

اللجنة الوطنية لمكافحة جرائم الإتجار بالبشر  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING CRIMES



# Annual Report Of The National Committee To Combat Human Trafficking 2017



**Combating Human  
Trafficking Crimes  
In The United Arab Emirates**

Annual Report 2017

[www.nccht.gov.ae](http://www.nccht.gov.ae)

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## Message from the Chairman

The United Arab Emirates officially launched its campaign against human trafficking in 2006 through the enactment of federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on combating human trafficking crimes and amended in 2015, and establishment of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT), which includes members from the different ministries, law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations. These institutions coordinate efforts to implement the strategy to combat human trafficking adopted by the Committee in 2012, in accordance with the five strategic principles which are prevention, prosecution, punishment, protection and promotion of international cooperation. Today, we are proud to present the accomplishments and initiatives taken by the United Arab Emirates at national and international level to combat this heinous crime.

During 2017, the United Arab Emirates authorities, in coordination with the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, continued to implement awareness programs to highlight the danger of human trafficking. Some of the activities carried out by the stakeholders included trainings in coordination with international organizations, and lectures which targeted the public and vulnerable communities. In addition, the recently enacted Federal Law No. (10) of 2017 on domestic workers and the establishment of “Tadbeer” centers, was made to regulate and supervise recruitment process and to prevent domestic workers from falling prey to human traffickers. The United Arab Emirates continued

to develop efforts for protection of victims of human trafficking by the recent establishment of an additional shelter, the Aman Shelter for Women and Children in Ras Al-Khaimah.

Furthermore, the United Arab Emirates has made efforts to promote international cooperation by receiving international delegations to exchange expertise and observed the latest developments done by the country to combat human trafficking. The UAE has also pledged \$100,000 USD to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. This was announced before the high level meeting on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons organized by the United Nations General Assembly.

The fight against human trafficking is complex and requires the participation of both governments and the private sector. Therefore, we believe that it is crucial to work with the private sector to prevent crimes of human trafficking including airlines and financial institutions.

In the United Arab Emirates, we renew our commitment to join forces with the international community to develop all the necessary efforts to prevent human trafficking considering that protecting and respecting human dignity is our motivation to achieve this goal.

### **Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

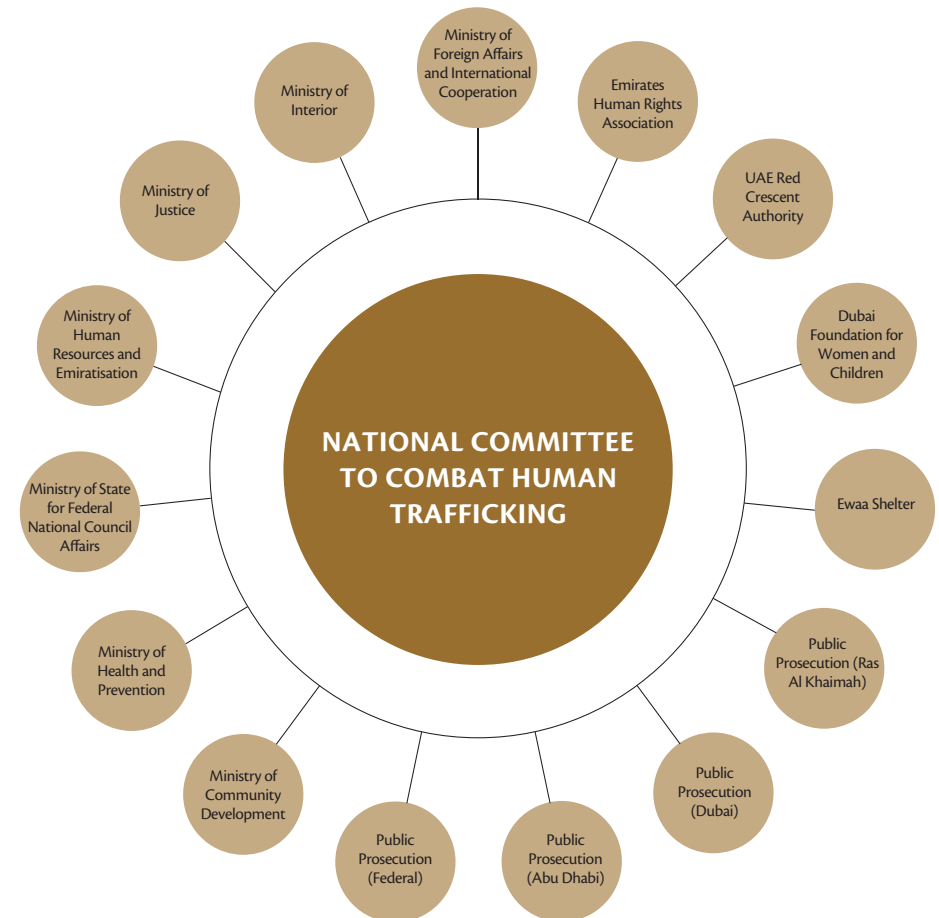
Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking

# The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking



One of the NCCHT regular meetings

The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT) was formed under a cabinet order in 2007, to facilitate the efforts made by the agencies responsible to combat human trafficking as well as to reinforce the strategic plans in all aspects to cover all the emirates. The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking is presided by H.E Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and comprised by representatives of federal ministries, law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations.



The responsibilities of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking includes:

- ▶ Studying and revising human trafficking legislation with a view to enhance and provide necessary protection in accordance with international standards;
- ▶ Preparing reports on efforts taken by the UAE to fight human trafficking, in coordination with other authorities and relevant bodies in the country;
- ▶ Studying reports related to human trafficking and taking relevant action towards realizing their recommendations;
- ▶ Coordinate with the competent authorities and competent entities to secure protection and support to victims of human trafficking; including the care and rehabilitation programs for victims' social integration.
- ▶ Promoting public awareness on matters related to human trafficking through conferences, seminars, pamphlets and, training programs.
- ▶ Participating in international conferences and forums on the issue of human trafficking.

