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**Report of Qatar National Human rights  
Committee in accordance with  
Paragraph 15 (c) of the Annex to Human Rights  
Council resolution 5/1**

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## **Introduction**

This report is based on the belief of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) in the constructive role of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism and its recommendations in evaluating the performance of governments and urging them to improve the human rights situation in their countries and to fulfill the commitments they have made to enable citizens to enjoy their fundamental rights.

NHRC is submitting a shadow report to the UPR Working Group, as it helps to evaluate the performance of the Government of the State of Qatar in the field of human rights and also appoints the Government of the State of Qatar itself in recognizing notes of the NHRC on protecting and enhancing the conditions of human Rights in Qatar.

### **Methodology:**

This report was developed after reviewing the outcomes of the universal periodic review related to Qatar which was conducted on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and in accordance with all relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1 as well as reviewing national legislations, laws, regulations and practices over the past four years.

### **Executive Summary**

This report comes to clarify the situation of human rights in Qatar over the past two years (2010-2013); it covers and takes into account a wide range of rights and freedoms which are recognized in international standards. QNHRC was keen to be neutral and credible and to provide an objective image of the status of human rights.

The first section of the report describes the system of government and state institutions, the second section describes the institutional structure to promote and protect human rights, while the third section deals with the challenges faced by the State to ensure the protection and respect for fundamental human rights in a number of previous legislations (2004 Constitution) including the Prints and Publications law, the Law on the

establishment private associations and institutions, the community protection Act, the anti-terrorism law, as well as the law regulating the entry and exit of expatriates and their sponsorship and the Nationality law; Except for the late issuance of some important legislation in which drafts are put and waits to be released in the near future, such as election law, media law and domestic labor law.

Economic and social rights are the most highly-developed rights; spending rises in these sectors traditionally. In this regards, health and education fund law and social health insurance law were issued.

On the other hand the report includes a special paragraph of the most important challenges facing the workers' rights, where there are still many obstacles despite the efforts of the State in this field, as domestic workers lack legal protection, construction workers suffer poor working conditions, with some of them not getting salaries and others suffer from ill-treatment and poor living conditions in a number of companies, especially small construction companies managed by non- Qataris.

In October 2012, The Council of Ministers has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Interior to form a committee to study the issue of sponsorship, the Committee has already begun to hold meetings and invited the National Human Rights Committee in December 2012 to participate and express its opinion on the sponsorship system. This study aims to find an alternative system to ensure that the rights of both parties (the worker and the employer) but it has not issued its recommendations yet.

The fourth section describes women's rights; this issue is of particular importance to the agenda of the National Human Rights Committee. The participation of Qatari women in decision-making is still limited, in particular their participation in parliament. Qatari women married to non-Qatari men are subject to discrimination as their children cannot obtain Qatari citizenship, according to Qatari nationality law.

The most important obstacles facing women are believing that the advancement of women is the responsibility of government agencies, lack of civil associations concerned with women's issues, the continued promotion of the stereotyped image of women by the traditional societal culture, restricting their participation in certain areas, such as media and political participation, and limiting their access to leadership positions in work institutions "This is according to the report issued by the Supreme Council for Family affairs (Beijing +15)".

The Committee has made several recommendations, especially related to women such as gaining citizenship for their children to achieve equality with men and reviewing family related legislation and The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, In addition to the urgency to issue a law regulating the rights of domestic workers.

The fifth Section of the report includes the NHRC submitted recommendations to the government on reconsidering specific legislation to be consistent with international human rights norms and standards and urging the government to ratify the following:

- International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
- the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention against torture (OPCAT)
- The Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- The Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively (No. 98)
- The Convention NO. 100 Concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers
- The Domestic Workers Convention (ILO Convention No. 189).

The committee recommended also reviews in general reservations and other special reservations such as the reservation to Article 9 of the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The sixth Section provides the vision of the Committee on the extent of the State's obligation to implement the recommendations of the UPR, either the recommendations that accepted by the state, the ones that the state announced as implemented or the other recommendations that are in the process of implementation. This section shows the developments carried out by the government as a commitment to implement the recommendations of the UPR for the year 2010, especially in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of the child.

## **Section 1**

## Qatar government System

### a. The political system

- Article 1 of the Constitution provides that **"Qatar is an independent Arab state. Islam is the State's religion and the Islamic Shariah is the main source of its legislations. Its official language is Arabic"**

#### The political system in Qatar is based on main foundations:

- Qatar is an independent Arab Islamic state. It has a democratic political system (**Article 1 of the Constitution**).

- All citizens are equal in general rights and duties (**Article 34 of the Constitution**).

- All people are equal before the law. There shall be no discrimination on account of sex, origin, language, or religion (**Article 35 of the Constitution**).

- The system of governance shall be based on the separation of authority with cooperation in accordance with the way stipulated by this Constitution (**Article 60 of the Constitution**).

### b. The Executive authority:

The executive authority is made up of two bodies: the presidency and the government. The Constitution provides, in Article 62, that **"The executive authority shall be handled by the Emir to be assisted by the Cabinet as stipulated in this Constitution"**.

#### Head of the state (The Emir):

- The Emir is the Head of the State. His person is secure and should be respected (**Article 64 of the Constitution**).

- The Emir shall have many powers; the most important of them is formulating the general policy of the State with the assistance of the Cabinet (**Article 67 of the Constitution**), inviting the Advisory Council to hold its annual ordinary session (**Article 85 of the Constitution**) and asking for a citizen's referendum (**Article 75 of the Constitution**).

#### The Cabinet:

The Cabinet shall be assigned, in its capacity as supreme executive authority, the managing all internal and external affairs which come

within its authority according to the Constitution and the provisions of the law. The formation of the Cabinet shall be in accordance with an Emiri Order. The law shall determine the remuneration of the Prime Minister and the ministers (**Article 121 of the Constitution**).

**c. The Legislative authority:**

The Advisory Council shall consist of (45) members. (30)Of them shall be elected directly by secret ballot, while the remaining (15) shall be appointed by the Emir from among ministers or others (**Article 77 of the Constitution**).

