
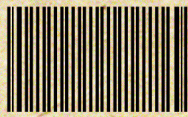


اللجنة الوطنية لمكافحة جرائم الإتجار بالبشر  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING CRIMES



## Annual Report of The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking 2019

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# **Combatting Human Trafficking Crimes In The United Arab Emirates**

Annual Report 2019

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## Chairman's Statement



The UAE believes in the importance of merging national and international efforts to combat human trafficking, one of the most widespread transnational organized crimes. In the 14 years that have passed since the UAE formally launched its campaign against this crime in 2006, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT) has implemented several initiatives and programs that have effectively contributed to achieving the NCCHT's national strategy objectives. The strategy is based on five main pillars: prevention, prosecution, punishment, the protection of victims, and the promotion of international cooperation.

The UAE was one of the first countries in the region to enact legislation to criminalize human trafficking through Federal Law No. 51 of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crime and its amendments. This legislation aligns with the UAE's commitment to implement the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) (Palermo Convention) and its supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.

The NCCHT has exerted significant effort to raise public awareness of the perils of this crime while cooperating with law enforcement

agencies in order to stop organizations and individuals from trafficking in persons. In light of the country's cultural and national diversity, the UAE has established awareness programs in cooperation with the private sector and diplomatic missions to conduct outreach to different communities.

Governmental bodies and the relevant UAE authorities have also implemented several measures to ensure that residency visas issued to employees and domestic workers meet requirements to protect them from exploitation. Such measures include compulsory courses to inform workers of their rights and protections guaranteed to them by national legislation in the UAE.

The competent UAE authorities have also launched training and rehabilitation programs to enhance officials' ability to identify human trafficking cases and better protect victims as a result. As a transnational crime, human trafficking poses notable challenges to law enforcement agencies around the world. Therefore, international cooperation and the exchange of expertise are essential in this field.

The UAE believes in engaging in international efforts to combat this crime, which requires working on both the bilateral and multilateral levels. In this respect, the NCCHT has signed several relevant MOUs over the years. It has also participated in numerous international meetings and conferences to share information, experiences, and best practices. It has contributed to raising awareness among concerned bodies in the UAE to combat this crime professionally.

We must renew the UAE's commitment through the NCCHT to work with partners at the national and international levels, support joint efforts to address all forms of human trafficking, promote and protect human rights, and work to respect human dignity.

**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 Overview

The UAE formed the NCCHT under Cabinet Resolution No. (15), 2007. The NCCHT aims to consolidate national efforts to facilitate coordination between relevant stakeholders and overcome obstacles to help combat this crime. The NCCHT's mandate, under Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on combating Human Trafficking Crimes as amended, includes:

01. Develop a comprehensive national strategy to combat human trafficking, and prepare plans, programs and mechanisms to be implemented in coordination with concerned authorities in UAE.
02. Review and update legislation and systems related to matters of human trafficking, to secure protections for victims and witnesses in accordance with international standards.
03. Prepare a database of international legislation concerning human trafficking crimes, ways of trafficking, and relevant studies.
04. Prepare reports on the efforts made by UAE to combat human trafficking, in coordination with authorities in UAE.
05. Study national, regional and international reports on prohibiting human trafficking, and take necessary actions and measures.
06. Coordinate with relevant authorities and stakeholders to provide protection and support to those who are affected by human trafficking. Provide care and rehabilitation programs to assist in voluntary return of victims and their reintegration into society, according to individual needs and basic human rights.
07. Raise awareness of issues related to human trafficking.
08. Hold conferences, seminars, publications, and training to achieve NCCHT's objectives.
09. Engage with stakeholders in UAE by attending international conferences and forums related to combating human trafficking, and conveying UAE's point of view in such international forums.
10. Develop appropriate mechanisms to identify victims of human trafficking cases.
11. Perform any task assigned to the NCCHT in the area of combating human trafficking.

The NCCHT is chaired by H.E. Dr. Anwar Mohamed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Its membership includes 17 different government bodies, public prosecution offices and civil society organizations.

## The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
Ministry of Interior  
Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization  
Ministry Of State for Federal National Council Affairs  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Community Development  
Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship

Federal Public Prosecution  
Public Prosecution (Abu Dhabi)  
Public Prosecution (Dubai)  
Public Prosecution (Ras Al Khaimah)

Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking  
Dubai Foundation For Women and Children  
Aman Centre for Women and Children  
Emirates Human Rights Association  
Emirates Red Crescent Authority

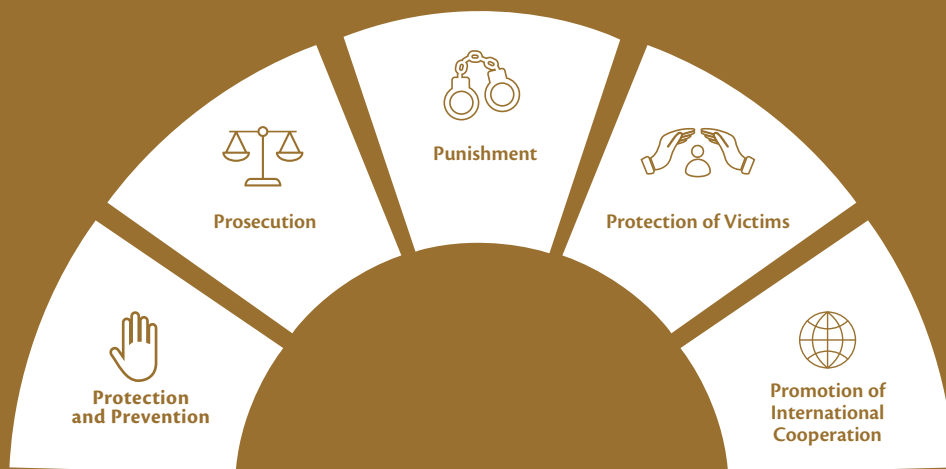
To ensure transparency and highlight the UAE's efforts in the field of combating human trafficking, the NCCHT has taken the lead in preparing this report annually, since 2008. The report, which includes statistics on human trafficking cases, is launched at a press conference to highlight the UAE's developments and efforts in combating this crime.



One of the meetings of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking

# The NCCHT Strategy “5Ps”

In 2012, the NCCHT adopted its national strategy to combat human trafficking. The strategy comprises five main pillars in line with international trends and the UN strategies, as follows:



The UAE’s efforts included in this report are divided according to the following five pillars.



## First Pillar: Protection and Prevention

## Institutional Frameworks and Mechanisms to Combat Human Trafficking

In addition to the NCCHT's key role in coordinating with stakeholders, law enforcement agencies and public prosecution offices in UAE understand the importance of establishing departments or committees to contribute to combating this crime as per national and international obligations.

Based on NCCHT's recommendations, the Federal and Local Public Prosecution Offices have established taskforces to build and improve the skills of their specialists, and their ability to deal with all kinds of human trafficking cases. The taskforces investigate, act and follow up on human trafficking cases, and prepare statistics and studies. They coordinate with authorities, and study or present legal assistance requests received from national or international judicial authorities. They review and analyze judgments and judicial orders issued in such cases. The taskforces also contribute to raising community awareness of this crime; highlighting its dangers for individuals and society.

