



the 17th Annual Civil Society Forum under the theme “The Role of Civil Society in Promoting Human Rights”

The National Council for Human Rights in Egypt (NCHR) hosted the 17th Annual Civil Society Forum under the theme “The Role of Civil Society in Promoting Human Rights” on Sunday, 13 October 2024, at the Marriott Zamalek. The forum convened 382 participants from 16 governorates, including representatives from civil society organizations, government ministries, universities, professional syndicates, international organizations, and national councils.

The event featured a main session on the National Human Rights Strategy (Pillar III: Rights of Vulnerable Groups) and four thematic sessions addressing:

1. Women’s and children’s rights from a national and international perspective.
2. Youth empowerment and their role in public decision-making.
3. Rights of persons with disabilities.
4. Civil society’s role in supporting the rights of migrants and refugees.

Key Recommendations:

Youth:

- Develop tools to encourage youth political engagement.
- Counter cultural distortion via social media through targeted programs.
- Strengthen civic education in schools to foster civic responsibility.
- Institutionalize regular meetings between NCHR and civil society organizations.
- Implement economic empowerment programs for rural young women.

Women and Children:

- Include reproductive rights in school curricula.
- Expedite the adoption of the new Personal Status Law.
- Reform juvenile detention centers.
- Prioritize child rights and combat domestic violence against women.

Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities:

- Review the executive regulations of the Disability Law through community dialogue.



- Promote political participation of persons with disabilities.
- Establish a hotline for disability-related services and concerns.
- Launch awareness campaigns on mental health and Alzheimer's using social media.
- Educate children about intellectual disabilities such as autism.

Refugees and Migrants:

- Activate the role of the sectoral union of refugee organizations under the Ministry of Social Solidarity.
- Standardize procedures governing refugee and migrant affairs.
- Coordinate a national support plan with international partners to reduce institutional burdens.
- Learn from best practices in countries like Jordan regarding refugee integration.

General:

- Enhance information sharing between civil society and national councils.
- Develop networking mechanisms between civil society organizations and NCHR.
- Build the institutional capacity of civil society actors.