The Advisory Council shall be entrusted with the legislative authority, approve the general policy of the Government, the budget, and it shall exercise control over the executive authority as specified in this Constitution.

Up to the preparation of this report, the election of Al-Shura Council has not been held yet; the executive authority exercises the legislative process in the state after taking the opinion of the current Shura Council.

**d. The judicial authority:**

The judicial authority is independent (**Article 130 of the Constitution**). The Attorney General is independent judicial body shall handle the general public cases in the name of the society. Judges are independent; there is no power over them in their judgments except the law. No agency has the right to interfere in the process of justice(**Article131 of the Constitution and Article (2) of the Judicial Authority law No. (10) For the year 2003**).

Law No. 10 of 2003 determined the jurisdictions of each type of court and specified the necessary requirements to become a Judge and gave opinions about issues related to the judiciary, the appointment, promotion, transference and retirement of judges in accordance with the law (**Articles 27 to 33**).

The judiciary shall have a Supreme Council to supervise the proper functioning of courts of law and their auxiliary organs. The law shall determine the composition, powers and functions of the said Council, according to Article 137 of the Constitution (**Articles 22 to 33 of the judicial authority law**).

Al-Shoura Council shall consist of forty-five Members thirty of whom shall be elected by direct, general secret ballot (Article 77), despite the fact that the Constitution entered into force in June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the electoral law under which Al-Shura Council is elected has not been issued up to the preparation of this report.

## **Section 2**

### **Institutional structure to promote and protect human rights**

The past few years have seen the establishment of several institutions and specialized centers working in the field of human rights, they play an important role in monitoring the compliance of government agencies with the fundamental principles of human rights, as well as its role in spreading the culture of human rights.

These institutions monitor the violations of human rights, whether by governmental or non-governmental organizations.

#### **Listed below, some of these institutions:**

##### **◆ Supreme Council for Family Affairs**

The Supreme Council for Family Affairs was established in accordance with the Emiri Decree No. (53) Of 1998, then the Emiri Decree No. (15) Of 2009 was issued on organizing the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

The most important objectives of the Council:

- Setting forth strategies, policies and programs contributing to the promotion of the Qatari family quality living, and ensuring social protection and stability of all its members.
- Undertaking measures to implement international conventions requirements related to family affairs.
- Following-up all exerted efforts to implement the provisions of the international conventions, ratified by the State of Qatar, related to family affairs and to the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities.

- Promoting Qatari women capabilities and provide them with professional support to increase their job opportunities, in an effort to enable them to participate in political life and in economy, especially on a decision making level.
- Raising awareness about surging family issues and ways of addressing them.

#### ◆ **Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF):**

It was established in 1995 with the aim to unlock the human through its three pillars of Education, Science & Research and Community Development.

#### ◆ **Qatar Foundation for Child and Women Protection:**

The Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children was a private foundation that was established on 31 November 2002, in accordance with Law No. 8 of 1998 on private associations. It became a public welfare institution pursuant to decision No. 4 of 2007.

The foundation's responsibilities and goals include:

- Providing social and legal consultations as well as legal assistance to victims.
- Providing victims with accommodation and protection.
- Providing victims of abuse and violence with integrated care services for treatment and rehabilitation.
- Provide awareness and cultural programs.

#### ◆ **Qatar Foundation For Combating Human Trafficking**

It was founded in 2008. It is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development. Its mission is based on protecting the society from human trafficking and providing integrated care for victims.

#### ◆ **Social Development center:**

It was founded in 1996. It is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development. It is a non-profit, social and development organization, SDC is a member of the Arab NGO Network, the World Family Organization, and the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

◆ **Reach Out to Asia "Rota":**



Reach Out To Asia is a non-profit organization launched in December 2005; it is committed to providing high quality and relevant primary and secondary education, encouraging relationships among communities, creating safe learning environments and restoring education in crisis affected areas across Asia and the Middle East.

◆ **National Human Rights Committee (NHRC):**

The National Human Rights Committee was established in accordance with Law No. 38 of 2002 and under Paris Principles issued by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1992.

The Committee aims to protect and consolidate Human Rights to all subject to the jurisdiction of the State of Qatar (citizen, expatriate or transit traveler).

Under Paris Principles 2010, NHRC was re-organized in accordance with law no. (17), 2010. Under Article 2 of Law No. 38, the QNHRC aims to:

1. Achieve the objectives embodied in international conventions and treaties on human rights to which the State of Qatar is party.
2. Advise concerned bodies in the State on matters related to human rights and freedoms.
3. Investigate violations of human rights and freedoms, if any, and suggest suitable means to deal with such violations and avoid their occurrence.
4. Monitor reports by international organizations and NGOs on human rights situation in the State, and coordinate with concerned bodies to address them.
5. Take part in the preparation of reports submitted by the State on human rights and freedoms.
6. Cooperate with international and regional organizations concerned with human rights and freedoms.
7. Raise awareness and enrich education on human rights and freedoms.

◆ **Doha Center for Media Freedom (DCMF):**

The DCMF is a non-profit organization working for press freedom and quality journalism in Qatar, the Middle East and the world. It is created in accordance with the Emiri Decree No. (86) Of 2007.

The Doha Center for Media Freedom's stated purpose is to provide physical refuge for threatened journalists, as well as to support freedom of the press by other activities.

◆ **Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID):**

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue was established on May 2007. The main role of the centre is primarily to spread the culture of dialogue, the peaceful coexistence of humanity and the acceptance of others.

**Section 3**

**Human rights situation in the State of Qatar**

**1. Civil and political rights:**

### **A.the right to life and physical integrity**

The right to life is guaranteed for each person. In Qatar, the death penalty is applied in very serious crimes in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court, Every person condemned to death shall have the right to apply for amnesty, pardon, or commutation of sentence, which may be granted in all cases. Despite issuing death sentences in Qatar, it has not implemented since 1995.

At the level of enforced disappearances, NHRC has not monitored or received any complaint, NHRC has not experienced since its founding any kind of military trials.