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) has established the Federal Investigation Department to supervise and coordinate with organizational units in all General Directorates of the Police across the UAE, in order to address human trafficking and to build capacity to act professionally in handling human trafficking. The units issue periodic criminal bulletins on human trafficking, including analyses of criminal methods used in such cases. The bulletins are distributed among specialists internally and confidentially, in order to protect the identity of victims. They contribute to setting plans and policies to study the methods and motives behind such crimes to reduce their future occurrence.

Additionally, there are several organizational units supporting the efforts to combat this crime, such as the Federal Department for

Security Information. The Department is responsible for collecting data and information on all crimes in the UAE, including human trafficking. The best technologies, programs and systems are used to record and document such crimes. These systems help follow up cases, from gathering evidence to issuing judicial verdicts. The department provides decision-makers with security warnings and predictions to help develop plans to combat human trafficking. There is also a child protection center which is responsible for developing, implementing and regulating initiatives and measures to provide safety, security and protection to all children in UAE. The center has adopted policy for investigating child abuse cases, in addition to organizing and implementing awareness campaigns on the dangers of cybercrimes and all forms of exploitation.

In order to enhance cooperation between MOI, Local Police General Directorates, and other security agencies and border control institutions and authorities, the MOI has established a Coordinating Committee to Combat Human Trafficking Crimes. The committee seeks, through its members, to overcome the challenges facing such entities in combating this crime, as well as to build the capacity of personnel in such institutions and develop their skills.

In 2009, the General Directorate of Dubai Police established the Human Trafficking Crime Control Center, which provides strategic solutions and recommendations to foster preventive efforts to curb the crime. The center also builds the capacity of employees of the General Directorate and other concerned bodies, through training programs held every year. Furthermore, the center promotes the rights of workers to ensure that they are not exploited, and their rights are respected. It also aims to raise societal awareness of the various forms of human trafficking, by developing and preparing awareness programs targeting

various segments of the society.

## Awareness Programs for the Community and Groups Most Vulnerable to Human Trafficking

Awareness programs and campaigns are amongst the most important efforts undertaken by the UAE to protect society from human trafficking. Society protection is stipulated in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

In this context, the NCCHT has, since its establishment, launched many awareness campaigns and programs, including media campaigns through visual, audio and printed media. These targeted airports, where signs were erected to raise awareness of the dangers of human trafficking and how to communicate with law enforcement agencies. The campaign was launched in a number of major languages, including Arabic, English, Russian, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tagalog (Philippine) and Bahasa (Indonesia).

Other campaigns and programs launched by bodies represented in the NCCHT, include:

The Federal Public Prosecution participated in the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the United Nations to be celebrated on 30th of July each year. It has published introductory and awareness brochures on its social media websites, particularly Instagram and Twitter, including information on the UAE's efforts in combating such crime since 2006.

Abu Dhabi Judicial Department has continued its awareness campaigns launched in 2016. In 2019, and for the fourth year in a row, the Department carried out a comprehensive awareness campaign for labor accommodations in Abu Dhabi, targeting 265,986 workers. The campaign was aimed at achieving the Department's strategy in disseminating the culture of legal awareness among workers, informing them of their rights and duties,

and responding to inquiries.

In 2019 the Department also introduced a number of new awareness methods, such as distributing displays in labor accommodations; and educational, sports and recreational competitions organized for workers.

In 2019, the Ministry of Interior sent 15 awareness SMS messages to its employees. The messages aimed to raise awareness of the dangers of human trafficking in all its forms, as well as introducing methods of combating it. The Ministry has also conducted a number of awareness lectures aimed at protecting workers from exploitation and human trafficking. Lectures have targeted workers in various labour cities and at the Cleveland Hospital, benefiting 16,288 workers.

The General Directorate of Dubai Police has implemented "International Symposiums", a community initiative aimed at communicating directly with a broad segment of the labour community. The initiative involves face-to-face meetings with workers to know their opinions, listen to their observations and demands, and solve their problems in cooperation with stakeholders. The meeting included 58 workers as sample models representing all segments of the labour community. Another initiative is "Legal Employment with Protected Rights", a series of awareness lectures about definitions of human trafficking, employment rights contained in national legislation, and mechanisms of communication with stakeholders to report violations and file complaints. The lectures have benefited 700 workers. Finally, the "Booklet on Human Trafficking" initiative, an annual periodical, was implemented to highlight specific topics. In 2019, the focus was on "Methodologies of Criminal Investigation in Human Trafficking Cases", which targeted law enforcement officers and Human Trafficking employees.

In order to secure a direct and effective communication tool with Labors and domestic workers in the UAE, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) implemented an initiative to deliver free SIM cards to labors and

domestic workers. Awareness SMS messages are sent to workers on their phones in their native language (16 languages). The messages contain simplified extracts from the law, to raise workers' awareness of their rights, as well as to receive reports on any violations against them. In 2019, about 182,227 SIM cards were distributed to various workers through MOHRE's Tawjeeh centers.

MOHRE has also activated channels of communication with workers through its smart application. The application provides workers with many advantages, such as access to their employment contract, details of remuneration, filing labor complaints, access to laws, decisions and circulars directly, and calculation of end-of-service benefits. In 2019, the



Training course in "Tawjeeh" center which supervised by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization

application was installed by more than 360,000 workers. MOHRE also issued Guidelines for Domestic Workers, and obliged its Tadbeer centers to distribute them among domestic workers after attending awareness workshops and training courses. The guidelines inform workers of their rights and duties under the law governing domestic workers employment in UAE, i.e., Federal Law No. (10) of 2017 on Domestic Worker Employment. In addition, a number of awareness campaigns were organized in the largest malls in UAE. In 2019 a total of 850,000 workers of different nationalities benefited from the workshops and other awareness initiatives held in MOHRE's centers. Through these initiatives, employees were informed of their rights safeguarded by the law. They were made aware of the ways to communicate with authorities in case of violation of any of their rights secured by the law.

The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC) launched its fifth edition of the 2019 "Raising Awareness of The Most Vulnerable to Human Trafficking" program. The program raises awareness of those who are most vulnerable to human trafficking, such as women in beauty salons, restaurants, massage centers and other professions. In 2019, the DFWAC carried out an awareness workshop in cooperation with the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs, targeting 32 violations. DFWAC also distributed leaflets in the following languages: Amharic, Tagalog, Indonesian, English, Hindi and Russian.

The DFWAC also carried out a media campaign in conjunction with World Day against Human Trafficking, during which time a number of awareness publications were distributed for a period of one month. The campaign aimed at educating workers of their rights and urging them to report any case of violation or human trafficking. Awareness materials were displayed on social media channels in Arabic, English and Bengali languages, and were viewed by nearly 300,000 people. In addition, 138 news stories and articles were published concerning human trafficking in both Arabic and English in newspapers and magazines.

The DFWAC also targeted foreign diplomatic missions in UAE. In collaboration with NCCHT, the DFWAC held their second meeting with embassies to discuss groups who are most vulnerable to human trafficking. The activity aimed to raise awareness among embassy representatives of this crime, and to introduce them to services provided by authorities in order to protect, care for and rehabilitate victims.

