



THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



SDG 16 — PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS

2025 / 2026



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1. Overview — SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Gulf University demonstrates substantial, multi-centre commitment to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) during AY 2025–2026, with meaningful contributions from all three centres — a rarer pattern than seen for goals like SDG 6, 7, or 14. CECEC reports SDG 16 activity across 5 of its 7 pillars (10 pillar/event instances per CECEC's own SDG Contribution Chart), anchored by the Ministry of Interior's Open Prisons rehabilitation programme, the National Allegiance Ceremony, the 'Together' Security Awareness Exhibition, the Tolerance Ceremony, and formal governance milestones including the Bahrain Special Olympics MOU.

SDM-C reinforces this through GUSW2025 (SDG 16 addressed in 6 of 35 activities, 17.1%, including a dedicated Day 5 panel on 'Sustainable Governance for Peace & Justice, Collaborative Approaches & Ethical Leadership') and 5.3% of ICSDI 2025 papers. SDM-C's own university-mandated, cross-college governance structure is itself a concrete SDG 16 institutional-strengthening measure. DTC contributes the most substantively of any centre on this goal through its governance and compliance architecture — Data Control & Privacy (PDPL compliance), Infrastructure Security & Compliance (ISO 27001 pathway), and Project G's Quality Assurance module — though, as with other DTC-linked SDGs, these remain inferred rather than DTC-confirmed contributions.

2. Key Highlights for Academic Year 2025–2026

- CECEC's SDG Contribution Chart records SDG 16 across 10 pillar/event instances, spanning 5 of 7 pillars.
- Open Prisons Initiative (Pillar 1, Ministry of Interior): 58 workshops in 2025–26 — largest cohort ever; 127 cumulative workshops since 2022–23.
- National Allegiance Ceremony, Tolerance Ceremony, and 'Together' Security Awareness Exhibition (Pillars 3 & 6): institutional governance and civic-trust programming.
- Bahrain Special Olympics MOU (Pillar 5): formally and fully signed, converting intent into a binding institutional commitment.
- GUSW2025: SDG 16 addressed through 6 of 35 activities (17.1%); ICSDI 2025: 5.3% of papers.
- GUSW2025 Day 5 panel: 'Sustainable Governance for Peace & Justice, Collaborative Approaches & Ethical Leadership.'
- SDM-C's cross-college governance structure: every College formally represented on the Center — a durable institutional-strengthening mechanism.
- DTC: Data Control & Privacy (PDPL compliance programme, 11-point action plan), Infrastructure Security & Compliance (ISO 27001 pathway), Project G Quality Assurance module — all inferred, not DTC-confirmed contributions.
- Faculty Representative Election (1 Nov 2025): annual democratic election of faculty representatives, governed by the University's 'Guidelines for Faculty Representative in University' policy (University Council authority, VP Academic Affairs as document owner).

3. Community Engagement and Peace Education Activities



Initiative	Description	Impact on Objective
Open Prisons Initiative (CECEC, Pillar 1, Ministry of Interior)	Free training workshops delivered to Bahrain's correctional population, supporting rehabilitation and alternative-sentencing frameworks	Objective substantively met — 58 workshops in 2025–26 (largest cohort ever); 127 cumulative workshops since 2022–23
National Allegiance Ceremony (CECEC, Pillar 6)	Institutional ceremony renewing allegiance to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa	Objective met qualitatively — reinforced national identity and civic loyalty; no measurable attendance/sentiment indicator recorded
Tolerance Ceremony (CECEC, Pillar 3)	Facility-hosted ceremony promoting tolerance and coexistence values	Objective met qualitatively — impact not separately quantified
‘Together’ Security Awareness Exhibition (CECEC, Pillar 6, Ministry of Interior)	Community safety and drug/violence-prevention awareness exhibition	Objective met — life-saving information reached the community equally regardless of background
GUSW2025 Governance Panel (SDM-C, Day 5)	Panel discussion on ethical leadership and collaborative governance	Objective partially met — panel delivered; no lasting institutional output resulted directly
Bahrainouna National Collaboration (CECEC, Pillar 6)	National collaborative civic initiative reinforcing shared Bahraini identity	Objective met qualitatively — impact not separately quantified

4. Training, Innovation, and Institutional Development Programs

Program	Objective	Impact on Objective
Bahrain Special Olympics MOU (CECEC, Pillar 5)	Formalise civil-society partnership strengthening institutional accountability and inclusion	Objective fully met — MOU formally and fully signed



Program	Objective	Impact on Objective
SDM-C Cross-College Governance Structure	Strengthen institutional accountability and sustainability governance across all Colleges	Objective fully met — durable, ongoing structural mechanism, not a one-off initiative
Data Control & Privacy Programme (DTC, inferred)	Ensure institutional compliance with Bahrain's PDPL	Objective largely met on paper — 11-point action plan defined but not independently confirmed as an SDG 16 contribution
Infrastructure Security & Compliance Project (DTC, inferred)	Achieve ISO 27001 certification for institutional governance and security	Objective in progress — certification pathway underway, not yet confirmed complete
Project G— Quality Assurance Module (DTC, inferred)	Embed GDPR/PDPL compliance, audit logging, and formal risk management into campus systems	Objective largely met — QA checklist and risk framework built into system design
Patents Lecture — Ministry of Industry & Commerce (CECEC, Pillar 5)	Strengthen institutional knowledge of intellectual property law and governance	Objective met — practical IP/patent training delivered, reinforcing rule-of-law literacy
ICSIDI 2025 Research (SDM-C)	Advance academic research on peace, justice, and institutional governance	Objective partially met — SDG 16 represented in 5.3% of accepted papers

