

Violation of Basic Rights for Bahraini Women

Thank you Mr. chairman,

Bahrain Women Association would like to discuss a violation and deprivation of some basic and essential rights. One is: citizenship right.

Bahraini women who marry non- Bahraini , are denied the right to extend their citizenship to their children. These children have limited access to high education, healthcare, land ownership, political participation, and employment. This inequality, not only denies women their basic rights as citizens, it also denies children their rights as human beings.

Although Bahrain mentioned in its report that "a draft law on citizenship is being debated, this draft remains the same as of not permitting Bahraini mothers to grant nationality to their children. Lately, even this draft was withdrawn from the parliament. This is considered as a step backward toward achieving this essential right for Bahraini women.

The number of children from Bahraini mothers whom has no nationality are increasing. This in turn, increase the pain and suffering of the mothers and their children. Having in mind that the government did provide Bahraini nationality to thousands of non-Bahraini families whom were brought to Bahrain for what is called Political Nationalization.

Another violation for women right is the absence of family law. The lack of this law is considered to be one of the main obstacles and struggles for women in Bahrain.

We believe the government could have done more to push towards the family law by cooperating with some of the religious figures whom support this law and also coordinate with NGOs, especially women NGOs.

We hereby urge Bahraini government to take a serious and immediate action to amend nationality law, approve the family law and remove all reservations on the CEDAW.

Thank you