In October 2019, the Aman Center for Women and Children organized its second regional conference titled "Combating Violence Against Women and Children - Reality and Strategies", held under the auspices and presence of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council, ruler of Ras Al Khaimah. The conference was attended by more than 185 representatives of civil society organizations, and institutions concerned with women and children in the Arab world, and a number of regional

organizations such as the Arab League. The conference aimed at discussing two key themes: combating violence against women and children, and protecting and caring for victims of human trafficking. On the sidelines of the conference, the Center organized a workshop titled in which 108 school students participated. The conference was accompanied by an exhibition to review and market handicrafts and sewing products made by victims of human trafficking.

Aman Center also announced an awareness campaign titled “We care about You”, to be implemented in successive stages over five years. The campaign aims to raise awareness of groups who are most vulnerable to human trafficking such as workers in housemaid recruitment agencies, hospitals, commercial centers and community gathering places, as well as to introduce them to the crime of human trafficking, types of protection and prevention methods. In 2019, the campaign targeted domestic workers’ recruitment offices in Ras Al Khaimah. A corner was allocated at Ras Al Khaimah Hospital, containing awareness materials for children in particular and visitors in general. In addition, a site within the Corniche Festival event was allocated to introduce visitors to this crime, and ways to combat it. During the events, introductory and awareness leaflets and brochures in English and Arabic were distributed to 3200 people.

### Awareness Programs Statistics



The opening of the second regional conference “Arab Strategies for Combating Violence against Women”

## Training and Qualification Programs for Workers in the Field of Combating Human Trafficking

The NCCHT has launched several training programs for specialists in various agencies concerned with combating this crime. These programs are considered top priorities to the NCCHT. They aim to prepare a qualified elite of employees of organizations working in this field. Staff are provided with the necessary scientific and practical skills and expertise to enable them to contribute to strengthening the UAE's efforts to combat human trafficking, and ensuring protection for victims. In 2019, about 6,209 specialists were trained. Below are some of those efforts:

The Federal Public Prosecutor's Office held a workshop in the field of technical rules for investigating, handling and preparing human trafficking files. The workshop also included the pillars, elements, and indicators of human trafficking, as well as mechanisms for investigating all parties, in addition to acting optimally with this crime. About 35 members of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office participated in this workshop.

The Federal Public Prosecution Team for Handling and Dealing with Human Trafficking Crimes organized a training course on the technical rules of inference on the crimes of human trafficking, in coordination with the Human Trafficking Crime Control Centre of the General Directorate of Dubai Police. The training course was attended by 28 specialist personnel and officers from the Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate of Dubai Police. The course has contributed to strengthening cooperation between law enforcement agencies and to building the capacities of employees in these authorities to combat such crime.

The Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with international organizations, has conducted training and capacity-building courses for workers in the area of combating human trafficking. The courses aimed to deal with crimes professionally and accurately as per its training strategy. MOI organized and participated in many training programs at national and international levels, where 4716 participants have benefited.

The General Directorate of Dubai Police, through its Human Trafficking Crime Control Center, has conducted numerous training courses covering several fundamental aspects to build the capacities of those who are working in the field of combating this crime. The courses included topics related to the Human Trafficking basics, best international practices, technical rules of investigation, and interviewing victims. The courses have benefited 186 specialized persons from various authorities.



**The UAE is a place of tolerance, co-existence and openness to other cultures**

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces



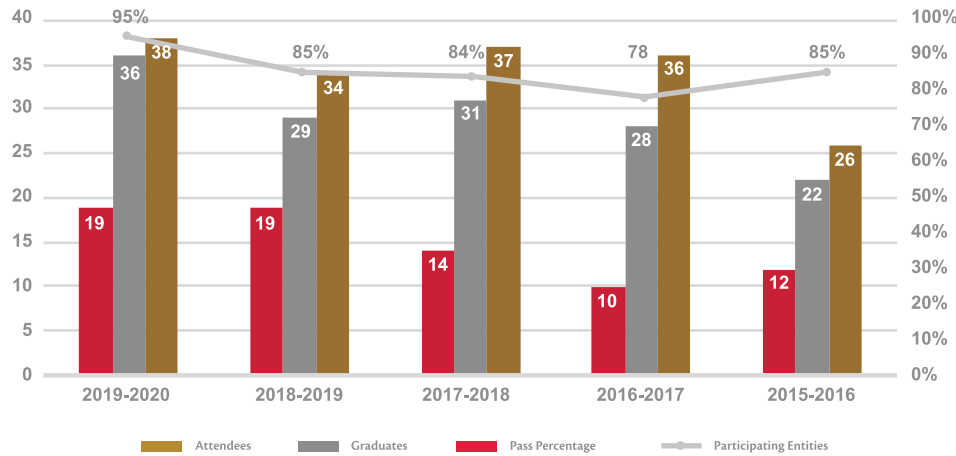
One of the training courses provided by NCCHT to the Ministry Affairs and International Cooperation

The General Directorate of Dubai Police also launched the 'Specialists in Combating Human Trafficking' program supported by the NCCHT, in collaboration with the Dubai Judicial Institute (DJI) and the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

This specialized professional program is

the first of its kind in the Arab world and the region. The program aims to deal with the scientific and exclusive treatment of a specific criminal case. In 2019, the program was implemented in its fifth edition, and for the first time, representatives of other GCC countries, working in the field of combating human trafficking, have participated.

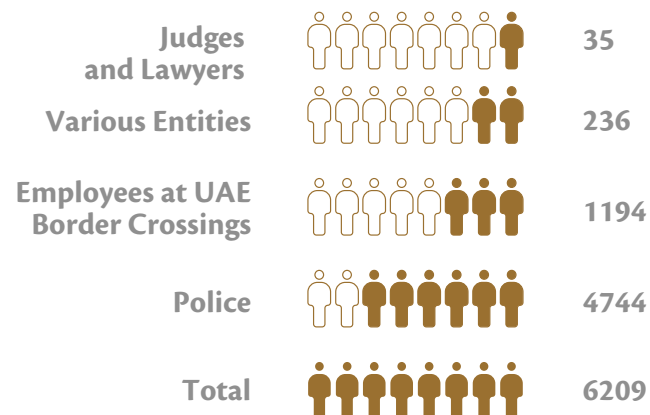
## Specialists in Combating Human Trafficking



In 2019, the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (FAIC) also executed several training programs for its employees. FAIC is the authority concerned with nationality, passport, and travelers' entry and exit. A total number of 1,194 trainees were trained in subjects related to forgery detection, combating human trafficking, security sense, and human rights. The program contributed to the national efforts to combat this transnational crime.

The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC) organized an internal training course for female officers at the Welfare and Rehabilitation Department. The course was attended by 12 psychologists and case managers, in order to raise awareness of participants about this crime, national legislation, and international obligations.

