

## Political Development Forum

Political development is a multi-dimensional process and aims to consolidate the idea of citizenship, achieve integration and stability within society, increase the participation of citizens in political life, and strengthen the capacity of the state to implement its laws and policies in the country. Taking into account the separation of the three legislative, executive and judicial branches of the State.

Through the annual Political Development Forum, the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD) seeks to promote the national political culture in society through a gradual transition from the old to the modern. The forum constitutes a cycle of development within society that is compatible with a civilized world, bearing in mind that each society is controlled by its social and cultural conditions, and its experience is not linked to specific criteria, because accepting specific criteria means defining the development process within a certain framework

The Forum is an effective platform to form political perceptions of citizens by providing an opportunity for dialogue and civilized scientific debate among the public and a cultural elite representing intellectual cadres of national, Gulf and Arab, they together constitute a platform for creative discussion on political affairs, issues and focus on enlighten citizens' on the importance of these issues.

### The general objective of the forum

- Promoting a culture of political development in the Bahraini society to enable it to contribute effectively to the decision-making process.
- Developing political knowledge and getting informed with the latest developments in political development.

### Political Development Forum: "Bahrain: Belonging and Citizenship"

The forum's theme this year, entitled "Bahrain: Belonging and Citizenship", focuses on an important issues facing modern societies, namely the matter of belonging and its relationship to the citizenship.

The forum's vision is based on the Royal vision: linking loyalty and national belonging to the concept of the state, while preserving the national constants and consolidate the values of citizenship and adherence to identity with the values, customs, traditions and legacies it represents to build the present and looking forward to the future.

This will be through a series of panel discussions on the matter of national belonging from different perspectives and the role of those national institutions and its key components in promoting that affiliation.

## Objectives of the Political Development Forum "Bahrain: Belonging and Citizenship"

- Affirm the values of national belonging and loyalty to the leadership in the hearts of Bahrainis.
- Developing a national political vision that considers the values, traditions and customs of society.
- Highlight civil society institutions and their role in promoting the values of belonging and citizenship.

### The Agenda

Opening speech by His Excellency Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi, Minister of Information Affairs and BIPD Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

### Session I: Citizenship, Family and Education

Family and school constitute the most important environment to which the citizen belongs, lives among its members, falls under its influence and listens to their guidance.

The family is the first social and psychological originator of the citizen.

The school is the first official tool of the national upbringing.

Both may work on their positive side to form citizens with a high degree of national belonging and a sense of citizenship, and they may work on their negative side to form people characterized by helplessness, distrust, alienation, isolation, violence and aggressiveness.

Many countries, especially Bahrain, have paid attention to the family's role and the compulsory and free education, not only in order to raise the social level of the members of society, but also in order to raise the generations to conform to the values of good citizenship and national belonging.

Has the family in the Kingdom been able to maintain its influential role on their children, or are other institutions assuming this role?

To what extent is the role of the Bahraini family approaching or away from forming the values of loyalty and national belonging in the hearts of their children? What are the aspects of this in the behavior of the Bahraini family?

Has the school been able to play this pivotal role in the upbringing process?

How was the educational institution able to reconcile being the first official institution of national formation and being the second means - after the family - in addressing the negatives of upbringing in the family - if any- ?

## Speakers

- Shaikha Mai bint Sulaiman Al Otaibi, Vice Chairwoman of BIPD Board of Trustees, and Chairwoman of Bahrain Bayan School.
- Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi, Member of the Federal National Council (FNC), Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (Hedayah).

## Moderator

- Ebrahim Al Tamimi, Director of Bahrain Program for Best Government Practices.

## Session II: Media and its role in promoting national belonging

Traditional and modern media play a fundamental role in society. The use of the media changes the perceptions and behavior of individuals. The media has become so powerful that it can build countries and societies destroy others.

The media had this role because of the evolution of its methods, and effective influence. We can say that media role has overshadowed other means of formation.

In this axis, is there an attempt to approach the reality to see to what extent the impact of the media in the formation of the personality of the citizen and the development of national values?

Has media been able to prevent itself from being absorbed within the global media through setting clear boundaries around itself?

What about the social media role? Was it a better way to promote patriotism or the opposite?

How can we face the negative aspects of being influenced by external media, and the loss of national personality?

## Speakers

- Yousif Albinkhalil, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Watan newspaper
- Dr. Barakat Al-Wegyan - Media Advisor and TV presenter

## Moderator

- Eman Marhoon – Media Person

## Session III: Youth and Citizenship is a Social Responsibility

Youth plays a vital role in the process of promoting national belonging and consolidating citizenship values. There are many opportunities for young to play a positive role in consolidating the values of true citizenship in society, from awareness and self-education, and to participate positively in the activities of civil society institutions and interacting with them.

The role of youth in this framework is a dual role, requires self-awareness, and a positive activity.

How do youth have that role?

What are their ways in it?

Did the Arab youth in general and the Gulf in particular express their patriotism? What are the signs?

What are the most important challenges facing young people nowadays, and preventing them from playing a real role in establishing the values of belonging and national loyalty in society in general and among themselves in particular?

### Speakers

- Omar Farooq - YouTuber and filmmaker
- Abdullah Al-Bandar - Presenter and Content Creator in Sky News Arabia

### Moderator

- Haya Al-Qassim - Media Person

### Session IV: Art: An influential national message

We cannot ignore the role of art in the upbringing individuals nationally, and its negative and positive impact on the formation of the national character, and by art we mean art in all its forms: poetry, literature, music, singing, theater ... etc.

The art's role is to express the spirit, culture and civilization of society, so to the extent that the artist can influence the public and devise creative methods to gain their emotions.

The impact of artistic work, especially in the globalization era, on the cultural aspect and its effects on the social and educational levels of our societies, should be emphasized to reflect our national identity and affirm our faith in that identity.

Was Arab art generally a reflection of the temporal and spatial Arab environment?

Was it able to formulate a genuine national vision that reflects the aspirations of the members of society?

How did Arab art in general and the Gulf in particular face the intersections between the Arab art and the Western arts with the latter's culture and social behaviors which is different from the Arabic culture?

### Speakers

- Arab Superstar Hussain Al Jasmi - Goodwill Extraordinary Ambassador

**Moderator**

- Ali al-Olayani- Editor-in Chief and TV Presenter in MBC group

**Time**

8:45 am - 2 pm

**Date**

November 27, 2019

**For inquiries**

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