



Her Royal Highness
Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa



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Wife of the King of Bahrain
President of the Supreme Council for Women



Personal Biography

Born in the city of Muharraq in the palace of her paternal grandfather, the late Shaikh Mohamed bin Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa. She was brought up in the city of Riffa in the care of her maternal grandfather. Her mother Shaikha Fatima bint Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa is the eldest daughter of His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the former Ruler of Bahrain. Her Royal Highness studied in Bahraini Schools and attended several specialised courses in the United Kingdom and the French Republic.

Her Royal Highness was married to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in 1968. They have four children (three sons and one daughter). Their eldest son is His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister, who was born in October 1969.

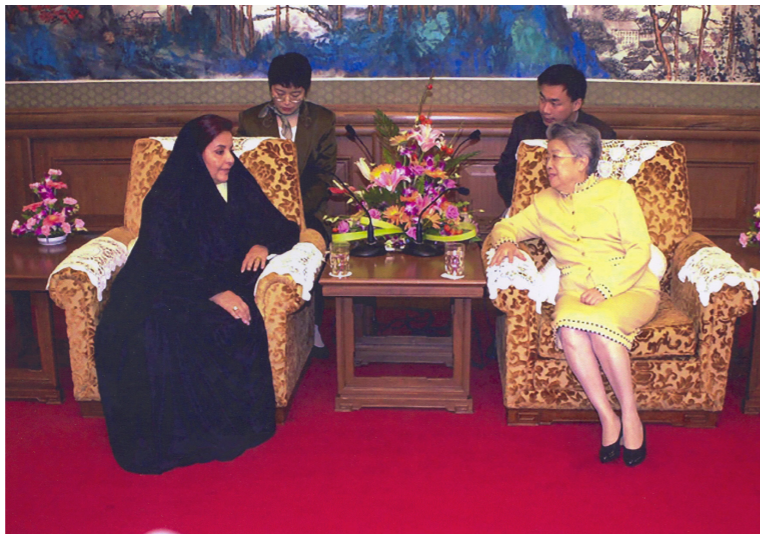


The First Lady

Since her marriage to His Majesty the King, Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa has launched and led several initiatives to enhance the quality of life of Bahraini families with limited income or special needs in an effort to further ensure stability and social security.

As First Lady, Her Royal Highness focuses on several important issues such as the participation of women in the development process aiming to assist families with limited income to diversify their sources of income, particularly those focused on the revival of traditional crafts.

Her Royal Highness is also interested in issues related to the youth and childhood, combating human trafficking, as well as peace, social security and has taken an active role in developing and preserving the environment and agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Honors & Awards

| 2002 |

Conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences by the China Women's College, in appreciation of her active role in women-oriented fields of work and the society.

Awarded the Ahmed Al Fateh Order by His Majesty the King in appreciation of Her Royal Highness's efforts towards the development and progress of Bahraini women in various fields.

| 2008 |

Awarded the Shaikh Isa First Class Order by His Majesty the King.

| 2009 |

Granted the Arab Towns Organization Award for her efforts towards empowering Bahraini women, and her continued interest in protecting the environment and spreading greenery.

| 2017 |

Awarded the Arab Woman Distinction by the League of Arab States in tribute to her unrelenting and influential efforts to promote the institutional momentum to empower Arab women and ensure sustainable development of Bahraini women as well as maximize their development contributions. In addition to her adoption and care for the qualitative projects and programs targeting the mainstreaming of women's needs in a comprehensive and sustainable development process; to ensure the adoption of the principles of equal opportunities for a fair and just partnership between men and women.



Work Experience

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain is the President of the Supreme Council for Women, which was established in 2001 by Royal Decree as a reference to all official authorities in respect to women's affairs that specializes in expressing opinions and decisions on matters related to the status of women, directly or indirectly.

| On the Social Level |

Her Royal Highness is the honorary president of several charitable societies such as the UCO Parents Care Centre, and the Bahrain Cancer Society. Her Royal Highness is keen on providing support to their activities in order to enhance the quality of services provided to all sectors of the society.

Her Royal Highness the President of the Supreme Council for Women supports many initiatives on a national level to empower Bahraini women and elevate their status, as well as contribute to their integration in the national development process through:

Formulation and supervision of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women by the Supreme Council for Women, and its adoption by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa as the official work document for the Supreme Council for Women.

The launch of the first women's political empowerment program of its kind in the Arab region in 2006 that sought to support women through a series of workshops, training programmes and consultations to enhance their participation in public life.

Establishing Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa's Award for Empowering Bahraini Women which aims to encourage ministries, official and private institutions to empower and support employed Bahraini women; enabling them to attain leadership, executive, and decision-making positions, while adhering to non-discriminatory policies against women.



Her Royal Highness chairs the National Committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Bahraini Model for Mainstreaming Women's Needs in the government action plan. The Committee has adopted a national plan that includes procedures for the implementation of gender sensitive budgeting and the establishment of equal opportunities committees in ministries and official institutions. Equal opportunities committees aim to create equal job opportunities for both men and women in programmes, projects and services provided by the State.



Patronage of an initiative that aims to encourage and highlight the exceptional efforts and qualifications of young women in the field of entrepreneurship, spread the culture of leadership amongst young women, and inspire the spirit of creativity and innovation entitled the "Bahraini Female Entrepreneur Honor Seal". It is bestowed upon women who contribute to the development of the national economy through their management role in a private sector company and the fulfillment of the company's corporate social responsibility commitment.