## Total Statistics of Training Programs Beneficiaries



## Protection and Promotion of Labors and Domestic Workers' Rights in UAE

As part of its desire to create a balanced relationship between the two parties to an employment relationship; workers and employers, the UAE has issued Federal Law No. (8) of 1980 concerning the Regulation of Labour Relations in Private Sector Enterprises, and Federal Law No. (10) of 2017 on Domestic Workers, which contains 19 professions, including domestic workers of various types. Within the implementation of this legislation, a series of policies have been adopted to contribute significantly towards protecting labors and domestic workers from the risk of being victims of human trafficking in all forms, particularly exploiting them for the purpose of corrosive or forced labour. These policies include:

### Contract Transparency Policy

In order to address one of the forced labor indicators deception in employment contracts, a practice which usually begins outside the UAE's borders, through employment agencies overseas in countries of origin - the MOHRE issued its Ministerial Decree (764) 2015 on the Implementation of the Ministry of Labor's Approved Standard Employment Contracts. The decree obligates employers to send a copy of the job offer to workers in their home country. The offer shall be written in Arabic and one of the (11) approved languages understood to the worker. These contracts shall explain to the worker all work conditions and circumstances, to ensure that they agree to them before leaving their homeland.

The UAE obliges recruitment offices abroad to obtain the worker's signature and fingerprint stamped on the job offer, which is later retrieved from MOHRE's electronic system, to be signed and approved as an official employment contract. The MOHRE does not allow modification of the terms and condition of signed job offers, unless it is intended to add additional privileges and benefits in favour of the worker. These procedures are essential so that the worker shall not be deceived or exploited in any of the terms of the contract before and after arriving to the UAE.

### Domestic Worker Recruitment Regulation Policy – Tadbeer Centers

The MOHRE has developed a standard unified typical contract for domestic workers, which must be used for all domestic workers of different nationalities and skills. The contract contains provisions concerning the workers' entitlement to a range of fundamental rights,

including annual leave, daily and weekly rest periods, and the right to travel, receive cash allowances, sick leave, salary, and end-of-service benefits. The contract also includes provisions to ensure protection from any violence or discrimination.

### Policy of Informing Domestic Workers of Their Rights – Tawjeeh Centers

The MOHRE has, in cooperation with the private sector, established specialized centers to ensure that workers are informed of their rights. These Tawjeeh Centers are charged with raising workers' awareness of their rights and duties in detail, including working hours, overtime, leave entitlements, how to calculate wages, and end-of-service benefits. In addition, educational materials concerning occupational health and safety requirements and information on the culture of UAE society are also provided. To date, MOHRE has licensed 34 service centers nationwide, where MOHRE requires employment contracts to be signed and handed over to workers within these centers. Employment contracts or renewal approvals are only granted to workers registered in the MOHRE's system, after receiving an awareness course in the language of their choice. Materials are available in 16 languages, benefiting 175 nationalities.

In the home countries of some labors and domestic workers, dubious practices exist in some recruitment offices in such as taking recruitment fees, or collecting or deducting

money from workers against the offer of a job opportunity. These practices may lead to what is globally known as debt bondage; a situation in which workers are forced to continue working to pay back recruitment fees. To address these practices, the MOHRE has established 39 recruitment centers within the country called Tadbeer.

The centers provide domestic worker recruitment services, under full supervision of the MOHRE using its electronic systems. Licenses for traditional recruitment centers were gradually cancelled and replaced with Tadbeer centers, which were tasked with training and informing domestic workers of their rights and duties, and providing them with adequate housing and accommodation in situations where a worker requires shelter due to their rights being violated or abused by an employer.

#### **Labour Market Free Movement Policy (or Labour Market Flexibility)**

MOHRE's resolutions No. (765) and (766) 2015 address the issue of restricting workers' freedom to move from one company to another, by allowing workers to terminate their employment relationship and move to a new organization according to specific criteria. It also addresses the procedures for granting workers a new work permit to work at another facility at the end of the contractual relationship. Under such resolutions, the worker also has the right to terminate their employment and leave the UAE at any time.

In addition, an Executive Regulation of the Federal Law Concerning Domestic Workers was adopted by Cabinet Resolution No. (22) 2019, which grants domestic workers the right to leave their employment while retaining all their rights in cases where the employer reduces their wages below the amount agreed to in the contract, or fails to meet its contractual obligations. In order to facilitate this right, and to protect such workers from

vulnerability or human trafficking, the Tadbeer centres are required to receive and shelter the worker until the issue is resolved.

This regulation also allows workers the right to leave their workplace immediately without notice and report to Tadbeer centres if they face any physical or verbal abuse or sexual harassment by the employer.

#### **Securing Worker Entitlements Policy**

In order to protect labors and domestic workers from circumstances that may lead them to become victims of forced labour where an employer fails to pay their dues, the MOHRE has launched a new system to secure workers' entitlements. The system is applicable for all expatriate employees in the private sector or domestic workers sector. Under the system, employers must obtain an employment insurance policy at the commencement of the contract, as a condition for issuing a work permit. The policy covers unpaid financial benefits, such as end-of-service benefits, work injury compensation and expenses for returning to the country of origin if the worker wishes to leave the UAE.

#### **Supporting and Promoting Labour Inspections with Electronic Systems**

In order to improve monitoring facilities to identify indications of possible violations, particularly those related to human trafficking and forced labor, MOHRE has developed a number of technology-based systems. One such program is the Smart Inspection System, which analyzes the data of registered establishments, including the number and types of complaints received, and classifies them in five risk levels. These levels determine the priorities for inspection visits to workplaces via the Rapid Response Center.

In addition, the Wage Protection System (WPS), monitors the payment of wages electronically. The system also allows inspection teams to

immediately intervene in the case of delay or non-payment of wages.

The "Ratibi" My Salary System receives wage complaints electronically, while the Labor Housing System provides information on the extent to which companies are committed to providing adequate accommodation for their workers. The Ministry has also launched the Happiest Labour Accommodation Award Project, which recognizes the best employer-provided accommodation and working environments and the best means of transportation for workers in the private sector.

#### **Facilitating Access to Effective Remedies Policy**

The MOHRE has licensed centers under the name TWA-FOUQ, which provide legal services to both contracting parties, in order to reduce the time taken to discuss and adjudicate labour cases. Lengthy litigation can have a negative impact on labors and domestic workers, particularly if the dispute is linked to non-receipt of wages or benefits. TWA-FOUQ centres receive complaints, provide free legal advice and mediate between workers and employers to reach a quick, amicable settlement. TWA-FUQ then submits its recommendations to MOHRE to be approved and actioned. In cases where agreement cannot be reached between the parties, TWA-FUQ provides a free 'lawsuit sheet' for workers and employers to facilitate referral of the dispute to the Labour Court, which in turn provides a service called "One Day Court" to allow cases to be decided as quickly as possible.

Finally, MOHRE provides toll-free hotline service (80060) for private sector employees including domestic workers. The service allows workers to obtain necessary confidential consultative support 24 hours a day via direct contact with the MOHRE in 13 languages (Arabic, English, Russian, Philippine, Hindi, Somali, Afghan, Bengali, Persian, Punjabi, Melyalam, Ardu, and Tamel). Any

complaint regarding forced labour or human trafficking must be investigated immediately in coordination with labour inspectors. The MOHRE has also provided several other channels to report complaints and negative practices through the MOHRE's website, TASHEEL, TADBEER, and TWA-FUQ centers across the UAE.