### **B. the right to life, liberty and security of persons**

Law No. (8) of 2010 amending certain provisions of Penal Code promulgated by Law No. (11) of 2004 includes the definition of torture in compliance with the definition provided by the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the “Torture Convention”) of 1984 which was ratified by the State of Qatar by decree No. (27) of 2001. The recent amendment maintains legislative harmony between the dictates of international instruments and the national Law.

On the other hand, Law No. 17 of 2002 on the Protection of the Society men provides for official exemption from the prohibition of arbitrary arrest and detention and the Code of Criminal Procedure No. 23 of 2004, this implies restriction of rights, freedoms and guarantees which the Qatari Constitution stressed.

Law No. 3 of 2004 on combating terrorism grants prosecutors powers to extend the pre-trial detention and take punitive measures restricting the right to freedom of movement and residence.

NHRC has completed developing a guide for human rights standards in places of detention, which is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution, national legislation and international standards for the treatment of prisoners and detainees.

NHRC called, in its annual report, on the Public Prosecution to activate their role in the inspection of places of detention, to prove irregularities and take the measures prescribed by the law if the detention is not lawful.

### **c. The right of election and nomination**

Article (42) provides that: "The State shall assure the right of election and nomination for all citizens according to the law."

Law on regulating election has not been issued yet, the current Al-Shura Council is on charge up to the preparation of this report. The current Al-Shura Council enjoys legitimacy and will remain exercising its legislative powers until a new council is elected."

In spite of stressing the principle of equality in rights and duties for all citizens in the Constitution, there are limits on political participation exist for persons whose citizenship was withdrawn but subsequently restored.

According to Law 38 of 2005, the right to candidacy or nomination in any legislative body is denied for a period of 10 years from the date of restoration of their citizenship. Article 16 stipulates "no naturalized Qatari has the right to nomination, election or appointment in any legislative body".

### **d. The right to freedom of Peaceful Assembly**

NHRC has not recorded or received any complaints regarding any prejudice of the right to peaceful assembly.

Article (44) of the country's constitution regulates the right to peaceful assembly. Despite this constitutional protection, Law No. 18 of 2004 on Public Meetings and Demonstrations includes several provisions that impose restrictions on exercising this right. NHRC previously pointed out such restrictions in its annual reports. NHRC recommends that these restrictions should be reconsidered.

In practice, Qatar has witnessed during the years 2011 and 2012 a number of meetings and marches by the citizens and Arab and foreign communities in national and international events without the intervention of the security services.

### **e. Freedom of association**

Freedom of association is guaranteed in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed by law.

Law No. (14) Of 2004 on associations and institutions, which is amended by Law No. (8) Of 2006 grants citizens and residents the right to join regional and international institutions and participate in their establishment, it also allows Non-Qataris to join national professional associations by not more than (20%) of the total membership (Article 2 of the Law on Private Associations and Institutions).

However, the law should be revised to reduce restrictions on procedures for the establishment of associations and determining the scope of their work and to grant more powers to them; In addition to the need to get rid of bureaucracy of procedures of recording and publicity of associations in the Ministry of Social Affairs.

#### **f. Right to a nationality**

Although the Qatari Constitution guarantees the principle of equality among citizens in public rights and duties article (34), except that the Nationality Act No. 38 of 2005 where Qatari women have the limited ability to pass their nationality to their non-Qatari husbands and children

#### **g. The right to a fair and just trial**

The Constitution guarantees on the following rights:

- litigation is a right secured and preserved for all people
- All people shall be equal before the law without discrimination on grounds of sex, origin, language or religion.
- The accused shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty at a lawful trial in which he has enjoyed the guarantees necessary for his defense .
- No crime and no punishment unless stipulated by the law. No punishment except on the consequences of an act after it is committed. Punishment is personal.
- judicial Authority is independent and vested in courts of law, Judges are independent and their decisions are taken and implemented in accordance with the law. The independence of the Judiciary shall be safeguarded and no

interference whatsoever shall be permitted with court proceedings and the course of justice.

-The proceedings of the courts of law are open to the public unless the court decides of its own accord or at the request of an opposing party to hold them in closed session if that could best serve the interests of public decency or general order. In all cases, sentences are pronounced in public sessions

Article 221 of the Criminal Procedure Code provides "Each defendant of a crime has a defending counsel, and in case the defendant does not appoint an attorney, the Court appoints a counsel to defend him"

On the other hand, NHRC considered the system of pre-trial detention as a procedure of the investigation and trial in criminal cases as a punishment in its own in some cases, because the investigating authorities' expansion of resorting to pre-trial detention.

NHRC also spotted some of the challenges related to this right, one of them is the slow pace of the litigation process in some cases as a result of the huge number of cases before the judiciary compared to the numbers of judges (This is based on the correspondence took place between the Committee and the President of the Supreme Council of Magistracy)

In addition to the fees that workers are asked to pay by the Labour Court for the production of an expert report to look into the details of a worker complaint against the employer, in addition to the elongation of the litigation process before civil and labor courts; this constitutes an important challenge for workers' rights, especially in light of their inability to leave the country or change their jobs throughout the investigations and criminal prosecutions except in exceptional cases.

#### **h. The right to freedom of opinion and expression:**

Qatar has recently witnessed a great breakthrough in the field the freedom of opinion and expression, both at the level of individuals and media and publishing where many issues and topics are addressed through print, audio and visual media including discussion and evaluation of policies and programs relating to government bodies.

NHRC has recommended in many reports the need to amend the Press and Publications Law No. 8 of 1979, which contains restrictions on the exercise of media activities; NHRC put its views on the draft of a new law on organizing media activities.

#### **i. the right of freedom of movement**

Article 38 of the Constitution provides: "No citizen may be expelled from the country or prevented from returning thereto." However, all Expatriates may only leave the country temporarily or permanently on submission of an exit permit granted by the residence sponsor.

Article (18) of Law No. 4 of 2009 is considered to be a good step towards facilitating the procedures for leaving the country in the case of the sponsor's refusal to grant the permit, the sponsor's death, or his absence without assigning an agent to replace him, the Expatriate shall assign a departure sponsor, or present a certificate of no sentences being served or lawsuits from the court of jurisdiction.