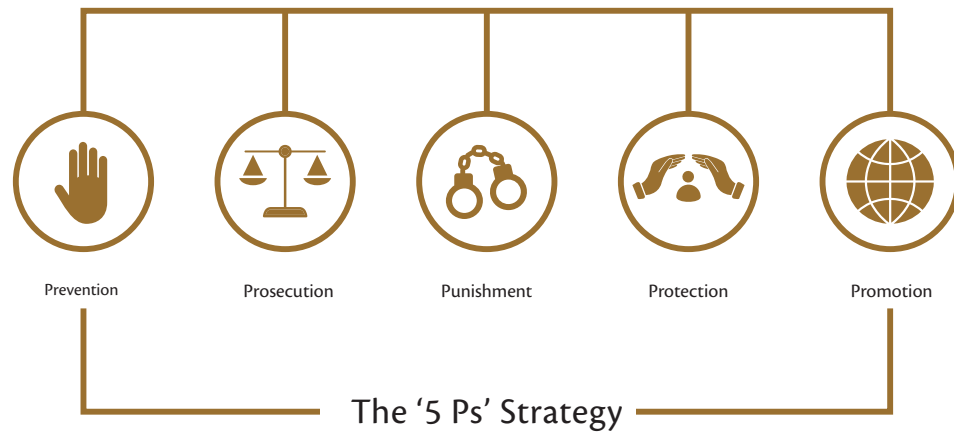
The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking is dedicated to encouraging legislative efforts to assure nation-wide compliance with international standards and implementation of the laws that are in place. Moreover, the Committee has also taken the initiative to publish the annual reports since 2008 in order to make sure that there

is transparency and access to information to increase public awareness regarding the efforts made at national and international level. The United Arab Emirates believes in the importance of collecting and analyzing data to identify the gaps and address them in the fight against human trafficking.



Press conference for the launch of NCCHT annual report of 2016

## The Strategy of the National Committee



In 2012, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking adopted a national strategy based on five pillars: prevention, prosecution, punishment, protection, and

promotion of international cooperation in accordance with the international approach and UN strategies to combat human trafficking.

### Awareness Campaigns

As part of the awareness efforts to highlight the criminal practices adopted by human traffickers, the Committee organizes trainings programs including workshops in coordination with various ministries and agencies as well as with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Border and port control agents, law enforcement officials, public prosecution, labor inspection officials, staff from the shelters and other entities concerned participate in these programs. The objective of the training programs is to inform officials working in the field on the international frameworks available to combat crimes of human trafficking.

Furthermore, the Committee stakeholders, in line with its strategy, develop media campaigns to increase public awareness about crimes of human trafficking. The biggest joint campaign took place during the period of 2015-2016 and targeted all nationalities and communities, through

print, electronic, and social media providing information in different languages: Arabic, English, Russian, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tagalog and Bahasa. (Language of the Philippines and Indonesia respectively).

This campaign is a continuation of previous initiatives which took place in 2010 -2011 and 2013. The campaign incorporated creative ways to target the public in their own language, most importantly through banners, and distributing pamphlets at the Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and later Dubai International Airport.

As a result of the wide reaching campaigns, private sector companies expressed their interest to collaborate and engage with the government on awareness campaigns and promote international cooperation. These include financial institutions, national airlines companies and local and international media agencies.



## Prevention

### Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of Interior devised action plans that are in conjunction with international standards and national legislations to combat human trafficking and to turn the perpetrators to prosecution and judiciary authorities, and refer its victims to the shelters for victim protection.

#### ▶ The Responsible Units to combat Human Trafficking

The responsible units in the Ministry of Interior coordinate actions at the national level, through their sections and branches present at the different emirates to develop strategies to combat human trafficking. They also work on capacity building to fight this crime. The main responsibilities of the units are the following:

- ▶ Preparing plans and policies on combatting human trafficking and ways to implement them to prevent this crime;
- ▶ Analyzing the networks of human traffickers and their methods and motivations at national and international level.
- ▶ Training officials in human trafficking field and providing them with effective means of detecting any related crimes;
- ▶ Participating in the procedures to hear the testimonies of victims of human trafficking crimes;
- ▶ Coordinating with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to gather intelligence on human trafficking, which could help reduce this crime and prevent it inside the country;
- ▶ Monitoring national and international laws and agreements on human trafficking.

#### ▶ The Center for Statistics and Security Analysis in the Federal Security Information Management.

This Center is responsible for data collection on all crimes committed in the country, including those pertaining to human trafficking. The data collected using innovative technology provides decision makers at the Ministry of Interior with clear and accurate information which contributes to carrying out effective policies to prevent this crime.

#### ▶ Measures taken to prevent Human Trafficking

- ▶ Cooperating with International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to gather intelligence on human trafficking crimes, especially those involving women and children and circulating reports on human traffickers involved in this crime.
- ▶ Intensifying border control and reinforcing international partnerships.
- ▶ Analyzing cases of human trafficking to set preventive measures and avoid their recurrence in the future.
- ▶ Providing special places for conducting personal interviews with potential human trafficking victims at Police Stations.
- ▶ Providing rewards and protection for witnesses that contribute to detecting human trafficking-related crimes.
- ▶ Exempting human trafficking victims from residence violation fines and rectifying their residence status to could allow them to reside in the country in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

## ► Capacity Building

The Ministry of Interior, in association with the related international organizations, has trained those working in combatting human trafficking to tackle this crime professionally and effectively as part of its training strategy for 2017. Numerous training programs were held at the local and international level in order to raise awareness about countering human trafficking-related crimes. Below are some of these programs:

Trainings, Workshops, Lectures done at national level	
Number	Participants
39	2881

Trainings, Workshops, Lectures participating at done at international level	
Number	Participants
9	151

- Sending text messages on awareness about the seriousness of human trafficking-related crimes.
- Issuing a book titled, “Exploitation in Human Trafficking” in collaboration with Center for Studies and Surveys of the Ministry of Interior.
- Training its employees on how to monitor and locate any person publishing content related to exploitation of children files via social media among users directly “Peer to Peer” (P2P) network. This is in coordination with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the member and strategic partner to Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT).
- Delivering a number of lectures in 2017 nationally and internationally in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Bahrain and Kingdom of Spain by an employee of the Ministry of Interior who has been designated as a national expert by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