#### **Tightening Security Measures at UAE Border Crossing Points**

Many preventive measures have been taken to protect society from transnational organized crimes, including human trafficking. The measures are implemented using best-practice to facilitate travelers' movement, entry, or exit from the UAE. The preventive measures are as follows:

- Using unified criminal justice and Interpol systems I-24/7 to verify individuals at entry points
- Using iris and fingerprint technology to identify wanted persons, or those who are banned from entry to or exit from the UAE, as well as facial recognition
- Using state-of-the-art equipment to detect fraud at entry points.
- Developing entry permit regulations and sponsorship standards linked to family relationships or purpose of coming to the UAE, in order to prevent exploitation in human trafficking cases.
- Requiring separation of children's passports from their parents, and that children hold independent passports, in order to verify their identity when they enter or leave the UAE, thereby providing them with more protection against exploitation.

Additionally, the Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship are constantly improving the skills and competences of their border security personnel, through courses and workshops.

## Proposals and Complaints Reporting Mechanisms

The NCCHT has approved 800 SAVE (8007293) as a hotline to receive reports on human trafficking across the UAE. The hotline is managed by Ewa'a shelters for victims of human trafficking, which has allocated a number of qualified staff to receive and handle such communications in a number of main languages including Arabic, English, Urdu, and Russian.

The UAE also has several additional mechanisms for reporting human trafficking cases, including the 999 emergency number, the Ministry of Interior's website ([www.moi.gov.ae](http://www.moi.gov.ae)), the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children's hotline (800111), Aman Center for Women and Children hotline (80089999) in Ras Al Khaimah, and the Smart Police Station (SPS) of the General Directorate of Dubai Police ([www.moi.gov.ae](http://www.moi.gov.ae)), which allows customers to provide information and data on suspected human trafficking cases.

The General Directorate of Dubai Police has launched the Happy Worker Safe Society Program, dedicated to the protection and care of workers. Through the program, the General Directorate of Dubai Police receives, verifies, and investigates labour complaints and provides many services to workers in partnership with private sector.

Laborers and domestic workers can also file complaints, or receive legal advice through centers licensed by the MOHRE including TADBEER, TAWJEEH, and TWA-FUQ.

(For more information about these centers please refer to the details in the section on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Workers in the UAE).



**It is the man and not place  
which is important**

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum  
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai



## Second Pillar: Prosecution

## Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes

Federal Law No. (51) 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes, as amended by Federal Law No. (1) 2015, provides the legal framework for handling human trafficking cases in the UAE. Since its implementation, the law has contributed to raising awareness of the importance of combating this crime.

Article (1) of this Law defines “Human Trafficking” as follows:

### 1. Whoever commits any of the following shall be deemed a perpetrator of human trafficking crime:

- a. Sell persons, offer persons for selling or buying, or promise the same
- b. Solicit persons, employ, recruit, transfer, deport, harbour, receive, deliver or send the same within the UAE 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 of the person for the purpose of exploitation.
- c. Give or receive payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person or having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation of the latter.

### 2. The following shall be deemed human trafficking, even if the same does not incorporate the use of any of the means provided for in the previous paragraph:

- a. Recruit a child, transfer, deport, harbour or receive the child for the purpose of exploitation
- b. Sell a child, offer the child for selling or buying.

### 3. Under this Article, exploitation includes all forms of sexual exploitation, engaging others in prostitution, servitude, forced labour, organ-trafficking, coerced service, enslavement, mendicancy, and quasi-slavery practices.

This definition is consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Convention) and the supplementary United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, and other relevant international legislations.

By law, a life imprisonment sentence shall be applicable if the crime is committed by way of deceit, it involves the use of force or threat of murder or bodily harm, or it involves physical or psychological torture. Furthermore, the 16-article law prescribes stiff penalties against traffickers, ranging from five years to life imprisonment, in addition to pecuniary fines ranging from AED 100,000 to AED 1,000,000 (USD \$27,500 - \$275,000).

Amendments stated in Federal Law No. (1) 2015 to Federal Law No. (51) 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes have been made to serve the best interests of human trafficking victims in conformity with Palermo Protocol, based on experience gained by the UAE at local and international levels. Such amendments include the following:

1. Informing the victim and the witness of their legal rights, in a language understood to them, and allow them express their legal and social needs.
2. Providing health examinations and psychological or physical treatment for victims where necessary
3. Admitting the victim into one of the Ewa’a shelters or any other approved entity, should the need arise
4. Providing necessary security protection for the victim and any witnesses, whenever needed
5. Allowing the victim and any witnesses to stay in UAE, should the investigation or trial so require, based on an order issued by the public prosecution or the court
6. The court may delegate an attorney for the victim, upon request, and bear attorney fees. The decision of the court, in this regard, shall be final, whereas attorney fees shall be paid under a certificate issued by the court.

## Other relevant legislations:

### Federal Law No (9) of 2018 on Anti-Begging

This law aims at protecting the society from crimes related to beggary, and combating mendicancy crimes, organized beggars, as well as taking preventive measures. This objective is consistent with the Law on Combating Human Trafficking, which considers begging as a form of exploitation.

### Federal Law No (10) of 2017 on Domestic Workers

The provisions of this law apply to recruitment and hiring of workers whose occupations are listed in the table attached to the law, and concerned parties as well. The table includes 19 occupations: Servant, Sailor, Guard, Shepherd, Horse keeper, Jockey, Falconer, Worker, Housemaid, Cook, Nanny, Farmer, Gardener, Personal Trainer, Private Teacher, Private Nurse, Special Representative, Special Agricultural Engineer, and Personal Driver.

The law prohibits discrimination among workers on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, verbal or physical sexual harassment of workers, forced labour or carrying out any work defined as human trafficking under UAE national laws and ratified international conventions. The law stipulates that this category of workers shall be protected by signing employment contracts according to the template approved by MOHRE, which provides for many rights such as provision of appropriate housing, annual leave, and end-of-service benefits.

Penalties for violation of the law's provisions on discrimination and violence against domestic workers include fines of not less than 50,000 dirhams. This is besides any other more severe penalties stipulated by any other law.

The Executive Regulations of the Act, issued by Cabinet Resolution No. (22) 2019, also grant domestic workers the right to leave their employment while retaining full rights where they are subjected to any circumstances or practices that might lead to becoming a victim of forced labour or trafficking. The resolution stipulates that the worker shall have the right to leave the workplace without any consequences in case the employer violated their contractual obligations, or if the employer or their representative assaulted, or insulted the worker using any form of physical abuse. The regulation

obliges TADBEER centers to receive and shelter the worker, and assist with alternative job opportunities if requested.

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

The UAE has enacted this law with the aim of regulating human organs and tissue transplantation. The most important provisions prohibit trafficking in human organs and tissues, protect the rights of persons to whom organs or tissues are transferred, and prevents exploitation of the patient or donor's needs.

### Federal Decree - Law No (5) of 2012 on Combating Cybercrimes, as amended by Federal Decree –Law No (12) of 2016

Article (23) of this law stipulates that "Whoever establishes, administers, or runs a website or publishes information on a computer network or any means of information technology for the purpose of trafficking in humans or human organs or dealing in them illegally, shall be punished by temporary imprisonment, with a fine of not less than AED 500,000 and not exceeding AED1,000,000, or either of these two penalties.

