In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Royal Decree No. M/96 promulgated by the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2018 (16 Ramadan 1439 A.H.)

With the help of Almighty God,

We, Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,

King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

In accordance with article 70 of the Basic Law of Governance, promulgated by Royal Order No. A/90 of 2 March 1992 (27 Sha'ban 1412 A.H.),

In accordance with article 20 of the Law of the Council of Ministers, promulgated by Royal Order No. A/13 of 21 August 1993 (3 Rabi` al awaal 1414 A.H.),

In accordance with article 18 of the Law of the Consultative (Shura) Council, promulgated by Royal Order No. A/91 of 2 March 1992 (27 Sha'ban 1412 A.H.),

Having considered Shura Council Decision No. 163/40 of 28 May 2018 (13 Ramadan 1439 A.H.),

Having considered Shura Council Decision No. 488 of 29 May 2018 (14 Ramadan 1439 A.H.),

Have decreed as follows:

First: the Anti-Harassment Act, as formulated in the attached document, shall be approved.

Secondly: His Highness the Deputy Prime Minister, the ministers and the heads of the relevant independent agencies, each within their jurisdiction, shall implement this Decree.

(*Signature*)

Salman ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Secretariat of the Council of Ministers

Decisions of the Council of Ministers

Decision No. 488 of 29 May 2018 (14 Ramadan 1439 A.H.)

The Council of Ministers,

Having considered communication No. 46520 of 29 May 2018 (14 Ramadan 1439 A.H.) received from the Royal Court, including telegram No. 44714 of 12 November 2017 (23 Safar 1439 A.H.) from His Royal Highness the Minister of the Interior concerning the Anti-Harassment Bill, prepared on the basis of Sovereign Order No. 906 of 26 September 2017 (6 Muharram 1439 A.H.),

Having considered the aforementioned Bill,

Having considered the Protection from Harm Act, promulgated by Royal Decree No. M/52 of 21 September 2013 (15 Dhu'l Qa`dah 1434 A.H.),

Having considered the Code of Criminal Procedure, promulgated by Royal Decree No. M/2 of 26 November 2013 (22 Muharram 1435 A.H.) and its implementing regulations,

Having considered the Child Protection Act, promulgated by Royal Decree No. M/14 of 26 November 2014 (3 Safar 1436 A.H.),

Having considered record No. 1081 of 25 April 2018 (9 Sha`ban 1439 A.H.) and memoranda Nos 1188 of 16 May 2018 (1 Ramadan 1439 A.H.) and 1247 of 29 May 2018 / 14 Ramadan 1439 prepared by the Panel of Experts in the Council of Ministers,

Having examined Shura Council Decision No. 163/40 of 28 May 2018 (13 Ramadan 1439 A.H.),

Having considered the General Committee of the Council of Ministers' recommendation No. 4396 of 29 May 2018 (14 Ramadan 1439 A.H.),

Decides

To approve the Anti-Harassment Act, as formulated in the attached document.

A draft Royal Decree has been prepared in that regard and is attached herewith.

(*Signature*)

Prime Minister

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Diwan of the Royal Court

Issue No.: 47107

Date: 31 May 2018 (16 Ramadan 1439 A.H.)

Attachments: 5

Telegram

Very urgent

Circular

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence

Copy to every Ministry and government department

Every authority shall inform its affiliated or associated authorities thereof

Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings,

Your Highness, I am sending you the following:

1. A copy of Council of Ministers' Decision No. 488 of 29 May 2018 (14 Ramadan 1439 A.H.) approving the Anti-Harassment Act, as formulated in the attachment to the Decision.

2. A copy of Royal Decree No. M/96 of 31 May 2018 (16 Ramadan 1439 A.H.) issued for the ratification thereof.

I kindly request your Highness to order the necessary steps to be completed.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Chief of the Diwan of the Royal Court

Khalid ibn Abdulrahman Al-'Issa

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Panel of Experts of the Council of Ministers

<p style="text-align:center">Anti-Harassment Act</p>

Article 1

For the purposes of the application of the provisions of this Act, harassment means any utterance, act or gesture with sexual connotations from one person to any other person that would harm his/her body, honour or modesty, by any means whatsoever, including through the use of modern technology.

Article 2

This Act aims to combat and prevent the occurrence of harassment, prescribe penalties for perpetrators and protect victims in order to safeguard the privacy, dignity and personal liberty of the individual, which are guaranteed by Islamic Shari'a and by the laws.

Article 3

1. Retraction of or failure to lodge a complaint on the part of the victim shall not preclude the right of the competent authorities – by law – to take such action as they deem necessary in the public interest, in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure and other relevant laws.

2. Any person who witnesses an instance of harassment shall inform the competent authorities so that they may take such action as they deem necessary, in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

Article 4

1. Any person who has access – by virtue of their work – to information about any instance of harassment is required to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

2. The identity of the victim may not be revealed except when required by evidentiary procedures, the investigation or trial.

Article 5

1. The competent authorities in the government sector and in the private sector shall put in place the necessary measures to prevent and combat harassment in their own working environments, provided they include the following:

    (a) An internal complaints mechanism in the sector;

    (b) The necessary procedures to ascertain the veracity and seriousness of complaints in such a manner as to maintain their confidentiality;

    (c) The dissemination and communication of such measures to those targeted by them.

2. The competent authorities in the government sector and in the private sector shall hold accountable - in disciplinary terms - any of those targeted by the measures in the event that they violate any of the provisions stipulated in this Act, in accordance with the established procedures.

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3. Disciplinary accountability in accordance with this article shall not prejudice the right of a victim to submit a complaint to the competent authorities by law.

Article 6

1. Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 2 of this article and without prejudice to any other penalty prescribed by Islamic Shari'a or any harsher penalty prescribed by another law, any person who commits a harassment offence [1]shall be liable to a maximum term of two years' imprisonment and a maximum fine of 100,000 riyals or to either penalty.

2. The penalty for a harassment offence shall be a maximum term of five years' imprisonment and a maximum fine of 300,000 riyals or to either penalty in the case of a repeat offence or if the crime (offence) is coupled with any of the following:

   (a) if the victim is a child;

   (b) if the victim is a person with special needs;

   (c) if the perpetrator has direct or indirect authority over the victim;

   (d) if the crime (offence) occurs at a place of work, study, shelter or care;

   (e) if the perpetrator and victim are of the same sex;

   (f) if the victim is asleep, unconscious or in a similar state;

   (g) if the crime (offence) occurs during any situation of crisis, disaster or accident.

Article 7

1. Any person who instigates, conspires with or assists others in any manner whatsoever to commit a harassment crime (offence) shall be liable to the penalty prescribed for the crime (offence).

2. Anyone who attempts to commit a harassment crime (offence) shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding half of the maximum penalty specified therefor.

3. Any person who submits a malicious report of harassment or claims maliciously to have been exposed to harassment shall be liable to the penalty prescribed for the crime (offence).

Article 8

This Act shall enter into force as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

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[1] *Translator's note*: The Arabic literal word used in the law is "Crime". The word "Offence" can also apply.