Launching a national economic empowerment program for Bahraini Women which aims at decreasing the unemployment rate for Bahraini women as well as empowering women to run private businesses and increase their participation in the national economy.



Her Royal Highness contributed to the establishment of the Bahraini Women Development Centre "Riyadat", as the first business incubator designated for women in the Arab world. It provides administrative, training and advisory, financing and promotional services for entrepreneurs.

Encouraging the establishment of a number of financial solutions which included a fund that was created in cooperation between the Supreme Council for Women, Labor Fund (Tamkeen) and Ibdaa Bank in the amount of BD 2 million to empower women operating micro-businesses.



A Financial Fund for Supporting Women's Trade Activity was also launched with the blessing of Her Royal Highness, in cooperation with Tamkeen and Bahrain Development Bank; worth \$ 100 million (USD) and targets women working in small and medium sized businesses.



Her Royal Highness is active in monitoring the development of national programs related to the stability, safety and security of Bahraini families. These programs as a result, contribute to developing a number of services granted to women, most prominent of which are: housing services, the opportunity for the children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men to receive the Bahraini Nationality, along with many other services that focus on the stability of the legal status of Bahraini women within the family.



Her Royal Highness is concerned with expanding the target of beneficiaries for housing services as part of an integrated program to increase the quality of life of women. Her efforts have contributed to granting a new category of women (divorcees, widows, and single women who do not have children or a breadwinner) the right to benefit from residential units without ownership.



Her Royal Highness also closely monitors the activities and programs of women societies in the country and through the Supreme Council for Women seeks to broaden and enhance cooperation in matters related to women and families.



| Youth Empowerment |

Her Royal Highness has also shown interest in advancing the role of young men and women in formulating future strategies and providing them with the adequate qualifications as future leaders of women's issues. This is reflected in the establishment of the Youth Committee at the Supreme Council for Women. As President of the Arab Women Organization (2005 – 2007), she oversaw the issuance of the Arab Youth Strategy to support Arab women in the nation-building process and addressing the challenges and problems facing Arab women from the perspective of supporting the principles of belonging and nationalism.

| Initiatives at the International Level |

Her Royal Highness is keen on taking part in specialized conferences and on following the agendas of organizations dealing with women's issues. Her participation alongside world leaders at the United Nations 27th special session on the Child in 2002, was given outstanding Arab and International attention that reflected the advanced status of women and children in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Participated in a number of international initiatives that promote the role of women in peace, particularly those that are related to the contribution of women as basic partners in peace negotiations. Her Royal Highness also joined these initiatives to implement their objectives from the perspective of women as mothers and care-givers for future generations. In addition, she oversees the Kingdom of Bahrain's national efforts towards creating a culture of tolerance and justice among the youth, and in order to effectuate the role of Bahraini women in this regard.

Her Royal Highness has always been keen on overseeing the implementation of the outcomes of international agreements committed by the Kingdom of Bahrain with regards to combating human trafficking and in particular the status of foreign workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This comes in cooperation with all government and civil organizations, and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry to improve the conditions of foreign workers in the country and to raise awareness among the citizens and residents about other issues, such as trafficking of children, women and others.



| Awards & Initiatives |

Her Royal Highness launched a global award for women's empowerment in June 2016, in collaboration with UN Women. The award is allocated to encourage and stimulate public and private sector institutions and civil society organizations and individuals to develop and implement initiatives related to mainstreaming women's needs in development, expand their contributions in the labor market, and increase their chances of participation in public life.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa also launched an award in support of productive families in 2007, and after two years the award has received great interest in the Arab region, especially with the adoption of the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs Council resolution, in December of 2009, to establish the Arab version of the award, and to be awarded every two years to the best productive Arab family, the best product, and the best supporter of the productive families project. This is while noting that Her Royal Highness has for the last 40 years supported quite closely the productive families project on a national level.

| Environment, Wildlife and Greenery |

Her Royal Highness established the National Initiative for Agricultural Development in the Kingdom of Bahrain with the aim to unify the efforts of the agricultural sector in order to further develop it economically, socially and environmentally. Her Royal Highness encourages the preservation of the environment and greenery in the Kingdom through her patronage of numerous programs and exhibitions concerned with these issues. On a yearly basis, Her Royal Highness inaugurates the Bahrain International Garden Show which has been developed to become a specialized exhibition in accordance with international standards with the objective of attracting agricultural experts in order to bring back the agricultural image Bahrain was known for.



Hobbies and Personal Interests of Her Royal Highness

| Modern Sciences and Technology |

Her Royal Highness is particularly interested in promoting modern sciences and technology and in encouraging scientific research. She has funded the electronic library of the Arab Women Organization which seeks to help researchers on issues related to women and provide them with relevant information on advanced experiences in other countries through information technology.

| Arabian Horses |

Her Royal Highness has considerable experience and ability in the identification of thoroughbred pedigrees of Arabian horses. Her Royal Highness's efforts and dedication to maintain breed purity contributed to classifying Bahrain as one of the first countries that protects those breeds, by the International Organization for Arabian Horses.

| Bahraini Arts and Heritage |

Her Royal Highness has great interest in Bahrain's cultural and artistic heritage. She is an active advocate for the preservation of historic Bahraini architecture which represents great national value. Her Royal Highness is known for her artistic talent as is evident in her unique artwork.



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