5. Governance Policies and Justice Framework

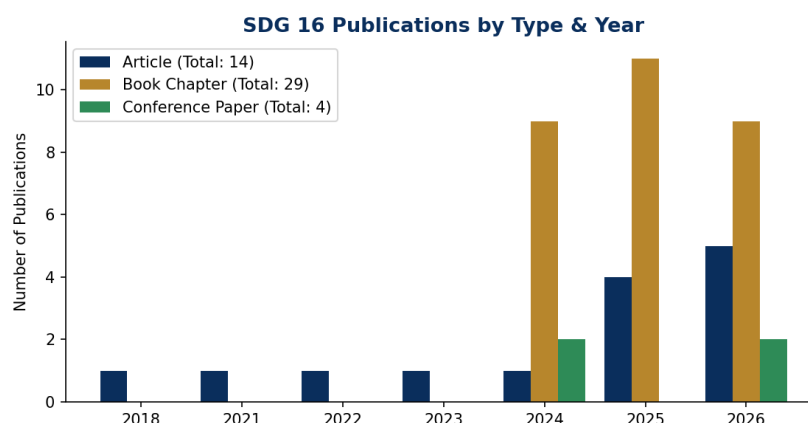
- Code of Ethics and Conduct: applies to faculty, staff, and students, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- Academic Integrity Policy: prevents plagiarism and promotes fair assessment and research ethics.
- Institutional Governance Framework: enhances decision-making through representation and stakeholder participation.
- Open Data and Transparency Policy: supports public sharing of reports and governance outcomes.
- Partnerships for Justice: collaborations with legal bodies and NGOs for community outreach and policy dialogue.

These policies align with SDG Targets 16.3, 16.6, and 16.7, promoting rule of law, effective institutions, and inclusive decision-making.

Faculty Representative Election: Gulf University holds annual elections to democratically elect faculty representatives, governed by the University's 'Guidelines for Faculty Representative in University' policy (University Council authority; Vice President for Academic Affairs as document owner). The most recent election was held on 1 November 2025, with faculty voting among three contestants. This democratic process strengthens institutional governance and ensures diverse perspectives are represented in shaping the University's future — a direct SDG 16 contribution through transparent, accountable, and inclusive decision-making.



6. GU Research & Publications Related to SDG 16



Publication Type	2018	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Article	1	1	1	1	1	4	5	14
Book Chapter	0	0	0	0	9	11	9	29
Conference Paper	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4

Gulf University's SDG 16-linked research base totals 47 publications (14 articles, 29 book chapters, 4 conference papers).

7. Summary of Impact and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI	Indicator Description	2025–2026 Result	Status
KPI 1	CECEC pillar coverage of SDG 16	5 of 7 pillars	Achieved
KPI 2	Activities addressing SDG 16 within GUSW2025	6 of 35 activities (17.1%)	Achieved
KPI 3	ICSDI 2025 research papers addressing SDG 16	5.3% of accepted papers	Achieved
KPI 4	Institutional governance/compliance projects (DTC)	3 — Data Control & Privacy, Infrastructure Security & Compliance, Project G QA module — inferred, not tagged by DTC	Needs confirmation
KPI 5	Formal governance-related MOUs/ceremonies (CECEC)	2+ — Bahrain Special Olympics (signed), National Allegiance Ceremony, Tolerance Ceremony	Achieved
KPI 6	SDM-C cross-college governance structure	Fully implemented — every College formally represented	Achieved
KPI 7	SDG 16-linked publications	47 publications (14 articles, 29 book chapters, 4 conference papers)	Achieved

8. Conclusion and Future Directions

SDG 16 is one of the more balanced goals reviewed — real contributions exist across all three centres, and unlike SDG 5 or SDG 6, the objectives being pursued are mostly actually being met, not just attempted. The strongest evidence is structural rather than event-based: SDM-C's cross-college governance mandate and the Bahrain Special Olympics MOU are durable institutional commitments, not one-off activities. The



weakest link is DTC — its compliance and security work is substantively strong and directly relevant to SDG 16, but it exists in a reporting vacuum, unconfirmed as an intentional SDG contribution.

Future directions:

- Formally confirm and tag DTC's PDPL compliance, ISO 27001 pathway, and Project G QA module as explicit SDG 16 contributions — this is currently the University's strongest under-claimed evidence.
- Introduce simple attendance/sentiment metrics for the National Allegiance and Tolerance Ceremonies, so 'objective met' claims rest on data rather than description alone.
- Convert the GUSW2025 governance panel into a standing output — e.g., an annual 'State of Institutional Governance' brief.
- Track Open Prisons outcomes beyond workshop counts (e.g., participant completion rates, post-programme outcomes).
- Commission a dedicated SDG 16 research/publications tracker to build on ICSDI 2025's 5.3% share.
- Set a combined annual target (e.g., $\geq 5/7$ CECEC pillar coverage sustained + DTC's compliance work formally confirmed as SDG 16-linked).

Compiled from:

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/innovation-entrepreneurship-center/annual-report/IEC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

Sustainability Development Makers- Center -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/sustainability-and-development-makers-center/SDM-C-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

Community Engagement & Continuing Education Center (CECEC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/community-engagement-and-continuing-education-center/annual-reports/CECEC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

Digital Transformation Center (DTC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/digital-transformation-center/annual-report/DTC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

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