

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



Annual Report Of The National Committee To Combat Human Trafficking

2016

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Combatting Human Trafficking Crimes In The United Arab Emirates

Annual Report 2016

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Committee Chairman Message

Eleven years have passed since the United Arab Emirates formally launched its campaign to combat human trafficking crimes in 2006. It issued Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on combating Human Trafficking Crimes and amended it in 2015. In addition, the UAE established a national committee comprised of government agencies, law enforcement and civil society institutions in this field. The results so far suggest that the government has made significant progress in combating such degrading crimes.

The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking has adopted the '5 Ps' national strategy of Prevention, Prosecution, Punishment, Protection of victims, and Promotion of international cooperation. Through such strategy, the UAE has taken several important steps over the past years. In 2016, the UAE continued its multi-lingual media campaign aimed at raising public awareness on this issue for all community segments. The UAE has also continued its efforts to train officials in the fight against human trafficking crimes. This was done through participation in courses and workshops at national and international levels. One such effort was awarding diplomas in the field of combatting human trafficking crimes. This includes course work in collaboration with select lecturers, including representatives from the United Nations Office for Combatting

Drugs and Crimes. The UAE has also promoted cooperation with private and public sectors, focusing on employment offices concerned with the recruitment of workers.

In addition, the UAE has concluded partnerships and agreements with a number of countries and international organizations concerned with human trafficking crime. This is based on the belief that it is important to work side by side with local and international partners to combat such transnational crime.

In 2017, the UAE will strive to focus its energies and potential on training its officials in the field of combatting human trafficking crime, as well as improving partnership between the public and private sectors. It will also enhance cooperation with other international partners to improve coordination and learn from their best practices.

The UAE emphasizes its commitment to combatting all activities of human trafficking, given that it is a crime against humanity and because it represents a threat to the values of our and other societies. Fighting against such crime must be a common goal for all the governments of the world.

Dr Anwar Mohammed Gargash
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
Chairman, National Committee
to Combat Human Trafficking



“the results so far suggest that the government has made significant progress in combating such degrading crimes

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Introduction

This report intends to highlight the UAE's efforts on combating human trafficking crime, record its achievements, identify obstacles and challenges encountered during the last year, and highlight the UAE's plans to ensure sustainable and effective work on combatting such crime domestically, as well as externally by fostering cooperation and sharing experiences with the international community.

The UAE government also believes that community awareness and the qualifications of law enforcement agencies are essential factors to fighting against this crime and recognizing its complicated nature. The government also acknowledges the importance of consolidating efforts and transparently sharing information with other countries, through establishing partnerships in line with the strategic plans set by the National Committee. This will ensure that the UAE plays its role as member of the interna-

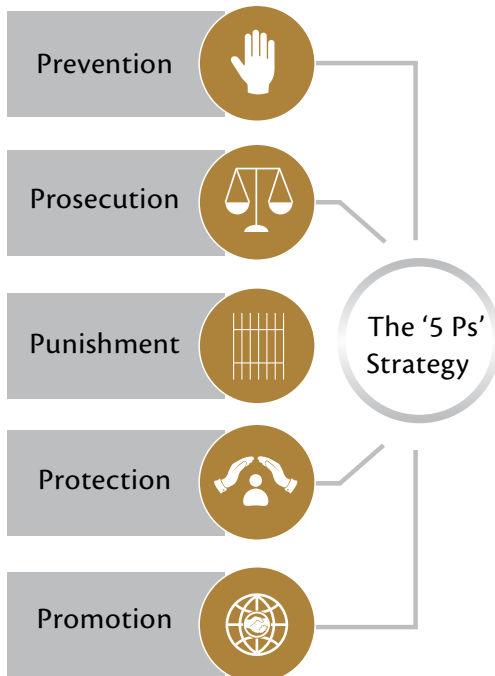
tional community and eliminate the sources of this inhumane crime.

The UAE government has developed national policies and legislation to combat human trafficking, which constitutes a major global challenge as an organized criminal act due to large financial returns estimated to be billions of dollars annually. This crime is also linked to other organized crimes like the smuggling of migrants and drug trafficking.

The UAE receives large numbers of temporary contractual multi-national workers every year, which benefits the workers to improve their standards of living, support their homeland economies through remittances, and contributing to the development of the UAE. Unfortunately, criminals might engage in recruiting contractual workers, and trafficking them illegally into the country. For the majority of such people, it is only when they arrive in the UAE that they may realize the work they were promised does not exist and they may be forced instead to work in jobs or conditions to which they did not consent.

The implementation of the UAE's legal and social support mechanisms during the last ten years of its fight against human trafficking has been a success story. The UAE authorities operating in anti-human trafficking activities persistently welcome cooperation with international partners and organizations to share experiences and overcome obstacles. The UAE government is committed to tackling the exploitative and coercive abuse of any human life.

In 2012, the UAE adopted the new internationally preferred '5 Ps' approach: Prevention; Prosecution; Punishment; Protection of victims, and Promotion of international cooperation. For the sake of convenience in compiling this report, prosecution and punishment have been combined under one section.



Federal Law No. (51) Of 2006, As Amended

The Federal Law No. 51 of (2006) on combatting human trafficking crime, as amended by Federal Law No. (1) of 2015, provides the legal framework for handling human trafficking cases. Since 2007, more and more people have become aware of the law.

Article (1), bis (1) of combatting human trafficking law defines human trafficking as follows:

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

a. Selling of persons, offering persons for selling or buying, or promising for the same.

b. Soliciting persons, employing, recruiting, transferring, deporting, harboring, receiving, or sending the same within the country or across the national borders, by means of threat or use of force, or other forms

of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of position, taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person for the purpose of exploitation.

c. Giving or receiving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person or having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.

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, transferring, deporting, harboring or receiving a child for the purpose of exploitation.

b. Selling, or offering a child for selling or buying.

3. Under this Article, exploitation includes all forms of sexual exploitation, engaging others in prostitution,

servitude, forced labor, organ trafficking, coerce service, enslavement, mendicancy, and quasi-slavery practices.

