

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
اللجنة الوطنية لمكافحة
الاتجار بالبشر

COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING CRIMES

In The United Arab Emirates

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Chairman's message



The UAE has always been committed to stepping up its national efforts to deter and combat human trafficking crimes, while also highlighting such efforts at the regional and international levels to combine national and international efforts in the fight against such transnational organized crime.

Since launching its anti-human trafficking campaign in 2006, the UAE has taken several steps to strengthen its position in this field. In terms of legislation, the UAE was one of the first countries in the region to issue laws criminalizing human trafficking crimes, including Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes, as amended by Federal Law No. (1) of 2015.

This law aligns with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) for 2000 (Palermo Convention), which the UAE is part of, and the Annexed Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

The UAE has also set up the "National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking" (NCCHT) to coordinate national efforts and implement human trafficking-related initiatives and programs.

The NCCHT implements its mandate under the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, which was adopted in 2012, in line with the national legislation and internation-

al conventions on combating such crime. The strategy is supported by five pillars, including prevention, prosecution, punishment, protection of victims, and strengthening international cooperation.

Over the course of last year (2021), the committee has made outstanding efforts on all levels to combat this scourge. Locally, it expanded the implementation of training programs held in association with United Nations offices by involving more participants from regional countries; while globally, it has signed 8 memoranda of understanding to enhance international cooperation in combating this particular crime.

Following the spread of the "Covid-19" pandemic, which increased the challenges facing the international community, especially with regard to protecting potential human trafficking victims from being exploited by criminal organizations, the UAE has redoubled its national and international efforts and made the most of all available resources and technologies to limit the negative repercussions of the pandemic.

Therefore, the NCCHT has cooperated with local and international partners to launch awareness-raising and prevention programs and has effectively dealt with the pandemic's threats, particularly to the health of victims. It has also developed various rehabilitation and care programs to support the psychological stability of victims without discrimination.

The UAE will forever remain fully committed to adopting transparency principles, and in light of this, the Committee has taken it upon itself since 2007 to prepare this report every year in order to highlight the country's efforts made to uphold human dignity, and share its experiences with local, regional, and international partners.

Abdullah bin Sultan Al Nuaimi

Minister of Justice

Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking

The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking Overview

The National Committee for Combatting Human Trafficking (NCCHT) was established in 2007 pursuant to Cabinet Resolution No. (15) of 2007. The NCCHT aims to consolidate national efforts, facilitate coordination between relevant stakeholders and overcome obstacles to help combat this crime. According to Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes, the committee has numerous mandates, including:

1. Developing a comprehensive national strategy to combat human trafficking; and drawing up necessary plans, programs, and mechanisms for its implementation in coordination with competent authorities.
2. Revising and updating human trafficking legislation in accordance with international standards in order to support and protect victims and witnesses.
3. Establishing a database of international laws, human trafficking methodologies, and associated human trafficking studies.
4. Preparing reports on the UAE's anti-human trafficking efforts in collaboration with relevant national authorities.
5. Reviewing international, regional, and local reports on human trafficking prevention and taking necessary measures and procedures accordingly.
6. Coordinating with competent authorities and entities to protect and support human trafficking victims by involving them in care and rehabilitation programs to facilitate their reintegration into society in accordance with individual needs and basic human rights.
7. Raising public awareness about human trafficking issues.
8. Organizing conferences, seminars, pamphlets, and training programs, among others, to realize the committee's goals.
9. Participating along with the UAE's concerned authorities in international conferences of relevance to combating human trafficking and conveying the State's Vision during international ceremonies.

- 10. Establishing effective systems for identifying victims of human trafficking crimes.
- 11. Carrying out any other tasks related to combating human trafficking as requested.

The committee is made up of 19 members representing various government entities, public prosecutions, and civil society institutions, including:

The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking

- | | |
|---|---|
| ● Ministry of Justice | ● Ras Al Khaimah Public Prosecution |
| ● Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation | ● The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security |
| ● Ministry of Interior | ● UAE Central Bank |
| ● Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation | ● Abu Dhabi Center for Sheltering and Humanitarian Care |
| ● Ministry of State for Federal National Council Affairs | ● Dubai Foundation for Women and Children |
| ● Ministry of Health and Prevention | ● Aman Shelter For Women and Children |
| ● Ministry of Community Development | ● National Human Rights Committee |
| ● UAE Public Prosecution | ● Emirates Association for Human Rights |
| ● Abu Dhabi Public Prosecution | ● Emirates Red Crescent |
| ● Dubai Public Prosecution | |

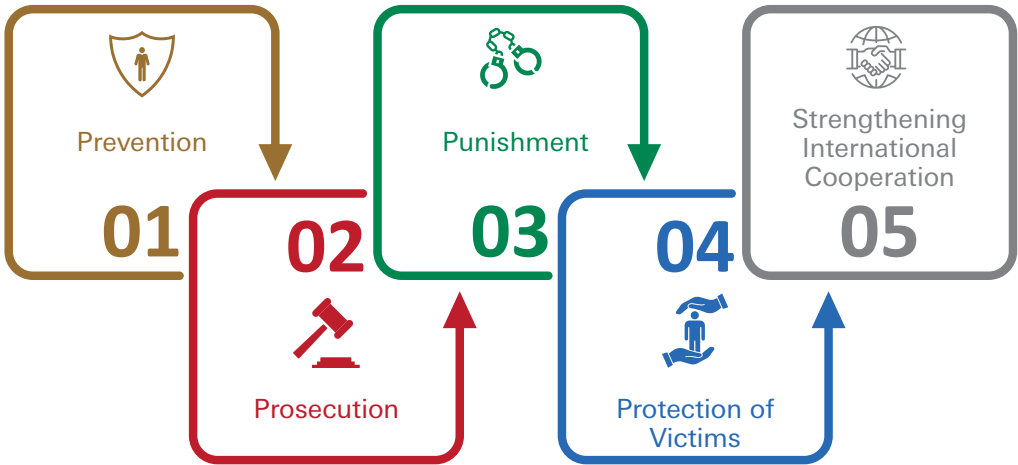


2021

The NCCHT

Strategy “5Ps”

The NCCHT implements its mandate under the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, which was adopted in 2012 in line with the national legislations, and international conventions on combating such crime. The Five pillars of the Strategy, as follows :



This report indicates the UAE's efforts made to combat human trafficking crimes according to the five pillars.