#### **j. the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion**

Article 50 of the Constitution recognizes the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion in the following terms: "Freedom of worship is guaranteed to all by law, subject to the need to protect public order and public morals".

All citizens and residents perform rites of worship in designated places, whether in mosques or churches; some Asian embassies oversee places of worship of other faiths.

The Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue was established to promote and spread a culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

The 10th Doha Conference for Interfaith Dialogue was held in April 2013, there were 300 participants from over 70 countries— Jews, Christians, Muslims among other religions.

Although Islam is the state religion, 2 incidents have been reported during the year 2012 where 2 international schools prevented 2 girls from entering their classes as they were wearing hijab (headscarf) arguing that the parents

have signed a declaration to accept the rules of the school which includes students not to wear the headscarf.

## **2. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:**

In 2011 UN Human Development Report, Qatar was ranked 37 out of 187 countries (it was ranked 38), this reflects efforts by the authorities concerned with human development in the state of Qatar.

### **The following section lists the situation of each of the economic, social and cultural rights:**

#### **a. The Right to Dignified Living**

According to the United Nations Development Report for 2011, the average per capita gross of Qatar's national income was 82.978 dollars for the year 2011 compared to 79.426 in 2010.

Emiri Decree No (50) for the year 2011 concerning increase on salaries, social allowances and pensions for civil and military retired - Qatari employees by 60% for a maximum of 120%. The total cost of the increases and bonuses is about ten billion riyals a year in addition to ten billion riyals reimbursed for one-time to civil and military pension fund to cover the increase in the pensions of the current retirees in addition to ten billion borne by the state to pay for retiree contributions before entering the Retirement and Pension Law into force.

#### **b. the right to housing**

Qatari Constitution devoted the principle of gender equality in general rights and duties (Article 34 of the constitution). Article (6) of Law No. (2) Of 2007 on regulating housing has equated among men and women.

The housing system grants the beneficiary either money to purchase the land needed to build a house or a piece of land not exceeding 625 square meters within the city of Doha, and 1000 square meters outside.

The law also entitles citizens who afford to pay back the loan's value to a housing loan of QR 600,000 with 1% administrative expenses a year decreasing with the repayment of the loan value, Article 3 of the housing law allows granting the beneficiary the amount allocated for the purchase of

land and the housing loan, in case he provides an accommodation or a housing unit, in accordance with the rules and procedures issued by a decision of the Council of Ministers, upon the suggestion of the minister.

Qatar provides this right to citizens regularly and continuously. In May 2013, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs announced the process of planning the distribution of 5400 pieces of land of a thousand square meters for every citizen. This reflects the urban prosperity, which aims at promoting the human development and provide the best quality of life.

### **c. the right to health**

The rate of total health care spending was 27% of the public spending in 2010 and 2011 (According to the report of the Supreme Council of Health for the year 2011).

At the level of government policy, Qatar National Vision for the year 2030 is devoting special attention to the development of the health sector; the National Strategy for Health (2011-2016) has been adopted to include 35 health projects to be implemented to create a world-class health care system.

Law No. 7 for the year 2013 has been issued on the social health insurance system. According to the UN Human Development Report for the year 2011, the average life expectancy at birth increased from 76.0 in 2010 to 78.4 in 2011.

### **d. the right to education**

The right to education is guaranteed to all citizens and foreign residents who meet the requirements and conditions of admission to the various levels

Act No. 25 of 2001 on compulsory education states that education is compulsory and free of charge for all children from the beginning of the primary stage to the end of the intermediate change or until the child reaches the age of 18, whichever of the two comes first.

According to the latest statistics available, illiteracy rate has declined by almost 7% in 2010 (illiteracy among women declines to 6.4 %). education enrollment ratios increased in independent, semi-independent, private schools or community schools.

The system of educational coupons is applied as of the year 2012/2013 in a number of private and international schools, the beneficiaries of this system

are all citizens working in both the public and private sectors and retirees who do not receive allowances or financial assistance from their work, this is to enable citizens to choose the type of education for their children.

The lack of qualified human resources represents a challenge to the education of persons with disabilities; this in turn limits the acceptance of these children in some schools.

**e. Right to social security:**

The Social Security Act of 1963 regulates the provision of monthly assistance for needy categories of citizens. This Act covers the following categories of beneficiaries :

1. Widows
2. divorced women
3. needy families
4. disabled persons
5. orphans
6. persons incapacitated for work
7. the elderly
8. families of convicts
9. abandoned wives and families of missing persons

During this year, a new legislation for increase in pension entitlements is expected to be issued.

**f. Non-Qatari workers' rights**

Challenges related to working conditions constitute a negative factor result from the failures of the application of the standards provided in the labor Law No. 14 of 2004 and the related ministerial decisions. The latest Statistics received by the Committee from the Department of Labor indicates that there are 2349 complaints submitted by workers from January until the end of May 2013.

**The most important challenges:**

NHRC monitors the human rights situation in the State of Qatar and receives complaints from various groups. the Committee recalls, in all its annual reports published on its website in both (Arabic - English),that because of the sponsorship system, expats face harsh working conditions,

problems in the transfer of sponsorship, non-payment of their salaries, the withholding their passports and being housed in poor accommodation. "As mentioned in other reports, workers spotted under harsh working conditions related to working in very high temperature and humidity in the summer, in addition to dealing with hazardous materials and equipment used in construction, resulting in many cases to many of them injured.

It is worth mentioning that work is underway to amend the Employment Act No. 14 of 2004 to impose more stringent sanctions for violations of the law.

In March 2013, the Ministry of Labor submitted a proposal to amend certain provisions of the law to ensure payment of workers' salaries and entitlements, providing adequate housing for them and imposing Progressive financial sanction on any employer who violates any provision of the law; the Council of Ministers referred the proposal to be studied for preparing the required legislative tools.

#### **g. Domestic workers' rights**

Domestic workers' rights constitute a significant challenge because they are more likely to be abused than others, due to violations of the labor law and the lack of specific legislation regulating labor affairs.

NHRC monitored situations where workers being made to work excessive hours without being given adequate time off work in addition to their inability of resorting to labor department.

