



# The 48th National Day of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



## Empowering women nationwide and around the world

The United Arab Emirates has adopted a powerful stance in empowering women, setting new standards based on a unique model drawn from the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of the UAE. This approach perpetuates in the current leadership's vision for the future, whereby women stand as active partners and contributors in the country's development process and play a vital role in raising future generations.

The UAE Constitution guarantees equal rights for women and men. The country is leading the way in a number of regional and global indexes on gender equality and women's achievements, education and literacy, women's employment, and respect for women among several social and economic indicators and other indicators.

The country's constitution supports the participation of Emirati women in decision-making, a core component of economic empowerment. In December 2014, the UAE Cabinet adopted a decision imposing the appointment of women on the boards of directors of all institutions and government agencies, setting the proportion of female representation at 15% in government institutions. Nine women sit on the Federal National Council for the 16th legislature, representing 22.5% of 40 members. Furthermore, women make up 27% of the new Cabinet formed in 2016 which includes nine women ministers, one of whom is the youngest minister appointed to Cabinet (23 years).

The UAE Gender Balance Council was established in 2015 as a federal agency dedicated to

scaling up the UAE's efforts to achieve gender balance across all sectors nationwide, and in decision-making positions. Women are actively involved in the judiciary sector with several women judges and prosecutors, as well as a significant female presence in the police and the military. In the diplomatic field, women currently hold 30% of positions in the diplomatic corps at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which comprised 234 women employees in 2017, including women ambassadors and diplomats representing the UAE abroad.

Moreover, the UAE has made remarkable progress in reducing gender disparities in girls' education in schools and higher education, with more than 70 percent of girls graduating from universities. In the economic

field and in the business world, women have set themselves as partners, making up 46.6% of the total workforce, holding 66% of the jobs of the public sector, 30% of which are decision-making positions. Furthermore, 23,000 businesswomen manage projects worth about USD15 billion in the UAE.

At the international level, more than 14 per cent of total international aid contributed by the United Arab Emirates in 2016 was devoted to empowering women and girls around the world. After deducting bilateral support to government budgets, which accounts for more than half of the value of foreign aid contributed by the UAE in 2016, the proportion of aid allotted to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment accounts for nearly one-third of total aid.



H. H. SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN, PRESIDENT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



H. H. SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM, UAE VICE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER AND RULER OF DUBAI

### AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



SAED MOHAMMED SAED HMAID AL MHEIRI, AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO BANGLADESH

of tolerance in society, establishing a culture of openness and dialogue, and rejecting all kinds of discrimination based on religion, gender, race, color or language.

Our Year of Tolerance also encapsulates the vision of the UAE's Founding Father Sheikh Zayed, who believed that a successful, tolerant and progressive society can only be achieved by empowering women and ensuring their full participation in the construction of this country. A third of the UAE's Cabinet are women; women represent a majority of the workforce of our civil service and our university graduates; and the representation of women in the Federal National Council is now at 50 percent.

Another highlight of this year was the remarkable progress made by UAE diplomacy in terms of the strength of the UAE passport, which now ranks the most powerful in the world, according to the global Passport Index. Hence, more visa exemptions were granted with 177 countries where UAE nationals are allowed to enter without a visa.

2019 also saw the launch of the "Mohammed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence", the first graduate level, research-based artificial intelligence university in the world. This university aims to empower students, businesses, and governments to advance artificial intelligence and use its extraordinary potential as a global force for positive progress.

Moreover, the UAE has spared no effort in empowering young people, as evidenced by the Emirati leadership's support for Hazaa al-Mansouri, the first Arab astronaut to visit the International Space Agency, who has become an inspiration and a role model to many young Emiratis.

The UAE has an international reputation for both security and stability, and this has enabled us to become a magnet for many creators and talented individuals, who seek an environment that supports their skills and talents, and appreciates and rewards their intellectual prowess.

It is well-known that the UAE has always been at the forefront in carrying messages of peace and cooperation to the world, and this no doubt assisted us in winning the right to host Expo 2020 Dubai, the largest event to be staged in the Middle East. Expo 2020 Dubai will showcase human achievements in many fields, with the participation of more than 200 countries, companies, organizations and educational institutions. This global event confirms our nation's ability to connect and inspire millions of people around the world to celebrate human progress, solve global challenges, and create a better future.

On this occasion, we remain grateful to our leadership, which spares no effort to raise the nation and achieve the well-being and happiness of its citizens and residents.

Finally, I wish a blessed year for the UAE filled with constant progress and prosperity. Thank you.

## Report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on the occasion of the UAE 48th National Day

December 2nd of every year is an occasion for UAE nationals and residents alike, to express pride in the country's developmental and civilizational achievements.

This year, the United Arab Emirates celebrates its 48th National Day, forging ahead with wisdom and perseverance, following in the footsteps of its founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, under the leadership of the President, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his brothers their highnesses the members of the Federal Supreme Council, Rulers of all the emirates, and through the hands of its loyal daughters and sons who stand at the heart of the country's growth and development, attaining developmental, cultural, economic, political and social achievements.

The values of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God have mercy on him, laid the foundations of modern cultural and developmental renaissance in the country. Inspired by these values, the wise leaders of the country took to building a bright future for the UAE, strengthening its stance among the countries of the region and the world, turning it into an oasis of peace and political



Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. The most imposing religious and national landmark in Abu Dhabi.

stability, economic and social development, and tolerance.

The UAE has championed the values of tolerance and multiculturalism, rejecting discrimination and hatred by adopting nationwide programs in partnership with various local, regional and international bodies. Today, the UAE forges ahead, a model of tolerance and acceptance, with more than 200 nationalities living in harmony, chasing it as their second home. The law guarantees residents, similarly to nationals, enjoy the right to use the state's healthcare, educational, cultural and entertainment facilities without any discrimination.

The UAE has appointed a Minister of Tolerance, to promote the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and support moderate religious discourse. The country adheres to several international conventions on tolerance, coexistence and rejection of violence and extremism, including but not limited to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1974, and the UAE has adopted many legislation, measures, initiatives and measures that contribute to the promotion of a culture of tolerance at the national level, including the "Combating Discrimination and Hate" Law, which includes articles criminalizing discrimination between individuals or groups on the basis of religion, sect, race, color, origin, or the exploitation of religion in atonement, or financially

supporting terrorism. The UAE is also active in the fight against extremism and terrorism.

The fight against terrorism and extremism is a key element in the UAE's efforts to ensure its

national security and enhance international security. The country has accomplished key achievements in this regard, both through military participation in Islamic and international alliances or through the enactment of local laws that combat terrorism and its causes, such as the Anti-Discrimination and Hatred Act and the Federal Law establishing Hedayah, the International Guidance Center for Excellence in the Fight Against Violent Extremism, in addition to a decreed law that criminalizes acts of contempt against religions and their sanctities, combating all forms of discrimination, renouncing hate speech, and criminalizing discrimination between individuals or groups on the basis of religion, creed, sect, race, color or origin.

ROOM FOR IMAGINATION

UAE National Day

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48<sup>th</sup> National Day of UAE  
روح الاتحاد  
SPIRIT OF THE UNION  
الروح الوطنية  
NATIONAL DAY  
يوم التأسيس الوطني

48<sup>th</sup> National Day of UAE  
December 2, 2019

Warmest Greetings & Felicitations on 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Day of United Arab Emirates

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