First Pillar: Prevention



- Institutional Frameworks and Mechanisms to Combat Human Trafficking Crimes.
- Awareness Programs for the Community and Groups Most Vulnerable to Human Trafficking.
- Training and Capacity Building Programs.
- Protection and Promotion of Labours and Domestic Workers' Rights.
- Border Control Security Measures.
- Complaints and Suggestions Mechanisms.

Institutional frameworks and mechanisms to combat human trafficking crimes

The UAE has established committees and structural units in relevant government entities to complement the crucial role played by the National Committee. The structural units coordinate with law enforcement entities and Public Prosecutions to recognize human traffickers and follow up on investigations of human trafficking crimes. These Committees and structural units include:

Federal and local public prosecutions

The UAE Public Prosecution has exclusive rights to initiate and file criminal cases based on its institutional framework and Article (7) of the UAE Criminal Procedures Law of 1992 and its amendments. This is in addition to its basic responsibilities, which include raising public awareness of human trafficking dangers.

Recognizing the importance of the public prosecution role in combating such an illegal and unethical practice, and based on the recommendations of the National Anti-Trafficking Committee, the Public Prosecution has established special taskforces to investigate, act, and follow up on human trafficking cases, develop studies and statistics related to this crime, and organize training courses on the dimensions of this crime.

Ministry of the Interior and Police Commands

The Ministry of Interior's structure includes several departments, which significantly contribute to supervising, coordinating, and following up on human trafficking cases. These departments feature:

- **Federal Investigation Department:** This department coordinates with other anti-human trafficking departments and branches in all police commands in the country to investigate cases, develop anti-human trafficking plans and policies based on official reports and cases that have been dealt with, in addition to organizing training and awareness programs to improve the skill set of employees, thus better confronting this crime.
- **Federal Security Information Department:** The center is responsible for inventorying data and information on all crimes committed in the country, particularly those involving human trafficking. Such crimes are recorded using cutting-edge techniques that can make it easier to follow up on cases from the stage of collecting evidence to the moment of issuing judicial rulings.
- **Coordinating Committee to Combat Human Trafficking Crimes:** Members of the committee include officials from the Ministry of Interior, local police commands, security institutions and bodies concerned with border and passport control. During its meet-

ings, the committee coordinates efforts and suggests potential solutions to overcome various challenges facing competent authorities while carrying out their duties to combat human trafficking. This is in addition to identifying and providing annual training for police personnel to improve their skills and better battle all forms of human trafficking crimes.

Earlier in 2009, Dubai police set up a “Human Trafficking Crimes Control Centre” to combat human trafficking and provide strategic solutions and recommendations to strengthen preventive measures and curb the prevalence of this crime. The center also offers many training and awareness programs for Dubai police officers as well as other stakeholders and also hosts customer-oriented lectures and awareness campaigns.

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

Awareness programmes 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.

Despite the global spread of the “Covid-19” pandemic, and the subsequent challenges that obstructed human trafficking-combating efforts, the UAE strived to overcome these challenges and lessen their impact on its preventive measures, by making the most of all available technical programs and launching several awareness campaigns and programs, targeting the public in general and potential victims in particular. Below are some programs implemented in this regard:

Awareness Programs Statistics (2021)

| Entity | Program Content | Awareness Activity | Targeted Audience | Total Beneficiaries |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| UAE Public Prosecution | Articles related to Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes as well as forms of exploitation in human trafficking crimes | Awareness materials for social media | Public Audience | 44552 views |
| Ministry of Interior | Educating domestic workers on their rights and obligations as well as the UAE's laws against human trafficking | Lectures and awareness brochures | Domestic workers | 46 |
| | Enhancing workers' awareness of human trafficking risks and consequences | Lectures and awareness brochures | Workers | 300 |
| | Organizing a series of awareness lectures on human trafficking crimes and how to protect victims | Lectures and awareness brochures | Hotel staff | 80 |
| Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation | Tawjeeh center educated workers on their rights and duties, as well as how to file complaints when there are signs of human trafficking | Lectures | Workers | 1,924,317 |
| | Explaining topics related to human rights and trafficking | Training workshops | Domestic workers | 8,965 |
| Dubai Foundation For Women and Children | Briefing on human trafficking crime (in five languages) | Lectures | Workers in distribution centers for goods and products) | 10 |
| | | Pamphlets, posters, radio materials | Public Audience | 1000 |
| | | Lectures and awareness brochures | Students and staff of Zayed University | 23 |
| | Networking program for embassies educates to educate their staff about human trafficking crime and how to help victims through shelter (Ewa'a) centers. | Workshops | Members of foreign missions in the UAE | 62 |
| | The annual media campaign coinciding with the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons | Awareness materials for social media | Public Audience | 4243 |
| | | | | |
| Aman Shelter For Women and Children | "No to Human Trafficking" campaign In conjunction with World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, July 30th | Virtual Dialogue sessions | Public audience | 72 |
| | Online campaign "You Matter to Us" | Lectures and awareness brochures | Public Audience | 1000 |
| | "For Human Dignity" initiative | Lectures and awareness brochures | Beauty centers staff | 236 |
| Total Beneficiaries | | | | 1,984,906 |



Training and Capacity Building Programs

Every year; and as part of its efforts to combat human trafficking, the NCCHT launches a series of training and rehabilitation programs specifically for specialists fighting this crime. These programs are considered top priorities to the NCCHT and aim to prepare qualified elite of employees. Staff are provided with the necessary scientific and practical skills to strengthen UAE's efforts on combating human trafficking and ensuring protection for victims.