This definition is closely aligned with what is outlined in the Palermo Protocol and by other international legislations. It offers strong punitive measures, including maximum penalties of life imprisonment, and covers all forms of human trafficking.

Under such law, a life sentence is applicable if the crime is committed through deceit, if it involves the use of force or threat of murder or bodily harm, or if it involves physical or psychological torture. Furthermore, the 16-article law prescribes stiff penalties against traffickers ranging from one year in jail to life imprisonment and paying fines ranging between 100,000 and one million dirhams (\$27,500 and \$275,000).

These amendments are aimed at achieving further protecting victims of this crime. Amendments are as follows:

Victims-friendly Amendments

- 1 Inform victim and witness of their legal rights, in a language understood by them, and allowing them to express their legal and social needs.
- 2 Refer victim, if required, to any medical entity to receive psychological or physical treatment. Such a person shall be admitted into one of the medical or psychological rehabilitation centers, if necessary.
- 3 Admit victim into one of shelter centers or any other approved entity should the need arise.
- 4 Provide necessary security protection for victim and witness, whenever needed.
- 5 Allow victim and the witness to stay in the County, should investigation or trial so requires, based on an order issued by public prosecution or court, as the case may require.
- 6 The court may delegate an attorney for victim upon request and pay the required fees. The decision of the court in this regard shall be final, where fees shall be paid under a certificate issued by the court that pays the said fees.

As part of its international commitment to combat human trafficking, the UAE acceded to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (2000) in April 2005. This includes

provisions for international cooperation in anti-human trafficking efforts. More importantly, in September 2008, the UAE acceded to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress

and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), which is one of the two protocols attached to the Transnational Organised Crime Convention.

Other Relevant Legislations

The UAE issued two by-laws in 2010 and 2011. The first regulated Federal Law No. 15 of (1993), concerning Human Organ Transplantation, and aimed to achieve the following:

- **Control the process of preserving and transplanting human organs, tissues and cells**
- **Prevent trafficking of human organs, tissues and cells**
- **Protect the rights of donors and recipients of human organs, tissues and cells**

In order to achieve these goals and avoid the trafficking of human organs – a practice seen in many countries – current legislation includes several punitive provisions. These address all cases of organ trafficking, including buying or selling – or offering to buy and sell – human

organs from living or deceased persons by means of abduction, deception, coercion, abuse of power, or exploiting vulnerability.

In addition, Article 364 of the UAE Penal Code provides for measures against practicing forced prostitution, and Article 365 provides penalties for those who establish or manage places for prostitution. The UAE also issued Federal Law No. 39 of 2006 on International Judicial Cooperation, which includes articles on the extradition of suspects and accused persons to the respective jurisdictions of their homelands for trial or execution of judgments against them. It also includes articles illustrating how mutual judicial cooperation operates, including in regards to human trafficking (articles 6-37)

The Ministry of Human

Resources and Emiratisation issued Ministerial Decision No. 739/2016, supplementary to the Ministerial Decree No. 703/2009 on the protection of wages. All establishments registered with the Ministry must pay wages to workers at the due date through the Wage Protection System. The employer shall be considered late in payment of the wage unless he pays it within the first ten days of the due date, and has ceased to pay the wage unless the wage is paid within one month of the due date. In case of failure to comply with this, the Ministry shall take the necessary legal measures, including warning the establishment, stopping the establishment's electronic services, automatically applying the fines through applicable regulations, and informing the judicial authorities to take the necessary measures.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING (NCCHT):

A cabinet order established the NCCHT in 2007 to coordinate efforts and enforce plans at various levels in all the seven emirates of the federation. The Committee includes

20 members representing 16 various entities from federal ministries, law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations.

In 2016, a representative

of the Public Prosecution of Ras Al Khaimah was added to strengthen the communication between the concerned authorities in combating this crime.

Prevention





The regular meeting of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking Crimes.

The Responsibilities Of The Committee Includes:

Studying and revising human trafficking legislation with a view to enhancing and securing necessary protections in accordance with international standards.

Preparing reports on efforts undertaken by the UAE to fight human trafficking, in coordination with other relevant authorities in the country.

Studying reports related to human trafficking and taking relevant action towards implementing their recommendations

Coordinating efforts among government authorities concerned with the issue of human trafficking such as ministries, departments, corporations and organisations, as well as coordinating follow-up actions taken to

achieve these objectives.

Promoting public awareness on matters related to human trafficking through conferences, seminars, brochures, periodic newsletters, training and other means in order to achieve the Committee's goals

Participating in international conferences and forums related to combatting human trafficking.

The Committee, through its regular meetings, which totaled 37 by 2016, is committed to encouraging concerned bodies to exert additional progressive and forceful legislative efforts to assure countrywide compliance with international standards and implementation of laws on combating human trafficking crimes. Notably, the Committee issued the regulatory resolution on dealing with victims of human trafficking among relevant authorities in the UAE and a code of ethics for media professionals on dealing with victims of the crime.

The Committee has also been taking the lead in publishing its annual reports since 2008 to ensure transparency and dissemination of information, to increase awareness among the public and at the national level, and to highlight the UAE's effort on combating this crime internationally. The UAE believes that data collection and analysis

are important because the more information it has, the more proactive it can be in its quest to tackle such dynamic crimes.

As part of a comprehensive awareness campaign on the specific and complex criminalized acts pursued by human traffickers, workshops and training sessions are conducted by NCCHT in cooperation with relevant Ministries and authorities, as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). These workshops were attended by the Department of Naturalisation and Residency, Police, Public Prosecutions, as well as Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation, victim shelters and other relevant bodies. The primary purpose of such programmes is to ensure that those on the front-line of combatting human trafficking meet international standards.

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Public Awareness

Addressing human trafficking crimes is not the work of just one authority, but is a combined institutional and community-based task. Various state establishments exchange information between officials and community members to bring about the desired results.

