Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

(CEDAW)

Awareness and Training Programs

2014
As the Kingdom of Bahrain recognizes the importance of the role of women and in accordance with the National Reform Project led by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Kingdom’s commitment to the principles of equal opportunities stated in the constitution and the legislation as well as its commitment to international treaties and conventions in the field of advancement of women, Bahrain ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 18/6/2002 that came into effect on 18/7/2002. Since the Kingdom of Bahrain has followed up the implementation of the articles of the convention through awareness programs and the preparation of the periodic country reports or follow-up of the CEDAW committee’s recommendations.

The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women demonstrates through this booklet the various training programs implemented to raise awareness about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The General Secretariat
2014
CEDAW Team Meetings

The Supreme Council for Women has conducted a number of meetings to follow-on the implementation of the CEDAW convention including:

- The meeting of the National Committee tasked with the follow-up of the implementation of the CEDAW committee's recommendations and the update of the third periodic report on January 31st 2011. During the meeting, the procedures relating to the implementation of the concluding remarks of the CEDAW committee were discussed.
- The meeting of the National committee tasked with the update of the third periodic report on October 7th 2013. During the meeting, the concerned organizations were requested to update the information relevant to them.
- The meeting of the National Team concerned with the discussion of the Kingdom of Bahrain’s third CEDAW report on January 12th 2014. During the meeting, the team discussed the report discussion process and the list of responses pertaining to the enquiries of the CEDAW committee as well as updates of the information on recent events on the national level.

Dr. Shaikha Mariam Bint Hassan Al-Khalifa heads the meeting of the CEDAW team.
Supreme Council for Women’s Efforts to Raise Awareness about the CEDAW Convention (2003-2013)

Awareness and Training Workshops about CEDAW

- A workshop to promote awareness about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, conducted by Ms. Azza Suleiman, the Head of the Institute of Women Issues, Egypt, in May 2004. Representatives from the public and private establishments, vocational and women’s societies and the youth took part in the workshop.
- Training workshop for the national team tasked with drafting the National Report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on CEDAW, conducted by Ms. Azza Suleiman, the Head of the Institute of Women Issues, Egypt, in December 2003. Members of the permanent committees in the Supreme Council for Women took part in the workshop.
• Workshops to increase awareness about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, conducted by Dr. Mohammed Waleed Al Masry, the Head of Legal Studies at the University of Bahrain and by Dr. Marwan Al Modarras, Professor of Law at the University of Bahrain, in October – November 2007. Students from public and private schools in the five governorates participated in the workshops.

• Training workshop on the mechanisms and procedures followed during the discussion of the national report on CEDAW conducted by Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazala, Secretary-General of the National Council for Family Affairs - member of Jordan’s Assembly of Senators. The team who were tasked with presenting the National Report to the CEDAW committee, staff from the SCW and members of the cooperation committee between the SCW and women’s societies and committees took part in the workshop.

• Training workshop on the mechanisms and procedures followed during the first and second discussion of Bahrain’s National Reports on CEDAW conducted by Ambassador Sameeha Abu Stait, Advisor at the National Council in Egypt (September 2008). The team tasked with drafting Bahrain’s National Report participated in the workshop.
Course on How to Prepare Periodic Reports and Implement the CEDAW Recommendations

The SCW General Secretariat organized a workshop on “How to prepare periodic reports and implement the CEDAW recommendations” on the 8th of June 2010 at the SCW headquarters.

This workshop comes within the framework of following up on the requirements in line with the Dr. Mohammed AlMoosa, Professor of International Law at the University of Bahrain conducted this workshop. UN Committee’s recommendations on Bahrain’s reports. The workshop was attended by public and civil institutions.

**Workshop Objectives:**
- Introducing the legal value for the concluding remarks of the Committee and how to work according to those remarks.
- Introducing the methods followed by Arab countries regarding the remarks of the Committee and review their experience in order to gain knowledge of the CEDAW Committee's methodology.