There are also many other laws and regulations to support Combating Human Trafficking, such as the Federal Penal Code, Federal Law No (3) 2016 concerning Child Rights (Wadeema's Law), and Federal Law No. (4) 2002 on Criminalization of Money Laundering and Combatting Terrorism Financing, as amended, and UAE Federal Law No. (8) 1980 on Regulating Labour Relations, as amended.



**Human development is the ultimate objective that we are making every effort to achieve**

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan,  
President of the United Arab Emirates

### Imposing Strict Measures to Confiscate Funds Generated from Human Trafficking

The UAE issued the “National Money Laundering Risk Assessment” in 2019, to prioritize investigations in several crimes, including human trafficking, as well as to impose strict measures to trace illicit funds generated from or used to carry out these crimes and to confiscate them.

The growing interest in detecting and confiscating illicit funds generated from human trafficking has a significant impact on preventing such crime from spreading, as the crime becomes less profitable for traffickers.



## Third Pillar: Punishment



## Human Trafficking Cases

In 2019, the UAE Courts addressed a number of human trafficking cases under Federal Law No. (51) 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes as amended by Federal Law No. (1) 2015. Details of cases referred by the Federal and Local Public Prosecutor Offices to competent courts in the UAE can be found in the data mentioned in the table below

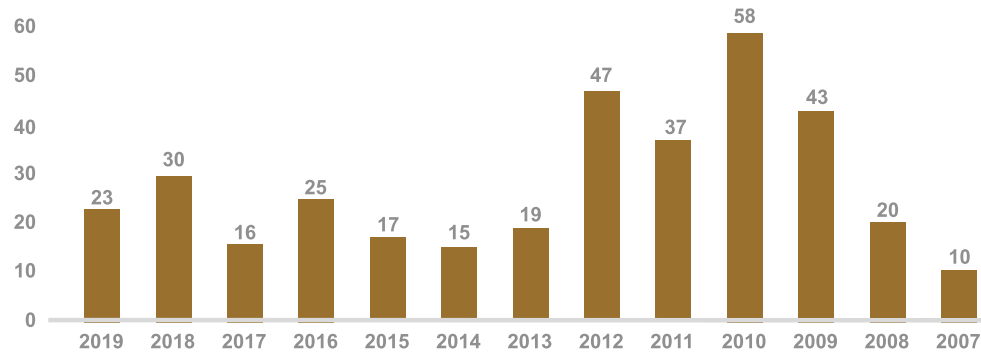
Human Trafficking Cases in 2018						
Emirate	Total Cases	Case	Forms of Exploitation	Victims	Accused	Verdict
Abu Dhabi	5	First	Sexual	1	2	Ten years imprisonment, and deportation against the first accused, 6 months imprisonment and deportation against the second accused
		Second	Sexual	1	2	Ten years imprisonment, and deportation from UAE
		Third	Sexual + Selling	1	2	Under Court Consideration
		Fourth	Sexual	1	2	Five years imprisonment, and deportation from UAE
		Fifth	Sexual	1	3	Under Court Consideration
Dubai	7	First	Sexual	4	5	Five years imprisonment, confiscation of seized items, and deportation from UAE
		Second	Sexual	1	3	Seven years imprisonment, confiscation of seized items, and deportation from UAE
		Third	Sexual	1	1	Under Court Consideration
		Fourth	Sexual	1	3	Under Court Consideration
		Fifth	Sexual	1	3	Under Court Consideration
		Sixth	Sexual	1	5	Under Court Consideration

		Seventh	Selling	1	7	Under Court Consideration
Sharjah	5	First	Sexual	2	1	Under Court Consideration
		Second	Sexual	1	1	Six months imprisonment, and deportation from UAE
		Third	Sexual	1	4	Fifteen years imprisonment, and deportation from UAE against first and second accused
		Fourth	Sexual	4	1	Fifteen years imprisonment, and deportation from UAE after serving the punishment, confiscation of seized items, and closing the premises
		Fifth	Child Selling	1	1	Three years imprisonment, a fine of AED 100,000, and six months in jail
Ajman	4	First	Sexual	9	3	Five years imprisonment, and deportation from UAE
		Second	Sexual	1	4	Five years imprisonment, and deportation from UAE
		Third	Sexual	1	3	Five years imprisonment, and deportation from UAE after serving the punishment
		Fourth	Sexual	2	1	Three years imprisonment, and deportation from UAE
Ras Al Khaimah	1	First	Sexual	3	9	Under Court Consideration
Umm al-Quwain	1	First	Sexual	1	1	Life imprisonment, and deportation from UAE
Fujairah	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>-</b>

Table of Human Trafficking Cases in 2019/ Source: Federal and Local Public Prosecution Offices

These results show the impact of the awareness and training programs conducted by the NCCHT in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. They are also the result of strengthening international cooperation efforts at bilateral and multilateral levels. They have also had a significant impact in reducing human trafficking cases in the UAE. The following chart refers to the official numbers of human trafficking cases in the UAE.

### Human Trafficking Cases Diagram



Source: Federal and Local Public Prosecutor Offices



## Fourth Pillar: Protection of Victims

Protection of victims is one of the most important strategic and fundamental pillars in handling human trafficking cases in the UAE. Several institutions and shelters for victims have been established to deal with them professionally. The centers are Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking, Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC) and Aman Center for Women and Children.

These institutions and centers receive human trafficking victims from around the UAE. They also implement a number of programs specifically designed to provide necessary support urgently and fairly without discrimination against any race or gender. A package of services is provided to victims of trafficking in the UAE, starting from the time when victims are received through their embassies, worship places, direct contact, or through law enforcement agencies, until their departure. These services begin after introducing the below-mentioned care and shelter houses for victims of human trafficking. Three basic options are offered to victims: Repatriation to their home countries; their residence status modified to be able to work in the UAE; or relocated to an alternative homeland in coordination with international organizations.

Institutions and Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking play a key role in the voluntary and safe return of victims or their reintegration into UAE society. The centres can help them find work and modify their legal status to remain in the UAE, or cooperate and coordinate with NCCHT and other bodies such as foreign embassies and relevant international organizations to enable them to return safely to their home country, or to an alternative homeland. Institutions and Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in UAE communicate with victims for a period of six months to one year to ensure their safety.

## Institutions and Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in UAE

### Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking

In 2008, Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking were established to serve under the umbrella of UAE Red Crescent. However, under Guidance Document No. 164 issued by the Executive Council at the end of 2015, Ewa'a Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking is currently under direct supervision of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, President of the General Women's Union, President of the Family Development Foundation, and Director of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood. For more details about the Center, please visit [www.shwc.ae](http://www.shwc.ae).

### Dubai Foundation for Women and Children

In 2007, the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children was established by the decree of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai. The Foundation is the first authorized non-profit humanitarian house in the UAE for women and children who are victims of domestic violence and child abuse. It also provides shelter and care for victims of human trafficking. For more details about the foundation, please visit [www.dfwac.ae](http://www.dfwac.ae).