The Committee launched a pioneering human trafficking media campaign at the end of 2010 and early 2011 in the Abu Dhabi and Al Ain international airports. Apart from informative hoardings, the campaign included distribution of pamphlets in six languages (Arabic, English, Urdu, Hindi, Russian and Tagalog), with contact details of Ewaa shelters for women and children victims of human trafficking. The idea behind launching a media campaign at airports crystallised after NCCHT noticed that most of the cases, particularly those involving sexual exploitation, originate outside the country, and realised that prospective victims should become aware of the available anti-trafficking remedial mechanisms as soon as they arrive in the UAE.

Following positive feedback about the impact of the public awareness campaigns at the Abu Dhabi and Al Ain airports, this drive was expanded to include the Dubai International Airport terminals between June and December 2013. Led by the NCCHT, in cooperation with Dubai Police, the campaign message was propagated in 14 prominent languages, which represent the nationalities most vulnerable to human trafficking.

Overall, these results have been possible due to the UAE's massive efforts to gather information and deploy the necessary forces to efficiently combat human trafficking activities.

Media Campaign

The UAE launched its biggest media campaign which between December 2015 and June 2016 to create general awareness about human trafficking and simple ways to combat it. It was aimed at all nationalities and communities, victims, prospective victims and traffickers. Designed to reach across section of people in the UAE, the campaign was launched in multiple languages and carried across various print, electronic and social media channels.

A number of mediums were chosen to convey various messages to different sections of the people residing in the country including newspapers in English and Arabic, hoardings at airports, and radio spots in English, Arabic, Hindi and Tagalog. Additionally, pocket-size booklets were distributed at airports in eight languages — English, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, Tagalog, Bengali, Russian and Bahasa Indonesia — and several short videos were posted on social media to serve as source of information to the international audience about the UAE's achievements and challenges.

Further, the NCCHT continuously updates its website (www.nccht.gov.ae) to serve as a one-stop source of information on its anti-trafficking strategy since 2006. In order to serve as an active channel of communication between the Committee and general public, the new website provides a mechanism to both complain and provide suggestions online.

EFFORTS OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

The Ministry of Interior has always been keen to exert significant efforts to combat and counter human trafficking crimes in all its forms. The Ministry of Interior is committed to combatting the scourge of human trafficking in accordance with plans embodied in the National Strategy to combat human trafficking crimes and bring perpetrators to justice.

Coordination at The UAE Level

As part of the Ministry of Interior's efforts to coordinate with the Federal and Local Departments to combat human trafficking, the Ministry has established the Committee to Combat Human Trafficking. The Committee comprises members from police stations and units concerned with human trafficking at the local and federal levels with a view to coordinating with relevant general headquarters and departments. It aims to identify the annual training needs to equip and develop human cadres and coordinate with concerned authorities in order to raise awareness of the seriousness of this type of crime. It also coordinates with victim shelter centers on securing and protecting the victims, and contributing to developing reports and statistics related to the fight against human trafficking. The Ministry has also established organizational units to best address combating human trafficking crimes. These units include:

Statistics and Security Information Analysis Center of the Federal Information Security Department: The Centre specializes in identifying data and information on human trafficking crimes at the UAE level. In this, the center uses cutting edge technology programs and systems to follow up the various stages of gathering information, starting from filing a case at the police stations, up to issuing judgements at various prosecution stages, in order to provide decision makers with security warnings and predictions, and activate the preventive and proactive role.

Anti-Human Trafficking Crimes Section (Federal): Anti Human trafficking crimes section has been established at the level of Police Headquarters in all the emirates. Its role is centered on developing plans and policies to combat crimes at the federal level, in addition to coordinating federally between all combatting units

to address and encounter human trafficking crimes. The sections perform the following roles:

1) Developing plans and policies related to combatting human trafficking crime activities.

2) Examining the methods, motives, and local and international connections of human trafficking gangs.

3) Rehabilitation and training of personnel to combat human trafficking, and providing them with the most effective means to detect related crimes.

4) Participating in procedures to hear the testimonies of victims of human trafficking crimes.

5) Coordinating with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the concerned entities in sharing information on human trafficking crimes with neighboring countries and international organizations, so as to assist in reducing and preventing crimes in the UAE.



Ministry of Interior participation on Interpool conference

6) Following up on laws and local and international agreements on human trafficking crimes.

Capacity building and disseminating the culture of combating human trafficking crime:

Believing in the importance of training and qualifying workers in the field of combating human trafficking crimes, and in order to deal with such crimes in a professional and accurate manner, the Ministry of Interior (MOI) developed a training strategy for 2016.

The MOI, in cooperation with local police leaderships in the UAE and relevant international organizations, organized and participated in many training courses, workshops and lectures at the national and international levels, with a view to raising awareness and disseminating the culture of combating human trafficking among law enforcement officers. The Ministry conducted the following programs:

Use of modern means of communication to

Locally organized courses, workshops and lectures

Number	Participants
35	2710

International participations

Number	Participants
2	6

connect with Ministry employees by sending text messages to raise awareness on the seriousness of human trafficking crimes.

Issuing a guidance manual in Arabic on combating human trafficking for personnel who work electronically in the law enforcement field.

Issuing a guidance manual in Arabic, English, and French languages on combating human trafficking for personnel who work in law enforcement field. This was in addition to the electronic version in Arabic.

The Ministry conducted an exercise to monitor persons who distribute child pornography files through peer-to-peer (P2P) networks, in coordination with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as a member and strategic partner of the Virtual Global Taskforce concerned with protecting children online.

Awareness and Communication with the Public:

As part of raising awareness and communicating with the public through different means of mass media, the Ministry of Interior has:

Communicated regularly and continuously with all print, audio, and video

media, through holding periodic meetings to clarify all aspects related to human trafficking crimes. This included a meeting at Abu Dhabi Radio on the launching of a guidance manual on 'Dealing with the Elderly, Disabled, Women, and Children' at the stage of collecting evidence. In addition, 58 articles were published in Arab and foreign local newspapers on human trafficking during 2016.