## ► Community Initiatives

The Ministry of Interior has made several community initiatives that could contribute to creating public awareness and enhancing means of communication with the society through media various social media for country human trafficking, including the following activities:

- With the support of radio, print and media we interact with the community to explain in regular basis all the pertaining to human trafficking. This has included a regular program with Abu Dhabi Radio Station by launching the guide on dealing with the elderly, persons with disabilities, women and children at the stage of gathering evidence. Moreover, (62) articles about human trafficking in 2017 were published in the local and foreign newspapers.
- Continuing with awareness raising campaigns to highlight the communication channels to report human trafficking and the protection of their identity, as well as their rights as workers.
- Receiving all suggestions, complaints and grievances made by the public through the various administrative units at the Ministry of Interior and verify validity of such report and follow up the procedures on how to handle them.
- Allocating a phone line called, “Aman operator” that is supervised by Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters, where complaints and suggestions are received from the public in Arabic, English and Urdu languages.
- Creating a website for the Ministry of Interior to facilitate the process of receiving such complaints, suggestions and reports from the public in both Arabic and English languages ([www.moi.gov.ae](http://www.moi.gov.ae))

## Dubai Police

The Human Trafficking Crime Control Center, which is part of the General Directorate for Human Rights Protection of the Dubai Police, was established in 2009 to take initiatives to reduce crimes of human trafficking and raise awareness on the depravity of the crime. These initiatives were targeted to employees and stakeholders alike.

## Initiatives & Awareness Campaigns

- ▶ An awareness campaign under the name “Amelhom bel Ihsan”, translated into “treat them with kindness”, was launched by the Dubai police with the aim to prevent inhuman treatment by members of the society when dealing with domestic workers.
- ▶ In coordination with Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, the center continued with the initiative titled “Eidna Eidkom”, translated as “Our Eid is Yours”, to share the public celebration with the victims by presenting gifts including acts of kindness to the victims.
- ▶ On the International Day of Happiness, the General Directorate for Human Rights Protection presented a variety of gifts to the Arab Heritage Company workers and human trafficking victims residing at Dubai Foundation for Women and Children.
- ▶ Facilitated access to studies and research on human trafficking for students of the Combating Human Trafficking diploma program.
- ▶ Published the first specialized annual newsletter under the theme, “Human Trafficking Pamphlets”. This also included printing posters to raise awareness of workers about their rights. Moreover, a study on human trafficking reports and social media was conducted, which included a number of recommendations to be presented to decision makers.
- ▶ In 2017, Dubai Police Human Trafficking Crime Control Center held many awareness lectures about dangers of human trafficking as indicated in the table below:

Lecture Title	Targeted Audience	Number of Lectures	Number of Participants
Know your Rights	Workers	3	1200
Combating Human Trafficking crimes	Officials working in the field of Human Trafficking	5	45
Dealing with labor suspensions from Human Trafficking standpoint	Law Enforcement Officials	5	105
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>1350</b>

## Training Programs

Activity Title	Targeted Audience	Number of Participants
Corporate responsibility in human trafficking crimes	Members of the Committee to Combat Human Trafficking at the Ministry of Interior	19
Workshop on the rules of causation of court judgments on human trafficking crimes	Judicial and federal authorities	13
Workshop on human trafficking cases measures	Officials working in the field of human trafficking	12
Preventive measures to protect workers from human trafficking crimes	Officials working in the field of human trafficking	38
Negotiations on Labor Suspensions	Officials working in the field of human trafficking	42
Rights and responsibilities of domestic workers	Officials working in the field of human trafficking	22
Workshop on Prevention of Crimes of Human Trafficking	Officials working in the field of human trafficking	67
Measures of dealing with Human Trafficking Crime Victims and Reports	Officials working in the field of human trafficking	22
Mechanisms of handling labor suspensions	Law enforcement officials	23
Mechanisms of handling labor suspensions	Officials working in the field of human trafficking	39
<b>Total</b>		<b>297</b>



Celebrating Happiness Day with workers

## ▶ Combating Human Trafficking Diploma Program

The Combating Human Trafficking Diploma Program is being offered for the third year in a row. It is the first professional program of its kind at the national and regional level which is concerned with various dimensions of crimes of human trafficking. The five month diploma is supported by the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking and offered by the Dubai Police Human Trafficking Crime Control Center in coordination with the Dubai Judicial Institute (DJI).

The program enables officials to gain the necessary academic and practical experience to contribute to enhancing the UAE government's efforts in combating human trafficking and providing protection to its victims as well. This program is aimed at prepares highly qualified officials working at all departments and agencies concerned with combating human trafficking crimes in the country.

## Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation established a specialized section to combat human trafficking in response to the recommendation by the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking to support and implement the federal law No. (51) of 2006 as amended in 2015. The tasks of the section includes following up on inspection reports, monitoring human trafficking indicators for all groups of workers at the workplaces of the companies registered with the Ministry. In addition, the section holds lectures to educate stakeholders on human trafficking and forms of forced labour.

The section prepares regular studies and reports from the main results on the inspection visits and complaints referred to it, regarding the cases that might lead to human trafficking crimes or forced labor. These reports and studies along with the section recommendations are presented to the higher authorities in the Ministry and later to the appropriate section to take the necessary measures in order to provide additional protection and care to enforce the law and in compliance with the new developments of international obligations and requirements in this regard.

Over the years, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation developed electronic systems to improve mechanisms to monitor companies and any indicators that shows the possibility of violations pertaining to human trafficking crimes and forced labor. Some of these online systems include wage protection system, "my salary" complaint system, labor accommodation system, self-appraisal system, and the smart inspection system that analyzes input data

through risks matrix to be settled. These innovative systems received regional and international recognition due to the feats they have made in the inspection field. To find out more details about these systems and related statistical data, please browse the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation website, [www.mohre.gov.ae](http://www.mohre.gov.ae).

