

Summary Report
Field Visit to Assiut Governorate
From 25th to 26th December 2024

As part of the implementation of the Economic Committee's in the National Council for Human Rights action plan to monitor and assess the economic conditions and to understand the state sectors' plans to provide a dignified life for citizens and achieve development, the committee conducted a field visit to Assiut Governorate on Wednesday, December 25, and Thursday, December 26, 2024.

The visit included the following:

First: Meetings and Discussions:

1. **Meeting with** the Governor of Assiut, and the Secretary-General of the Governorate: The meeting discussed the Governorate's experience in establishing and promoting human rights values and concepts, achieving comprehensive development, economic empowerment, and the significant gains achieved.
2. **Meeting with the** President of Assiut University and Chairman of the Center for Human Rights Studies and Research. Discussions centered on the proposal to sign a cooperation protocol between the Council and the University to promote and instill a culture of human rights among students and faculty members. And also implement joint programs to build a new generation of human rights ambassadors from the university's graduates, who are qualified and aware of human rights culture.
3. **Meeting with the** Vice President of the University for Environmental Affairs and Community Service, to discuss the mechanisms for mutual cooperation.

Second: Field Visits:

1. **Visit to the Information Technology Institute (ITI)**, affiliated with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The delegation met with young beneficiaries of the training programs offered by the institute, who had secured direct job opportunities after graduation.
2. **Visit to the Special Needs and Disabilities Center at Assiut University.**

Third: Workshops:

1. **Workshop for 120 beneficiaries** from leaders and employees at the Ministry of Finance, including representatives from the Egyptian Tax Authority, the Real Estate Tax Authority, the Accounts and Financial Directorates, and representatives from the governorates of **Minya, Assiut, New Valley, and Sohag**. The workshop covered the **National Human Rights Strategy (2021-2026)**.

2. **Workshop for 100 young men and women** trainees at the Information Technology Institute (ITI), aiming to raise awareness about human rights principles and concepts, with a focus on the right to education and the right to work.

Recommendations:

During the visit, the committee learned the efforts being made to improve living standards and ensure human rights and expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the executive leadership in the governorate. The committee also commends the efforts to enhance the right to education, particularly during the visit to the Information Technology Institute (ITI), which plays a pioneering role in enhancing the capabilities of young people in Upper Egypt by providing free educational and training programs in information technology. These programs have opened new employment opportunities for youth, contributing to improved income levels for them and their families.

The field visit resulted in a set of outcomes and recommendations as follows:

- **Holding the first Human Rights Conference in Assiut Governorate**, with the participation of **Ambassador Moushira Khattab**, President of the National Council for Human Rights, in cooperation with Assiut Governorate and Assiut University. The conference involve all relevant executive leadership and stakeholders in the governorate, along with civil society, to review the efforts made to ensure the enforcement and protection of human rights.
- **Forming a committee between the National Council for Human Rights and Assiut University** to coordinate cooperation and take the necessary steps to implement the proposed activities and initiatives.
- **Proposal to discuss signing a cooperation protocol** between the Council and Assiut University.
- **Proposal to implement training programs in collaboration with Assiut University** to raise awareness among students about their rights and the state's efforts in human rights, in addition to building the capacities of executive leadership within the state administrative apparatus and civil society organizations on human rights culture.
- The possibility of using the official social media platforms of Assiut University to raise awareness about human rights issues.
- **Launching the "5 Minutes to Spread Human Rights Culture" initiative**, aiming to dedicate the first lecture in the second semester of the **2024/2025 academic year** at all faculties of Assiut University to raise awareness among students about the comprehensive concept of human rights.
- **Continuing cooperation with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Unit** at the Ministry of Finance in conducting workshops and seminars in Cairo and the agreed-upon governorates, in implementation of the cooperation protocol signed between the Council and the Ministry of Finance, with the goal of embedding and promoting human rights concepts within the government sector.