Conducted awareness campaigns for workers to be acquainted with their rights, and to provide toll-free numbers to report violations anonymously.

Received all complaints, suggestions and grievances from the public through various administrative units in the Ministry of the Interior. Mol then verifies the authenticity of the notification and performs follow up procedures.

Assigned a telephone line known as "Al Aman" operator service connected with Abu Dhabi Police General HQ. This is to receive complaints and suggestions from the public in Arabic, English and Urdu.

Established the "www.moi.gov.ae" website for the Ministry of Interior to facilitate the process of receiving complaints, notifications and suggestions

from the public in both Arabic and English.

Measures taken to prevent trafficking of humans

Cooperating with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), through sharing information on human trafficking crimes, particularly women and children, and sending out public notices regarding perpetrators involved in such crime.

Intensifying security efforts to tighten control over the UAE's entry ports and fostering international partnerships in this regard.

Analyzing and studying cases of human trafficking victims' exploitation in order to develop preventive measures.

Providing special and suitable locations in police stations for interviewing potential victims of human trafficking.

Organizing rewards for secret agents who contribute to detecting human trafficking crimes.

Exempting human trafficking victims from fines related to visa violations regardless of the period of overstay.

Modifying the status of some victims so as to allow them to reside in the UAE according to relevant applicable regulations.

Human Trafficking Crimes Control Centre Of The Human Rights General Department, Dubai Police



Awarding the first Diploma certificates on combating human trafficking

Since its establishment in 2009, the Centre has been playing a significant role in monitoring human trafficking crimes, by strengthening the preventive measures in order to reduce the crime. The center also has been working to detect, analyze, conducting research on, and provide strategic solutions to human trafficking. It is providing legal support to the victims, as well as implementing the laws against human trafficking

crimes by raising the capacity of law enforcement officers on how to deal with such crimes and take care of the victims. It also continues to establish cooperative partnerships with local government institutions, as well as civil society, regional and international organisations to raise the ability of law enforcement officers to effectively deal with human trafficking. There is also a specialized section in this center concerned with monitor-

ing the conditions of temporary employment. It aims to monitor and receive complaints from workers regarding human trafficking crimes and to reduce exploitation of workers that may result in trafficking crimes. This is done through inspections of labor camps, ensuring the safety and the general conditions of workers and ensuring that companies comply with the requirements of regulating the labor market.

Initiative on Combatting Human Trafficking Crimes and Labors Rights

Conducting an awareness campaign to combat human trafficking crimes, which targeted 56 recruitment agencies dealing with domestic workers in Dubai during 2016.

Launching 6 initiatives containing 10 labor-oriented programs designed to facilitate the resolution of complaints and labor disputes in Dubai in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, the Dubai Courts and the Permanent Committee for Labor Affairs

“Your Eid is Our Eid” initiative whereby Eid celebrations were held with victims of human trafficking in the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children in Dubai. The aim was to foster the role of the General Department of Human Rights in Dubai Police and the Department of Human Trafficking Victims Care section, which would have a positive impact on the victims in the short and long term. They victims were given gifts, including cash, as an act of kindness.

participants of 8 training programs	
Ministry of Interior:	22
Dubai Police:	63
Civil Society:	158

Lectures	
Number	Participants
8	1087

Anti-Human Trafficking Diploma

The anti-human trafficking diploma is the first professional program of its kind nationally and regionally. The program is exclusively focused on tackling human trafficking crime. The first edition of the Diploma program was successfully completed in 2015, it was relaunched for the second year in 2016. The five-month course is organized by the Human Rights Department of the Dubai Police, in cooperation with the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, Dubai Judicial Institute. and Human Trafficking Monitoring Centre at Dubai Police. The diploma course includes a new scientific learning program covering the various dimensions of the crime and the human aspect of victim care. The diploma is aimed at preparing qualified and skilled cadres in all departments, organizations and parties concerned with combating human trafficking in the UAE, by providing them with scientific and practical skills and experiences required to contribute to enhancing UAE’s efforts to combat human trafficking crimes and ensure the protection of victims.



The Comprehensive Inspector Initiative launched by the Ministry

Anti-Human Trafficking Section Of The Ministry Of Human Resources And Emiratization:

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization established the Anti-Human Trafficking Crimes Section in 2009, to support the implementation of Federal Law No. 51 of 2006, on combating crimes of human trafficking. It is assigned to monitor the labor market and detect the indicators of combating human trafficking for all categories of workers in the premises and work sites of institutions registered with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization. The

department was tasked with monitoring the labor market by following up the inspection visits with reports, educating the two parties on the concept of human trafficking and forced labor, and raising awareness of the two parties of the signs and forms of forced labor.

The Section was tasked with preparing studies and periodic reports on the working terms and conditions in the inspected institutions. It also works on any information or facts that may result in organized crimes or

information about other crimes that may be related to human trafficking and forced labor. Such studies and reports are submitted to the leadership and competent authorities to take necessary measures. The aim is to ensure protection, care and law enforcement in the interests of the vulnerable party in the labor market in accordance with international requirements.

Through field visits and techniques of investigating and monitoring the conditions of the labor market, the section

is working towards solving many problems that may be a form of forced labor conditions, including long working hours, gender discrimination at work, problems related to women's rights in ensuring maternity care and requirements of holidays and breastfeeding hours, wages and salaries. It also monitors employment of worker without obtaining work permits from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, labor housing camps which are in violation of international requirements, appropriate work environment, provision of occupational health and safety standards, and other violations that the ministry is keen to control and reduce. The section also ensures legal advice for affected persons.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation has also worked to develop electronic monitoring systems in order to improve detecting of human trafficking crimes or forced labor. These include smart inspection system, smart guidance system, labor camps application, 'Salama' application, 'Amin' application, and 'Ratebi' system, among others. These monitoring tools contribute to regularly observing the labor market by specialists all over the UAE.