Legal Forum on “Women and the Law”

Under the honoring patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women, the Third Legal Forum was held at the University of Bahrain under the theme “Women and the Law” during 24-25 March 2010.

Mrs. Lulwa Al-Awadhi, the former Secretary General of the SCW was the main speaker at the event and delivered a paper titled, “The CEDAW Convention: The Difference between Reality and Application”. She stated that the CEDAW Convention is one of the international tools that pushes countries towards implementing their constitutional obligations towards achieving equal opportunities. The implementation of these obligations by the country is by working towards the harmonization of legislation and creating measures to bridge the gap between legislation and the reality.
The SCW General Secretariat organized a workshop on “Strategies and Working with Men to Combat Family Violence” during 26-29 September, 2010 at the SCW headquarters.

**Workshop Objectives:**
- Introduction and awareness on the concept of family violence.
- Training of trainers of both men and women on how to eliminate violence against women in the family (family violence).

**Workshop themes:**
- Defining family violence and the forms of family violence.
- Reasons for violence against women within the family.
- Social upbringing, the role of society and their relationship with family violence.
- Methods for detecting abuse cases.
- Ways of combating domestic violence.
- Highlight the methods of support available by the country.
- The importance of involving men and boys in combating violence against women.
- Gaining skills on the use of active methodologies to involving men and boys in combating violence.
- Formulate a future plans to implement the methodology of involving men and boys in combating violence against women.
Training of trainers to raise awareness about the CEDAW Convention

A training of trainers workshop to raise awareness about the CEDAW convention was organized by the Supreme Council for Women in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) during 19 - 20 January 2011. The lecture was given by Mrs. Aida Abu Ras, the Regional Adviser on Gender Issues of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Workshop Objectives:
- Training of trainers to conduct simulation awareness workshops to define the articles of the CEDAW convention and its content.
- Work towards implementing the recommendations of the CEDAW committee.
- Introduction to the history and the convention.
- Introduction to the mechanisms that are used to follow-up the implementation of the articles of the convention.

Network of Training of National Trainers in Issues Related to Women

The Supreme Council for Women in collaboration with Talal Abughazala Group for Training conducted a comprehensive program during 6-10 May 2012. The objective was to establish a network of national trainers according to international standards to establish a Bahraini House of Expertise in the field of issues related to women. The program includes raising awareness about the CEDAW convention as well as other international conventions and agreements related to women.

Representatives from the women related societies and committees as well as members of the National Committee tasked with formulating the Kingdom’s national report participated in the program.
A Roundtable Discussion on the Implementation of CEDAW in Judicial rulings

On October 27th 2013, the Supreme Council for Women in Cooperation with the Supreme Judicial Council conducted a Roundtable discussion titled “The Implementation of CEDAW in Judicial Rulings”. Dr. Taha Abdulmawla, Court of Cassation Judge spoke about the implementations of such rulings in the presence of Judges, Public Prosecutors, representatives from the Ministry of Interior, the Head of the Jurists Association and the concerned representatives of the Supreme Council for Women General Secretariat.

Aims of the Roundtable meeting:
• Encouraging Bahrain’s Judiciary to refer to the articles of the CEDAW convention when cases are presented pertaining to women’s rights. Raising awareness amongst attendees about the terms of the convention and how they help in eliminating discrimination against women.
• Examining the role of Islamic Sharia’a and its recognition of the women’s role in the family and in raising children and sharing responsibility equally between men and women.
• Explanation of the Kingdom of Bahrain’s reservations on some of the provisions of the convention and how they relate to the Kingdom’s constitution, Islamic Sharia, and article (37) of the Bahraini Constitution that states that the treaty has the force of law once it has been concluded under Decree-by-Law No. (5) for the year 2002.

A number of programs, workshops and events on the implementation of the CEDAW convention were conducted including:
Family Counseling Program

As part of the Women Support Program, the Support Center for Women at the Supreme Council for Women has conducted at its headquarters a training program entitled “Family Counseling”. Participants of the program included employees of the Support Center for Women, a number of social specialists from the various governorates, as well as the concerned employees from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Development. The program included an explanation of the theoretical framework related to clarifying best practices, in addition to practical methods all in the field of family counseling.

