



# **International Response to Human Trafficking Within the Framework of the Protection of Human Rights**

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The crime of trafficking in human beings poses a real threat to the security and stability of the community. It, additionally, hinders the State's development process and jeopardises its economic, social and security structure. Being the most shameful global illness, constituting an unmerciful violation to human rights, these threats have motivated the international community to address the human trafficking problem through the draft of conventions and covenants that contribute to the fight against slavery and enslavement. Unfortunately, no country is immune from human trafficking which is considered a kind of organized crossing-border criminal act that goes beyond borders in various means. Besides, in the absence of information on the actual size and dimensions of human trafficking crimes, especially in women and children, there is no reliable statistics on the exact number of cases or indicators on the size and geographical distribution of each form of human trafficking crimes necessary to combat such crime that cannot be described as "phenomenon" without determining its actual size.

Aspirations of human trafficking victims to gain immediate financial benefits are among the greatest reasons that brought those victims to their ill fate. The reasons would also include poverty, unemployment and armed conflicts, in addition to natural disasters and family breakdown, population increase and slums, the Internet and the cultural environment that allows the exploitation of human beings, especially among vulnerable groups. As a result of human trafficking, victims would face threats and risks represented in security and economic, social and political, psychological and health problems, in addition to other crimes such as fraud, forgery, bribery, smuggling and rape, which may sometimes lead the victims to lose their



lives. Therefore, trafficking in humans is not a mere crime, but it is a criminal and an inhumane behavior including many other forms of crimes.

It is established that human rights are inherently granted to individuals by nature and are independently provided to them even before the foundation of States. These rights are the core and essence of human dignity, which is violated by the crime of human trafficking. Given the devastating impact of this criminal act on human rights and the entire community, it becomes clear-cut that trafficking in human beings is a multidimensional problem that would deprives people of their human rights and freedoms.

On the other hand, one of the main goals of the international conventions and covenants is to unify the domestic legislations of the States Parties and to define the penalties for the violation of the provisions of these legislations. At the national level, the Egyptian constitution of the year 2014 focuses on the protection of human rights in all its forms. Besides, the legislator has endeavored to address the crimes of trafficking in human beings, in compliance with the international conventions, adopting several measures in order to overcome these crimes, prosecuting their perpetrators and providing assistance to victims. Moreover, Egypt has established number of effective mechanisms and enacted number of laws to combat the crime of human trafficking, among them, Law no. 64 for the year 2010 regarding the countering of human trafficking and its bylaws, which expand the geographic scope of the human trafficking crime and Law no. 5 for the year 2010 on the human organs implant and its bylaws and the amendment of some of its provisions by Law no. 142 for the year 2017.

The Egyptian State has been keen on creating mechanisms to evaluate and follow-up efforts of countering human trafficking through the establishment of the Coordinating National Committee for Combating and Overcoming Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration, presided over by the Cabinet targeting to enhance the implementation of relevant policies, plans and programs, at both the national and international levels, in accordance with Egypt's obligations arising from the bilateral or multilateral agreements endorsed by Egypt.

The Research has been concluded with a number of recommendations targeting to counter human trafficking crimes at the national, regional and international levels, and at the levels of legislations, institutions, media circles, social welfare, studies and research focusing on awareness-raising,



prevention and control of human trafficking crimes, prosecution of perpetrators as well as the enhancement of regional and international cooperation in this regard.

At the level of legislations, the Research has recommended States that have not enacted legislations relevant to human trafficking yet to promptly pass anti-human trafficking laws. This is due to the inadequacy of laws in force to counter modern methods and practices used by organized crime gangs. These States have, also, to amend and develop legislations complementary to anti-trafficking laws, especially laws of labor and elimination of violence against women, protection of children and other human rights legislations. These measures shall further include the enactment of anti-corruption laws that contribute to and promote the fights against human trafficking as well as the activation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, along with the need to realize the dual role nature of the human trafficking victims as a co-actor in the crime, and a victim at the meantime by identifying the cases of the victims' accountability, and to work on raising the awareness of the whole society, especially vulnerable groups, of the legislations governing these crimes.

At the institutional level, the Research has demanded all concerned local and international bodies to consider human-trafficking a crime that violates human rights and calls upon them to promote and develop methods and procedures for the early detection of potential and actual victims to prevent their exploitation by issuing guidelines to concerned bodies on the development of human capacities and the promotion of national and international legislations relevant to combating and preventing trafficking in human beings. This would further include the development of local networks and task forces with the participation of all non-governmental organizations and bodies, religious and human rights institutions and law enforcement agencies to ensure finding out victims without jeopardizing their lives and facilitate assistance after rescue, and to work on expanding this network, to include not only the countries of destination, but also the countries of transit and origin.

As for the social dimensions, the Research has recommended raising the awareness of families about the dangers of child marriage and of some outmoded customs and traditions. In addition to the emphasis on the need to combating marriage of children under the age of 18 and raising awareness among families on its dangers to the spouse child, the family and the soci-



ety in general.

In terms of the studies and researches, the Research has recommended the need to study and analyze the causes and factors of trafficking in human beings and to address the social, economic, cultural, political and security factors that lead to the aggravation and development of this problem. It further recommended the preparation of a central database platform to monitor the crimes and types of trafficking in human beings, as well as the extent of protection and assistance provided by the State to victims of human trafficking, and to make such data available to researchers and decision-makers, and other relevant national authorities.

At the level of awareness-raising, prevention and control of the problem, the Research looks forward to focusing on the social momentum to combat the phenomenon of violence through elevating the awareness of the society and reinforcing the national efforts to counter the repercussions of trafficking and to dry up the sources of trafficking wellsprings in contribution to address the problem and raise awareness of the value of the family, human rights and children. Moreover, the Research has concluded with the need to address the problems and challenges facing potential victims, such as unemployment, and the lack of active participation in the political and development process, as well as the lack of opportunities to continue university education. Besides, it asserts the need to develop mechanisms to ensure the realization of human rights, especially economic and social rights, through the improvement of living standards, creation of jobs, enhancement of income, support of economy and promotion of community culture.