Smart Inspection:

It is an electronic system that combines the data of Ratebi system, inspection system, self-inspection system and e-inspection system. The system provides indicators, the establishment risk degree and accordingly the facility will be visited for further monitoring. The system has variable indicators that are determined by the degree of the seriousness of risk. The system is a tool that allows inspectors of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation to create and track inspection requests, as well as to follow up on the establishments and their concluded subcontracts to see whether they adhere to the conditions of work set forth by the law for workers and protect their rights. With respect to workplaces, the system monitors whether they comply with health and safety standards, and if workers work in areas that do not constitute a risk to their lives. This application was considered one of the best smart applications to analyze the risks and data available in the Ministry's systems and relevant authorities, and determine the levels of risk. This application was commended regionally and internationally, as a group of local and international organizations have requested technical

support to transfer this experience and apply it to their entities.

Smart guidance system:

This is the first smart remote device to carry out awareness and guidance and provide legal information to workers in a simple, easy and accessible way and across all levels of skills. It is an electronic guide where the worker undergoes an electronic training course on the labor law and the procedures within reach of the worker and in his or her spoken language.

The idea of the smart guidance device is to invent or manufacture a device that acts as a guide and be used in the centers or places and areas frequently visited by workers. The device allows workers to access the information and benefit from the smart services provided by the Ministry in line with the smart government plans.

Labor Camps Application:

This application obligates labor camp owners to register their accommodations, locations and provide the names of workers in each room. The program identifies the workers eligible for housing by the companies and then monitors if health

and occupational safety standards inside the housing are applied. The aim is to avail a dignified environment for workers to live in, preserve their rights, and prevent workers from being overcrowded in the rooms and labor camps in contravention to the law.

Salama Application:

This obliges employers to report any work injury suffered by the worker immediately after the accident so that the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization can send a specialized team to protect the worker and ensure their rights are protected and that they receive medical treatment as stipulated by law.

Aamen Application: This is a smart application for the employer, worker or member of the community to communicate, log complaints, and follow-up their procedures, within the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization mandate. The aim is to enable the Ministry to protect the rights of the complainant or the reporter. The application also raises awareness and provides guidance on all laws and ministerial decisions.

Ratebi System: This is a system that works to confidentially receive workers' complaints about non-receipt of their financial dues



Comprehensive Inspector

Early in 2016, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization launched the Comprehensive Inspector Initiative by preparing 12 comprehensive teams at the UAE level. This aims at working on a Comprehensive Inspection Program, where each task force is focused on monitoring and resolving violations and preparing necessary reports to take legal actions against companies committing violations. In addition, the completion of campaigns will be done according to an established plan, with more focus on facilities with high intensity labor, besides the comprehensive inspection of work sites and facilities. This process covers companies that employ more than 50 workers.

This process is intended to provide modern control tools to ensure the application of legislations that achieve common interests of the two parties of production, and improve the level of services provided in the inspection sector, and work on the application of comprehensive control of target groups. The process was introduced to conduct a comprehensive inspection of establishments with employment above 50, with the requirement of providing accommodation for workers in facilities and work sites. In this case, comprehensive control of establishments will be provided for the correction of their status in accordance with Labor Law and the Ministerial decisions explaining the law.

and wages. Accordingly, visits to the establishment is conducted to verify the validity of the complaint received from the worker. It is one way to allow the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization to monitor the practices and violations in the deliv-

ery of wages.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization has also used a number of other innovative electronic systems aimed at protecting the rights of workers. More details are available at the Ministry's website www.mohre.gov.ae.

Labour Market Monitoring Results

- The number of various types of regular inspection visits in 2016 was 212,189. It must be noted that these visits are not only intended to monitor wage protection, but also track compliance of companies with labor law, ministerial decisions and verify any indicators related to human trafficking or forced labor.

- Through such proactive monitoring visits to establishments, the Ministry was able to clear overdue salaries by forcing companies to pay wages immediately.

- Workers who work in establishments that have not been able to pay wages are compensated through the bank guarantee imposed by the Ministry upon the recruitment of workers.

- 66,115 establishments in the UAE committed to the ban from working during the mid-day heat

between mid-June and mid-September. There were 187 violations.

- The second phase of the Smart Inspection System was implemented, which contributed to the completion of data for 100% of the establishments that are registered at the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization. The risk level of the company is determined by 23 factors and effects of risk (eg, percentage of unpaid wage obligation, number of workers complaints, number of jobless reports, number of expired work permits, recorded fines, etc.). Different systems collect and analyze such data. Thus, the Ministry was able to determine the number of hazardous installations that require more precise inspection. The number of such violating firms in 2015 was 24,363, whereas it was 22,587 establishments in 2016.

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The number of various types of regular inspection visits in 2016 was 212,189
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Prevention

Awareness Efforts and Trainings:

- There were 94,046 inspection and awareness-raising visits (periodic inspection) aimed at employers and their representatives to raise awareness of laws and ministerial decisions.

- With regard to initiatives for raising awareness of workers in labor housing camps and work sites, a total of 8,692 visits were conducted. These were meant to guide and educate workers about the laws and ministerial decisions, and acquaint them with their rights and duties. These visits benefitted 329,833 workers.

- Issuing “Know your Rights” brochure, a guidance manual for temporary workers, employers’ guidelines, employees’ handbook, an infographic, as well as the code of conduct for a labor inspectors, and inspector’s manual.

- Many communication channels were launched through social media. The legal inquiries by the public were also responded to in a weekly one-hour live broadcast by legal advisors. This initiative of consultation hour benefited more than 10,000 participants and followers. The Ministry participated in radio and television programs on raising the awareness of the labor law, in addition to introducing legal articles on workers’ rights in a selection of Arab and foreign newspapers and magazines.

As part of the efforts of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization

“Know Your Rights”

- The Ministry launched the “Know Your Rights” campaign in 2016 by developing awareness platforms for workers in the UAE’s ports of entry (including Dubai International Airport and Abu Dhabi International Airport), as well as a group of labor housing camps of more than 100 workers. About 160,000 pamphlets were printed and distributed in 11 languages, including Arabic, English, Chinese, Malayalam, Hindi and Urdu.

- The pamphlet addressed the following issues: recruitment charges, travelling fees, UAE work permit and residence visa charges; where the employer and employee have to sign the employment contract after arrival

in the UAE, and that each of them must keep a copy of the employment contract; the terms and conditions of the employment contract must match the employment offer presented to the worker in the home country; the worker must keep his identity papers in a safe place, and the worker must communicate with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization in the event that the employer does not provide the worker the opportunity to work as agreed; the worker shall have the right to leave the work at any time; it is important for the worker to be aware of the legal obligations of this decision. The number of beneficiaries of this campaign was 160,000 workers nationwide.

to train inspectors on how to monitor and deal with human trafficking crimes, the Ministry held the following courses:

- A course on enhancing workplace compliance through labor inspections, in cooperation with the Institute of Turin, Italy, where 15 members participated.

- Training of 30 inspectors

in a specialized course on human trafficking, including an explanation of the relevant laws related to the crime, detection methods, and the techniques of taking statements.

- Launching an academic diploma in inspections, where 22 employees were trained in facilities inspection and monitoring indicators of human trafficking crime.

Prosecution And Punishment

Federal Law no. 51 of 2006 and its amendments stipulates severe punishment for perpetrators of human trafficking crimes.

Depending on the nature of exploitation, penalties range from six months in jail to life imprisonment, and fines ranging from 100,000 to one million AED (\$27,500 and \$275,000). For example, the court applies the penalty of life imprisonment for anyone involved in trafficking crime as laid out in Article 2 of Federal Law 51.

Cases

According to statistical information compiled from competent agencies in the UAE, 25 human trafficking related cases were registered in 2016. The majority of these cases were related to sexual exploitation, excluding three cases were connected to sale of children.

These cases involved 34 victims, all women. The efforts exerted by law enforcement authorities led to the arrest of 106 traffickers as shown in Table 1 and Chart 1.

Human Trafficking Cases			
EMIRATE	CASES	VICTIMS	TRAFFICKERS
ABU DHABI	3	3	26
DUBAI	8	11	31
SHARJAH	10	15	30
AJMAN	2	3	12
RAS AL KHAIMAH	2	2	7
TOTAL	25	34	106

Table (1) : Human Trafficking Cases (2016)
Source: Public Prosecution of respective emirates

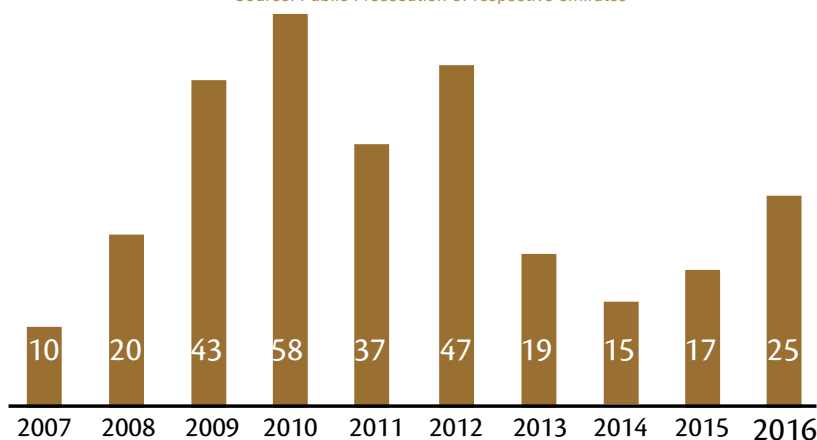


Chart (1): Human Trafficking Cases

COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING CRIMES

It is worth mentioning that verdicts were issued in nine of these cases. The remaining cases are still under consideration by courts, with judgments expected in 2017, as shown in Table (2).

Verdicts included imprisonment sentences ranging from one year to life imprisonment, demonstrating the UAE's commitment to combatting such crimes.

Verdicts			
EMIRATE	CASES	FINAL VERDICTS	UNDER PROCESS
ABU DHABI	3	3	--
DUBAI	8	3	5
SHARJAH	10	2	9
AJMAN	2	--	2
RAS AL KHAIMAH	2	1	1
TOTAL	25	9	17

Table (2) : Verdicts (2016)
Source: Public Prosecution of respective emirates



Victim Protection:

The UAE's holistic approach to combat human trafficking includes significant initiatives that determine how victims are treated by law enforcement officials, as well as expanding the help and welfare programs available to them. These programs were designed to be prompt and just. The government firmly believes that those who are exposed to all forms of exploitation must be protected, and supported through counseling and rehabilitation programs to be able to have a natural and dignified life. At the same time, those responsible for trafficking individuals in all its forms will be punished under the UAE law, with an endeavor to stem such crimes, in cooperation with the international community.

Further, the NCCHT issued Resolution No. 7 of 2010 concerning the regulatory procedures for dealing with human trafficking victims among competent authorities in the UAE. Such procedures were aimed at

supporting and protecting human trafficking victims, especially among police and public prosecution departments during search and investigation stages and at the time when victims arrive at shelters.

These procedures particularly assist and protect victims of human trafficking by respecting their legal and human rights.

The Committee also issued Resolution 8/21 of 2010 pertaining to ethical standards that media entities need to adhere to while conducting interviews with human trafficking victims. It sets out a uniform ethical standard that should be respected by various media outlets – television, radio, internet websites, newspapers and other publications – especially with regard to protecting victims and ensuring their privacy.

The UAE government has a growing record of providing assistance to victims of sexual abuse, which includes shelters and protection.

The NCCHT established a fund in 2013 to support victims of human trafficking. Charity organizations and associations as well as businesspeople are financially supporting the fund. The fund aims at covering some of the expenses related to victims of human trafficking, taking into consideration the humanitarian aspect, and providing a decent life for them, away from the exploitation, which deprives them of their human dignity.

