



هيئة البحرين
Bahrain Authority for
للثقافة و الآثار
Culture & Antiquities



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سعادة د. أروى حسن السيد المحترمة
رئيسة قطاع شؤون حقوق الإنسان
وزارة الخارجية

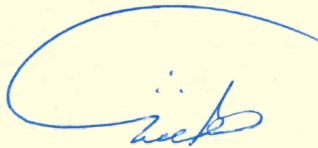
تحية طيبة وبعد،

يطيب لنا إهداؤكم خالص التحيات وأطيب التمنيات، وعطفاً على خطابكم رقم ص/م ح أ/
27/23/6/4 المتضمن طلب معلومات من الدول في إطار المساهمة في إعداد تقريرها المعني
بالحقوق الثقافية. يسرنا أن نرفق لكم بطية تقرير هيئة البحرين للثقافة والآثار في هذا الخصوص.

سنكون شاكرين تفضلكم بتأمين المرفق إلى الجهة المعنية.

متمنين لمساعدكم الخير كل التوفيق والسداد،

ونفضلوا بقبول مجدد التحية والتقدير،،،


عن / مدير مكتب سعادة رئيس الهيئة



Cultural Rights and the governance of development

1. Human rights are an essential part of any policy and programme implemented by governments. A consideration that there is equal opportunity, accessibility, free expression and an elevation of the human consciousness are all elements at the heart of art and culture programming. We integrate these foundational concepts at the very beginning stage by providing platforms and facilitating the provision and creation of spaces for artists, musicians, poets and writers and many other stakeholders in the field, to engage and flourish and continue contributing to a vibrant movement. Impact assessment and monitoring is done with our audience engagement. Measured through number of attendees to concerts, shows, exhibitions, etc. It is also measured through the number of bookings provided to the arts sector, providing accessibility to our audience. We also measure through publishing grants, awards, prizes and other methods of recognizing and celebrating local talents in various fields.
2. Examples of programmes that contribute to the respect, protection and implementation of cultural rights:
 - a. **Spring of Culture:** A multi-national festival celebrating local and international, musicians, artists, theater, film and literature. The festival is a diverse program of many different genres, providing the audience with cultural experiences from the region and international artists, as well as local talents. Accessible platforms through this create a flourishing sector for talent to develop and grow.
 - b. **Heritage Festival:** This festival celebrates traditions and the artisans, musicians, and craftsmen, among many others that uphold actively their trade preserving it's value and practice. It provides the right to access, enjoy and transmit cultural heritage, in our music, cuisine, clothing, crafts and ways of life.
 - c. **Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition:** An exhibition that has continued for the past 50 years, establishes in 1972, and an important platform to uplift artists, and their talents, their creative output and bring them to our audiences both local and visiting. It plays a huge role in inspiring creative expression, knowledge and providing access to the creativity and knowledge of others
 - d. **International visits for our traditional bands:** An important element of promoting our traditional music among other aspects, is the introduction of who we are as a people to cultures less familiar with the region. Easily, a sound human rights agenda aims to bridge disparities, knowledge gaps and shift attitudes especially in prejudices based on race, religion, gender, age, nationality, culture and identity. This understated driver of bringing cultures together, enhances the human experience and reduces barriers, by bringing closer together opposing discourse, narratives and perspectives.

3. Examples of programmes, policies and commitments where:
 - a. ***cultural rights and cultural development is mentioned and explained:*** Frequently engaging with scholars and lecturers, to talk about history, anthropology, and cultural development of the region in many occasions providing an education, thought stimulating dialogue for the institution to engage with our audience.
 - b. ***Marginalized voices and aspirations are identified and heard as well as local aspirations, values, priorities :*** The creation of a consultative informal gathering between the Institution, executive management, Key staff with stakeholders and key figures in the specific artistic and cultural community ranging from artists, musicians, writers, philosophers and thinkers and the theater and film industry to take on board their grievances, worries, expectations, and other issues where they can speak in an environment of transparency, openness and inclusivity. This supports strategy, route correcting and provides insight and awareness for the institution to create the right commitments and provide the most needed support in order to provide development to the sectors.

4. ***Monitoring or evaluation mechanisms assessing impact on our policies on cultural rights:***

Regular meetings with the societies, unions and representatives of the cultural sector are ongoing ways for BACA to connect with any concerns and address any policy changes, or gaps in infrastructure, wages, and other concerns to uphold the importance of their cultural output.

We are in the process of developing short questionnaires for our audiences, attendees and stakeholders to better determine and understand impact and positive effects of attending performances, experiencing an art exhibit, attending our festivals, etc. This is to find a measure of how cultural programming enhances society, family links, human interaction, and many other elements.

For complaints we do have a nation wide mechanism in place to submit complaints that are monitored to be addressed within an certain amount of time, and followed up with reporting on how the issue was addressed by the relevant directorate.

5. ***A Comprehensive legislative system set to promote culture and safeguard cultural rights:***

Indeed, there is no doubt that the Kingdom of Bahrain has always been, and still, a pioneer in promoting and supporting culture, developing its institutions and main component actors within its comprehensive development vision. Hence, Bahrain has adopted a number of national legislation and international agreements and covenants for the preservation and promotion of cultural rights in support of diversity, dialogue and openness in the context of its comprehensive commitment to protect human rights. This includes the Issuing of the "Law of Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, Special Organizations Working in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions" of 1989; With the aim of regulating the work of

associations, legalizing them, regulating their conditions, following up their activities and providing them with the necessary support.

In addition, the Kingdom of Bahrain also ratified the “International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights” on September 27, 2007; It was one of the most important international documents signed by the Kingdom's government in the field of human rights, towards the completion of its international human rights obligations. Then, in 2014, the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to the UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and in the same year (2014), it joined the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage