

# **The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf**

**Secretariat-General**



## **GCC HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION**

**2015**

**Human Rights Declaration for the Member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Which is adopted by the high council in its Thirty- Fifth Session In Doha 9 December 2014.**

## GCC HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION

The Member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC),

***Inspired by*** their deep belief in the dignity of the human being, respect for his rights and their commitment to the protection of those rights that are ensured by the Islamic *Sharia* law which embody the firm and noble values and principles in the conscience of their communities and constitute the basic constants of their policies at all levels, and

***Pursuant to*** the GCC Charter which provides for the common destiny and the unity of aim which link their peoples, and which calls for coordination, integration and interconnection between them in all fields, as well as the deepening and strengthening of bonds, ties and cooperation between their peoples in various fields, and

***Reaffirming*** that their achievements in various areas are ascribed to the great importance and care that the GCC States attach to the issues of human rights, and

***Expressing*** their appreciation and gratitude to the joint efforts made at the various levels with the international and regional community, which have efficiently and effectively contributed to the reinforcement of human rights issues promoting them to the level of the desired goals in an international community where these rights are given their due position, and

***Stressing*** their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Arab Charter on Human Rights, the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, and relevant international and regional conventions and charters, and

***Interacting with*** those efforts with a view to achieving more gains for humanity.

**Now, Therefore proclaims** as follows:

### **Article (1)**

Every person , has the right to life and must be protected from any assault there-on. No one may be killed unlawfully. The bodies of the dead must be respected, buried and protected.

### **Article (2)**

People are equal in human dignity, in rights and in freedoms, and are equal before the regulation (law). There is no distinction between them for reasons of origin, gender, religion, language, color, or any other form of distinction.

### **Article (3)**

Slavery, servitude and human trafficking shall be prohibited in all their forms, particularly those involving women and children.

### **Article (4)**

Human organs trade, shall be prohibited, and shall be considered as a violation of human rights, and a crime to be penalized by the regulation (law).

### **Article (5)**

No medical or scientific experiment may be conducted on any human being, nor may his organs be exploited without his consent and without being fully aware of the subsequent complications that may result.

### **Article (6)**

The Freedom of belief and the practice of religious rites is a right of every person according to the regulation (law) without disruption of the public order and public morals.

### **Article (7)**

The respect for the heavenly religions, the absence of contempt or disdain for them or insulting their prophets or symbols, and the respect for the cultural diversity of other nations are guaranteed according to the regulation (law).

### **Article (8)**

The state and society shall disseminate and promote the principles of goodness, love, fraternity, tolerance and other noble principles and values. They shall also reject all feelings of hatred, grudge and extremism, as well as any other forms thereof that might undermine the fundamental principles of the community or endanger them.

### **Article (9)**

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and exercising such freedom is guaranteed insofar as it accords with Islamic *Sharia* law, public order and the regulations (laws) regulating this area.

### **Article (10)**

Freedom of movement, residence and departure is a right of every human being according to the regulations (law).

### **Article (11)**

No one shall be deported from his country or prevented from entering it.

### **Article (12)**

Legal personality is a right of every human being.

### **Article (13)**

Nationality is a right of every human being, and is granted by the regulation (law) and shall not be withdrawn except by it.

### **Article (14)**

The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, originally composed of a man and a woman, governed by religion, morals and patriotism; its entity and bonds are maintained and reinforced by religion. Motherhood, childhood and members of the family are protected by religion as well as the State and society against all forms of abuse and domestic violence.

### **Article (15)**

Men and women have the right to marry and found a family. Marriage shall only be entered into with the free will and consent of the intending spouses according to the provisions of Islamic *sharia* Law and regulation (law).

### **Article (16)**

Private life, is guaranteed for every human being, and may not be infringed, nor can a person's family affairs, residence, correspondences or communications be interfered with, and he has the right to seek protection thereof.

### **Article (17)**

Every human being has the right to a standard of living adequate for the well-being of himself and his family. The government shall ensure such standard of living within the means available.

### **Article (18)**

Every child has the right to survival, development, protection and welfare in a family setting where he is raised in the spirit of peace, dignity, freedom, equality and brotherhood.

### **Article (19)**

Every child has the right to protection against economic exploitation and the performance of any work that is likely to be dangerous, to impede his education or to cause harm to his , physical, mental health, or his spiritual, moral or social growth, in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic *Sharia* law and relevant international conventions and agreements.

### **Article (20)**

Everyone has the right to live in a clean environment free of pollution which the State and society shall conserve and protect.

### **Article (21)**

Every person has the right to healthcare, which the State and civil community institutions shall provide.

### **Article (22)**

All people with special needs have the right to comprehensive care and shall be rehabilitated and consolidate into the community.

### **Article (23)**

Every person has the right to education. Education shall be directed towards the full development of the human personality, while enhancing his dignity and the culture of human rights. Primary education shall be free and compulsory. Technical and higher education shall be made generally available, with a respect towards the right of guardians and caregivers to choose the kind of education they deem best for their children.

### **Article (24)**

Every person, who has the capacity of doing so, has the right to work and has the right to free choice of employment according to the requirements of dignity and public interest, while just and favorable employment conditions, as well as employees' and employers' rights, are ensured.

### **Article (25)**

The elderly and Infirm have the right to protection and welfare.

### **Article (26)**

Every citizen has the right to social security and insurance according to the regulation (law), while ensuring protection and welfare for the elderly and Infirm people.

### **Article (27)**

Private property is inviolable and no one shall be prevented from the disposition of his property except by the regulation (law), and it may not be expropriated unless for public interest with fair compensation

### **Article (28)**

Every citizen has the right to enjoy national property and resources, and everyone is entitled to benefit from public services according to the regulation (law).

### **Article (29)**

Every person has the right to participate in cultural life, to enjoy scientific advancement and its benefits, and to benefit from the moral and material rights of his scientific, literary or artistic production that contribute to the advancement of human civilization.

### **Article (30)**

Every citizen has the right to political participation, as well as the right to take part in the government of his country, and to have equal access to public services in his country according to the provisions of the regulation (law). A country shall provide employment opportunities for its citizens.

### **Article (31)**

Every person has the freedom to form associations, assemblies and unions, subject to the provisions of the regulation (law), and no one may be compelled to belong to an association.

### **Article (32)**

All people are equal before the courts and every person has a right to access to litigate with full independence of the judiciary.

### **Article (33)**

Punishment is personal, no crime and no penalty can be established without a prior provision of the law and, the accused shall benefit from the provision that is most favorable to him.

### **Article (34)**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention or confinement or restriction of his freedom, and he has the right to humane treatment while in custody. Accused people shall be separated from convicted ones, and shall be treated in such manner consistent with their status.

### **Article (35)**

The accused is innocent until proven guilty in a fair trial which provides all legal guarantees for his defense.



### **Article (36)**

Torture is prohibited whether physically or psychologically as is cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

### **Article (37)**

Sentenced people who are deprived of their liberty must receive humane treatment with respect towards their dignity, and takes into account the international standards applicable by penal or corrective institutions.

### **Article (38)**

No one shall be imprisoned for a debt that is judicially proven to be unable to be paid back.

### **Article (39)**

Consequences (burdens) of disasters and emergencies shall be the common responsibility of both the government and the community.

### **Article (40)**

Terrorism is a violation of human rights; it is prohibited and criminalized, in all its forms, under Islamic *Sharia* law and International conventions and shall be combatted and eliminated without infringement of the respect for human rights.

### **Article (41)**

Rules of International humanitarian law shall apply in armed conflicts with accordance to all prevailing International conventions and practices, subject to ensuring the rights of the elderly, disabled, patients, women, children, captives and civilians.

### **Article (42)**

Every person has the right to seek asylum in another country according to the regulation (law) applicable therein. An expatriate, who has legally entered a country, may not be deported without legal justification, nor may asylum seekers be handed over.

### **Article (43)**

A juvenile delinquent has the right to be treated under juvenile judicial law and to treatment appropriate to his age that maintains his rights and dignity and contributes to his rehabilitation and reinstatement in society.

### **Article (44)**

Without prejudice to the provisions of Islamic *Sharia* law and the regulation (law), the exercise and enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set out in this Declaration are the right of everyone.

### **Article (45)**

Every person, whose rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration have been violated, has the right to appeal according to the regulation (law).

### **Article (46)**

Every person has obligations towards society. However, in the exercise of the rights and freedoms set out in this declaration, he shall be subject only to the restrictions that are determined by the regulation (law) for securing and respecting the rights and freedoms of others and public order.

### **Article (47)**

This Declaration may not be interpreted or modified in such a way that might limit the rights and freedoms that are ensured by the national legislations of the GCC States or the international and regional conventions of human rights which the GCC States have ratified or acceded to.



GCC PRINTING PRESS