Law enforcement agencies in the UAE cooperate with foreign governments and non-governmental organizations when receiving notifications related to human trafficking. Potential victims are then referred to shelters until official relevant papers are completed. Their residence status is then amended for employment in the UAE, return to their homeland is secured, or the UAE coordinates with United Nations organizations to find an alternative homeland, according to victim's wish and circumstances.

Amounts disbursed to victims		
2014	2015	2016
AED 205033	AED 294391	AED 64782



Meeting With A Delegation From The Hashemite Kingdom Of Jordan

Ewaa Shelters For Victims Of Human Trafficking

Ewaa shelters for women and children victims of human trafficking crimes were established in 2008. It has been operating under the umbrella of the UAE Red Crescent Authority as per the Directives Authentication Document No. 164 of 2015 issued by the esteemed Executive Council. Currently, HH President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood directly supervises the centers.

The centers have been providing support for victims since the date of their establish-

ment, and through such centers, rehabilitation programs are provided for victims as well as medical, psychological and legal support.

Ewaa also opened its first center in Abu Dhabi for male human trafficking victims in January 2014 to handle any relevant situation at the UAE level. Ewaa centers provide victims of human trafficking with a number of services. These programs have been developed in line with most developed systems and procedures applicable for providing victims with

required care.

Care and Cooperation:

Ewaa shelters provide health care to victims when they arrive at the shelter. During this period, victims suffer from psychological and, sometimes, sexual diseases because of the exploitation they have been subjected to. As a result, psychological and social support is provided. There are many educational and vocational rehabilitation programs provided through specialized courses in cooperation with many companies and institutions.

These programs include courses in IT, languages, sewing and embroidery, drawing, flower arrangement, hotel management and accounting. They are then awarded certified certificates to support them in obtaining jobs within or outside the UAE.

Ewaa centers also cooperates with similar centers and competent authorities in the victims' home countries, and relevant international organizations, in coordination with the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The overall goal is to take the necessary legal measures to return victims to their homelands or facilitate an alternative homeland in the event of a threat to the victim in their home country. Otherwise, the UAE coordinates with concerned authorities to facilitate processing their residence in the event that suitable work is available for them in the UAE.

The working crew at Ewaa

shelters speak different languages to communicate with victims through (800SAVE) which has been designated by the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking as the hotline for the United Arab Emirates in this field. A YouTube channel on shelters has been commissioned recently to highlight the efforts of such shelters in providing necessary assistance to victims of human trafficking.

In 2016, Ewaa shelters provided care for 18 victims

In 2016, Ewaa shelters provided care for 18 victims

Origin of human trafficking victims		
Asia	Africa	Europe
14	2	2

Social status of victims				
Child	Unmarried	Married	Divorced	Widow
2	3	7	5	1

Age of victims			
Under 18	18-25	26-30	31-40
2	5	7	4

Educational				
Illiterate	Primary	Intermediate	Secondary	University
7	4	2	3	2

Contact

As part of its outreach, Ewaa has dedicated female staff trained to communicate around the clock in several languages with human trafficking victims. These initiatives aim to encourage more victims to escape from the clutches of exploitation and get relief at the shelter



Helpline: 800-SAVE (7283) • Website: www.shwc.ae



Dubai Foundation for Women and Children



Training organised by the DFWAC on Human Trafficking

Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC) is a licensed non-profit shelter in the UAE for women and children victims of domestic violence, child abuse, and human trafficking. It was established in July 2007 to offer victims immediate protection and support services in accordance with international human rights obligations. The Foundation provides free services to women and child victims of violence, child abuse, and human trafficking, including

major services such as safe shelter, legal assistance and guidance, a helpline, consular and general directorate of residency and foreigners affairs assistance, psychological and social support.

DFWAC also provides secondary support services including empowerment, vocational training services, children's education, recreational activities, professional training and physical fitness.

In order to prevent trafficking crimes, the Foundation adopted an integrated

awareness program in coordination with NCCHT, which aims to raise awareness of the most vulnerable groups in beauty salons, restaurants, massage centers and recruitment centers dealing with domestic workers. The program aims to introduce them to types of human trafficking crimes and protection and prevention techniques. It will be implemented in a variety of ways in cooperation with various governmental and non-governmental bodies in successive stages for a period of 5 years starting in 2015

In 2016, the Foundation carried out the following activities:

Continued its efforts in the “Raising Awareness of the Most Vulnerable to Human Trafficking” initiative by targeting recruitment offices of domestic workers, in cooperation with the Department of Naturalization, Residency and Foreigners Affairs. Field visits targeted 65 recruitment offices of domestic workers in Dubai. The objective of the visit was explained to these offices and 27,690 awareness leaflets were distributed in order to be delivered to housemaids brought to work in the UAE.

Broadcast human trafficking awareness notices twice a day from Sunday through Thursday on the Arabic FM radio, Dubai 92 FM radio in English, and CITY FM in Urdu.

56 articles were published by the Foundation on human trafficking issues in newspapers, magazines and news sites.

The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children assisted 12 victims of human trafficking, including 6 new cases in 2016, bringing the number of beneficiaries of the Foundation’s human trafficking cases since its inception to 233 victims.

”
The objective of the visit was explained to these offices and 27,690 awareness leaflets were distributed
“

Victim Protection



Contact

The Foundation receives communications by dedicated female staff trained to receive communications round the clock through various means, including:

Helpline: 800111

SMS: 5111 Email: help@dfwac.ae and info@dfwac.ae



@DFWAC



@DFWAC



@DFWAC



International Cooperation In Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

As part of its international commitment to combat human trafficking, the UAE acceded to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) in April 2007. This includes provisions for international cooperation in anti-human trafficking efforts. More importantly, in September 2008, the UAE acceded to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), which is one of the two protocols attached to the Organized Crime Convention.