Over the course of last year (2021), the UAE organized a number of face-to-face and virtual training courses as well as workshops focusing on how to overcome the repercussions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Training Programs Statistics (2021)

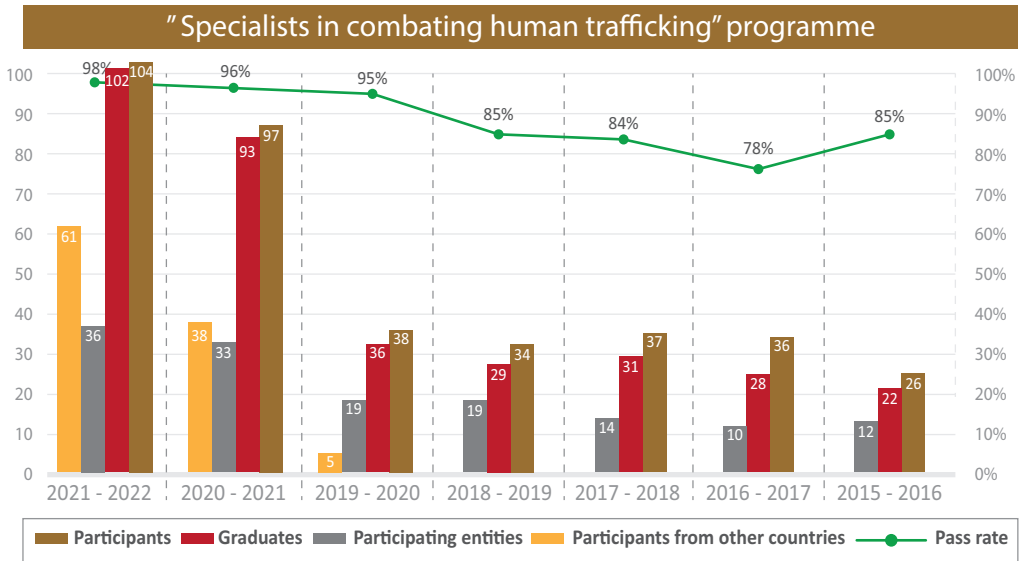
| Entity | Program Content | Target Audience | Total Beneficiaries |
|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| NCHT in cooperation with Dubai Police | Specialists in combating human trafficking programme | Different entities | 102 |
| Abu Dhabi Judicial Department | Training courses on combating human trafficking crimes | Judges and Prosecutors | 1338 |
| Ministry of Interior | Specialized human trafficking courses Human rights guarantee during the stage of collecting evidence for human trafficking crimes The role of law enforcement officers in combating human trafficking | Policemen and inspectors | 3016 |
| Dubai Police | A series of training courses on human trafficking | Policemen | 412 |
| Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization | A series of specialized raining courses on relevant legislation and decisions related to fighting human trafficking | Inspectors | 337 |
| Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship | A series of courses on how to scrutinize travel documents, uncover fraud, and fight trafficking crimes | Border crossing staff | 256 |
| Total Beneficiaries | | | 5461 |

Combating Human Trafficking Specialist Program

The NCCHT launched the ‘Specialists in Combating Human Trafficking’ program in 2015. This program is the first of its kind in the Arab region and was particularly designed to address human trafficking crimes. The Human Trafficking Crimes Control Centre at Dubai Police usually hosts the five-month programme in cooperation with the Dubai Judicial Institute and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The program has evolved into one of the good practices adopted by the committee to boost the capabilities of participants representing various sectors. It provides participants with a platform to share their experiences, adopt and implement the most effective local, national, and international practices in this respect, while also addressing the difficulties facing specialists in their fight against human trafficking crimes.

Based on the recommendations issued by the Government Forum against Trafficking in Persons in the Middle East, which was hosted by Bahrain, many GCC and Arab officials were invited to take part in the program, to review their countries’ experiences in combating human trafficking and enrich the programme discussions. Below are some statistics and details about the programme graduates.



Protection and Promotion of Labors and Domestic Workers' Rights

The UAE is committed to creating a balanced labor market and protecting the rights of both employees and employers. Therefore, it has issued the Federal Law No. (8) of 1980 on regulation of Labour Relations and Federal Law No. (10) of 2017 on Domestic Workers (which also covers housemaids).

In implementation of these laws, the UAE has adopted a set of policies to protect expat workers from the risk of becoming victims of human trafficking in all its forms and manifestations, especially exploiting such groups for the purpose of forced labour or services. These policies include:

Contract Transparency Policy

Under the Ministerial Decree No. 764 of 2015 on Ministry of Labour-Approved Standard of Employment Contracts, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE) obliges employers to send copies of employment contracts to employees while still in their home countries in both Arabic and one of the approved languages they can understand, totaling 11.

More languages are currently in the process of being included in cooperation and coordination with labor-exporting countries. According to the decree, employment terms, conditions, and circumstances must be explicitly stated in employment contracts to guarantee workers fully understand them before departing from the country of origin.

The ministerial decree aims to protect workers against contract fraud, a practice that usually begins outside the UAE by non-UAE-based recruitment agencies hiring workers from their home countries.

The UAE also obliges recruitment agencies operating overseas to obtain the worker's signature and fingerprint on the contract, which will later be retrieved from MOHRE's electronic system, to be signed and approved as an official employment contract.

Additionally, the ministry prohibits amending or changing the terms of any signed contract unless the new privileges are in favor of workers. These measures are necessary to ensure that workers are not taken advantage of or misled as to any provision of the contract before or after arriving to work in the country.

Furthermore, the ministry has developed a standard employment contract that all business owners are obliged to conclude with all domestic workers, irrespective of their nationalities or skills. In addition to safeguarding workers from gender-based violence and other discriminatory practices, the contract contains provisions granting workers a set of fundamental rights, including annual leave, daily and weekly

breaks, travel tickets, cash allowances, sick leaves, salary, and end-of-service gratuity. The contract also includes provisions to ensure protection from any violence or discrimination.

Tawjeeh Centers: The Policy of Briefing Workers on Their Rights

MOHRE, in cooperation with the private sector, has established specialized centers under the name of “Tawjeeh” to educate workers about their rights.

Tawjeeh Centers are responsible for promoting workers’ awareness of their rights and duties at work in detail, including working hours, overtime, leave entitlements, how to calculate additional wages, and end-of-service gratuity. In addition, they explain health and safety requirements to avoid any work risks and introduce workers to the UAE culture.

MOHRE also requires employment contracts to be signed and handed over to workers inside these centers. Employment contracts or renewal approvals are granted to workers registered in the MOHRE’s system following the completion of an awareness course in their preferred language among 16 available languages.

Tadbeer Centers: The Policy of Regulating the Recruitment of Domestic Workers

MOHRE has set up a number of centers named “Tadbeer Centers” all over the country to regulate the recruitment of domestic workers under the supervision of the Ministry. These centers are provided with electronic systems that facilitate the process of following up on all operations carried out there. Tadbeer centers were introduced as alternatives to traditional recruitment offices, but are given more tasks, such as training and educating domestic workers about their rights and duties, in addition to providing them with adequate housing and hosting them when necessary.

