

**Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes  
As amended under Federal Law No. (1) of 2015**

We, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates,

Having perused:

- The Constitution;
- Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 on the Competences of Ministries and the Powers of Ministers, and the amending laws thereto,
- Federal Law No. (6) of 1973 on Entry and Residence of Foreigners, and the amending laws thereto,
- Federal Law No. (8) of 1980 on Regulation of Labor Relations, and the amending laws thereto,
- Penal Code issued by Federal Law No. (3) of 1987, and the amending laws thereto,
- Criminal Procedure Law issued by Federal Law No. (35) of 1992, and the amending laws thereto,
- Federal Law No. (15) of 2005 On Regulation of Participations in Camel Races;
- Based on the proposal of the Minister of Justice, the approval of the Cabinet and the ratification of the Supreme Council of the Federation,

Hereby issue the following Law:

**Article (1)<sup>1</sup>:**

The following terms and expressions shall have the meanings set out against them, unless the context requires otherwise:

**The State:** the United Arab Emirates.

**The Ministry:** the Ministry of Justice.

**The Minister:** the Minister of Justice.

**The Competent Authorities:** the competent federal authorities.

**The Competent entities:** the local concerned authorities.

**Organized Criminal Gang:** a group of three or more people who collaborate to carry out a premeditated act with the intent of committing a human trafficking crime for the sake of gaining directly or indirectly a financial or any other material benefit.

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<sup>1</sup> The text of this Article has been amended under Federal Law No. (1) of 2015, on amending some of the provisions of the Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes

**A Trans-national Crime:** A crime shall be deemed trans-national if it is:

1. Committed in more than one country,
2. Committed in one country but preparation, planning, direction and supervision were carried out from another country,
3. Committed in one country but the perpetrators were an organized criminal gang involved in criminal activities in several countries,
4. Committed in one country but its repercussions reflected on another country.

**Property:** property of any kind whatsoever, whether moral or material, movable or immovable, in addition to instruments and deeds which establish the ownership of such property or any rights related thereto.

**Proceeds:** monies ensuing from (in)direct commission of a crime of those stipulated in this Law.

**Child:** Any person who is under 18 years old.

**The Committee:** the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT).

**Article (1) bis (1)<sup>1</sup>:**

1. Whoever commits any of the following shall be deemed a perpetrator of a human trafficking crime:
  - a. Selling persons, offering persons for selling or buying, or promising the same.
  - b. Soliciting 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.
  - c. Giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation of the latter.
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:
  - a. Recruiting a child, transferring, deporting, harboring or receiving the same for the purpose of exploitation.
  - b. Selling a child, offering the same for selling or buying.

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

**Article (1) bis (2)<sup>1</sup> :**

All phases of collecting evidence, investigation, and trials of relevance to Human Trafficking Crimes shall be subject to the following procedures:

1. Identify the victim and the witness with their legal rights, in a language understood thereby, and allow them to express their legal and social needs.
2. Submit the victim, should the need arise for such measure, to examination before any medical entity to receive psychological or physical treatment, where such person shall be admitted into one of the medical or psychological rehabilitation centers, if deemed necessary.
3. Admit the victim into one of the sheltering centers or any other approved entity, should a need for such measure arises.
4. Provide the necessary security for the victim and the witness, whenever they need the same.
5. Allow the victim and the witness to stay in the State, should the investigation or trial entail their stay, and based on an order issued by the public prosecution or the court, as the case may be.
6. The permissibility of the court to delegate an attorney for the victim upon request thereof, where the court shall estimate the attorney's fees. The decision of the court in this regard shall be conclusive, where fees shall be paid under a certificate issued by the court which pays the said fees.

**Article (2)<sup>2</sup>:**

Whoever commits any of the human trafficking crimes provided for in Article (1) bis of this Law shall be punished by temporary imprisonment for a term of no less than five years, and a fine of no less than one hundred thousand AED.

The penalty of life imprisonment shall apply in any one of the following cases:

1. If the victim is a child or a person with disability.
2. If the act is committed by threat of murder or grave harm or involved physical or psychological torture, or if the perpetrator was armed.
3. The perpetrator of the crime has created or assumed a leading role in an organized criminal gang, has been a member therein or participated in the actions thereof while being aware of the purposes of such gang.

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4. The perpetrator is the spouse, a relative, antecedent, descendant, or guardian of the victim.
5. If the perpetrator is a public servant, or assigned to public service, where he exploited the occupation or assignments thereof to commit the crime.
6. If the committed crime is trans-national.
7. If the victim has been inflicted, as a result of the crime, with an incurable disease or permanent disability.

**Article (3)<sup>1</sup>:**

1. Any person who was aware of a plan to commit any of the crimes provided for herein, but failed to inform the concerned authorities shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of no less than one and no more than five years and a fine of no less than five thousand dirhams or by both penalties.
2. The person who failed to inform the authorities may be pardoned from the said penalty, if he/she was the perpetrator's spouse, antecedent, descendant, sibling or the like of in-laws.

**Article (4):**

Any person who uses force or threat of force, or offers or promises a gift or advantage of any kind for prompting another person to give false testimony or withhold true information, or give false information or statements before any judicial body on proceedings related to committing any of the crimes provided for herein, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of no less than five years.

**Article (5):**

Any person who possesses, harbors, or dispenses articles gained through any of the crimes provided for herein, or knowingly hides a person or more of those who have taken part therein, with the intention of helping him/her to escape justice while being aware of the same, or participates in concealment of the crime shall be punished by temporary imprisonment.

**Article (6):**

Any person who assaults, resists by force, or threatens to use force against any officers enforcing this Law, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of no less than five years.