NHRC refers to introducing a draft law by the Ministry of labor to clarify the "rights and duties" of domestic workers since 2007, issuance of the law was delayed due to coordinating among GCC to develop unified legislation.

#### **h. Trafficking in Human Beings**

The elimination of human trafficking requires cooperation between labor-sending and receiving countries, the problems start when workers brought to Qatar after contacting recruitment agents in their home countries who

deceive them about their salary or about the type of work they would be doing. Workers pay for their visa by selling their property or borrowing money. The majority of recruitment agents outside Qatar introduce contracts to workers without coordination with the employer in Qatar; workers often have their contracts replaced due to the model adopted by the Ministry of Labour in Qatar. Workers may be exposed to problems related to deception over the terms and conditions of their work, about their salary or about the type of work they would be doing or lack of decent accommodation.

Law No. (15) Of the year 2011 On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is considered to be a positive step, as it defines the crime of trafficking in persons, where any person who has committed an offence of human trafficking shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding fifteen (15) years and a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand (300,000) Riyals, in some cases. This helps to identify victims of human trafficking and protect them. Up to the preparation of this report, there is no lawsuit filed in accordance with this law

NHRC recommends that the relevant authorities in Qatar have to cooperate with the labor-sending countries in conducting training courses adapted to target law enforcement officers as well as personnel working in human development field on the following issues:

- Identifying the victims of human trafficking
- Prevention of trafficking in human beings
- Defining, detecting, and investigating human trafficking cases
- The protection of the victims
- Providing of social care and rehabilitation for the victims

NHRC also recommends the spreading the relevant international standards relating to business and human rights to ensure that they are respected and to take the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of these standards in terms of adapting national legislation and mechanisms to solve the existing problems.

## **Section 4**

### **Women's Rights**

### **a. Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

Qatar acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2009, but made reservations relating to several articles of the Convention:

1. Article 2 (a) in connection with the rules of the hereditary transmission of authority, as it is inconsistent with the provisions of article 8 of the Constitution.
2. Article 9, paragraph 2, as it is inconsistent with Qatar's law on citizenship.
3. Article 15, paragraph 1, in connection with matters of inheritance and testimony, as it is inconsistent with the provisions of Islamic law.
4. Article 15, paragraph 4, as it is inconsistent with the provisions of family law and established practice.
5. Article 16, paragraph 1 (a) and (c), as they are inconsistent with the provisions of Islamic law.
6. Article 16, paragraph 1 (f), as it is inconsistent with the provisions of Islamic law and family law. The State of Qatar declares that all of its relevant national legislation is conducive to the interest of promoting social solidarity.

### **The application of The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW):**

Qatari Constitution guarantees equality of Citizens in public rights and duties, here shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of sex, race, language, or religion.

Although the work of women is recent in Qatar, Qatari women are supported by the political leadership, where Qatari women had the right to participate in the first electoral experience, nominated themselves for membership of the Central Municipal Council and assumed several ministerial positions in the years 2010 and 2011;The appointment of the first

Qatari judge in May 2010 represented a precedent in the Arabian Gulf countries.

The last period has seen some legislative developments related to provisions including discrimination against women, including:

- According to the Family Act, the minimum age of marriage is 16 for girls.
- Women take advantage of government housing programs under the law.
- Equality of woman working with the man while doing the same work in all sectors including the private sector.
- Equality between women and men in the payment of blood money in cases of accidental killing
- law gives Qatari women the right to obtain a passport and travel abroad without the permission of their male guardian, the permission of the guardian is only required on the issuance of passports for minors and incapacitated persons.
- Granting women the right to Khulah (right of a woman to seek a divorce from her husband in Islam for compensation (usually monetary) paid back to the husband), abandoning children is no longer an alternative to Khulah.

However, challenges still exist in some legislation, in addition to the absence of legislation or measures imposing sanctions on violators of the law. The most important challenges are listed below:

**The right to marry non-Qataris:**

Applications for approval of marriages to foreign nationals or the endorsement thereof in accordance with the provisions of Law Decree no. (21) of 1989, which regulates Marriage to Foreigners, shall be considered by a commission, All recommendations made by the commission shall be submitted to the Minister of Interior for his/her final decision on the applications. In this regard, Qatari women face difficulty in obtaining approval of marriage to foreigners.

**-The right to grant citizenship to the husband and children:**

Qatari women have the limited ability to pass their nationality to their non-Qatari husbands and children "The Qatari Citizenship Act (No. 38 of 2005)"

### **-Violence against women:**

The report of the Supreme Council for the Family affairs, which was introduced in 2009 in Beijing +15 conference provided that:

"The State of Qatar adopted practical policies in addressing the problem of violence against women through the establishment of independent institutions specialized to address this phenomenon (Qatar Foundation for Child and Women Protection and Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking), Two houses providing shelter were established for women who are subjected to violence; The Qatari House for Lodging and Human Care in 2003 to house the victims of human trafficking and provide protection and care for them (affiliated to the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking), and Dar Al-Aman to house women and children who are exposed to violence in 2007 (affiliated to the Qatar Foundation for the Protection of children and women)".

Ministry of Interior opened in March 2009 a special office to deal with cases of domestic violence and violence against women surpassing the traditional security frameworks of dealing with those situations providing social, educational and psychological support to victims.

Many surveys on the problem of violence against women were conducted:

- (Violence against women in the Qatari society) in 2006 and carried out by the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.
- (Violence against married women - the case of Qatar) in 2008, and carried out by the Supreme Council for Family Affairs
- (domestic violence - a sample survey on some Qatar ifamilies) in 2008 and carried out by the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Interior.
- (Domestic workers - reality and problems - effects and solutions) in 2010. Carried out by Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking.

Moreover, Qatar has provided integrated information of the database of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Violence against Women in 2008.

Based on the report of the Supreme Council for Family affairs, the studies conducted on violence against women and familial violence has shown acceptance and justification by women of the violence committed against

them, Women still hesitate to resort to the institution that may provide protection just in order to safeguard the family reputation.