Furthermore, the ministerial decree No. (764) of 2015 on the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation on Approved Standard Employment Contracts obligates the employer to send a copy of the employment offer to the worker in his country of origin in Arabic and any of the eleven approved languages to be signed by both parties, including all terms and conditions. Each party shall provide the copy that each has so that approval is given and work permit is granted by the Ministry. The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation shall not allow for modification of the terms of contract that have been signed unless there are additional benefits for the worker. These procedures protect the worker from being deceived or exploited prior to arrival to the country.

Moreover, the two ministerial decree No. (765) and (766) give the employee the freedom to change the employer by allowing them to terminate the current work relationship and choose a new contract with another employer subject to certain conditions. These terms and conditions guarantee the rights and responsibilities of both parties in this relationship and procedures of granting workers a new work permit to join another employer when such relationship ends.

## Inspection Process

The inspections done by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, contributes to achieving the objectives of the Anti-human trafficking section. The results for 2017 are as follows:

- ▶ The total number of regular inspection visits to check on the conditions of private sector workers were (572,324) visits and a total of (4,987,565) private sector workers.
- ▶ The total number of companies that were ticketed in violation of wage payment system, and referred to public prosecution for necessary action reached (164) companies.
- ▶ The total amount of AED (27,277,157) was paid in 2017 from the bank guarantee available at the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation. This is considered to be part of work permit grant requirements for hiring every worker. This amount was paid to the eligible workers totaling (9092) after less than two months of wage suspension from their respective companies. . These workers were also allowed to transfer to a new employer as stipulated in the ministerial decrees No. (764), (765) and (766) of 2016. These decrees grant additional guarantees to such workers through immediate transfer without abiding by the elapse of the first six months in case terms of the contract were breached and their rights were violated.

## Awareness Campaigns & Initiatives

The Anti-Human Trafficking Section, with the supervision of its legal researchers have developed training programs to a number of companies on requirements of labor law and administrative regulations and penalties adopted by their human resources departments. The number of these training courses totaled five.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation has prepared two awareness campaigns by using mobile units, which is a truck that contains a room that is equipped with training tools to reach workers in remote areas. The total number of the beneficiaries amounted to (1135) workers.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation has also licensed at country level (37) centers under the name "Tawjeeh", around the UAE train and educate workers, as one of the requirements to grant labor permits or renew the existent permits which are registered in the Ministry. The centers

will inform the workers of their rights and responsibilities and educate the workers about the UAE's culture and customs. In addition, a free mobile phone SIM card will be provided to each worker to ensure that they can get a device for communication in case there is any violation of their rights and to receive the latest updates on the ministerial decrees and laws. This initiative will be implemented during the first quarter of 2018.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation has allocated two awards for the private sectors, the first is for the best means of transportation provided to the workers, and the second is for the happiest labor accommodation, which was granted to 16 workers' accommodation in 2017. These initiatives are part of the Ministry's strategy to promote a happy environment for workers and improve their wellbeing.



Awareness campaign using mobile unit to educate workers



Awareness campaign using mobile unit to educate workers

## Domestic Workers

The UAE recently enacted federal law No. (10) of 2017 on domestic service workers which stipulates for that the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization would supervise granting domestic workers licenses as well as regulating relationship between the parties involved.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization has launched (39) service centers called “Tadbeer” around the country. These centers provide services on behalf of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization through organizational partnership with the private sector in accordance with the terms and conditions set by the Ministry.

Tadbeer centers provide support services to domestic workers and individuals by offering short or long-term contracts depending on the requirements of the client. In addition, the centers supervise and take necessary

action on residency procedures, including the comprehensive medical exams after the arrival of the worker in the country. Tadbeer also supports with the providing the proper accommodation if necessary, and offers trainings and awareness of the rights of the domestic workers and their responsibilities and provide them with copies of their employment contracts.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization has developed a mobile application also called “Tadbeer”. This application allows applicants to search for prospective domestic service workers available inside the country and abroad. It also allows the domestic workers to send complaints by reporting through the abovementioned application. The application also presents an overview of the labor laws and work conditions.



## Labor Inspectors Training Initiatives

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation has concluded an agreement with University of Sharjah to offer a specialized diploma program titled, “The Professional Inspector Diploma” were (29) labor inspectors participated. Furthermore, a similar agreement was signed with Judicial Training Institute (JTI) to train new researchers in the inspection sector.

The Ministry trained 70 labor inspectors on human trafficking crimes. This course included an explanation about human trafficking law and techniques of detecting human trafficking crimes as well as methods used to take human trafficking victims statements. In addition, the Ministry has also launched a program on capacity building of inspectors to qualify (26) inspectors to increase knowledge and enable them to be aware of the roles played by inspectors, including a course on monitoring human trafficking indicators.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation has also continued implementing a program in collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO) after signing an agreement on capacity building in the field labor inspection (2016-2017). The results include:

- ▶ Learning best practices in labor inspection developed by the Portuguese Labor Authorities.
- ▶ Participating in a training workshop on preparing labor inspection policy and reinforcing compliance, held by international inspectors from the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva.
- ▶ Implementing a training workshop on occupational health and safety standards in the construction sector.
- ▶ Conducting a comprehensive study on the training needs on labor inspectors, where all necessary needs for building inspectors’ abilities were identified as per the International Labor Organization (ILO) standards and best practices.
- ▶ Setting a training plan on labor inspection that lasts for six weeks and covers (25) topics. These topics include inspection over forced labor, human trafficking, domestic workers, inspection policies, voluntary compliance .
- ▶ Conducting a workshop on documenting and gathering information on work injuries and occupational diseases and preparing a shared work document by the national agencies such as Ministry of Health, Abu Dhabi Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHAD), Abu Dhabi Municipality and other entities seeking to link data as part of a central system.
- ▶ Participating in two weeks training program at the International Labor Inspection Academy of the International Labor Organization (ITC-ILO) in Turin – Italy.

