

## Dr. Al-Towerki Launches the Social Services & Human Rights Symposium



Abdul Elah Abbad Al-Towerki, MD, General Executive Director of King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital, on behalf of Mansour Al-Hawasi, MD, Deputy Health Minister for Executive Affairs and Hospital Board Director, has launched the 13<sup>th</sup> Social Services Symposium entitled *Social Services and Human Rights*. The Symposium is organized by the Hospital for two days starting on 16/1/1430H, corresponding to 13/1/2009.

The opening ceremony started with the Royal Anthem and a recitation of a few verses from the Holy Quran. Afterwards, Dr. Mohammad Suliman Al-Wahaid, Symposium Scientific Supervisor and Head of the Social Studies Department at the College of Arts at King Saud University, made a speech in which he asserted that human rights and social justice are the driving forces behind social services, which in turn aim to unite the community. The well-informed are aware of the important role social services and social workers play in protecting human rights through their letter and spirit. In this Symposium as the Scientific Committee, we sought the inspiration of our country's spirit, the Kingdom of Humanity, and we worked according to our religious teachings that asserted human dignity in general as Allah the Almighty said in His Holy Book, "And indeed we have honored the children of Adam"\* (V.17:70), and as Prophet Mohammad, Peace Be Upon Him, reported of a heartless woman who was sent to Hellfire because she had starved a cat to death. We assert to the world and to history that our country is indeed the Kingdom of Humanity in practice by observing human rights in all fields including the medical field and healthcare sector, where people face disease and disability. We aspire as the Scientific Committee to delineate the dimensions of human rights in the practice of social services.

Ferial Kurdi, Director of Social Services Department, mentioned in her speech that "our religion calls for social solidarity and united community .This Symposium expresses our recognition of the close connection between human rights and social services both as a science and a profession that reserve human rights. This connection is based on respecting the human being in

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\* Translations, (King Fahad Complex for Printing of the Holy Quran Website), Available: [http://www.qurancomplex.com/Quran/Targama/Targama.asp?nSora=17&l=arb&nAya=70#17\\_70](http://www.qurancomplex.com/Quran/Targama/Targama.asp?nSora=17&l=arb&nAya=70#17_70) (Accessed: 2009, January 25)

order for him/her to be able to lead a decent life. Social Services aim to enforce human/social justice which is the essence of human rights. The Scientific Committee observed in the selected subjects the Islamic approach to human rights and related regulations, rules and laws. The Symposium also sheds some light on the role of the Human Rights Commission and the adopted legal procedures.

After that, Dr. Abdul Elah Al-Towerki gave a speech saying, "It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all at KKESH in the opening ceremony of the Social Services and Human Rights Symposium. As we all know, officials in the health sector realize the importance of social service in the process of providing health care to patients and its vital role in the effectiveness of treatment. The Hospital, therefore, established a dedicated Social Services Department to offer social and humanitarian services to patients as a key component of offered healthcare services. One of the roles of the Department is to pursue justice for patients and indicate their rights as an important part of social collaboration. Hence, it is clear that this Department's role is not only limited to the social services but it also extends to relate its services to human rights and this is what we aim to focus on in this Symposium which gathers many distinguished professionals in both social service and human rights. KKESH has always strived to hold such valuable symposia and conferences to provide the best services possible to patients, to improve the service providers' capabilities in all areas, and to exchange expertise with professionals. This Symposium is a testament to the Hospital's perseverance toward this goal. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Scientific Committee and the participants, and ask Allah to guide our efforts."

It is worth mentioning that the Symposium hosted the prominent local speakers Dr. Bandar Al-Najar, Vice Chairman of Shura Council; Dr. Suliman Al-Aouda; Dr. Mohammed Al-Negemi; Dr. Abdulhameed Al-Habeeb; Dr. Ahmed Al-Gathi, Counselor to the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission; and Dr. Fahad Al-Tayash, Associate Professor of Media at King Saud University; as well as the international speakers Dr. Fathelah Mahros from Bahrain; Dr. Wedad Al-Essa from Kuwait; and Dr. Elizabeth Richard, Professor of Social Services at the University of Illinois, USA.

Afterwards, Dr. Al-Towerki handed out appreciation certificates to the Symposium participants. Then, he opened the Symposium Exhibition accompanied by HRH Prince Saud bin Talal bin Bader bin Saud bin Abdulaziz, Legal Counselor at the Ministry of the Interior. They listened to detailed explanations from the supervisors of the participating agencies and they expressed their admiration of their exhibition stands and efforts.