***Report of partners for transparency Foundation to the Special Rapporteur on the right to education on the State of Qatar***

**Preface**

*Partners for transparency foundation is deeply concerned about Qatar’s violation of the issue of respect for cultural diversity of persons on its territory;* *The Foundation noted the existence of a group of schools in the State of Qatar called "community schools".* *Also considered that there was a very clear distinction between Qataris and non-Qataris, on the one hand, and a clear distinction between men and women on the other.* *But they are not culturally integrated or interacted with each other, undermining any opportunity for cultural diversity and cultural rights to flourish in the State of Qatar.*

*The Foundation also deplores the lack of any national strategy for quality university education, as well as the inability of all children living in Qatar to have access to free government education, which hinders any process of cultural integration or greater urban mixing between Qataris and non-Qataris, especially those who do not speak Arabic.* *The State of Qatar has not yet established specific mechanisms in order to better understand the right to education and ensuring respect for cultural diversity. In addition to ignoring, consultation with relevant persons of discrimination groups, as well as parents, stakeholders, on constraints related to standards on the quality education system.*

**Qatar's violation of respect for cultural diversity and cultural rights in legislative terms**

*The Partners for transparency Foundation is deeply regret for the adoption of Law No. (25) of 2001 on compulsory education by Qatari legislator[[1]](#footnote-1).* *In reviewing the provisions and articles of the law, the Foundation noted that the law and its articles applied only to Qataris and to a few selected from non-Qataris. As soon as what leads some children residing in Qatar to pay money for compulsory education, which is supposed to be free for all, which works in one way or another to undermine the process of flourishing cultural rights for every person residing on the territory of the state.* *Moreover, the law and its articles are in clear violation of articles 13 and 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which Qatar recently acceded in May 2018, thus making the State obliged to apply its articles and include them in its legislative texts.*

**The Violation by the State of Qatar of the right to guarantee quality education with its cultural dimensions**

*partners for transparency foundation is deeply concerned about the institutional stumbling in adapting to the specific and diverse needs of different classes of learners, which ensure that different cultures are integrated into each other. This is noted by the Foundation in the case of the State party (Qatar), since, despite the existence of so-called "community schools" or private international schools, which is supposed to receive immigrants and their families, but they rely on a discriminatory approach within it, which is developing very clearly racial discrimination between Qataris and non-Qataris.* *In addition to this distinction, there are other distinctions on the one hand, there is a distinction between the nationalities of migrants according to their origin, language and economic status. On the other hand, between men and women, this certainly results in a very diverse group of students, but they are not integrated or mutually exclusive. This highlights Qatar's image as a country that encourages discrimination and inequality, and does not pay attention to respect of cultural diversity, especially through interaction with people and knowledge of the other.*

*The Foundation deplores the institutional framework and the curriculum of Qatar concerning the right to education, whereas the Foundation noted that the educational system in Qatar stems from the social class division that exists among people.* *Qatari private schools, with large numbers of migrants, have high school fees, given the potential of some families.* *Moreover, these schools lack the space and capacity to accommodate all those who wish to register, and the State of Qatar does not understand that the right to education does not mean that it is free only, but governmental and comprehensive,* *it is important to give people the option to enter a public school or private school, depending on their educational path and capabilities,* *which is not provided by Qatar to foreign workers' sons. Although there are some foreigners who live in Qatar temporarily, others who do not speak Arabic live for generations in Qatar.* *Under the educational system in Qatar, social mixing between Qataris and others, especially non-Arabic-speaking, is now unifying.*

*The lack of free education in Qatar also means that a number of children are not attending school.* *whose families cannot pay school fees, even if it was limited. There is information about children whose parents, even grandparents, and grandparents had lived in Qatar for several generations, and did not attend school. In addition, low-wage migrant workers, domestic workers or workers from all over the world. According to some testimonies, a large proportion of these persons are illiterate or enrolled in primary school only, thus impeding any opportunity for urban integration or cultural diversity between Qataris and non-Qataris.*

**Recommendations**

*Partners for transparency urges Qatar to ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education and to seek UNESCO support in this regard. The Foundation recommends that the State submit national reports in the context of periodic consultations on UNESCO standard-setting instruments on education, among other recommendations, which could be mentioned as follows:*

* *The necessity of integrating all Qatari children and learners and other residents of the country territory into the system of public education for free.*
* *The importance of Qatar guaranteeing, through its national legislation, ensure the right to education, as well as the cultural and social dimensions it has desired; this is to ensure that the legitimate rights of citizens or residents of Qatar are in line with international conventions and treaties.*
* *The State of Qatar must guarantee the right to university education for students with disabilities.*
* *The establishment of a national mechanism and setting up an educational program, the general objective of which is to ensure the cultural dimension and cultural integration, as well as cultural rights, and their prosperity.*
* *The need to ensure the participation of various stakeholders and civil society organizations, as well as the population and concerned groups, parents and mothers to elaborate a development plan to challenge the cultural and legislative constraints in Qatar, in order to better understand and effectively the right to education in its various dimensions.*

1. للاطلاع على نصوص القانون رقم (25) لسنة 2001، بشأن التعليم الإلزامي، يردى الرجوع إلى الرابط التالي: <http://www.almeezan.qa/LawPage.aspx?id=3973&language=ar> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)