Based on the data received from Qatar foundation for women and child protection on violence against women from January to August 2011, 721 cases reported on violence against women that involves physical and psychological abuses for a variety of social and economic reasons.

On the other hand, NHRC spotted the positive development related to the way law enforcement officers deal with reports of violence; in several incidents, women reported to the police the violence they were subjected to where they were provided protection in addition to legal facilities to complete the submission of communications in the public prosecution.

#### **b. Recommendations of the National Human Rights Committee on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women**

1. Give Qatari mothers the ability to confer their nationality to their children on an equal basis as Qatari fathers.
2. Revision of family legislation, especially the provisions that related to social transformations and legal loopholes exploited in women abuse.
3. Proposing a law for protection from family violence.
4. Continuing the efforts of society awareness and education about women's rights.
5. Considering proposing a law regulating the work of domestic workers a matter of urgency.
6. Consolidating the functions of civil society organizations in the confirmation of the role of women in society and encouraging the establishment of non-governmental organizations in the fields relating to women.

### **Section 5**

#### **General recommendations of the National Human Rights Committee**

**The Committee recommends revising a number of legislation relating to the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms to comply with international standards of human rights, as follows:**

-Amending Law No. 17 of 2002 on the Protection of the Community, which authorizes law enforcement officers a broad range powers to arrest and custody for long periods of time without being bound by the provisions of the new Criminal Procedure Law No. 23 of 2004.

-Amendment of Law no (3) of 2004 on combating terrorism which authorizes powers to extend pre -trial detention and to take punitive measures restricting the right to freedom of movement and residence.

-Amendment of the Nationality Law No. (38) Of 2005 in order to achieve equality between men and women on one hand and between the citizens and neutralized citizens on the other hand.

-Amendment of the Law regulating the entry and exit of expatriates to and from Qatar, to cancel sponsorship system and exit permits.

-Amendment of The Associations and Private Institutions Law, to remove restrictions on the establishment of associations.

**NHRC also recommends the adoption of the following legislation:**

-Election Law

-law on domestic workers

-law regulating media activities

Those laws are of great importance to the protection and promotion of human rights.

**NHRC also recommends and encourages the State to ratify the following:**

-Two core United Nations human rights instruments, namely The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

-The United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

- Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT)
- Optional Protocol on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- ILO Convention No. 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining
- Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100)
- Domestic workers Convention (No. 189)

The Committee also recommends reviewing the general reservations and other specific reservation such as reservation to Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

## **Section 6**

### **The vision of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) about the government's commitment to implement the recommendations accepted in the UPR for the year 2010**

During the interactive dialogue, Qatar received 112 recommendations where 76 were adopted at the time and the government took note of 24 recommendations for detailed study and in-depth analysis, then announced that 9 of them implemented or are in the process of implementation, accepted 2 of them while did not accept 13 recommendations.

#### **A - Recommendations accepted by the government, listed by topic:**

##### **1. Considering ratification of two core United Nations human rights instruments, namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights;**

It was noted in the national report that a committee has been formed to study adherence to the international covenants and legislative procedures are on progress.

##### **2. Focusing on principal human rights issues, in particular in the framework of its comprehensive development vision known as Qatar National Vision 2030 and of its own civilization and religious identity**

During the past period, several legislation were adopted, it aimed at the protection and promotion of human rights, including Law No. 4 of 2010 on

combating money laundering and terrorist financing, Law No. 8 of the year 2010 amending some provisions of the Penal Code which put a definition of torture corresponds with the definition contained in the International Convention, Law No. (15) Of the year 2011 on combating trafficking in persons, Law No. 6 of 2013 on Health and Education Fund and Law No. 7 of the year 2013 on social health insurance.

### **3. Continue efforts to promote gender equality:**

#### -In governmental positions:

Women occupy a very small number of governmental positions and currently hold one ministerial portfolio.

#### -Strengthening the role of women in society, effective involvement of women in the development process and supporting of women participation in economic activities:

According to the report of the Labor Force Sample Survey during the second quarter of 2013, which was carried out by the Ministry of Planning and Statistics, Qatari work force size reached 86 thousand, Males rate amounted to 66% versus 33% for female. The average monthly wage for males is 10 thousand riyals and a maximum of 8 thousand for women.

It is worth mentioning that half of the not economically active population is non-Qatari females (amounted to 51%), while the percentage of Qatari females is amounted to 26% of the total not economically active population.

It is noted that the majority of females are housewives and amounted to 56% of the total female not economically active population, where 73% of the total male not economically active population are students.

#### -Empowerment of women participation in political life:

Qatari women's participation in political life is limited. In the second Municipal Council elections in 2011, there were 102 candidates, including four women where only one woman wins in the elections.

It is worth mentioning that there are no female representatives in Al-Shura Council, which represents the legislative branch in Qatar. The current law authorizes nomination of males only.

#### -Promote and protect the rights of women, in harmony with customs and traditional values of its society:

Women constitute more than 50 % of the total population working in the sector of Education; this is commensurate with the traditional image of women, but some Qatari females began to enter new professions such as Aviation College as well as aerial surveillance.

#### **4. Continue efforts to improve policies and training programs for the promotion and protection of children's rights:**

The Supreme Council for Family finished drafting the national plan for childhood as part of the National Strategy for Family Affairs.

#### **5. Elaborating a national plan of action on children's rights in the juvenile justice system, Increasing the age of criminal responsibility in line with recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and Prohibit all forms of corporal punishment against children, both boys and girls:**

There is no law prohibiting corporal punishment in the state of Qatar, but the behavioral correction regulations and rules of the Supreme Education Council have explicit provision prohibiting of all forms of corporal punishment of children.

The Supreme Council for Family Affairs finished drafting Child Rights Act in 2013 and it was submitted to the Council of Ministers; NHRC learned that there will be an explicit provision in the law prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment against children, both boys and girls.

The law also included the establishment of specialized police unit called and specialized prosecution office for children, as well as the formation of the Child First Instance Court where the resumption will be before the child's circle of the Court of Appeal. The age of criminal responsibility for children is increased from 7 to 12 years.