Labour Market Liberalization (or Labour Market Flexibility)

MOHRE’s two resolutions No. (765) and (766) of 2015 address the issue of restricting workers’ freedom to move from one company to another by allowing workers to terminate the contractual relationship and move to another employer once certain criteria are met. The two resolutions clarify procedures for granting workers a new work permit to work for another facility at the end of the contractual relationship. Workers shall also have the right to terminate their employment and leave the UAE at any time under such resolutions.

The executive regulations of the Federal Law on Domestic Workers, approved by the Cabinet Resolution No. (22) of 2019, grant domestic workers the right to leave work while retaining all their rights in cases where the employer reduces the worker’s salary below the wage agreed upon in the contract or fails to meet his obliga-

tions under the contract. This regulation also grants workers the right to leave their workplace immediately without notice and report to Tadbeer centers if they face any physical or verbal abuse or sexual harassment by their employers.

Securing Worker Entitlements Policy

To protect labours and domestic workers from circumstances that may lead them to becoming victims of forced labour, especially when an employer fails to pay their dues, MOHRE has launched a new system to secure workers' entitlements. The system is applicable to all expat employees in private and domestic worker sectors.

Under the new system, employers shall 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 gratuity, work injury compensation and expenses for returning to the country of origin if the worker wishes to leave the UAE.

AED 60 per year insurance policies

Insurance policy provides coverage for private sector employees against:

- Unpaid end of service benefits
- Unpaid wages
- The cost of the airfare to home country
- Compensation for work-related injuries
- Repatriation of deceased employee's body

Insurance policies are issued immediately when filling work permit applications

Domestic workers' insurance policy covers:

- The cost of replacing a domestic worker in instances where the worker is deemed medically unfit, or due to the worker's unilateral termination of the employment contract. (This applies only in cases of domestic workers hired through Tadbeer)
- Unpaid end of service benefits
- Compensation for work-related injuries
- The cost of the airfare to home country
- Repatriation of the deceased employee's body

Bank guarantee refund

1 In case of a surplus, as per the terms of the existing bank guarantees scheme

2 Upon renewing work permits for employees enrolled in the existing bank guarantees scheme, provided that the employer has not committed any violation related to non-payment of salaries during the six months prior to the renewal of the expired permit.

Supporting and Promoting Labour Inspections with Smart Systems

MOHRE has developed advanced systems to better monitor facilities and identify any possible violations, particularly those related to human trafficking and forced labor. These systems include the Smart Inspection System, which analyzes the data of registered establishments such as the number and types of complaints received, and classifies them into 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 allows inspection teams to immediately intervene in the case of delay or non-payment of wages.

While the “Ratibi” or (My Salary) System receives wage complaints electronically, the Labor Housing System provides information on the extent to which companies are committed to providing adequate accommodation for their workers. This is in addition to other systems that seek to reduce the chances of workers becoming victims of human trafficking.

MOHRE has also activated the Rapid Response Center, an operations room linked with the inspection sector to give field decision-makers (labor inspectors) the data they need to handle emergency circumstances. The center also coordinates efforts to put response plans into action for troubled enterprises, in addition to carrying out the following tasks and duties:

- Receiving and following up on reports of human trafficking with the labor dispute and labor inspection departments.
- Receiving and following up on “Ratibi” complaint reports with the labor inspection and labor dispute departments.
- Receiving reports of “ Mid-Day Break” violations and investigating them with the labor inspection and labor dispute departments.
- Monitoring troubled businesses and the steps taken in collaboration with the labor inspection and labor dispute departments.

For better cooperation with judicial authorities, the Ministry has also developed an integrated electronic system in partnership with law enforcement entities to refer any petitions related to late wage payments and other indicators of forced labor to such authorities.

Facilitating Access to Effective Remedies Policy

The MOHRE has licensed centers under the name TWA-FOUQ, to provide legal services to both contracting parties, and reduce the time taken to discuss and adjudicate labor cases. Lengthy litigation can have a negative impact on labourers and domestic workers, particularly if the dispute is linked to non-receipt of wages or benefits. TWA-FOUQ centers 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 Labor Court, which in turn provides a service called “One Day Court” to allow cases to be decided as quickly as possible.

Border Control Security Measures

Competent authorities in the UAE have taken several preventive measures to protect the society from transnational organized crimes, including human trafficking. These measures have been implemented according to the international best practices to facilitate travelers' movement, entry, or exit from the UAE. Such preventive measures were:

- Verifying the identity of individuals at entry points using unified criminal justice and Interpol systems I-24/7.
- Using iris scan 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, to ensure that the travellers face image and personal photo on the passport are matching.
- Using cutting-edge technology to detect fraud at entry points.
- Developing entry permit regulations and sponsorship standards linked to family relationships or the 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.
- People added to the visit visas of others are not allowed to enter the country.
- Violators may not leave the country unless their status is modified, or fines incurred are paid according to the applicable rules followed by the concerned department.

Additionally, the Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship attach utmost importance to constantly improving the skills and competencies of their border security personnel through training courses and workshops.

Complaints and Suggestions 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 several qualified staff to receive and handle such communications in various languages, including Arabic, English, Urdu, and Russian...etc.

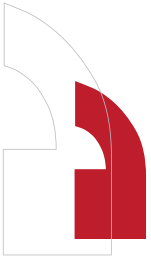
Furthermore, there are several other hotlines such as the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children's hotline (800111), and the Aman Center for Women and Children's hotline (80089999) in Ras Al Khaimah.

The UAE also provides other mechanisms for reporting human trafficking crimes including the 999-emergency number, and the Ministry of Interior's website (www.moi.gov.ae) in addition to some other child abuse reporting platforms, such as "Hemaya Smart Platform", the hotline (116111), and the Mol website (moi-cpc.ae) as well as the Smart Police Station (SPS) of the General Directorate of Dubai Police, which allows customers to provide information and data on suspected human trafficking cases.

Furthermore, the UAE Public Prosecution has launched the "My Safe Society" app, which enables everyone, including domestic workers and people of determination, to report and provide information about human trafficking crimes without having to physically visit the Public Prosecution's offices. Instead, users can upload a link to the case, pictures, and a video or audio recording.