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**Article (6) *bis* <sup>1</sup>:**

Whoever publishes by any means of publication the names or photos of victims or witnesses of human trafficking crimes shall be punished by imprisonment and fine of no less than ten thousand dirham or by both penalties.

**Article (7):**

A corporate entity shall be punished by a fine of no less than one hundred thousand dirhams, and no more than one million dirhams, if its representatives, directors or agents commit, in its name or for its account, one of the human trafficking crimes enumerated herein; without prejudice to the responsibility and punishment of its dependent natural person. In addition to that penalty, a court may order temporary dissolution, or total closure of the corporate entity or closure of one of its branches.

**Article (8)<sup>2</sup>:**

1. Any person who attempts to commit one of the crimes enumerated in Articles (2), (4) or (6) of this Law shall be punished by the penalty of a complete crime.
2. Any person who collaborates in committing one of the crimes provided for in Articles (1) *bis* (1), (2), (4), (5) and (6) of this Law, as a direct participant or accomplice shall be deemed a perpetrator of the crime.

**Article (9)<sup>3</sup> :**

Without prejudice to the bona fide rights of others, the following shall be ruled in all cases:

1. Confiscation of the crime's tools, monies and proceeds resulting therefrom.
2. Deport the foreigner who is convicted in any of the crimes stipulated in this Law.
3. Close the property in which the human trafficking crime took place, where opening the same shall not be permitted except for a legitimate purpose, subject to the approval of the public prosecution.

**Article (10):**

Crimes provided for in this law shall be punished by the penalties stated herein, without prejudice to any more severe penalty provided for in any other law.

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<sup>2</sup> The text of this Article has been amended under the Federal Law No. (1) of 2015, amending some of the provisions of the Federal Law No. (51) of 2006, on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes.

<sup>3</sup> The text of this Article has been amended under the Federal Law No. (1) of 2015, amending some of the provisions of the Federal Law No. (51) of 2006, on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes.

**Article (11):**

Any of the perpetrators of a crime, who takes the initiative to report to judicial or administrative authorities of what he/she knows about the crime before its commission, which results in discovering the crime before its occurrence, or in the arrest of its perpetrators or preventing its commission, shall be exempted from the penalties provided for in this law. If an individual reports a crime after its discovery, such individual may be exempted from the penalty or may be subject to mitigated penalty, in the event that he/she has assisted the concerned authorities during investigation to arrest other perpetrators of the crime.

**Article (11) bis (1)<sup>1</sup>:**

1. It shall be impermissible to interrogate the victim, civilly or criminally for any crime of the crimes stipulated in this Law, whenever the same is established or directly connected to being a victim.
2. In exception of the provision of Clause (1) of this Article, it shall be permissible to interrogate the victim civilly and criminally on the human trafficking crime in the following cases:
  - a. If he/she contributed in person, without being subject to any coercion whether moral or material, to the perpetration of one of the human-trafficking crimes.
  - b. If the person is a foreigner incoming to the country for work, and violated the work contract and the residence regulation.
  - c. If the person failed to report the crime or the collusion thereof to the competent authorities while being able to.

**Article (11) bis (2)<sup>2</sup>:**

In the crimes stipulated in this Law, it is presumed that the perpetrator is aware of the victim's age.

**Article (12)<sup>3</sup>:**

Under this law, a committee shall be established and known as "The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking", the formation and chairmanship of which shall be determined under a resolution issued by the Cabinet, based on the Minister's proposal.

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**Article (13)<sup>1</sup>:**

The Committee provided for in Article (12) of this Law shall assume the following:

1. Draw up a national comprehensive strategy to combat human trafficking, and develop the plans and mechanisms implementing the same, in coordination with the competent entities of the State.
2. Examine and update legislations and regulations concerning human trafficking, in a manner that achieves the required protection for victims and witnesses, in accordance with international requirements.
3. Develop a database including international legislations of relevance to human trafficking crimes, means of human trafficking and studies of relevance to the subject matter.
4. Prepare reports regarding the measures adopted by the State to combat human trafficking, in coordination with the competent entities of the State.
5. Study international, regional and local reports of relevance to combating human trafficking, and take the necessary measures and procedures in their regard.
6. Coordinate with the competent authorities and the competent entities to secure protection and support to victims of human trafficking; including the Care and Rehabilitation Program for Victim's Social Integration.
7. Raise awareness concerning human trafficking issues.
8. Hold conferences, symposiums, and trainings and issue publications in a manner that meets the Committee's objectives.
9. Participate with the competent entities of the State, in international conferences and forums of relevance to combatting human trafficking, and convey the State's message in this regard during international ceremonies.
10. Develop adequate mechanisms to identify victims in human-trafficking cases.
11. Assume any works assigned by the Committee in the field of combating human-trafficking crimes.

**Article (13) *bis* <sup>2</sup>:**

The victim of human-trafficking crimes shall be exempted from civil-case fees upon filing the same to claim compensation for the damage resulting from the exploitation thereof in a human trafficking crime.

**Article (14):**

All natural and legal persons concerned with implementing the provisions of this Law shall comply with keeping the confidentiality of the information obtained thereby, in

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implementation of the provisions hereof, where such information shall not be disclosed except to the extent deemed necessary.

**Article (15):**

Any provision which violates or conflicts with the provisions of this Law shall be abolished.

**Article (16):**

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force one month as of the date of its publication.

**Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
President of the United Arab Emirates**

Issued by us at the Presidential Palace, Abu Dhabi,  
on 18th Shawal 1427,  
corresponding to 9th November 2006