## Prosecution

### Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 and its Amendments

The Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crime as amended by Federal Law No. (1) of 2015 provides the legal framework for handling human trafficking cases. Since the law has enter into force, the awareness of society members about the impotence of combating this crime has increased.

Article No. (1) Include the definition of human trafficking as follows:

- 01 Whoever commits any of the following shall be deemed a perpetrator of a human trafficking crime:
  - a. Selling persons, offering persons for selling or buying, or promising the same.
  - b. Soliciting, employing, recruiting, transferring, deporting, harboring, receiving, receiving or sending persons whether within the country or across the national borders thereof, by means of threat or use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of position, taking advantage of the vulnerability the person for the purpose of exploitation.
  - c. Giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation of the latter.
- 02 The following shall be deemed human trafficking, even if the same does not incorporate the use of any of the means provided in the previous Paragraph:
  - a. Recruiting a child, transferring, deporting, harboring or receiving the same for the purpose of exploitation.
  - b. Selling a child, and offering the same for selling or buying.
- 03 Under this Article, exploitation includes all forms of sexual exploitation, engaging others in prostitution, servitude, forced labor, organ-trafficking, coerced service, enslavement, mendicancy, and quasi-slavery practices.

The above definition is fully consistent with the provisions of Palermo Protocol and other related international legislations. This law encompasses various forms of human trafficking and inflicts the strictest penalties which include life imprisonment.

Under this law, life imprisonment penalty is inflicted in case the crime is perpetrated by way of fraud or the perpetrator concerned has used force, threat to kill or bodily harm, or included physical or psychological torture. Moreover, this law that comprises (16) articles imposes strict penalties on human traffickers from one year to life imprisonment in addition to pecuniary fines ranging between AED 100,000 and AED 1,000,000 (USD \$27,500 - \$275,000).



Amendment No. (1) of 2015 to Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes generally serves the best interests of human trafficking victims in conformity with Palermo Protocol based on the experience gained by the country at the local and international level. Such amendments included the following:

- 01 Introducing both the victim and witness to their legal rights through a language they can understand and giving them the opportunity to express their legal and social needs.
- 02 Presenting the victim to any medical facility to receive physical or psychological treatment as he or she can be admitted to any psychiatric or medical rehabilitation center if necessary
- 03 Admitting the victim to any of the Shelters or any other approved facility if needed.
- 04 Providing the necessary security protection to both the victim and witness whenever necessary.
- 05 Allowing both the victim and witness to keep staying in the country if required by the court or investigation upon an order from the public prosecution or court as the case may be required.
- 06 It is possible for the court to assign a lawyer to the victim upon his request, and the court may estimate his fees, where its decision on this matter is final and such fees are paid under a certificate issued to the lawyer by the court dispensing the fees.

## Other Related Legislations

### Federal Decree-Law No. (5) of 2016 on Regulation of Human Organs and Tissue Transplantation

This law was enacted to regulate human organs and tissue transplantation. The key issues stated therein regarding the combat of human trafficking include the following:

- ▶ Prohibiting human organs and tissues trafficking;
- ▶ Protecting the persons from/to whom human organs or tissues are transplanted;
- ▶ Preventing the utilization of the patient or donor need.

## ▶ Federal Law No. 10 of 2017 on domestic service workers

The provisions of this law apply to bringing in and employing workers whose occupations are listed below and the parties concerned. It identifies (19) types of domestic service workers.

This law also has provided for that in case of bringing workers or employing them on a temporary basis, any of the acts below shall be prohibited:

- ▶ Discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, political opinion, country of origin, or social origin.
- ▶ Sexual harassment, whether verbal or physical.
- ▶ Forced labor or trafficking in accordance with national law and ratified international conventions.

Furthermore, the law has obligated the recruitment agencies or domestic workers offices to the following:

- ▶ Refraining from bringing the worker from his or her own country before informing him or her of type and nature of work as well as amount of the gross salary or wage.
- ▶ These recruitment agencies or domestic workers offices shall not ask by themselves or through any other third party or accept any commission from any worker in exchange for obtaining the contract of employment or receive any expenses from him or her.
- ▶ Introducing the worker to the UAE local community customs and traditions.
- ▶ Providing a temporary accommodation to workers, where they should be equipped with decent means of living throughout the period of employment with the office or agency.
- ▶ Offering good treatment to the worker and refraining from exposing him or her to violence.
- ▶ Raising awareness of the worker about the authorities concerned to which he or she can make complaints about any breach of his or her own personal rights and freedoms.

Furthermore, the law has also stipulated that this category of workers should be protected by signing a contract of employment as per the form approved by the Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratization, where such contract contains several rights, including providing the appropriate accommodation, granting leaves and vacations as well as end of service benefits.

## ▶ Federal Legal Decree No. 5 of 2012 on combating cybercrimes amended by Federal law No. (12) of 2016

Article (23) of this law stipulates “Shall be punished by temporary imprisonment and a fine not less than five hundred thousand dirhams and not in excess of one million dirhams or either of these two penalties whoever establishes, administer or runs a website or publishes information on a computer network or any information technology means for the purpose of trafficking in humans or human organs or dealing in them illegally”.

Furthermore, there are many other laws and legislations that support combating human trafficking the federal law No. (3) of 2016 on Child Rights “Wadeema’s”, and Federal Law No. (8) of 1980 on regulating all aspects of labor relations between employers and employees and amendments thereto in the UAE, Federal Law No. (4) of 2002 concerning combating money laundering crimes and some of them are included in the federal penal code.

## ▶ Initiatives made in Implementing Laws Relating to Human Trafficking Crimes

To continue combating this crime and benefiting from the extensive national expertise, and upon the recommendations of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT), the Public Prosecution at the local and federal level as it has created specialized teams in order to refer all types of human trafficking-related cases to the team concerned. The aim of doing that is to sharpen the members of such a professional team through practice in tackling such cases and enabling them to join specialized courses in this area at the local or international level. In fact, these efforts have borne fruits by creating prosecution staff members who are

specialized in human trafficking incidents, where the UAE government seeks their assistance and expertise to conduct various training and rehabilitation programs on this matter The Ministry of Interior formed a team which coordinates the efforts of all police departments concerned with combatting human trafficking at the local or federal level. Moreover, this team also identifies the annual training needs for police officials.

