



**15<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**(21 Jan- 1 Feb 2013)**

**France**

**Statement of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

Monday, 21<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Delivered by: Lulwa Al Khalifa

Thank you Mr. President,

Bahrain welcomes the delegation of France to the second cycle of the UPR, and commends the ongoing efforts of the French government to promote and protect Human Rights, at the national and international levels, and appreciate all the developments conducted on policies and measures in the past years.

My delegation welcomes the establishment of the Ministry of Women's rights in may 2012 and the measures adopted to promote gender equality, and encourages the French government to increase women representation in high-level and managerial positions, as well as in private sectors.

Mr. President,

We are concerned about the increasing hate crimes against Muslims and Muslim communities which have taken various forms like profanation of cemeteries and mosques, physical attacks, insults, provocation and burning or profanation of the Koran.

Moreover, discrimination on the grounds of race, color, language, religion, nationality or national and ethnic origins persisted in access to employment, education, housing, and goods and services. My delegation, therefore, recommends that France withdraw its reservations to article 4 of ICERD and to article 27 of ICCPR, and to adopt immediate and positive measures to combat all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and stigmatism.

Finally, my delegation recommends that France develop a national strategy to combat trafficking of women and children, and to prohibit and criminalize child exploitation and prostitution.

Thank you Mr. President..