#### **6. Continuing efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and bringing the 2004 Law No 2 on persons with special needs into line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

In February 2013, the Supreme Council for Family Affairs finished drafting a law to bring the 2004 Law No 2 on persons with special needs into line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and finished the preparation of a draft resolution on the rights of persons with disabilities including 7 articles on the rights to education, health, work and housing and

ensuring the right to access to public and private facilities, as well as cultural and sports services. The draft law has been introduced to the Council of Ministers and legislative procedures are on progress.

#### **7. Continuing efforts to develop the capacities of the institutions dealing with vulnerable groups, in particular persons with disabilities**

Most civil society organizations dealing with vulnerable groups are supported by the government on the one hand and on the other hand, it receives donations.

In 2009, NHRC conducted studies on the application of the International Convention in care facilities for people with disabilities, the first study included 7 institutions providing medical, educational and social services, the second study was on "deaf" children who underwent cochlear implantation, in addition to conducting regular field monitoring visits. NHRC has made recommendations for the development of these institutions, many of them has been implemented (The Study is available on the Committee's website)

#### **8. Continuing support for the foundations that provide services to women and children victims of abuse and violence:**

This recommendation has been already implemented by The Qatari House for Lodging and Human Care, which houses women and children who are victims of violence. As noted earlier, women are reluctant to resort to the protection institutions for social considerations.

#### **9. Taking measures to strengthen and guarantee the effective implementation of legal measures against domestic violence, sexual abuse and the exploitation of women and children and Continuing efforts to prevent domestic violence, by reinforcing the legal framework and increasing the protection of victims and the prosecution of reported cases:**

According to Qatar National Development Strategy 2011–2016, programs for protecting and supporting families affected by domestic violence are supported by the government. The definition of domestic violence has to include not only family members, but also all persons living at the same place of residence in order to protect domestic workers.

A committee headed by the Supreme Council for Family Affairs has been formed in January 2013 to review legislation related to domestic violence, it has completed its work and raised its recommendations to the General

Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in July 2013. One of its recommendations is the formation of a national committee to coordinate with the concerned authorities to follow up on communications about domestic violence and propose the necessary mechanisms to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence.

**10. Continuing to strengthen measures to protect and promote the welfare and human rights of all expatriate workers in Qatar, especially women domestic workers:**

The Committee considers that violence against domestic is not thoroughly rejected by society, therefore NHRC recommended to expedite the issuance of the law on protecting this category.

The Ministry of Labour submitted a draft law to the Council of Ministers in 2007, it was referred to Al-Shura Council which in turn referred it to the secretariat General of the Council of Ministers to make amendments and the procedures stopped at this stage.

**11. Using the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking developed by OHCHR as a reference guide in its policies and programs**

These principles are classified under four headings, primacy of human rights, preventing trafficking, protection and assistance, criminalization, punishment and redress. This is in addition to 11 guidelines on the practical steps to ensure the translation of the principles to effective and realistic measures.

Therefore, Law No. 15 of 2011 on human trafficking has been issued. But there must be executive to facilitate the application of the law, in addition to providing training to relevant authorities and officials in the field of combating and preventing trafficking in human beings.

**12. Continuing the work to ensure fair trials, particularly in cases of the death penalty, ensuring the right to be judged by an independent, impartial and competent court, the right to effective judicial protection, the right to have enough time and facilities to properly prepare the defense of a defendant, the right to the presumption of innocence, the right to appeal and the right for a sentence to be commuted:**

In Qatar, the death penalty is applied in very serious crimes in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and

pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court, Every person condemned to death shall have the right to apply for amnesty, pardon, or commutation of sentence, which may be granted in all cases.

The Constitution guarantees on the following rights:

- litigation is a right secured and preserved for all people
- All people shall be equal before the law without discrimination on grounds of sex, origin, language or religion.
- The accused shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty at a lawful trial in which he has enjoyed the guarantees necessary for his defense .
- No crime and no punishment unless stipulated by the law. No punishment except on the consequences of an act after it is committed. Punishment is personal

-judicial Authority is independent and vested in courts of law, Judges are independent and their decisions are taken and implemented in accordance with the law. The independence of the Judiciary shall be safeguarded and no interference whatsoever shall be permitted with court proceedings and the course of justice.

Article 221 of the Criminal Procedure Code provides "Each defendant of a crime has a defending counsel, and in case the defendant does not appoint an attorney, the Court appoints a counsel to defend him"

### **13. Sustaining efforts with regard to health and education:**

Qatar allocates 2.8 percent of its gross domestic product to scientific research. The comprehensive educational plans for literacy and the spread of compulsory education resulted in a significant reduction in the illiteracy rate in 2010, the rate of decline is just over half compared to 2004 (according to The Qatar 2010 Population and Housing Census).

The rate of total health care spending was 27% of the public spending in 2010 and 2011 (According to the report of the Supreme Council of Health for the year 2011).

Qatar National Vision for the year 2030 is devoting special attention to the development of the health sector; the National Strategy for Health (2011-2016) has been adopted to include 35 health projects to be implemented to create a world-class health care system.

Law No. 7 for the year 2013 has been issued on the social health insurance system. According to the UN Human Development Report for the year 2011, the average life expectancy at birth increased from 76.0 in 2010 to 78.4 in 2011.

#### **14. Continuing efforts to spread a culture of human rights in Qatar:**

Qatar has had a methodology for spreading the culture of human rights since 2006, this is with reference to resolutions 59/113 A of 10 December 2004 and 59/113 B of 14 July 2005 in which the Assembly proclaimed the World Programme for Human Rights Education and adopted the Plan of Action for its first phase.

Qatar finished both the first stage of drafting a comprehensive national strategy and the second stage of assessing national achievements in the field of human rights education in the school system. This formed the basis for third phase concerning developing sustainable national human rights education action plans. The government should seek to apply the third and fourth phases at the level of modifying curricula or enacting legislation.

