Geneva, 6th December 2011
1/5 - 654 (sr)

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and would like to refer to its note dated 18 September 2011, requesting any information in response to the questionnaire on violence against Women and Girls and Disability.

In this regard, the Mission has the honour to enclose herewith the requested information, provided by the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Development of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
Room 4-036
United Nation Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Fax: +41 22 917 90 08
Questionnaire for the preparation of the OHCHR analytical study on violence against women and disability (A/HRC/RES/17/11)

**Date/Statistics**

- Have studies/research been conducted on the prevalence, nature, causes and impact of violence against women and girls with disabilities in different settings (family/home, workplace, medical institution, school, etc.)? What forms of disability and violence do they cover?

Specifically there is no study or research on this regard, but the Supreme Council for Women has conducted two studies which are not directly related to the issue however address violence against women and women with special needs. They are as the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Title</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project of developing a National strategy for the rights of people with disability (social empowerment pillar) reality case study</td>
<td>The aim of this paper is to shed light on the reality of the social terms of people with disability, and taking into consideration gender issues for the preparation to establish a National Strategy for the rights of people with disability (2011-2016)</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study on the Status of Women with special needs</td>
<td>Aimed to monitor the status of women with special needs in terms of the size and type of disability, as well as their distribution to the governorates of Bahrain. In addition, verifying their social status and identifying the size and level of care, facilities and services provided to them. The Study also aims to identify care providers. As well as the technical capacities and human resources available to care providers for special needs people and how to use these resources in overcoming the difficulties they face, as well as identifying the challenges limiting the provision of the required care and preventing the involvement of women with special needs in the community and inhibiting their active contribution in the development process. The study drafted some findings and recommendations which we believe would contribute towards better ways of caring for people with special needs.</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study of Violence against women</td>
<td>The objectives of the study focused on identifying the extent of the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Title</td>
<td>Some</td>
<td>Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>women</td>
<td>phenomenon of violence against women in the Kingdom of Bahrain in</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>terms of causes, impact on either women or the society as a whole,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of the social settings that were examined within the study were</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>limited to two areas, namely the areas of family and work, in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>addition the impacts of the media, education and legislation were</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>also studied.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Please provide the available data on the number of women and girls with disabilities who have accessed services and programs to prevent and address violence in the past year? Is this information disaggregated by disability, as well as by sex, age, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds?

Centre for people with disability "You are not alone":
The Ministry of Social Development provides a range of services and apparatuses for the assistance of the people with disability to increase the level of their independence in daily life, and to practice their rights, these include finding them jobs that fit their abilities and providing them with appropriate training by coordinating with institutes and companies. In addition family consultation for the people with disability and their families is provided as well as receiving complaints and finding appropriate solutions that meet their requirements.

Equipment's and Financial Assistance:
The ministry provides different aids and Supportive Apparatuses, such as:
- Wheel Chair.
- Bathroom chair.
- Medical earphones.

Rehabilitation and Social Services:
The welfare services are concerned with the provision of aspects of caring and rehabilitative services for the entitled people with disability with different categories of disabilities. Entitlement to the services is based on completion of procedures that mainly include registering for services, conducting social researches, determining the requirements, assessing the extent of the need, and identifying the economic, social and psychological status.
Please provide available data on the number of households in which persons with disabilities reside.

How many of these are women-headed households?

### Bahraini people with disability by Age group and Duration of disability-2010 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>People with disability</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>0-2</th>
<th>6-7</th>
<th>18-25</th>
<th>18-35</th>
<th>36-54</th>
<th>55+</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>231</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>70</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,050</strong></td>
<td><strong>644</strong></td>
<td><strong>288</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,374</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,924</strong></td>
<td><strong>318</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,592</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Census 2010-sample survey*

### People with disability by Governorate, and Sex-2010 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Both Sexes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Census 2010-sample survey*
### Distribution of People with disability by sex, and type of disability - 2010 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Visual Impaired</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Blinds</th>
<th>Deaf</th>
<th>Musculo-Skeletal</th>
<th>Cerebral Palsy</th>
<th>Hearing Impaired</th>
<th>Speech Impaired</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Census 2010-sample survey*

### People with disability by sex, and cause of Disability - 2010 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Visual Impaired</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Blind</th>
<th>Cerebral Palsy</th>
<th>Hearing Impaired</th>
<th>Speech Impaired</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Census 2010-sample survey*

### Bahraini People with Disability (15 Years+) by Marital Status and Type of Disability - 2010 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Visual Impaired</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Blind</th>
<th>Cerebral Palsy</th>
<th>Hearing Impaired</th>
<th>Speech Impaired</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source: Census 2010-sample survey

- Please provide any statistics, information or studies on disabilities resulting from violence against women and girls?
  Statistics are not officially registered regarding disability resulting from violence against women and girls.