### Aman Shelter for Women and Children

On February 15, 2017, Aman Shelter for Women and Children was inaugurated by an 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. The shelter protects victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and domestic or social violence in accordance with applicable laws and regulations in UAE. Victims are provided with immediate protection services and support. For more information about Aman Shelter for Women and Children please visit [aman.rak.ae](http://aman.rak.ae).

## Services Provided by Institutions and Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking

### Healthcare Services:

The Institutions and Ewa'a Shelters provide free healthcare services for victims in cooperation with health authorities. Shelters provide nurses or supervisors who organize appointments with medical clinics and hospitals. This also includes supervising medication dispensing, accompanying victims on medical appointments at clinics, and accompanying victims to hospital, if necessary, as well as organizing workshops on public health.



Awareness workshop for victims of human trafficking crimes related to public health

### Social Services:

Institutions and Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking also provide social services by professional social workers, who are responsible for conducting social case studies on victims. They identify the entire history of the crime in all its physical, psychological, verbal and sexual forms. They also learn the childhood and family history of the victims. Social workers set individual support plans in conjunction with supporting bodies and relevant embassies to ensure the safety of victims after leaving the UAE. Social workers in UAE Ewa'a Shelters continue communicating with victims for six months to one year after leaving the UAE, in order to check on their welfare to ensure they not exposed to human trafficking in the future.

### Psychological support:

Psychological support is provided to victims who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through individual and group psychotherapy sessions, support groups, and play therapy for children. This service package is provided by well-qualified, trained and licensed specialists.

### Legal Services:

Legal Services include legal advice and representation of victims, including ensuring any residence visa penalties incurred by victims are cancelled, obtaining identity documents from concerned embassies, and explaining victims' legal right to civil compensation for any physical and psychological suffering they may have experienced. Litigation services are provided free of charge. Institutions and Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking seek to establish partnerships with law firms to claim compensation for material and moral injury inflicted on victims as a result of human trafficking.



Exchange of experiences in the field of legal services between the Federal Prosecution and Ewa'a Center

### Rehabilitation & Training Programs:

Institutions and Shelters in the UAE implement numerous educational, rehabilitation, and professional programs for victims in collaboration with private sector companies, hotels and organizations. These training courses include computer literacy, foreign languages, knitting and embroidery, drawing and painting, flower arrangement, cosmetology and esthetics as well as hotel catering. Participants receive accredited certificates to support them in obtaining jobs in the future, whether inside or outside the UAE.



Training program provided by a hotel for victims of human trafficking crimes

### Entertainment programs

Institutions and Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking also provide indoor and outdoor entertainment programs. These programs help break the fear barrier among victims in dealing with community groups normally, because of the harsh experiences they have gone through. Ewa'a Shelters in the UAE organize recreational trips to gardens, parks, cinemas and other public places for victims. Different sports classes are also held, public events and holidays such as national day and religious holidays are celebrated, and gifts or cash awards granted in order to improve their state of wellbeing.

## **NCCHT Resolution and Initiatives on Protection of Victims:**

To enhance protection of victims, the NCCHT has issued Resolution No. (7) 2010 concerning the Regulatory Procedures for Dealing with Human Trafficking Victims among Competent Authorities in the UAE. These procedures are designed to support and protect victims at all stages, including through police and public prosecution departments and during search and investigation, through to the time when victims arrive at shelters across the UAE.

The NCCHT has also issued Resolution No. (8/21) 2010 concerning Ethical Standards for Media Entities Upon Conducting Interviews with Human Trafficking Victims. It sets out a consolidated ethical standard to be observed by various media outlets – television, radio, websites, newspapers and other publications – particularly with regard to protecting victims and ensuring their privacy. Media professionals or journalists shall not have the right to interview victims unless they are referred by a court. Moreover, media professionals or journalists shall maintain confidentiality, and obtain written consent from victims.

Other rules for media include taking into consideration the psychological condition of victims, the requirement for a social worker to be present during the interview, and victims' desire not to disclose any information should be respected. Questions must be submitted in advance, and media outlets are forbidden from interviewing child victims.

### **Human Trafficking Victims Support Fund**

The Human Trafficking Victims Support Fund is one of the most important initiatives of the NCCHT. The Fund was established by the NCCHT Resolution No. (7/32) 2014.

Businesses and charitable and humanitarian organizations provide financial contributions to this fund, which aims to help victims of human trafficking before they leave the UAE, to ensure that they are provided with financial assistance, can open a small private investment project, complete their education, or enroll in language courses.

Additionally, they are assisted to reduce or eliminate debts in their home countries, or other matters that contribute to their future financial independence. This helps ensure that victims are not re-trafficked again, since financial barriers, destitution and poverty are among the root causes of victim exploitation in these cases. The Fund has made significant contributions to supporting many victims who have been repatriated or resettled in other home countries.

The total value of assistance provided by the fund since its inception is around AED970,200 (more than US\$260,000). In 2019, the National Committee was able to disburse around AED 207,500 to victims of human trafficking who were present at Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in the UAE.



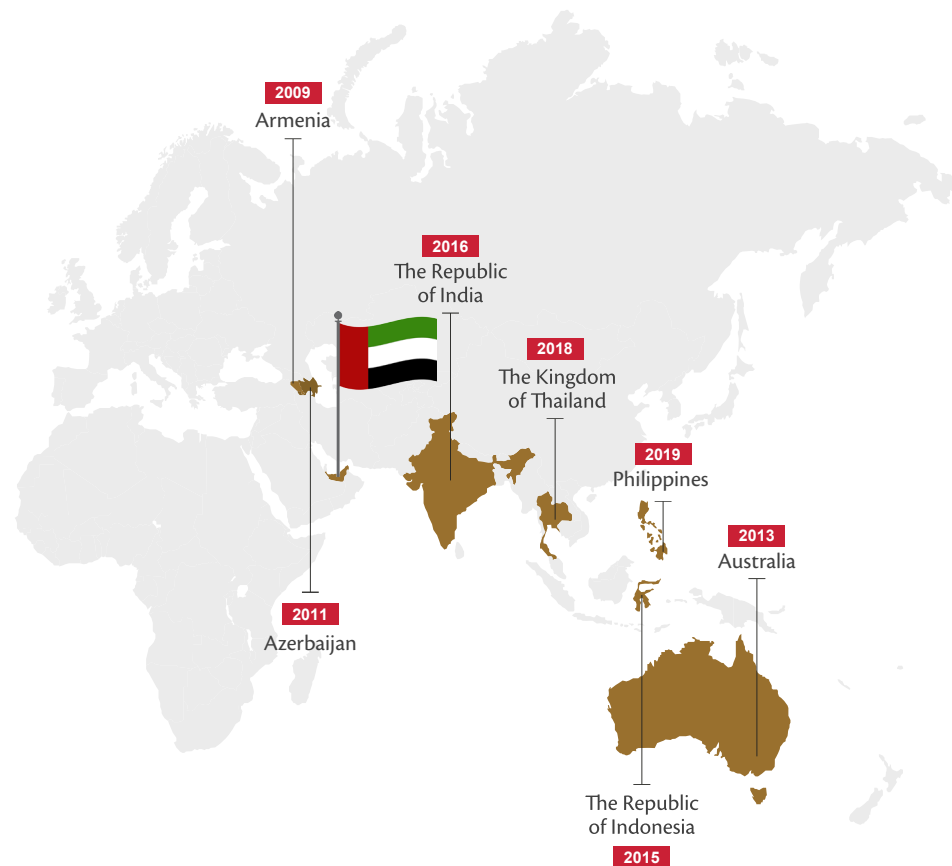
# **Fifth Pillar: Promotion of International Cooperation**

Human trafficking is a heinous crime that violates human dignity. It is one of the most serious challenges facing all countries, whether at origin, transit or destination, due to its complicated nature as a transnational organized crime. Thus, strenuous bilateral and multilateral efforts are essential to confront this scourge.

