



The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking At the Ministry of Interior

Protecting Victims of Human Trafficking



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Human Trafficking is a dangerous global phenomenon and one of the most grievous crimes suffered by countries around the world. Humanity has long suffered from oppression and slavery due to the eternal conflict between social classes; as slavery existed since the beginning of times and remains to this day.

What is Human Trafficking?

The law states that "Shall be considered a perpetrator of human trafficking crime anyone who:

- Attempts to sell another person, offers or exposes another person for sale, or invites the making of an offer to purchase another person;
- Attracts, induces, uses, recruits, transfers, receives, delivers, or harbors persons, within or across national borders, by means of threat, or use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or abuse of a position of vulnerability, for the purposes of exploitation;
- Gives or receives payment or other benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purposes of exploitation."

How to identify a human trafficking victim?

The fight against human trafficking requires concerted efforts between society and competent law enforcement agencies and institutions to tackle this organized, cruel and inhuman crime.

There are several methods to identify human trafficking victims, notably:

- Victims cannot provide details of their destination.
- Victims provide inconsistent or irrational details when telling their story.
- Victims appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Victims show signs of stress and depression.

Who are the victims of human trafficking?

Victims of human trafficking are natural persons who suffer moral or physical assault, incur personal or material damages, whether directly or indirectly

What are the rights of human trafficking victims?

- The right to life, protected by law, respect for human dignity, and the right to report and complain.
- The right to have their identities and information confidential; to remain in the country or return to their homeland.
- The right to participate in criminal proceedings and not to be criminally prosecuted.
- The right to compensation and other rights.

How did UAE Legislators protect human trafficking victims?

1- UAE Legislators penalized the various forms of human trafficking: UAE legislators have penalized all forms of human trafficking, as well as the methods used in these crimes and the types of exploitation

related to human trafficking.

2- Law considers victims' consent irrelevant:

Whenever it is proved that the human trafficking victim has been exposed to any illicit means (coercive and non-coercive) as stipulated by Article 3 (a) of the Protocol (Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children), reflected by UAE legislators in Article (1) of the Law, this person shall be treated as a victim.

3- Legislators penalized natural or legal persons (companies and institutions): UAE legislators stated in the first paragraph of Article 7 that: "A natural or legal person shall be liable to a fine of not less than AED 100,000 and not exceeding AED 1,000,000 if any of its representatives, managers or agents commits a crime of human trafficking".

4- Legislators have imposed severe sanctions against perpetrators of human trafficking:

UAE legislators has imposed severe sanctions and penalties against human trafficking perpetrators, notably provisional imprisonment for a period not less than five years and a fine of no less than AED 100,000. In aggravated circumstances, offenders face up to life imprisonment, as defined in Article 2 of the Federal Law on Combating Human Trafficking.

5- Legislators regard human trafficking as a universal crime that falls under the jurisdiction of the national law:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 21 of the Federal Penal Code: "This law shall apply to any person found in the State, after being involved abroad as a principal offender or an accomplice in an act of sabotage or impairment of international communication systems, crimes of traffic in drugs, women, or children, slavery, acts of piracy, international terrorism or money laundering."

6- UAE legislators have penalized kidnapping of persons:

UAE Legislators have been keen to penalize unlawful kidnapping of people. As a result, and under the provisions of Article 344 of the UAE Federal Penal Code, offenders face provisional imprisonment.

7- Legislators warned against treating human beings as a commodity. Human beings are not to be reduced to commodities traded on international market; they should not be robbed of their dignity.

8- Legislators have prevented forced labor and denying workers of their rights.

9- Legislators have penalized endangering human beings: According to Article 348 of the UAE Federal Penal Code, a person may be answerable to a criminal behavior that unintentionally causes harm to people's rights or interests.

10- Legislators have penalized rape: As stated in the provisions of Article 354 of the Federal Penal Law.

11- Legislators also penalized enticement to Lewdness and Prostitution: As stated in the provisions of Article 363 of the same Law.

12- Legislators penalized incitement to prostitution under threat, coercion, or trickery.

13- Legislators also penalized the establishment or management of a place of immorality or prostitution.