**Legislation and Policies**

- Is there a legal framework addressing violence against women and girls with disability in different contexts (within the family, at the community and in the workplace, and in state and non-state institution such as medical, education and other service providing institutions)?
- Are practices such as 1) forced psychiatric intervention, 2) forced institutionalization, 3) solitary confinement and restraint in institutions, 4) forced drug and electroshock treatment, 5) forced abortion, 6) forced sterilization and 7) harmful practice, prohibited by law?

Recently the Kingdom of Bahrain released Law No. 22 of the 2011 Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities was ratified by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

There is no legal framework addressing violence against women and girls with disability in specific but all Bahraini legal framework addresses women in general and the people with disability group is included equally in all forms of law. The Kingdom of Bahrain emphasis on family stability in general and in particular women and children. Due to the need and the importance of family stability, the kingdom has prepared a draft law against domestic violence which is currently under process.

Domestic violence is currently classified under the Penal Code, however it is being revised to be amended by legislative authority.

In Article (75) of Chapter V (in aggravating circumstances) Bahraini legislator stressed the penalty if the victim is incapable of resistance, since the Article states:

"Subject to the case where the law provides for special causes for aggravation, the following shall be circumstances:
1. Committing an offence for contemptible motives.
2. Committing an offence by seizing the opportunity of the victim's inability to resist and in circumstances preventing others from defending him.
3. Using atrocious method for committing the offence or mutilating the victim's body.
4. The committing for the offence by a civil servant by reason of or while performing his duties unless the law prescribes a special penalty in view his capacity."

Here the word "victim's inability to" takes the meaning of the word old age or disability, or mental retardation or similar disabling statuses and the decision is left to the judge's evaluation.

- What specific policies/programmes are in place to prevent and address violence against women and girls disabilities and/or address harmful practice that can result into disabilities?
- How do general policies and plans/programmes on violence against women ensure the inclusion of and accessibility by women and girls with disabilities?
All the general policies/ plans/programmes in the Kingdom of Bahrain include women in general and in particular violence against them and the law ensures to meet justice towards this issue.

> Legislative standing of people with disabilities in the Kingdom of Bahrain:
The Kingdom of Bahrain has been keen on complying to Human Rights Commitments and to activate the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, declarations like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the relevant protocols.

1) The Kingdom of Bahrain was one of the first countries to sign the International Convention on the Rights of people with Disabilities in 2007. In sequence, the recently released Law No. 22 of the 2011 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.
2) The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain ensures the rights of all Bahrainis, including people with disabilities. It guarantees the principles of citizenship and equality, equal opportunities and prohibits discrimination; it also promotes the social role of the state in the areas of economic and social rights, along with the guaranteed rights of and public civil liberties and political. According to article 31, section II of the Constitution, under the basic components of society, the regulation of rights and public freedoms stipulated in the Constitution is only recognized if issued by a law or is based upon one, and it is not to affect regulation or the very essence of rights or freedom, any law which narrows the rights or freedom of persons with disabilities is therefore stigmatized and unconstitutional.

3) The Kingdom of Bahrain joined the Arab Decade for People with disability Persons which was adopted by the Arab League, in 2005 decision No. (3) was issued to form a national committee to follow-up.

4) The Kingdom of Bahrain has acceded to the Arab Convention for the operation and rehabilitation of the people with disability No. 17 of 1993 under Decree-Law No. (3) for the year 1996, and the International Labor Convention No. 159 of 1983 on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (People with disability) under Decree Law No. (17) for the year 1999.

5) The Act No. 74 of 2006 has emphasized the care and rehabilitation and employment of people with disability persons, where the expansion of the law served to adopt a more comprehensive definition of care, rehabilitation and employment for people with disabilities, the Supreme Committee for People with disability Affairs, headed by the Minister of Social Development, is currently in charge for planning and implementation of care and rehabilitation programs.

