

GFH Launches Britus Education Platform with High Level Education Roundtable at WIBC

Manama – 27 November 2019 - GFH Financial Group B.S.C. (“GFH”), today announced the launch of Britus Education, a K-12 education platform designed to take advantage of value opportunities in the fragmented trillion dollar global private education industry. To mark the launch, GFH and Britus Education are gearing up to host an education roundtable forum to be attended by regional and global industry experts and investors on the 2nd of December 2019 on the side lines of the 26th Annual World Islamic Banking Conference in the Kingdom of Bahrain, a leading hub for Islamic banking and finance and a growing centre for education investment.

In launching Britus Education, GFH has already secured seed K-12 schools in the middle east for the platform, developed a robust deal pipeline and plans to conclude various acquisitions in the coming months with an initial target assets of USD200 million. In line with the strategy Britus Education will employ, the forum will look at a number of key themes and opportunities including:

- **Education for the many not the few** - How can the private sector deliver a quality education that is inclusive and accessible to all? How can it ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed?
- **Government in partnership with the private sector** - There are numerous models of educational delivery around the world. What can we learn from them? How can governments support the private sector to deliver the solution?
- **Delivering returns for all** - How can the private sector manage to deliver affordable and high quality schooling at the same time as providing investors with a return on capital?

Taking part on the panels will be senior representatives from the Bahrain Economic Development Board, UNDP, Ministry of Education of Bahrain, Ministry of Education of Oman, Education Quality Authority of Bahrain, among others.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Hisham Alrayes, CEO of GFH Financial Group, said, “I am pleased to unveil our Britus Education platform in line with GFH’s strategy to deliver further value for our investors and shareholders and create a positive impact on the quality of education in the Middle East and globally. The strength and significance of the experts and partners that will join us for our forum underscores the importance of investment in the education space and GFH’s position as one of the most active private equity players in the regional education sector with a track-record of consolidating valuable partnerships and creating value for schools and investors alike. Developed and emerging markets have both seen a surge in private education during the last decade, where population growth and macroeconomic gains have supported the upward trend. The establishment of Britus Education, with an industry leading team of experts will allow us to capitalise on these factors and help our investors benefit from the industry’s growth via structured investments that take advantage of attractive opportunities we have and will continue to identify.”

Britus Education will focus on investing in performing schools that can be further improved through maximising student capacity, enhancing student academic outcomes, and optimising fee structures to be

affordable for the rapidly-expanding mid-market. Britus Education will create for GFH and its investors a pipeline of strong, income-generating opportunities in a defensive sector. It also provides exposure to a sector with high growth prospects and the resilience to deliver steady results regardless of volatility in the investment cycle.

-Ends-

About GFH Financial Group B.S.C.

GFH is one of the most recognised financial groups in the Gulf region. Its businesses include Asset Management, Wealth Management, Commercial Banking and Real Estate Development. The Group's operations are focused in the GCC, North Africa and India. GFH is listed in Bahrain Bourse, Kuwait Stock Exchange and Dubai Financial Market. For more information, please visit www.gfh.com

Media inquiries can be directed to:

GFH Financial Group
Nawal Al Naji
Manager- Corporate Communications
Tel: +973 17538538
Email: Nalnaji@gfh.com

FinMark Communications
Zahraa Taher
Tel: +973 39630997
Email: ztaher@finmarkcoms.com