Women Support Program

The Supreme Council for Women has conducted a number of training programs and workshops within the Women Support Program during 2013.
Body Language Skills

The Supreme Council for Women in cooperation with the Ministry of Education conducted a training workshop in 12-15 May 2013 in the field of body language skills. The objective was to increase the number of qualified trainers in the field of family reconciliation and to prepare a Bahraini cadre capable of being in direct contact with those approaching the stage of marriage, whether in schools, institutes or universities.

Communication and Listening Skills

The SCW organized a workshop on communication and listening skills during the period 19-22 May 2013 in cooperation with the Ministry of Education to increase the percentage of trainers in family guidance and to prepare Bahraini cadre than can communicate directly with persons about to marry in schools, institutes and universities as well as to achieve the desired awareness through enabling those specialized trainers to conduct the appropriate training programs.

Dealing with Child Related Issues Problems

The Supreme Council for Women has conducted a training workshop entitled “Dealing with the Psychological, Behavioral and Educational Problems in Children – Diagnosis and Treatment” from 18-22 August 2013. Topics discussed included the psychological tendencies that children suffer from through highlighting the causes as well as the diagnosis in addition to the treatment of such cases.
Dealing with Adolescents

The Supreme Council for Women has conducted a training workshop entitled “Dealing with the problems in adolescents – diagnosis and treatment” during 2-5 September 2013. The objective was to inform the participants about the adolescents age group by highlighting the various issues faced by adolescents as well as learning the skills of how to deal with the age group. How to guide and direct adolescents was also addressed through modern methods while demonstrating skills on how to build and develop character in adolescents.

Anger Management

The Supreme Council for Women has conducted a training workshop entitled, “Dealing with the Pressures of Life – Managing Anger” during 22-26 September 2013. The objective was to offer participants the knowledge and understanding of how to dealing deal with the pressures of life and the skills needed to actively manage anger. The program also aimed to inform the participants about physiological well-being in general and the pressures of life and the pressures of marriage life in specific. The pressures of work and its implications, causes, and, ability to deal with these pressures as well as its prevention were also discussed.

Launch of the Combating Violence Against Women Youth Competition

The Youth Program and Committee at the Supreme Council for Women hosted a ceremony in honor of the winners of the Combating Violence Against Women Youth Competition launched by the Youth Program November 25, 2012, on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The participants created innovative ideas on ways to eliminate and combat violence against women.
Physical and Sexual Violence Victims

The Supreme Council for Women conducted a training workshop entitled, “Listening to Physical and Sexual Victims in Children”. The objective was to empower the participants in the program through practical applications and demonstrations as well as theory behind the act of rape. The program has also sought to achieve a number of objectives namely defining the concept of rape in children, its forms, causes, as well as its behavioral indicators.

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Women's rights treaty approved

AlWatan (22 May 2011)  

GDN (30 January, 2014)

National Education Curriculum - Intermediate Level, Ministry of Education
Press Coverage

AlWatan 29 October, 2013

Akhbar AlKhaleej 20 January, 2014

 IMF Mission Underlines Importance of Fiscal and Structural Reforms

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) mission to Bahrain underlined the importance of fiscal and structural reforms to stimulate economic growth and financial stability. The mission praised the government’s efforts to reduce the budget deficit and implement measures to increase revenue. It called for continued efforts to improve the business climate and enhance competitiveness, particularly in key sectors such as tourism and finance. The message highlighted the need for structural reforms to address the challenges of aging population and low labor force participation.

AlWatan 29 October, 2013

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications recently announced a major project to upgrade the Bahrain International Airport. The project, estimated to cost BD 120 million, is expected to be completed by 2015. The upgrades will include the construction of new terminals, the expansion of the runway, and the installation of advanced technological systems to improve efficiency and safety. The ministry emphasized the importance of the airport as a key driver of economic growth and tourism.