6) The Kingdom holds a law of granting monthly financial allowance for people with disabilities; this was amended recently through the Law No. (40) for the year 2010 amending some provisions of Law No. (74) for the year 2006, which doubled the minimum value for this allowance from fifty dinars per month to hundred dinars per month.

Da’r Elaman is a temporary accommodation “home” free of charge, available for family members exposed to domestic violence and female foreign labor. It was established on 24 November 2006 under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women.


- How has the participation of women with disabilities in the development of such laws, programmes/policies been ensured?

There is a female member with disability in the Shura Council since December 2007. In spite of her disability, she is an active member in the society in different fields and currently holds the position of chairwoman of women and children committee in the Shura Council.

Lately, she has participated in issuing the "National Strategy to Protect the Rights of People with disability people in Bahrain" (2011-2015) which aims to empower people with disabilities socially, economically, legislatively and educationally. The document has been directed by the Human Rights and Social Development Ministry in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with various government institutions, ministries, the Bahrain Union of Persons with Disabilities and non-government organizations (NGOs) working on disability issues, as well as inputs from national and international experts.
Prevention and Protection

What measures/initiatives are in place to combat negative perception, stereotyping and prejudices of women and girls with disabilities in the public and private spheres?

The initiative dialogue of "The National Dialogue" was an initiative by his majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in order to achieve a national harmony, peace and justice among the Bahraini citizens. The dialogue includes many axes including women's rights and children with disability.

National Strategy to Protect the Rights of People with disability people in Bahrain"(2011-2015) which aims to empower people with disabilities socially, economically, legislatively and educationally

The Supreme Council for Women which is Bahrain's advisory body to the government on women's issues developed a National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women in 2007 to achieve its goals by empowering women. The plan is summarized into seven pillars namely: Decision making, Economic Empowerment, Family, Civil Society, Education Training, Health and Environment. Women with disability were targeted in most of the pillars.
• What initiatives exist to inform women and girls with disabilities about their rights, including sexual and reproductive health issues? To what extent do these initiatives address also women in institutions?

The Ministry of Health provides a wide range of services to people with disabilities, including primary, secondary and tertiary programs of health care, but there is no any detailed program relating to sexual and reproductive health issues for those of disabilities.

• What programmes/initiatives have been developed to train women with disabilities to develop skills and abilities for economic autonomy and participation in society and to use technological and other aid that lead to greater independence?

➤ The Ministry of Education provides equal opportunities for all the citizens in the Kingdom. Also the ministry addresses students with disabilities and integrates them with other students in government schools.

➤ The Ministry of Education also provides scholarships for people with disability yearly.

Source: Draft of “The National Strategy to Protect the Rights of People with Disability in Bahrain”(2011-2015)

➤ The Supreme Council for Women has conducted a training program for training visually impaired women on using the computer from the period of June 19-August 18, 2011. The program aims to empower these women through building their skills in using the computer effectively and enabling them to implement basic computer skills as Excel - PowerPoint-Microsoft. This program served towards making them more Self-independent and provide the ability to the use of computers for reading, writing and research.

➤ Institution of People with Disability and NGO's play a big role in such issues.
What measures exist to ensure access by women and girls with disabilities to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programme?

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain protects the rights of people with disabilities, where the Constitution guarantees equal rights for all members of society without discrimination according to gender or disability. The Kingdom of Bahrain grants the people with disability a monthly allowance to an amount of hundred Bahraini dinars

Source: Draft of “The National Strategy to Protect the Rights of People with disability in Bahrain” (2011-2015)

Please provide information on other measures (legislative, administrative, juridical or other) aimed at the development, advancement and empowerment of women with disabilities

The initiative dialogue of “The National Dialogue” was an initiative by his majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in order to achieve a national harmony, peace and justice among the Bahraini citizens. The dialogue includes many axes including women’s rights and children with disability.

Are there provision for regular home visits and inspections of medical institutions where women and girls with disabilities are living / receiving treatment? How do these work?

➢ The Ministry of Health provides the service of mobile units to all citizens whom are not able to approach health centers including the elderly and people with disability.