## Punishment

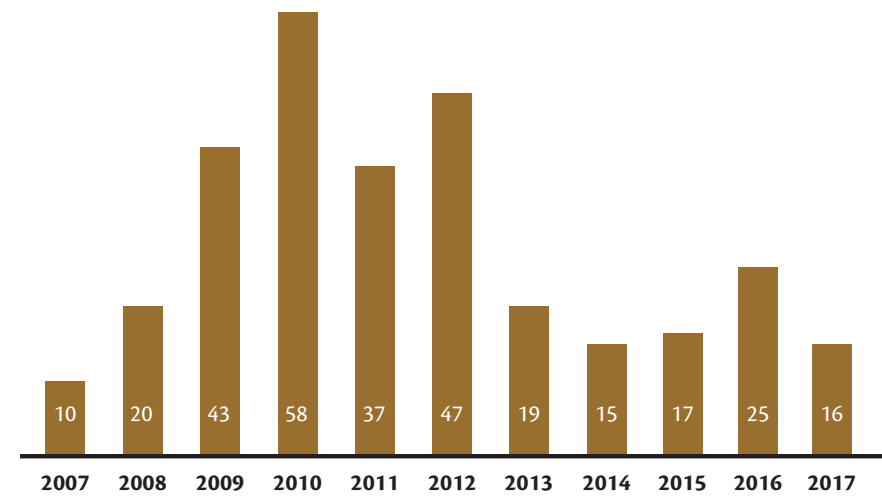
### Cases of Human Trafficking

In 2017, the UAE Courts addressed a number of human trafficking cases under Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes as amended under Federal Law No. (1) of 2015. Based on the review of such cases, it turned out that they are 10 cases related to sexual exploitation and 6 cases related to selling of persons (which resulted in selling 4 children and 4 women). These cases can be viewed in the table below:

Human Trafficking Cases in 2017					
Emirate	No. of Cases	No. of Victims	No. of Traffickers	Final Verdicts	Under Process
Abu Dhabi	2	2	4	-	2
Dubai	5	9	21	1	4
Sharjah	7	8	11	5	2
Ajman	-	-	-	-	-
Ras Al Khaimah	2	9	12	1	1
Umm al-Quwain	-	-	-	-	-
Fujairah	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>

Human Trafficking Cases (2017)  
Source: Public Prosecution of Respective Emirate

The verdicts issued regarding human trafficking cases in 2017 reached 5 year imprisonment and fine of AED 100,000. As for the cases filed in 2016 where rulings were delivered in 2017, rulings ranged between 3 year imprisonment, and up to life imprisonment in one case for two traffickers in addition to fines that reached a total of AED 100,000.



Human Trafficking Cases  
Source: Public Prosecution of Respective Emirate

## Protection

Protection of victims is one of the pillars for combating human trafficking crime according to National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking strategic plan. The UAE established shelters for human trafficking victims, which include Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking, Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, and Aman Shelter for Women and Children. These institutions receive human trafficking victims from around the country. They also implement a number of programs that are specifically designed to provide the necessary support to these victims urgently and fairly without discrimination against any race or gender.

### Care Given at Shelter Homes for Human Trafficking Victims

The shelters receive human trafficking victims through the embassy of their own country, houses of worship, direct contact with the shelters or law enforcement institutions and host them until they depart the country. The UAE ensures the safe return of victims to their country of origin, rectifying their status of residence to work legally in the country or coordinating with international organizations to obtain an alternative home country in case the victim is interested in that.

#### Healthcare Services:

The shelter homes provide healthcare services to victims for free in cooperation with health authorities by providing nurses or supervisors to organize appointments on cases required to assist to medical clinics and hospitals. This also includes supervising the mechanism of dispensing medications, accompanying victims on medical appointments at clinics and stay with them at hospital if necessary as well as organizing workshops on public health.

#### Social Services:

The shelter homes also provide social services by professional social workers who are responsible for conducting social case studies on the victim and identify the entire history of the offence with its all physical, psychological, verbal and sexual forms, etc. They also get to know the family history to help the victim make the right decisions in the future. Moreover, these social workers set an individual support plan for each case separately, depending upon its needs. According to such plan, full support is given to the victim in question in coordination with all support sources at the internal and external level of the organization. In addition, the social workers develop a safety and security plan before the victim departs the country as they train the victim on how to prevent to fall again as victim of human trafficking. Furthermore, the victim is provided with the phone numbers available in his or her own home country for any help. Social workers would continue to communicate with the victim after leaving the shelters for a period of 6 months to one year to follow up on the victim.

#### Psychological support:

Psychological support is provided to the victims suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through individual and group psychotherapy sessions, support groups, and usual and playing based psychotherapy for children. This services package is provided by well-qualified, trained and licensed specialists to provide such services.

#### Legal Services:

Legal advice or representation for victims includes explaining their legal and legitimate rights as well as their right to civil compensation or claim for physical and psychological suffering they have experienced. Also litigation service for cases can be provided for free in addition to follow-up with the appropriate authorities in case the victim has incurred in penalties for cancelation for residence fees as well as obtaining the supporting documents from the embassies concerned.

#### Rehabilitation & Training Programs:

The shelter homes provide numerous skilled trainings and education programs for the victims in collaboration with the private sector companies, hotels and organizations to rehabilitate and training these victims. These training courses include computer literacy, foreign languages, knitting and embroidery, drawing and painting, flowers arrangement, cosmetology and esthetics and hotel catering. The participants receive accredited certificates that could support them in obtaining jobs in the future, whether inside or outside the country.



Playing based psychotherapy sessions for children

## The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking Efforts in Protecting Victims and Supporting Shelters

To enhance protection of victims, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking issued its decision No. (7) of 2010 on “the regulatory framework to engage with victims of human trafficking”. The framework provides support and protection to human trafficking victims at all stages, especially by police departments and public prosecution during the investigation process until these victims are received by shelters across the country.