#### **15. Continuing efforts to protect workers' rights and to improve the living and working conditions of foreign workers**

In 2011, a working group has been formed to study means of protecting the rights of workers, this was on the occasion of hosting the World Cup 2022 headed, and the group was headed by Bureau of Human Rights (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), members were as follows:

- Ministry of Interior
- Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking
- Qatar Foundation for Child and Women Protection
- The National Human Rights Committee
- Qatar 2022 Supreme Committee

Work is on progress to include specific principles in the employment contracts for building facilities for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

#### **16. Continuing efforts to strengthen cooperation with civil society organizations and national institutions:**

Government hires experts and specialists in civil society organizations in Qatar on several occasions:

- Universal Periodic Report
- Reports of committees on treaties
- Proposing and drafting of national laws
- Identifying the human rights situation, cooperation and coordination to resolve some problems
- Taking advantage of training courses held by those institutions

**17. Continuing to promote dialogue among the various religions and civilizations, and to promote the culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence:**

The Committee monitors the good practice of the state that aspires to elimination of sectarianism and religious extremism, through Qatar Committee for Alliance of Civilizations (QCAC) which was established in 2005 and "the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue" which was established in 2007. Both centers promote the culture of dialogue and fight against extremism through collecting individuals and institutions from all over the world, especially young people to talk about their cultural concerns, the challenges of globalization and problems in communicating with other people. In 2011, a conference was held in Doha on ideological diversity in the region as part of the concept of human diversity in order to reform public life and emphasize the values of coexistence and tolerance.

The Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has organized during the year 2011 the second Qatar Communities Round-Table with the Qatar Debates, Church Steering Committee and Friends Cultural Center on the topic of (The Role of Education in strengthening ties among Communities in Qatar). The 10th Doha Conference for Interfaith Dialogue was held in April 2013, there were 300 participants from over 70 countries— Jews, Christians, Muslims among other religions.

**18. Strengthening cooperation with OHCHR, including with regard to the training of relevant public officials, on the basis of identified technical assistance needs and with a view to establishing a multi-year programme**

OHCHR in Doha organized many training programs targeting law enforcement officers, those who work in the communications and media field and members of human rights, social institutions. One of the most important programs is an educational program on ensuring full understanding of dealing with detainees by law enforcement officers in the

year 2012, the training material of this program included rules of the Guide on Human Rights for the Police adopted by OHCHR.

**19. Including in national legislation the concept of torture as defined in article 1 of the Convention against Torture, and to enact legislation to abolish all types of corporal punishment and other forms of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment:**

Law No. (8) of 2010 amending certain provisions of Penal Code promulgated by Law No. (11) of 2004 includes the definition of torture in compliance with the definition provided by the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the “Torture Convention”) of 1984 which was ratified by the State of Qatar by decree No. (27) of 2001. The recent amendment maintains legislative harmony between the dictates of international instruments and the national Law.

Qatar had acceded to the Convention against Torture on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2000 with reservation as to any interpretation of the provisions of the Convention that is incompatible with the precepts of Islamic law and the Islamic religion; In addition to withdrawing its reservation to the mandate of the Committee against Torture as stipulated in Articles 21 and 22 of the Convention.

According to a report of the State of Qatar, practices of stoning, amputation and flogging while legally permitted only rarely occurred, but in practice, these penalties are not used.

**20. Extending an open and permanent invitation to all special procedures:**

Since June 2010, Qatar initiated to extend an open invitation to the Special Rapporteurs to all thematic special procedures.

**B - Recommendations considered to be implemented or are in the process of implementation:**

**1. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in paragraph 65 of the document CRC/C/QAT/CO2:**

That recommendation concerns "strengthening appropriate legislative measures to address the issues of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, ensuring that child victims of sexual exploitation or abuse have access to free, child sensitive complaints mechanisms and are not criminalized or penalized and Continuing to implement appropriate policies and programmes for the prevention, recovery and social reintegration of child victims". Qatar Foundation for child and women protection provides support, care and protection for women and children who are victims of abuse and violence; every year dozens of training courses for children and for those in charge of them are conducted on awareness about sexual abuse and how to behave towards it, The Foundation also receives complaints in its office in the accident and emergency department at Hamad General Hospital.

The Supreme Council for Family Affairs finished drafting Child Rights Act in 2013 and it was submitted to the Council of Ministers; NHRC learned that there will be an explicit provision in the law prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment against children, both boys and girls.

The law also included the establishment of specialized police unit called and specialized prosecution office for children, as well as the formation of the Child First Instance Court where the resumption will be before the child's circle of the Court of Appeal

**2. Lifting restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and to take steps to promote freedom of the press in all forms of media:**

The year 2011 has seen enjoyment the rights of freedom of opinion and expression in various media without any restrictions, as well as the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression in conferences and seminars that have been held in Qatar.

But the Press and Publications Law No. 8 of 1979 contains restrictions on the exercise of media activities. NHRC has submitted a draft law on media

activities since 2011 and hopes for its promulgation before the review in 2014.

**3. Take appropriate measures to disseminate widely and ensure full observance of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders:**

NHRC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September 2013 called for the application of this recommendation, where the Office of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs printed 5,000 copies of the Declaration and distributed it to the relevant public institutions and public places.

**4. Facilitate independent participation of civil society in the democratization process, and to lift restrictions on the freedom of the right of association and assembly, in accordance with international human rights standards:**

This recommendation requires reviewing law No. (12) of 2004 on associations and private institutions restrictions on procedures for the establishment of associations and determining the scope of their work.

**5. Protecting its migrant workers from exploitation by ensuring that applicable laws and practices conform to international human rights standards guaranteeing migrant workers their human rights, including the right to freedom of movement and Taking necessary measures in the light of the law of 2009 and, in particular, reform the sponsorship system in order to protect employees in the event of conflict:**

In October 2012, The Council of Ministers has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Interior to form a committee to study the issue of sponsorship, the Committee has already begun to hold meetings and invited the National Human Rights Committee in December 2012 to participate and express its opinion on the sponsorship system. This study aims to find an alternative system to ensure that the rights of both parties (the worker and the employer)

**6. Continue efforts to prohibit the use of child labour:**

This phenomenon has been eliminated since 2005. Department of Labor Inspection (Ministry of labour) which undertakes regular and spontaneous inspections of work places to ensure the implementation of labor law and its decisions.