Bilateral Cooperation:

The UAE government and the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking has discovered that traffickers and victims often originate from the same country, making it more difficult for authorities in the UAE to uncover such crimes. Due to the security threat or negative social look that the victim may face in its home country, this challenge has been tackled through greater bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

”
During 2016, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Republic of India on preventing human trafficking crimes
“

As part of its efforts to promote international cooperation on human rights issues, the Ministry of Interior has signed

agreements with more than 30 countries and there are draft agreements with more than 20 countries in this regard.

Within the few past years, the UAE has signed labour agreements with several countries to regulate the flow of workforce and deny unscrupulous private recruitment agencies the chance to cheat and traffic workers. The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation has agreements with at least 18 countries and protocols with three countries

During 2016, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Republic of India on preventing human trafficking crimes. Similar MoUs were signed with Indonesia in 2015, Armenia in 2009, Azerbaijan in 2011 and Australia in 2013. Negotiations for MoUs is underway with Thailand.

Overall, the government's efforts to forge international partnerships and enhance cooperation are beginning to bear fruit, especially in the realm of tackling the

crime at source, which is the countries of origin, rather than only dealing with it within its own borders.

Cooperation with international organisations

Further, the NCCHT and its affiliates maintain continuous contact with the International Labour Organisation, International Organisation for Migration and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to both share and learn from their experiences. These institutions either participated in the workshops or training programmes conducted in the UAE, or the UAE officials participated in the events organized by these organizations elsewhere.

In 2015, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization and the International Organization for Migration signed an agreement to conduct a field study about the labor recruitment industry in the framework of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, to develop an understanding of fundamental challenges facing labor sending/receiving countries. As per the agreement, the study will target the labor recruitment industry in the UAE, Kerala (India) and Nepal for one year. The agreement emanates from the keenness of the UAE to continue its active role in developing procedures about

temporary contractual workers serving in different sectors and providing them with proper protection. Under the agreements of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, mechanisms are being developed between participating countries alongside relevant labor international organizations to exchange new ideas and experiences on best practices that will support and strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation efforts and partnerships.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization and the International Labor Organization, in 2015 as well, signed an agreement on technical cooperation in the areas of labour market information, labor inspection, occupational and health safety systems, in addition to the settlement of labor disputes' system. The agreement was signed within the framework of the Ministry's keenness to strengthen its capacity and utilize technical expertise available at the ILO to contribute towards updating some of the systems implemented by the ministry, specifically the labour market information system, which was launched several years ago. The agreement also has the potential to help in the development of mechanisms to enhance the efficiency of the ministry, as well as to improve the inspection systems

and competencies of inspectors to further stabilize the labour market.

It is worth mentioning that the NCCHT in 2016 participated in the comprehensive Arab strategy initiatives to build national capacity to combat human trafficking, which is spearheaded by the Arab League, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. These included:

- Workshop on the role of recruitment fees, arbitrary practices, fraud and recruitment agencies in the growing phenomenon of human trafficking, held in Manama in October.
- Training course for Arab media professionals in the area of combating human trafficking, held in Abu Dhabi in November.
- Expert Meeting for discussing the phenomenon of human trafficking due to existing conflicts, held in Muscat in December.

It is equally important to note that as part of the voluntary commitment made at the UAE Universal Periodic Review before the Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2009, the UAE facilitated the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children in 2012. This followed the two visits of the Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and

Related Intolerance and Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography in 2009 and 2010, respectively. In 2013, the UAE attended the review meeting to discuss the UN rapporteur's report in Geneva.

This is further evidence of the government's attempt to become a part of the collective international mechanism to fulfill Universal Declaration of Human Rights principles.

The UAE presented its human rights-related achievements, including its track record in combatting human trafficking, before the Human Rights Council's Working Group of the Universal

Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva in January 2013. The UAE achievements on combating human trafficking were commended by other countries worldwide.

In 2010, the UAE joined the 'Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking,' a coalition of 20 countries fighting the crime. The UAE attends the meetings of this Group, the last of which was conducted in New York in 2015.

Following up on the 24th meeting of the Steering Group of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime decision in 2012 to extend membership of the Bali

Process and its Ad Hoc Group to the UAE, the Cabinet formally accepted this membership in March 2013. The UAE attended several workshops and meetings in 2016 organized under the auspices of Bali Process, to include:

- Participation in Bali Process Meeting for national training managers held in Indonesia in February.
- Participation in the 6th Ministerial Regional Meeting of Bali Process held in Indonesia in March.
- Participation in the 11th quasi-official meeting for senior officials in Bali Process held in Colombo in October.



UAE s Commitment to Become A Role Model

The UAE is approaching the human trafficking problem not only as a domestic challenge that violates Islamic values and opposes Arab culture and social values, but also as an international challenge that requires concerted efforts to address. Based on the government belief that this is a despicable crime,

the UAE emphasizes that it is committed combating this practice in all its forms.

The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking is working hard on every element in its '5 Ps' strategy – Prevention, Prosecution, Punishment, Protection and Promo-

tion (of international cooperation). Since the government first officially acknowledged this problem, it has consistently and continuously improved its efforts to limit the crime, and has adhered to international standards.

The UAE has made significant progress in a short



period, but realizes that much more needs to be done, and is ready to move ahead constructively and systematically. It will continue to prove its determination and acknowledge where it needs to improve. Simultaneously, the UAE will continue to cooperate with all appropriate regional and international law enforcement officials to apprehend, prosecute and punish those violating the UAE's human trafficking law and those attempting to use the country as a

channel to violate anti-trafficking laws of other countries

In particular, the UAE seeks cooperation to overcome some of the challenges that it faces. This includes:

Continuing proactive awareness programs for countries that send large numbers of workers to the UAE, especially for vulnerable groups; and

Enhancing public-private partnership, especially

from recruitment agencies and business enterprises.

All these indicate that the UAE is committed to becoming a model for change in the region and an active member of the international community. It continues to welcome direct discussion and collaboration with other governments, public or private sector groups, or international organizations that share the vision of stemming the tide of human trafficking.