➢ There is rehabilitation and training programs about self-care, and support services provided through the program of mobile units by associations concerned with disability, such as the Bahrain Mobility International, Bahrain Association for Mental Retardation, The Bahraini Association for Parents and
Friends of People with disability and other associations which take the responsibility of reaching to the people with disability people and rehabilitative services such as medical treatment and therapy services and, training in self-care skills.

Source: Draft of "The National Strategy to Protect the Rights of People with disability in Bahrain" (2011-2015)

- What measures have been adopted to provide information and education to women and girls with disability and their families, caregivers and health providers on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse?

The target group for most of the educational and awareness programs that are related to violence are directed to the common people and not in particular to the people with disability people.

- What are the means to report violence against women and girls with disabilities in different settings, including medical Centre's and institutions? To what extent are these known and accessible?

Reporting to the police station regarding violence is the women's choice. There is no official means to report violence for women in general and in particular for women with disability, however in case of violence occurrence, medical hospitals provide a medical report about the violence and this report is taken to the police station for inspection of the matter. And in case of treating a case suspected to have been abused yet has not mentioned, the case will be transferred to the Hospital's police for inspection.
To what extent are public institutions, such as police stations and hospitals, accessible to women and girls with disabilities?

Currently, there is a plan of assessing buildings, health centers, educational buildings and other public buildings to that they may be architecturally designed according to an international standard convenient to people with disabilities.

Are there shelters for women victims of violence? To what extent are they physically accessible to women with disabilities?

Da'ar El Amman: is a temporary accommodation "home" free of charge is available for family members exposed to domestic violence and female foreign labor. The accommodation is semi-prepared to address people with disability women. It was established on 24 November 2006 under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women.

NBB Rehabilitation Home For Disabled Children: The Home was established in 1970 and it is the first governmental establishment that looks after those who have medium or severe mental disable, and brain paralytic disable. In contribution of the National Bank of Bahrain and emphasis of its National role in providing welfare services, the bank has built and equipped a new home. This reflects the private sector’s obligation and its support to the society and its individuals. The Home was opened on 13/12/1997 and it includes two main sections.

Prosecution and punishment
• Are there disaggregated statistics on crimes against persons with disabilities?
  Although the ministry of Interior in the Kingdom of Bahrain does have statistics concerning crimes of
  violence against women, these statistics are not disaggregated by disabilities.

• Please provide information on the total amount of registered complaints for violence against women
  and girls with disabilities? Of the total amount how many were dismissed? What were the main
  reasons for dismissal? Of the cases that were prosecuted, how many resulted in convictions?
  Since the available statistics are not disaggregated by disability, the required information cannot be
  provided.

• What system is in place to ensure legal aid for women and girls with disabilities who have been
  victims of violence?
  The Supreme Council for Women has a Women Support Centre which provides legal aid to all Bahraini
  women including the people with disability upon their request and whom meets the terms of conditions
  assigned by the Supreme Council for Women in order to obtain the free legal service.

• What special measures have been envisaged in legislation and practice for victims and witnesses with
  disabilities?
  Such measures are not mandatory by law, however sometimes official bodies arrange with specialists to deal
  with victims, accused or witnesses with disability.

• What specific training is conducted for law enforcement and legal personnel on the rights of women
  and girls with disabilities and effective ways to communicate with them?
  The Supreme Council for Women has conducted the following workshops:
  - A workshop titled “learning sign language for deaf people”, organized by Sheikh Alfaresi
    Center for overall communication and the “Supreme Council for Women, held at the
    Supreme Council for Women from the period of 16-20, October,2011 to train its employees
and specially those working in Women Support Center since they deal with Women's complains and troubles.

- A workshop titled "The right of women with special needs in work and social security" in collaboration with the University of Bahrain, held at the Supreme Council for Women from the period of November 17 - 18, 2008. It aimed to identify the importance of work and its impact to women with disabilities, legislative regulation of the right of women with disabilities in employment, the rights and duties of working women with disabilities, social security and insurance protection for women with disabilities.

- A workshop titled "The right of women with special needs in legal assistance" in collaboration with the University of Bahrain, held at the Supreme Council for Women from the period of November 3 - 4, 2008. It aimed to raise awareness of women with disabilities about their legal rights.

**Recovery, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration**

- What measures (legislative, administrative, social, educational or other) are in place to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of women and girls with disabilities who have been victim of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse?

Any victim can address health centers and medical hospitals in the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to get the needed treatment caused by violence.