In addition, other concerned authorities provide many effective mechanisms allowing labourers and domestic workers to 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).

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Second Pillar: Prosecution



- Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes.
- Other Relevant Legislation.

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

Federal Law No. (51) of 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.

The first article of this Law defines “Human Trafficking” as follows:

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

- Selling persons, offering persons for selling or buying, or promising the same.
- Soliciting persons, employing, recruiting, transferring, deporting, harboring, receiving, receiving or sending the same 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.
- 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.

2- 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:

- Recruiting a child, transferring, deporting, harboring or receiving the same for the purpose of exploitation.
- Selling a child, offering the child for selling or buying.

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 they understand, allowing them to 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 Legislation :

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

The UAE has enacted this law to regulate human organs and tissue transplantation. In addition to prohibiting trafficking in human organs and tissues, the law protects 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.

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

This law applies to the recruitment and hiring of workers whose occupations are listed in the table attached to the law and to 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 the 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 and not more than AED100,000. The penalty provided shall be doubled in case of recommitting the violation. This is besides any other 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 if they are subjected to any circumstances or practices that might lead to them becoming victims 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, insulted, or threatened the worker using any form of physical abuse. The regulation obliges TADBEER centers to receive and shelter the workers and assist with alternative job opportunities if requested.

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

This law aims to protect society from crimes associated with beggary, combat mendicancy crimes, organized begging, as well as to take preventive measures accordingly. This objective is consistent with the Law on Combating Human Trafficking, which considers begging as a form of exploitation.

Federal Law No. 14 Concerning the protection of witnesses and persons of similar status:

The Law defines witnesses and their likes as the person who owns information on a crime and articulates such information before the competent authority or the judiciary. The information influences the crime, including victims of human trafficking under two conditions: the first condition: to provide information on the case before the competent authority or judiciary. The second condition: Such information should have an impact on the crime, add or enhances crime evidence, reveal other criminals or place where the crime was committed etc. The law aims to protect witnesses, victims, whistleblowers, informants, confidential sources, family members and their close companions, who are determined by the judiciary to be protected against any threat, assault, retaliation, or coercion.

Ministerial Resolution No. (178) of 2020 on Dealing with Workplace Harassment

This Resolution obligates all businesses operating in the country to provide a suitable work environment that ensures employees can execute their duties under the best possible conditions and are protected from harassment in any form, whether by force, by act or sign of a sexual connotation made by one person towards another in the workplace, affecting their body, honour or dignity by any means of modern technology.

Federal Decree-Law No. (33) of 2021 Regarding the Regulation of Employment Relationships in the private sector:

The law was announced on November 27, 2021 and was put into practice on February 2, 2022, pursuant to Cabinet Resolution No. (1) of 2022 on the implementation of federal decree-law no. (33) of 2021 regarding the regulation of labor relations. This law provides greater protection for workers from forced labor and other forms of trafficking.

- The law criminalizes forced labor and prohibits employers from using any means to force, coerce, or threaten a worker with a penalty to work for him or her, or to force him/her to do work or deliver a service against their will.
- The law prohibits sexual harassment, bullying, and any other forms of verbal, physical, or psychological abuse of employees.
- The legislation prohibits employers from seizing employees' official documents, such as passports.
- The law forbids employers from requesting or enforcing a worker to leave the country once the employment contract expires.

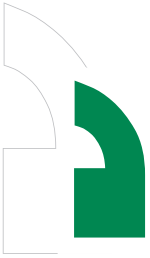
- The law introduced new flexibility on the terms and conditions under which foreign workers may switch employers at any moment without having to get the employer's consent. The law also allows both employees and employers to act unilaterally to end the contractual relationship before the end of the contract period, in accordance with specific requirements for the written notice. The law also requires that workers shall continue to fulfill their contractual obligations during the notice period, which cannot be shorter than (30) thirty days or longer than (90) ninety days. Furthermore, workers in the UAE are free to move to other employers and are not required to submit or apply for an exit permit or a no-objection certificate.
- The law abolished the notification requirement and granted workers the right to terminate employment contracts without losing any of their entitlements.

There are many other laws and legislation in the UAE that support the national efforts to combat human trafficking, including the Penal Code, the Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 on child rights (Wadeema's Law), the Federal Law No. 4 of 2002 Concerning Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Crimes and its amendments, and the Federal Law No. 8 (1980) on regulation of Labour Relations and its amendments.

Imposing Strict Measures to Confiscate Funds Generated from Human Trafficking

The UAE issued the "National Money Laundering Risk Assessment" in 2019, to prioritize investigations into 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 such funds, in line with relevant national legislations. 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.

2021



Third Pillar: Punishment



- Human trafficking Cases.

Cases of Human Trafficking

Over the course of last year, the UAE law enforcement authorities have 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. Considering the repercussions brought on by the outbreak of the “Covid-19” pandemic on the global level, the country has made every possible effort to overcome such effects by following preventive measures and using modern technologies.

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:

