



MISSION STATEMENT

“Our Purpose: We support the success of women in Bahrain.

Our Mission: We are committed to empowering women to achieve success on their own terms. We strive to provide opportunities for women to connect with and support each other. We aim to deliver workshops that contribute to the personal and professional development of our members, meeting their needs at the right time in the right way. We hold social events for like-minded women to meet and socialise.

Our Vision: We shape the future of women in Bahrain by providing opportunities for development, fostering valuable connections, and facilitating member success through academic and career growth.

Our Values:

We recognize and promote one another.

We pursue growth and learning.

We support each other.

We mentor each other.

We respect each other.

A forward-thinking, inspiring organization, AFKARECH supports and celebrates the growth and success of all members. We are proud to be the first female think tank in Bahrain”

Becoming a member of Afkarech

Membership for Afkarech costs *25BD annually* and there is a subsidized rate for students that is *20BD annually*.

This includes payment for each monthly meeting refreshments,

Short-duration workshops which are completely free of charge

Full day training which is subsidized at a special cost for members

At least two social dinner events during the year

Contribution to Afkarech Benefit Box which provides one family with groceries a month (non-perishable).

Members of Afkarech are also offered free training through other professional bodies that approach us for collaboration. All members must be over 18 years of age at the time of joining Afkarech.

WHAT IS AFKARECH?

Afkarech literally translates to “your ideas” in the Arabic female pronoun in a Bahraini dialect to emphasize the origin. It was felt there was a gap for such a society in the community. Women wanted to feel supported in their personal/professional endeavours, celebrated, seek guidance to pursue education/employment, have a safe place to share their ideas and connect with like-minded women. There was no such society. Hence the idea to create one was born.

Once the idea was created there was a snowball effect and it grew and evolved. Each new member added a new layer. The main goal remains the same; to be a voice for women in Bahrain; to be a positive light; to empower women to be what it is they want to be; a resource; and become a support system. As women is it important we network and support each other. Afkarech aims to bring women together to make good connections whether it be personally or professionally. Afkarech members need to be over eighteen but aside from that members can be any age group, nationality, employed or unemployed. We aim to use the skills within the group before outsourcing so in essence utilising the businesses within the group first. Historically we know the difficulties women have faced in business and this support is very important. Hence aiding their businesses by providing consumers.

Our business directory is a directory of all the businesses held by our members. It is accessible via our website and links to member's businesses and profiles. This will only be applicable to members who wish to avail of this service. It is a free marketing tool and could help bring in clients and raise awareness of their businesses. The concept is we will use each other services before outsourcing hence helping promote each other and being supportive to local women in business.

Afkarech participated in H.H. Shaikh Isa Bin Ali Award for Best Voluntary Project in Bahrain by the Good Word Society. We were privileged and honoured to be nominated amongst forty-five amazing projects in Bahrain. It was truly touching to see the amount of good work being undertaken in Bahrain and we are thankful we were given the opportunity to participate.

Organisations like Afkarech are extremely important. Providing a support system to women in our community and helping them find like-minded women is a crucial resource. Even the social aspect for example if you are struggling to meet people and feel isolated you can join a group of women and feel comfortable in a safe environment. When we are starting our journeys into education, careers or embarking into a new career that support system can be invaluable. It is also an opportunity to help our younger counterparts and aid them with some of the same issues we faced. Afkarech has female members from every nationality, religion and culture and it is wonderful to be in this multi-cultural group in which we accept each other, learn from each and respect each other.

We have been lucky that the community of women in Bahrain have been extremely accepting and supportive of Afkarech. We have people reaching out daily to tell us how happy they are that this initiative exists. One of our major hurdles is the same as most voluntary projects is finding funding to ensure Afkarech is sustainable and a long-term organisation.

MEMBER STATEMENTS:

"The idea of interacting with other strong women was enticing to me I thought it would broaden my professional as well as the social network. I was not disappointed. The members of Afkarech are intelligent, confident and empathetic women who I felt instantly connected with. I sensed at the very first meeting that this was a group of women who would lift each other up and work towards a better society. I am sure Afkarech will be extremely successful in its mission to empower the women of the Kingdom of Bahrain".

"My reason for joining Afkarech was primarily its name that translates to "your ideas". John Gray wrote an entire book on the need for women to share ideas....to be heard and to be understood; instead of each idea being processed as a problem to be solved. Afkarech gives the women of Bahrain a safe in which they can share ideas, thoughts and aspirations with a diverse group of strong ladies who can collectively pull each other to newer heights. I strongly believe that Afkarech has opened new doors, to not only share moments and thoughts but to make new friends that will last a life time".

MEMBER STATEMENTS:

"Afkarech is about girl power. Here we support each other and make incredible things happen!"

"Afkarech is a social enterprise to help women empowerment. A Place where women entrepreneurs and influencers to meet, connect and support each other in an atmosphere of fun. Where ideas are brainstormed and given life"

"I started Afkarech in December 2017 I had been working in mental health for nearly a decade. I tried to find a society or group of women that offered support for women like myself and I couldn't find one. I remember having this discussion with someone who has always been my support system and the advice was simple why don't you create one? After giving it, some thought it was full steam ahead and I honestly have not looked back. I hope by setting up this network it will encourage women in education, help them gain confidence to pursue their dreams, realise their potential and motivate women to start helping each other more. I did not realise that the network would help me – I found a group of women that were funny, intelligent, encouraging, welcoming and overall just brought me joy to be around. I really feel honoured to get to know them and be around them. I am excited to see where Afkarech will go and what the future will hold".

"I first joined this group because I firmly believe that behind every successful woman is a tribe of other successful women cheering her on. Additionally, it was a way to meet other women, exchange ideas and knowledge".

"Afkarech is a genuine platform to empower women in all aspects. Our founder will save no effort even beyond her area and direct influence to let all of us in the group fill in our gaps and shine. It is inspiring soil for the kind and helpful skills to evolve and brought to light".

"I joined Afkarech as it is an open and supportive network for women of all background to share ideas and build their skills in a comfortable and encouraging environment".

**Please complete and send to mariam@afkarech.com*

Membership Form

Full Name: _____

Nationality: _____

Mobile Number: _____

Address in Bahrain: _____

Office Number: _____

CPR Number (mandatory please attach copy of valid CPR): _____

Email Address: _____

Age: _____

Educational Background: _____

Employment/Business/Area of Interest: _____

Languages (please indicate whether spoken or written and also whether (B) basic, (M) Medium or (F) Fluent.

How/Where did you learn about Afkarech? _____

Do you know anyone personally or are you related to anyone who is a member of Afkarech?

Are you interested in professional development, social development or personal development?

What professional topics would you like to attend in Afkarech workshop?

What is your estimated availability for Afkarech?

Do you have a business you would like to add to Afkarech business directory?

Experience and skills that you could use to help Afkarech

Details of any previous experience as a volunteer