Furthermore, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking issued its decision No. (8/21) of 2010 regarding the ethical standards that must be respected by media organizations when conducting interviews with victims of human trafficking. Thus, this decision includes certain unified ethical standards that should be abided by the various media organizations such as TV,

radio, websites on the internet, newspapers and other printed materials. That is especially when it comes to protecting victims and maintaining their privacy as media professionals or journalists do not have the right to have interviews with them before they are referred to the competent court. Moreover, these media professionals or journalists have to maintain confidentiality and obtain a written consent of the victim. In addition, there are many rules such as the psychological state of the victim should be observed, the social worker concerned should be present and that his or her desire not to disclose any information should be also respected. Above all, it is necessary to prepare the interview questions and inform the victim concerned about them in advance, noting that no media can be allowed to interview children victims.

## Human Trafficking Victims Support Fund

One of the key accomplishments of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking is to establish a fund to support human trafficking victims in 2013. Charities, foundations and businessmen all financially contribute to this fund. This fund assists human trafficking victims to establish small enterprises for them, enabling them to join study programs or foreign language courses and get rid of financial obligations and debt burdens in their home countries. In some cases, this fund seeks to support needs of their families in their home countries as this aspect could be one of the reasons or gaps that were exploited by human traffickers to exploit their victims.

Furthermore, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking managed to pay the total amount of AED 99,000 in 2017 to human trafficking victims. Therefore, the financial support provided by this fund since its inception totaled AED 663,206 which is equivalent to nearly \$180,000 USD.

## The Ewa'a Shelter for Human Trafficking Victims

The Ewa'a Shelter for Human Trafficking Victims was established in 2008. It operated under the umbrella of the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates. However, the Ewa'a Shelter for Human Trafficking Victims is currently under the direct supervision of H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, the President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, as per the directives registration document No. (164) of 2015. Moreover, the first shelter for male victims of human trafficking was opened in the capital, Abu Dhabi, in January of 2014.

In 2017, the Ewa'a shelters for Human Trafficking Victims made several initiatives that included:

- ▶ Held an annual exhibition called “Silent Expressions” in association and with the support of Abu Dhabi Group for Culture and Arts to raise awareness in the society about the suffering of the victims caused by human trafficking.
- ▶ Prepared pamphlets to educate the victims in the shelter on ways, tactics and mechanisms used by human traffickers, which allow the victim to not fall prey to human traffickers.

For any further information about the activities carried out by the Ewa'a shelters for Human Trafficking Victims, please visit the Shelter's website, [www.shwc.ae](http://www.shwc.ae)



Silent expression annual exhibition



Interactive meeting on human trafficking

## The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children

The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children was the first non-profit shelter licensed in the UAE for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking. In the late 2007, this foundation was established by a decree issued by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE in his capacity as the Ruler of Dubai.

The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children has taken a number of initiatives which includes:

- ▶ Translating policies related to victim protection into five languages, which are Arabic, English, Urdu, Indonesian, and Bengali so that they can be understood with various nationalities. This took place through many methods, including the printing material and radio in addition to Braille system.
- ▶ Completing the first stage of raising awareness to groups that are most vulnerable to human trafficking that has been launched in coordination with the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking since 2014. By the end of 2017, the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children has completed several awareness pamphlets with (8) languages, including Arabic, English, Urdu, Russian, Indonesian, Bengali and Chinese and Telugu. To this effect, nearly (33,090) brochures were given away to workers of beauty salons, restaurants, hotels and recruitment agencies.
- ▶ Holding an interactive meeting under the theme, “Together for Protection from Human Trafficking” as part of Human Rights Day to raise awareness about crimes of human trafficking, discuss the reasons for involving domestic workers in human trafficking crimes, and come up with the proper recommendations on reducing them. These recommendations were distributed and discussed at the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking.
- ▶ Creating an electronic link with Child Protection Center at the Ministry of Interior and a law firm office in order to expediting the referral of children to this Center and notify such law firm office of cases that require legal help.
- ▶ Opening an office for Dubai Foundation for Women and Children at Zayed University (Dubai) to provide the various consultant services and to raise awareness about the services provided the foundation, including protecting human trafficking victims.
- ▶ Launching “Beauty for a Better Life” Initiative to provide accredited training courses on cosmetology to the victims.
- ▶ Exhibiting artworks of the victims done in collaboration with Dubai Arts Center and presenting them in an open auction.

For any more information about the activities carried out by Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, please log in the Foundation website, [www.dfwac.ae](http://www.dfwac.ae).

## Aman Shelter for Women and Children

Aman Shelter for Women and Children was established by Amiri Decree issued by H.H. Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council, and the current Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah. This decree was issued on February 15, 2017. The shelter protects victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and domestic violence in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations so that they can be provided by immediate protection services and support.

Currently, Aman Shelter for Women and Children also concludes agreements with the future appropriate agencies and supporting

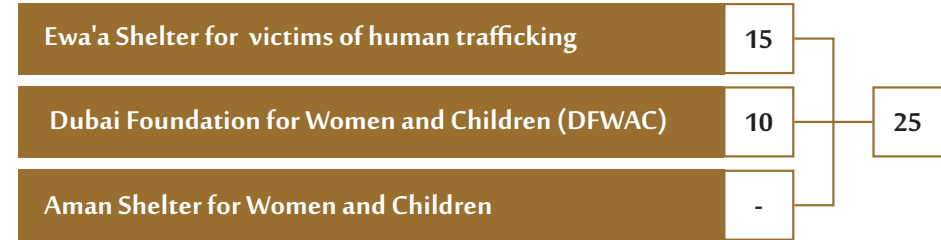
partners. As a result of these initiatives, a permanent exhibition at Hilton Hotel – Ras Al Khaimah was held to display the products made by victims at the Shelter. The proceeds of such products would go to these victims.

For any more information about the activities carried out by Aman Shelter for Women and Children, please you can contact via social media.