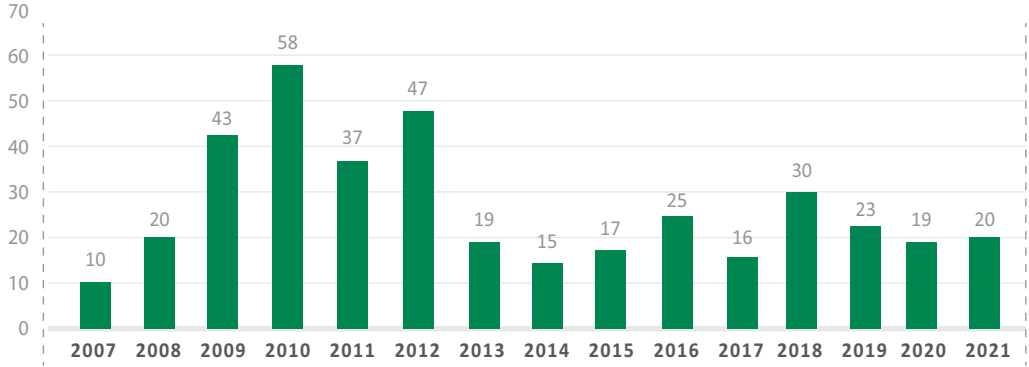
| Human Trafficking Cases Table 2021 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|---------|--|
| Emirate | Total Cases | Cases | Form of Exploitation | Victims | Accused | Verdict |
| Abu Dhabi | 1 | First | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 1 | Five years imprisonment and deportation after serving jail term |
| Dubai | 9 | First | Sexual Exploitation | 3 | 2 | Human trafficking charge dropped |
| | | Second | Exploitation of a child in begging | 1 | 1 | Six-month imprisonment and deportation after serving jail term |
| | | Third | Sexual Exploitation | 2 | 2 | Three years in prison, followed by deportation after serving jail term |
| | | Fourth | Exploitation of a child in begging | 1 | 1 | One year in prison, deportation, and forfeiture of the money earned through the crime |
| | | Fifth | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 3 | Three years in jail, confiscating the seized money, and deportation |
| | | Sixth | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 2 | Under Court Consideration |
| | | Seventh | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 2 | Under Court Consideration |
| | | Eighth | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 5 | Under Court Consideration |
| | | Ninth | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 3 | Under Court Consideration |
| Sharjah | 2 | First | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 3 | Two years imprisonment, AED 100,000 fine, confiscation of the material seized in the case, and deportation after serving jail term |
| | | Second | Forced labor | 1 | 1 | Under Court Consideration |
| Ajman | 6 | First | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | - | The victim is unknown. Police alerted to search for the victim |
| | | Second | Sexual Exploitation | 2 | 2 | Life imprisonment on human trafficking charges and deportation after serving jail term |
| | | Third | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 1 | Three years imprisonment, AED100,000 fine, and deportation after serving jail term |
| | | Fourth | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 1 | Life imprisonment on human trafficking charges, AED100,000 fine and deportation after serving jail term |
| | | Fifth | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 1 | Three years imprisonment, AED100,000 fine, and deportation after serving jail term |
| | | Sixth | Offer the victim for selling | 1 | 3 | Three years imprisonment, AED100,000 fine, and deportation after serving jail term |
| Umm al-Quwain | | | | | | |
| Ras Al Khaimah | 2 | First | Sexual Exploitation | 2 | 4 | Three years imprisonment, confiscation of the material seized in the case, and deportation after serving jail term |
| | | Second | Sexual Exploitation | 1 | 2 | Under Court Consideration |
| Fujairah | | | | | | |
| Total | 20 | | | 25 | 40 | |

Source: Federal and Local Public Prosecution Offices

Note: The above table includes cases processed by local and federal public prosecution offices and referred to competent courts in UAE as Human Trafficking Cases.

The following chart refers to the official statistics of human trafficking cases in the UAE since the issuance of Federal Law No. (51) 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes as amended by Federal Law No. (1) 2015.

Human trafficking cases (2007 - 2021)



Source: Federal and Local Public Prosecution

Justice is a fundamental right for all, and the rule of law must be above and beyond all other considerations. Everyone should be protected by law and enjoy its justice and sovereignty

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, The President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi



Fourth Pillar: Protection



- Shelters and Care Centers for Human Trafficking Victims.
- Services Provided by Shelters and Care Centers for Human Trafficking Victims .
- NCCHT Initiatives and Resolutions .

Protecting victims is one of the most important strategic and fundamental goals that is taken into account when handling human trafficking cases in the UAE. Several institutions and shelters for victims have been established to take care of them. The centres include Abu Dhabi Shelter and Humanitarian Care Center (Ewa'a), Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC) and Aman Center for Women and Children.

These institutions and centers, which receive victims from all over the UAE, implement several programs specifically tailored to provide necessary support urgently and fairly without discrimination based on race or gender. From the moment victims are received from their embassies, worship houses, direct contacts, or through law enforcement agencies, until they leave the UAE, human trafficking victims are provided with all forms of protection and assistance services.

These services will be mentioned below after introducing shelters and care centers for victims of human trafficking. According to their preferences, human trafficking victims are offered three options: securing their safe return to their home countries, changing their residence status to allow them to stay and work in the UAE, or coordinating with international organizations for resettlement.

Shelters and care centres for victims of human trafficking play a significant role in the voluntary and safe return of victims or reintegration into UAE society. The centers can help them find work and modify their legal status to remain in the UAE, or return safely to their home country, or find an alternative homeland in cooperation and coordination with NCCHT and other bodies, which include foreign embassies and relevant international organizations. In this context, institutions and Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in the UAE stay in touch with victims for six months to a year to ensure the safety of victims in their home country.



Shelters and care centers for Human Trafficking Victims

Abu Dhabi Shelter and Humanitarian Care Center

Abu Dhabi Shelter and Humanitarian Care Center was established in 2008 and operated under the umbrella of the Emirates Red Crescent. However, under Guidance Document No. 164 of (2015) issued by the Executive Council at the end of 2015, the center is currently functioning under direct supervision of Her Highness Sheikhha 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.

Under the executive council's resolution No. (118) of 2020, victims of violence and abuse such as domestic violence and all other forms of violence, have been recently added to the mandate of Ewa'a Shelters for Women and Children. The shelter opened its first center to receive and deal with male victims of human trafficking in Abu Dhabi, in January 2014.

Dubai Foundation for Women and Children

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, created the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children in 2007. The Foundation is the country's first non-profit humanitarian organization authorized to take care of women and children who have been victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Aman Shelter for Women and Children

In 2017, H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, issued a decree establishing the Aman Shelter for Women and Children. The shelter provides protection to victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and domestic or social violence in accordance with applicable laws and regulations in UAE. Recently, the guardianship system was added to services of the center under Decree No (1) of 2021.

Services Provided by Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking

Safe Sheltering Services

Shelters and care centers, in cooperation with Security authorities, provide sheltering services to protect all victims from any threat that may pose a risk to their safety. This is in addition to temporary housing that is regularly watched over by a

qualified crew as well as all basic needs including food, drink, clothes, and transportation, among others.

Health care services

Shelters and Care centers provide free health services to victims in collaboration with health authorities. These facilities hire highly qualified nurses and supervisors to manage the victims appointments with clinics and hospitals, supervise drug dispensing, accompany victims on their medical appointments to clinics, and stay overnight with them in the hospital if required. This is in addition to organizing awareness-raising workshops related to public health.

Social services

Social services are provided by professional social workers capable of conducting social case studies of the victims and identifying the history of abuse in all its physical, psychological, verbal, sexual and other forms. This is in addition to identifying childhood and family history to help victims make the right decisions in the future.

