

Bahrain, the best model to emulate in gender equality

Historic achievements of Bahraini women in focus at a special session held at the Arab World Institute in Paris

The role of Kingdom's Constitution was the focal point of the discussion as it granted equal opportunities for all irrespective of gender and other differences.



Hala Al Ansari addresses the audience.



Dr Mohammed bin Abdul Ghaffar speaks at the session.



Dr Mohammed Walid Al Masri speaks at the session.

The achievements of Bahraini women were in spotlight as the book 'Bahraini women in the era of King Hamad', which was published by the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), was read at a special session held at the Arab World Institute in Paris.

Many dignitaries including Hala Al Ansari, the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women, Dr Bahia Al Jishi, Bahrain Ambassador to Belgium and Dr Mohammed Waleed Al Masri, the legal adviser to SCW spoke on the



occasion.

A large audience as well as members of prominent media outlets was in attendance. The session was inaugurated by Dr Mohammed bin Abdul Ghaffar, Bahrain's Ambassador to France, who delivered

a speech highlighting the historic achievements of Bahraini women.

The session highlighted the various stages of transformation in the lives of Bahraini women during the reign of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa

Al Khalifa.

It also discussed the historical, cultural and developmental aspects of this transformation.

The role of Kingdom's Constitution was the focal point of the discussion as it granted equal opportunities for all irrespective of gender and other differences.

The Constitution gave equal political rights to women, which was a landmark decision, the session observed.

"Within the institutional framework, women started participating in political ac-



'Bahraini women in the era of King Hamad' was published by the SCW in the year 2008. Originally written in Arabic, the book has been translated into English and French.

tivities that directly led to the empowerment of women, not only politically but also socially and economically."

The session also stressed the role of the SCW under the leadership of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the wife of His Majesty the King, in empowering the Kingdom's women.

Many social initiatives in the Kingdom that were led by women were also under spotlight at the event.



Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa highlights the achievements of Bahraini women.



Dr Bahia Al Jishi speaks during the panel discussion.

SCW Secy General holds key meeting with French-Gulf Friendship Group President

Hala Al Ansari, the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women, held a business meeting with Jean-Marie Bouquet, Chairman of the French-Gulf Friendship Group, in his office in Paris, in the presence of Dr Mohammed Abdul Ghaffar, the Ambassador of the Kingdom to France, and the Director-General of Policies and Development at the SCW Shaikha Dina bint Rashid Al Khalifa, and the Legal Adviser to SCW Dr Mohammed Waleed Al Masri.

Ms Al Ansari started the meeting by expressing her thanks to Mr Bouquet, and how much she valued the important role he plays in promoting relations between the French Republic and the Gulf States including Bahrain.

Ms Al Ansari outlined the keenness of the French side to recognize Bahrain's experience in the advancement of women and to benefit from joint experiences in various issues of supporting women.



Ms Al Ansari in talks with Mr Bouquet.

The Secretary-General emphasised the keenness of the Supreme Council for Women, to

learn more closely about the rich experience of the French Parliament in supporting women,

and eliminating any means of discrimination against them.

Mr Bouquet praised the Kingdom's experience in supporting women in the region, to a distinguished level; explaining that he was closely acquainted with the Supreme Council for Women, under the leadership of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King, during a visit to the Kingdom last November.

He urged the Secretariat of the Council to visit Paris for further cooperation on common issues of concern.

Mr. Bouquet also mentioned the special support that Bahraini women enjoy, which led many achieve the position of top policy-makers. He welcomed the opening up of a permanent channel, in order to exchange experiences in the field of women's legislation and activate cooperation with the Supreme Council for Women at all levels.