



Bahraini Women's Day 2020

"Women in the Diplomatic Field"

The Establishment of the Supreme Council for Women



In the year 2000, a new approach to the advancement of Bahraini women coincided with the **Kingdom of Bahrain's** new era of reform and national modernization under the leadership of **His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**, presenting a renewed ambition where women would continue to be commendable partners in national development.

His Majesty the King's vision was then translated into the establishment of a national mechanism with the objective of monitoring the advancement of Bahraini women and their contributions that were consistent with their early participation in society. In this regard, public and private sector institutions concerned civil society associations, as well as prominent experts were consulted with in order to incorporate within the establishment of this new official entity all matters related to women.

As a result, a Royal Decree was issued by His Majesty the King in 2001 to establish the Supreme Council for Women, directly reporting to His Majesty, and presided by Her Royal Highness **Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa** Wife of His Majesty the King. The Council consists of (16) female public figures with expertise in women's affairs and various notable specializations.

The Supreme Council for Women is considered the reference to all official entities in women affairs. It specializes in expressing opinions and submitting recommendations to improving matters related to the status of women either directly or indirectly, and all official bodies must consult with the Supreme Council for Women it before issuing any legislations or policies in this regard.



Bahraini Women's Day

An annual initiative launched by **the Supreme Council for Women** to recognize the contributions of Bahraini women; it has become a national event celebrated by the Kingdom of Bahrain at various levels. The first celebration of the (**Bahraini Women's Day**) initiative in 2008 was linked to (80) years of government education for girls in the Kingdom of Bahrain milestone. This day falls annually on the first of December as an affirmation of the profound and unique experience of Bahraini women who were able to competently form the identity of a strong civil society that protects the principles of equal partnership between men and women.

After (12) years of this initiative, the Kingdom of Bahrain was able to design a new approach to exploring the extent of women's presence in various sectors, by studying and researching the matter through a series of conferences, scientific forums, focus groups and workshops held year-round, and effectively cooperating with the concerned authorities to implement the outputs and recommendations of those activities.



Women in the Diplomatic Field 2020

The Supreme Council for Women announced that the theme of the Bahraini Women's Day 2020 will celebrate women in the diplomatic field. It is held in conjunction with the Kingdom of Bahrain's celebration of (51) years of diplomatic service and allocation of a day for Bahraini diplomacy in appreciation of its achievements and the efforts of its associates. Women first joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as diplomats in 1972.

The Kingdom's first female ambassador was appointed to the French Republic in 1999, and its first female undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on a (Gulf Cooperation Council) GCC level was appointed in 2017.

The celebration of Bahraini women in the diplomatic field aims to highlight success stories and the impact on their career, shed light on the nature of opportunities and challenges while identifying best international practices to promote gender balance in the diplomatic field.



The percentage of women out of the total Bahrainis in leadership positions at the MOFA

%29



The percentage of Female ambassadors

%15