



### Masaken Project Building

(Building 1884 Road 2023 Complex 1020 Al Lawzi)

Total number of apartment in building	68
<b>Allocated Masaken apartments</b>	<b>64</b>
Unallocated Masaken apartments	4

The Ministry's Housing Committee also studies various housing applications with special cases that require a comprehensive study of the social status of the applicants or the financial status according to the type of the applicant's status. The following table shows the number of women's applications that were studied and presented to the Housing Committee for the year 2024.

**Women's applications studied and presented to the Housing Committee for the year  
2024 - (until the end of March)**

Subject	Approvals	Rejections	Total number
Resubmit cancelled application	4	2	6
Housing allowance disbursement	1	-	1
Postponement of installments	4	3	7
Speeding process of granting a housing unit	-	1	1
Completing the specialization procedures	1	-	1
Accepting a housing unit application	1	-	1
Accepting facilitation	1	1	2
4 <sup>th</sup> category	1	-	1
Exemption of fees	1	-	1
Keeping application	1	-	1
Accepting ownership apartment	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>