

Project Title: Implementing and Monitoring International Human Rights Conventions

Date: 19 – 30 March 2012

Location: University of Nottingham, UK

Unit: Short Courses and Training

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Funder: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK Embassy of Bahrain

Project Summary

In March 2012, HRLC hosted a delegation of six members of the Bahraini Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Human Rights and Social Development. The two week course, entitled *Implementing and Monitoring International Human Rights Conventions*, focused on the UN Treaty Body system and the reporting obligations of State Parties.

Objectives

Following the publication of the Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, presented in Manama, Bahrain, on 23 November 2011, the course aimed to provide the participants with a deeper understanding and knowledge of the UN Treaty Body system and the obligations upon State Parties when implementing international human rights conventions.

Participants

The participants included Judges; Public Prosecutors from the Ministry of Justice; Legal Researchers and the Director of Human Rights Organisations from the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Development.

Activities

The main component of the course consisted of specifically tailored teaching sessions, delivered by highly renowned academics and practitioners, experts in their field. The sessions were supplemented by study visits to UK institutions such as the Courts, HMP Prison Nottingham, Ministry of Justice, Equality and Human Rights Commission, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Amnesty International.

Method

The course provided an in-depth theoretical grounding in the subject area, while also highlighting the realities of practice and key human rights issues to be considered when implementing international human rights conventions. The training methodology was highly participatory and interactive, which enabled reciprocal learning. The participants and trainers were able to exchange information, experiences and professional skills with one another.

Speakers

The seminars were facilitated by academics, practitioners, and all experts in their field, including members of the UN treaty bodies sub-committees as well as representatives of governmental institutions and NGOs, who play a critical role in the implementation of recommendations from the UN treaty bodies in the UK.

Outcomes

The course provided the participants with the requisite knowledge and understanding of international human rights law, to be applied and further disseminated to colleagues upon return to Bahrain.