Social specialists also develop individual support plans for each case according to their personal needs. Based on such plans, comprehensive support is provided to victims in cooperation with concerned authorities and embassies to ensure the safety of victims after leaving the UAE. The specialists in UAE care centers stay in touch with victims from 6 to 12 months after leaving to ensure their safety.

Psychological Services

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

In 2021, the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC) launched an Animal Assisted Therapy Programme, an alternative or complementary treatment to traditional psychological sessions. It is defined as a psychological therapy that involves introducing or including animals in a therapeutic setting. Trained pets like horses, dogs, rabbits, fish, and birds are used to help kids and adults function better socially, psychologically, and adaptively, especially after getting exposed to severe trauma or traumatic events like illness, loss, violence, abuse, or exploitation.

Legal Services

Legal services include legal advice or legal representation of victims, outlining victims' legal right to civil compensation for any physical and psychological suffering they may have experienced; in addition to ensuring any residence visa penalties incurred by victims are cancelled, and also obtaining identity documents from con-

cerned embassies. Litigation services are provided free of charge. Shelters and care centers seek to establish partnerships with law firms to claim compensation for damages caused by human trafficking.

Entertainment Programs

Shelters and care centers provide indoor and outdoor entertainment programs to overcome the fear barrier caused by the severe conditions victims have endured due to human trafficking. This barrier prevents victims from normally interacting with other societal groups. Furthermore, social welfare homes in the UAE also organize leisure trips for victims in addition to various sports classes and celebrations of public events and holidays such as National Day and religious holidays.

NCCHT Initiatives to protect victims

The NCCHT has issued Resolution No. (7) of 2010 concerning the Regulatory Procedures for Dealing with Human Trafficking Victims among Competent Authorities in the UAE to enhance the protection of human trafficking victims. These procedures are designed to support and protect victims at all stages, from the time of launching search and investigation by the police and public prosecution offices to the moment victims arrive at the shelters across the UAE.

The NCCHT has also issued Resolution No. (8/21) of 2010 concerning Ethical Standards for Media Entities While Conducting Interviews with Human Trafficking Victims. It lays forth a unified code of ethics that must be followed by all media outlets, including television, radio, internet, newspapers, and other publications, especially when it comes to safeguarding victims' rights and their privacy.

Media professionals or journalists may not interview victims before referring them to the competent court. They must also obtain a written consent from victims and preserve their confidentiality.

There are also several rules that they should adhere to, such as observing the psychological status of the victim; in addition, the concerned social specialist should attend the interview. The interview questions must be made ready for the victim to read beforehand. Furthermore, media agencies are not allowed to interview child victims.

Human Trafficking Victims Support Fund

Established under Resolution No. (7/32) of 2014, the Human Trafficking Victims Support Fund is one of the most important initiatives of the NCCHT. In 2021, the National Committee disbursed around AED 191,000 to human trafficking victims staying at shelters for victims of human trafficking in the UAE, bringing the total value of assistance provided by the Fund since its establishment to AED 1,304,700, or (US\$ 355,000).

The fund, which receives donations from businessmen as well as charity and humanitarian organizations, aims to help victims of human trafficking before leaving the UAE and offer financial assistance enough to start a small investment project, complete their education, enroll in foreign language courses, or get rid of heavy debts in their home countries, among other matters.

It also aims to ensure that victims are financially independent and won't ever be trafficked again due to poverty and destitution, which are the major factors leading victims to be exploited. Additionally, the fund has made considerable contributions to supporting many victims who have been repatriated or relocated to other countries.



2021



Fifth Pillar: Strengthening of International Cooperation



- Bilateral Cooperation.
- Multilateral 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 bilateral, and multilateral efforts are essential to confront this scourge.

The UAE Government believes that it is necessary for all countries to work together to fulfil the international obligations to combat this crime. Therefore, UAE has acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention 2000) since April 2007. This Convention stresses the importance of promoting international cooperation to combat human trafficking globally. In 2009, the UAE also joined the supplementary United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.

Bilateral Cooperation

As part of the UAE National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking to implement its national strategy to strengthen international cooperation, the UAE has signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with many countries in the field of cooperation in combating human trafficking and protecting its victims. These (MOUs), which defined frameworks and areas of cooperation between both parties, focused on exchanging information and best practices between the two sides. The UAE has already concluded eight MoUs in this regard, as stated in the table below:



Indonesia
2015



Australia
2013



Azerbaijan
2011



Armenia
2009



Belarus
2020



Philippines
2019



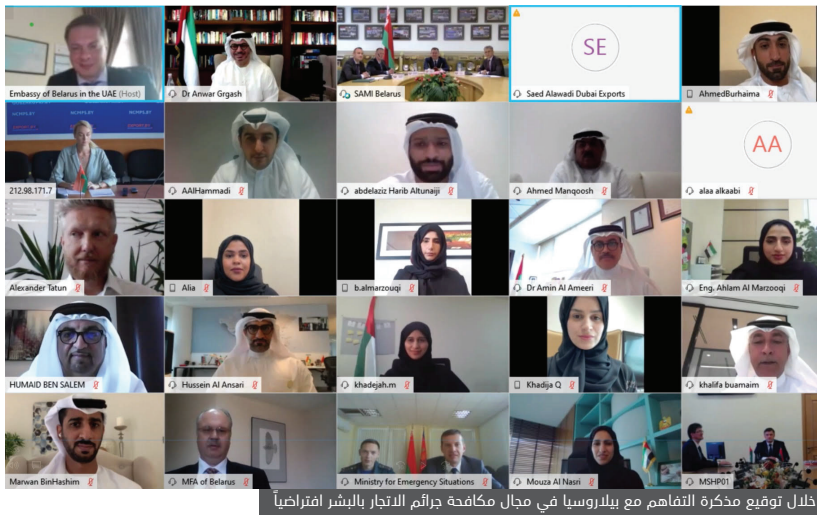
Thailand
2018



India
2016

Implementation of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

The National Committee has put these (MOUs) into practice in collaboration with partners in countries with whom the UAE had agreements while also implementing the recommendations of previous bilateral meetings. In November 2021, the NCCHT virtually organized the first meeting of the joint committee to activate the memorandum of understanding with the Philippines. The two sides concurred to create a framework to enhance collaboration in the fight against human trafficking, safeguard victims, and monitor the execution of cooperative awareness-raising campaigns.