The UAE Government believes it is necessary for all countries to work together to fulfill their international obligations to combat this crime. Therefore it acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention 2000), in April 2007. This Convention includes provisions for promoting international cooperation as part of the global efforts to combat human trafficking. In 2009, the UAE acceded to the supplementary United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.

### Bilateral Cooperation

As part of the NCCHT's endeavor to implement its national strategy and promote international cooperation, the UAE has signed a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with countries to combat human trafficking and protect victims. The MOUs identify the frameworks and areas of cooperation, focusing on information and experience-sharing. These countries are shown below on the map.



Signing the memorandum of understanding between the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of the Philippines

### Activation of Memoranda of Understanding

In accordance with the terms of the MOU on cooperation in combating human trafficking crimes and protecting its victims, signed between UAE and Republic of Indonesia, the second meeting of the joint committee between the two countries was held in October 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia to activate the MOU. In the meeting, the two parties agreed to boost cooperation, combat human trafficking by organizing joint awareness campaigns, and organizing training courses for law enforcement, judiciary, prosecutors and Ewa'a shelters in cooperation with specialized agencies of the United Nations. A joint workshop on how to identify and protect victims was held on the sidelines of the meeting.

The NCCHT has also activated similar MOUs with the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Thailand in Abu Dhabi. The parties discussed mechanisms for identifying and protecting victims of human trafficking in these countries and agreed to continue strengthening cooperation in the field of training and qualification of personnel, particularly border crossing and passport control staff, as well as airline representatives and others in the private sector.



Activating the MOU between the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Indonesia

### Cooperation with Labour Exporting Countries

In 2019, the MOHRE signed more than thirteen MOUs on private sector employment and cooperation protocols in the field of domestic workers with a number of Asian and African labour-exporting countries. These MOUs and protocols regulate mechanisms of cooperation in the field of labour mobility. They also include conditions for strengthening cooperation to combat all practices that may contribute to forced labour and human trafficking while ensuring full protection. Additionally, there are provisions on conducting training programs to raise awareness of workers, inform them of their legal rights mentioned in their employment contracts, and guide them to take action when any violation case occurs against them, or when disputes arise with their employers.

### Multilateral Cooperation

As part of its cooperation with the UN on combating human trafficking, the UAE received the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2009, and welcomed the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in 2012. The UAE was a co-founder of the “Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking” in 2010, which held its first meeting on the sidelines of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly. The Group aims to strengthen the role of the United Nations in coordinating and consolidating efforts globally to help combat human trafficking.

### Abu Dhabi Dialogue

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue - a voluntary consultative mechanism between sending and receiving countries - was launched in 2008 to discuss the protection of workers and to enhance their participation in the development efforts of all countries involved in the dialogue.

Abu Dhabi Dialogue has many achievements, including the development and implementation of a comprehensive orientation program for mobile workers with the participation of six countries. The program includes the identification of gaps in worker awareness efforts in the countries participating in the project; training relevant staff and stakeholders; and then transferring this expertise to a wider network via training operations in participating countries.

Recently, the 5th Ministerial Consultation of Abu Dhabi Dialogue, held in October 2019, saw the launch of an electronic recruitment platform between the UAE and the Republic of India. The platform aims to strengthen joint inter-governmental control on movement to work policy, in order to ensure elimination of negative practices sometimes associated with the recruitment process, which can lead to worker vulnerability and forced labour or trafficking, via deception in employment contracts and debt bondage.

### External Participation

The UAE became a member of the Bali Process in 2013. The Bali Process is a regional forum to discuss politics, share experiences and information and activate cooperation to help countries in the region confront people smuggling, human trafficking and transnational organized crime. The Forum brings together 48 countries and a number of relevant international organizations. The UAE participated in the 14th Bali Process meeting of Senior Officials held in July 2019, in Vietnam.

The NCCHT also participated in the Government Forum to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Middle East, organized by the Kingdom of Bahrain in October 2019. The Forum brought together representatives from a number of Gulf countries and the Arab region, as well as from the United States of America, the Kingdom of Britain and several international organizations involved in combating this crime. The Forum provided an opportunity to share experiences on combating human trafficking from regional perspective.

A delegation from the NCCHT participated in the 8th periodic meeting of the Working Group on Human Trafficking held on 9-11 September 2019 at the United Nations headquarters in Vienna. The UAE presented a statement on the measures and actions taken by the UAE to address this crime and educate diplomats in particular and society in general about its dangers.

A delegation from the Ministry of Interior also participated at INTERPOL's 7th Global Conference on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling in Argentina (Buenos Aires), which aimed to

strengthen cooperation between all law enforcement agencies and specialized units. The conference covered border security, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, crimes against children, and the work of regional and international organizations, the private sector, and civil society organizations.



Participation of members of NCCHT in the government forum to Combat Human trafficking in the Middle East in Bahrain

# Conclusion

The UAE has in place a wide range of policies and practices that enable it combat human trafficking firmly and effectively. It adheres to its international obligations, works in partnership with the UN, and works tirelessly with nations involved in the movement of labour to stamp out the insidious practice that is human trafficking. Concrete results include increased awareness of the dangers of this crime, better support and facilities for victims, and a continued reduction in the number of human trafficking cases uncovered in the UAE.

Human trafficking is in contravention of religious, cultural, and social teachings, and requires continued and persistent endeavors in coordination with the international community. The UAE reaffirms its commitment at national and international levels to combat human trafficking by working with partners to liberate victims from the constraints of exploitation that degrade their human dignity.



### Freedom is a right of every person:

Each individual enjoys the freedom of belief, thought, expression and action. The pluralism and the diversity of religions, colour, sex, race and language are willed by God in His wisdom, through which He created human beings. This divine wisdom is the source from which the right to freedom of belief and the freedom to be different derives. Therefore, the fact that people are forced to adhere to a certain religion or culture must be rejected, as too the imposition of a cultural way of life that others do not accept.

The Human Fraternity Document



### الحرية حق لكل إنسان

اعتقاداً وفكراً وتعبيراً وممارسة، وأن التعددية والاختلاف في الدين واللون والجنس والعرق واللغة حكمة لمشيئة إلهية، قد خلق الله البشر عليها، وجعلها أصلاً ثابتاً تتفرع عنه حقوق الاعتقاد، وحرية الاختلاف، وتجريم إكراه الناس على دين بعينه أو ثقافة محددة، أو فرض أسلوب حضاري لا يقبله الآخر.

وثيقة الأخوة الإنسانية