

DOHA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY INSTITUTE SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH QATAR FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL WORK

MOU Represents Contribution Towards Development Agenda Related To The Family In Qatar

Doha, Qatar, 10 August 2015: Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Qatar Foundation for Social Work (QFSW) in an effort to promote mutual cooperation and help meet family-related development goals in Qatar.

Commenting on the signing, Ms Noor Al Malki Al Jehani, DIFI Executive Director, underlined the importance of the MOU in promoting a common understanding to consolidate the institutional cooperation between the two parties as a means to contribute to the development goals focusing on families and their members in Qatar.

According to Ms Al Malki, DIFI believes that family is not only the fundamental group unit of society, but is also the fundamental agent for sustainable social, economic, and cultural development. The MOU, she added, will guide both parties' joint efforts at three strategic pillars: enriching research on family-related issues in Qatar; ensuring that family-related issues are a top priority for policy makers; and advancing knowledge sharing and raising community awareness of family-related issues.

Ms Al Malki also maintained that the MOU will enable DIFI to contribute to promoting Qatar Foundation's vision in leading the efforts aimed at achieving leadership in human, social, and economic development in Qatar.

Ms Amal Bint Abdullatif Al Mannai, CEO of Qatar Foundation for Social Work, said she was glad to see QFSW working hand in hand with DIFI – as evidenced by the MOU – as an active and effective partner, to help support and develop social action, and promote the sustainability of family and community cohesion as well as human development in Qatar in line with QFSW vision and mission in empowering and developing civil society organizations. It will also promote their capacities and role in society in such a manner that enables them to meet the goals for which they were established, while taking into account the threats that families are facing amidst regional and global developments.

Ms Al Mannai also noted that the signing of the Memorandum is a testament to the Foundation's active contribution to the development movement and the promotion of an integrated system of qualities and morals that ensure complementary and united efforts as well as collective performance, which will in turn sustain the progress achieved in social and human development in line with national reference standards, especially Qatar National Vision 2030.

According to the MOU, the parties agree to annual action plans outlining the conduct of research and studies aimed at assessing and implementing policies and programmes pertaining to families, women, children, and the elderly in Qatar; monitoring and studying the risks faced by Qatari families and vulnerable groups and submitting relevant recommendations accordingly; designing and implementing programmes to raise society's awareness of the family's role and issues, and striving to build active partnerships between



governmental organisations and civil organisations focusing on family-related issues, as well as any other activities deemed essential by the parties with a view to meeting their common goals.

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About Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

DIFI is a leading international institution in Qatar that supports research, policy and outreach programs that promote the development of Arab families. With research as its core focus, DIFI supports a wide range of international, regional and local evidence-based studies relating to marriage and family structure, women, fertility and demography, child and family safety, and parenting. The Institution is comprised of three divisions; *Family Research Division*, *Family Policy Division* and *Social Outreach Division*. Its body of work includes contributions to the UN Secretary General's campaign to end violence against women; international and regional colloquia in partnership with most UN funds and programmes, including UNDESA, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNICEF; and the funding and development of a wide range of publications on family in the new millennium. A member of Qatar Foundation, it has a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

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