Cooperation with Labour Exporting Countries

Over the past three years, MOHRE has signed more than 15 memorandums and protocols of cooperation with the most exporting countries. These instruments aimed at regulating labours flow to UAE in line with policies and procedures, as well as protecting workers from fraud, deceit, and human trafficking practices by private recruitment agencies. These memorandums include a range of obligations, to ensure that relevant authorities supervise application of laws concerning non-charging workers any fees for recruitment services to eliminate debt bondage, as well as to ensure that cooperation with licensed and accredited agencies is limited only in both countries. In addition to cooperation in applying best practices, especially those concerned with the development and implementation of programs to raise awareness and rehabilitation of workers during the pre-recruitment and arrival phases.

The UAE has also ratified relevant international agreements to strengthen the legal framework to combat forced labor as a form of human trafficking. The UAE has

ratified the relevant ILO conventions: Forced or Compulsory Labor Conventions No. (29) of 1930, and Abolition of Forced Labor Convention No. (105) of 1957.

Strengthening Cooperation with Law Enforcement Entities

The Ministry of Interior is making every effort to protect human rights and has listed a provision under its strategy outlining the need to enhance international cooperation in order to provide such protection. Therefore, the ministry has inked a total of 37 bilateral agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with other international counterparts. Numerous provisions in these agreements call for enhancing cooperation and information sharing in the fight against organized crime, particularly crimes involving human trafficking. Furthermore, these agreements are intended to support the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and its complementary protocols, which contain several crucial provisions, the most important of which being to enhance international collaboration in the fight against organized crime.

Multilateral Cooperation

The UAE received the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2009, as part of its cooperation with the UN on combating human trafficking, and also welcomed the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in 2012.

Over the past year (2021), the UAE hosted and participated in a number of international meetings and forums that contributed to supporting international efforts to combat human trafficking crimes. These include:

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

In January 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization hosted the 13th edition of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, during which it highlighted the country's strenuous efforts to protect labor rights and showcased the temporary contracting periodic model, which offers huge development returns for all parties, thus enhancing the welfare of workers and their families.

During the event, the MoU signed between the UAE and Indonesia for cooperation in the field of combating human trafficking was reviewed and cited as one of the best practices in creating effective partnerships.

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue: 6th Ministerial Consultation Meeting

The 6th Ministerial Consultation of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue was organized in October 2021, under the chairmanship of HE Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awar, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization, and was attended by several ministers con-

cerned with labor issues from 16 member states.

Launched in 2008 by the UAE, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue is a voluntary consultative platform for enhancing the dialogue between labor-sending and labor-receiving countries in Asia, to protect workers and enhance their participation in the development efforts of all countries involved in the dialogue.

By hosting the permanent secretariat of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, the UAE is seeking to include research and constructive activities on the event's agenda to strengthen member states' efforts in combating forced labour.

Additionally, previous editions featured activities that analyzed opportunities to enhance contract transparency while making the most of advanced technologies to develop an online recruitment system that would guarantee the empowerment of labor-sending and labor-receiving countries.

Cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization "INTERPOL":

In July 2021, the Ministry of Interior took part in Global Operation Liberterra to combat illegal immigration, human trafficking, and other transnational crimes. The operation was coordinated by Interpol with the participation of 47 countries.

The global operation has led to the arrest of 286 individuals, while 430 victims of human trafficking and 4,000 irregular migrant have been saved in 74 countries. Law enforcement officials from the 47 countries that participated in Operation Liberterra carried out 500,000 inspections at checkpoints and airports.

Government forum to discuss the challenges of combating trafficking in persons in the Middle East

In November 2021, the UAE, represented by the National Committee, participated in the 3rd edition of the government forum to discuss the challenges of combating trafficking in persons in the Middle East, which was virtually hosted by Saudi Arabia, under the theme "National and International Coordination on Combating Trafficking in Persons in the Light of the Coronavirus Pandemic."

During the event, the UAE stressed the importance of boosting coordination between government and civil society organizations and called for making the most of these platforms to exchange best practices among countries of the region and support the fight against human trafficking crimes.

UNTOC 11th session of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons

The UAE took part in the 11th session of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna on October 12–13, 2021, as well as in the 12th edition of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was virtually hosted in March 2021.

The conference discussed the implementation of the UNTOC and the protocols thereto through the development of a project to review states' reports on human trafficking and stressed the importance of enhancing international cooperation with a particular focus on extradition, mutual legal assistance, international cooperation for the purposes of confiscation, and the setting up and strengthening of central authorities.

Bali process:

The UAE participated in the 7th Annual Meeting of the Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held on September 21, 2021, as well as in the regional forum on Combating Trafficking in Persons for the Post-Covid-19 Period, which was organized on September 23, 2021, which discussed the repercussions brought on by Covid-19 and its impact on labor migration, in addition to the risk of exploitation by human smugglers and traffickers.

The annual meeting stressed the need for member states to constantly develop their capacities and hold significant discussions in order to support members during this challenging time and address the issues of irregular migration, displacement in the region as well as aspects related to smuggling and trafficking of persons.

Regional meeting on combating human trafficking through international airports

In November 2021, the Ministry of Interior hosted a regional meeting on combating human trafficking through international airports, at Expo 2020. Senior officials from several countries as well as representatives from Middle Eastern regional partners attended the meeting, which was organized in collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

The workshop provided insights into the UAE's efforts to host regional and international partners to exchange views, share expertise and coordinate international efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

2021





**Reasonable nations are those
who believe in humanity, its
value, ideas and creativity**

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



Conclusion

The UAE pays a great attention to combating human trafficking crimes, and is facing it firmly and seriously, now that it is not only a national challenge violating all religious, cultural, societal and humanitarian values, but also an international scourge affecting many nations, whether source, transit or destination country. Such crimes would in fact be difficult to combat without making extra efforts in coordination with the international community and organizations concerned with combating this crime in all its hideous forms and manifestations.

Accordingly, the UAE renews its national and international commitment to combating human trafficking crimes in all its forms by collaborating with partners at the regional and global levels. This is in order to support joint efforts being made to address all forms of human trafficking, enhance the protection of human rights, preserve human dignity, protect and liberate victims of human trafficking from the constraints of exploitation and practices that prevent them from living with human dignity.

