

## DIFI PANEL TACKLES CHILD PROTECTION

*Qatar experience in protecting the child in cross-border family disputes discussed in Jordan conference*

**Doha, Qatar, November 20, 2019:** Protecting the best interests of children in cross-border family disputes – from a Qatari perspective – was the topic of discussion in a recently organized panel hosted by the Doha International Family Institute.

Titled Protecting the Best Interest in Cross-Border Family Disputes: Qatar Experience, the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) symposium, which brought together experts from the field, was held at the regional seminar on Child Rights in International Family Disputes, from November 19-20 in Jordan.

“The Qatari legislator takes care, through the various constitutional and legal frameworks in the Qatari legislation, to protect the best interests of the child during the cross-border family disputes as stated by the Qatari Family Law of 2006,” said Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Abu Shehab Al Marri, Legal Specialist, Ministry of Justice.

“This includes the provision of Article 185 of the Qatari Family Law, which protects the custodians of the abuse of foreign foster in case of travel outside the State of Qatar, and the requirement of non-arbitrariness and mechanisms, relaying the decision to the judge in case of guardian and the custodian conflicts.”

Mr. Juznan Al-Hajri, a member of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Lawyers Association and a lawyer at the Court of Cassation, added that the legislator has granted the judge the authority to make the court decide, as a matter of mandatory interest in the interest of the young.

According to the referral systems between the Qatari Family Court and the Family Counseling Center (Wifaq), Mr. Salim Mohammed Al-Enezi, Director of the Planning and Development Office, Wifaq, pointed out that the majority of the role of the Wifaq center is focused on affected children. This is because the best interest for a child remains that he or she continues to live with their parents. Wifaq provides support to various members of the affected families, helping individuals to deal with the psychological pressures and internal conflicts that accompany changes in family life.

The seminar in Jordan was organized by the Working Party on Mediation of the Malta Process - the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH); Supreme Judge Department of the

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; and Global Affairs Canada.

Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al Emadi, Executive Director, DIFI, said: “We underlined the legal framework and experience of Qatar with relevance to protecting the best interest of the child in cross-border family disputes by bringing together legal experts and practitioners from the Ministry of Justice, Qatar Lawyers Association, and Wifaq.”

DIFI is a global policy and advocacy institute working to advance knowledge on Arab families through research and promote evidence-based policies at a national, regional, and international level. The institute has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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### **About Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)**

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), was established in 2006. The Institute works to strengthen the family through the development and dissemination of high-quality research on Arab families, encouraging knowledge exchange on issues relevant to the family and making the family a priority to policy-makers through advocacy and outreach at the national, regional and international levels. Among the Institute’s most important initiatives is the Annual Conference on the Family; and the OSRA Research Grant in collaboration with the Qatar National Research Fund, an annual research grant which encourages research related to the Arab family and family policy. The Institute has special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council.

### **Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, please visit: [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)

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