@amanshelter

## Statistics about Human Trafficking Victims at shelter homes that have been supported during 2017



Number of Human Trafficking Victims

**Note:** The total includes all cases that were dealt with in 2017 regardless the date on which they were referred to shelters as human trafficking care period differs from one case to another.



Continents and Regions of Human Trafficking Victims



Age Group

## Promotion of International Cooperation

There is no doubt that human trafficking crime is one of the most heinous crimes that violates human dignity and a serious challenge faced by all countries of the world due to their complicated nature as an organized crime, whether that is a country of origin, transit or destination for the victims. Thus, concerted bilateral and multilateral efforts are key to combat this crime. Based on the belief of the UAE government in that it is necessary for the countries of the world to strive together to fulfill their international obligations to combat this crime. In April of 2007, the UAE government joined the United Nations Convention against

Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly resolution of 2000. This Convention includes provisions pertaining to international collaboration as part of the efforts to combat human trafficking in addition to United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children. (Palermo Protocol), which is one of the two protocols annexed to United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that the UAE joined in 2009.

### Bilateral Cooperation

As part of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking to implement its national strategy and promote international cooperation, the UAE has signed a number of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with states in the field of cooperation to combat human trafficking and protect its victims. These MOU's have identified aspects and frameworks of cooperation between the two parties, focusing on exchanging information and best practices. The UAE concluded six memorandum of understandings as follows:

Number	Country	Year
1	Armenia	2009
2	Republic of Azerbaijan	2011
3	Australia	2013
4	Republic of Indonesia	2015
5	Republic of India	2016
6	Kingdom of Thailand	2018

The joint committee of the UAE and Republic of Indonesia held its first meeting in May of 2017 in the UAE to implement the memorandum of understanding on cooperation on combating human trafficking and victim protection. Both parties exchanged expertise and best practices adopted by law enforcement authorities and shelters. During this meeting, the representatives of both countries agreed to launch a joint campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking and laws pertaining to their incrimination to the society. In addition, they also agreed to hold a workshop to find out the best practices used in identifying human trafficking victims. Moreover, the Indonesian delegation visited a number of the entities concerned with human trafficking in order to review the efforts made by the UAE in this regard.

Furthermore, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking also hosted

### Multilateral Cooperation

The UAE joined Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking that emerged in UN in 2010. Within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) the UAE through its comprehensive regular presentation before Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2009, it facilitated the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children in 2012 and the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material in 2009. During its latest presentation of the Universal Periodic Review before the Human Rights Council in Geneva in early 2018, the UAE

foreign delegations to review the expertise and efforts made by the UAE to combat such a crime. In October of 2017, the national committee coordinated meetings with the agencies concerned with combating human trafficking crimes while hosting a delegation from the United States of America. During this visit, the delegation reviewed the efforts made by the law enforcement authorities in tackling human trafficking cases, role played by shelter homes in protecting human trafficking victims and the role played by Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation in carrying out the legislations and regulations concerning the protection of labors and domestic workers. This is especially with the enacted federal law No. (10) of 2017 on domestic service workers as a result "Tadbeer" centers were created in addition to the other initiatives regarding prospective victims protection.

was lauded by many countries for the efforts made in combating human trafficking crimes and protecting victims, and urged the UAE to continue such efforts.

The UAE has also been a member to Bali Process since 2013, which is a forum that is concerned with discussing policies, exchanging information and enhancing cooperation to help the countries of the region to address working on trafficking in persons, human trafficking and related transnational organized crimes. This forum includes (48) countries in addition to a number of relevant international organizations. In 2017, the UAE participated in the 12th Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' Meeting of Bali Process (AHG SOM)



Participating in Bali process meeting

in October, which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It also participated in the “Bali Process Government and Business Forum” meeting in August which was held in Perth, Australia. This meeting was held to engage the private sector in the efforts made by Bali Process member governments. At the speech delivered as part of this forum, the UAE stressed the importance of the role played by the private sector as a strategic partner to combat crimes of human trafficking.

The United Arab Emirates announced the pledging of USD \$100,000 to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, especially women

and children, during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held in September 2017. This serves as a confirmation from the UAE that it is actively engaged in the global efforts to combat this crime.

## Conclusion

The UAE deals with the issue of combating human trafficking crime firmly and seriously. That is not only because it poses a challenge at the national level due to the fact that it is in contravention of religious, cultural, social and human teachings, but it also a global challenge affecting many countries of the world, whether they are a source, transit or destination country. It is also difficult to combat such crimes without the continued and persistent endeavors in collaboration with international community and other international organizations concerned with combating all forms of such a heinous crime.

The United Arab Emirates started its campaign against human trafficking crimes over the past years, especially since 2006 and it enacted Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes as amended under Federal Law No. (1) of 2015. In addition, it has also promulgated laws to support combating this crime; the most important of which included Federal Law No. (10) of 2017 on domestic workers. It has also joined the international agreements on this matter, and created National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT). Moreover, it has also approved its strategic plan based on five pillars that are: prevention, prosecution, punishment, protection victims and promotion of international cooperation.

In implementation of the strategic plan of the NCCHT, the stakeholders continued to

develop actions in 2017 that has resulted in several awareness initiatives that includes 71 training programs which benefited more than 5,939 persons from law enforcement officials, inspectors, public official, victims and workers. Moreover the UAE has also formed specialized group in each public prosecution offices to deal with all the cases that are related to human trafficking.

The law enforcement authorities have succeeded in identifying 16 human trafficking cases, which resulted in referring 48 potential traffickers before the court, and protecting 28 potential victims. The UAE also succeeded to enhance protecting to the victim by inaugurating Aman Shelter for Women and Children in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. In addition, in the promotion of international cooperation the UAE concluded the first joint committee with Republic of Indonesia which helps to implement the bilateral MoU in Human Trafficking, and had announced the financial contribution of USD \$ 100,000 pledge to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children.

In this regard the UAE reaffirms its commitment at national and international level to combat Human Trafficking by working with partners to liberate victims of this crime from their constraints of exploitation that affect their human dignity.