

## “Internet Human Trafficking Crime in Laws, Local and International Conventions (Lebanon and UAE – case study)”

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## Abstract

New technological developments, such as improved encryption of communications, mobile messaging applications, and platforms; mainstreaming of virtual resources; infrastructure upgrades; and an increase in the number of device users, have increased online crime in combination with a lack of prevention, understanding of the digital evidence cycle, adequate legislation, and cooperation channels.

One of these crimes is online human trafficking, in which humans are made victims of themselves. They are subject to the same selling and buying procedures as any other item on internet platforms. Furthermore, advances in encryption, online anonymity, and the increased use of virtual assets are likely to provide additional incentives for traffickers to invest in misusing technology, while posing new challenges for anti-trafficking and cybercrime stakeholders.

However, these accomplishments must be accompanied by the emergence of new experts with expertise and professionalism in adapting this technology to criminal acts that, in conjunction with traditional crime, have not only resulted in contemporary crimes, but have even transformed them. The use of technique in the execution of the act transforms crime from its ordinary character and limited dimensions to new dimensions. The offender and innovative methods, perhaps the most serious of these crimes, is human trafficking via the Internet.

Because criminal liability requires a mistake by the perpetrator and the possibility of attributing it to him, this is only conceivable if the actor is capable of discrimination and cognition, which is not the case if an anonymous person commits a crime. This is made more difficult by the fact that the perpetrator of the crime is anonymous and uses special programs and apps that are difficult to detect.

In this study, we will define human trafficking crime by internet according to laws, local, regional and international conventions and explain the legal basis for criminal liability for crimes committed by internet with focusing on Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates as a case study.

We will divide this study into three chapters starting with an introduction, Chapter one discusses the definitions of human trafficking by international and regional organizations, including the United Nations. And the Second chapter discusses the transition from traditional forms to online human trafficking, recruitment methods, and how online trafficking has exacerbated it. The third chapter concludes with a case study of the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon.

## Introduction:

Human trafficking continues to be one of the most serious abuses of human rights in the world, with millions of people exploited and abused each year. As the globe grows more interconnected through technology, traffickers have changed their tactics, leveraging digital channels to facilitate their illegal activities. Understanding the definitions of human trafficking provided by international and regional organizations is critical to effectively combatting the scourge. Furthermore, investigating the role of technology in human trafficking sheds light on the changing nature of the crime and informs preventative and intervention methods.

Chapter One delves into the definitions of human trafficking supplied by international and regional organizations, shedding light on the complexities of this crime. The United Nations, a key authority on human rights, gives a broad definition that includes many sorts of exploitation and coercion. Other international institutions, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), have varied views on human trafficking, emphasizing its diverse nature. Furthermore, regional organizations offer context-specific definitions that take into consideration regional differences in trafficking dynamics and regulatory frameworks.

The second chapter looks at the interaction of technology and human trafficking, namely the shift from traditional to online channels. With the advent of the internet era, traffickers can now use technology to recruit, communicate, and exploit victims. Online platforms, social media, and encrypted communication channels allow traffickers to reach a larger audience while concealing their actions from law authorities. This chapter examines how technology has transformed the recruitment process, allowing traffickers to target and exploit susceptible individuals with greater ease.

Chapter Three is a case study of the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon, two countries dealing with substantial human trafficking issues. This chapter sheds light on the complexity of combating human trafficking in various sociopolitical

situations by studying individual examples and the role of technology in supporting trafficking networks in different locations. It also emphasizes the efforts made by governments, non-governmental organizations, and international players to combat human trafficking and assist victims in these nations.

Overall, this study seeks to improve our understanding of human trafficking by delving into its definitions, the role of technology in its facilitation, and individual case studies demonstrating its impact in various countries. By putting light on these interwoven features, this study hopes to influence policies and initiatives targeted at preventing human trafficking and defending persons' rights and dignity around the world.

So, the problematic is that: How Human trafficking using the internet has transformed recruitment dynamics, making it easier for traffickers to exploit vulnerable individuals, online aggravation and regional contexts also contribute to the issue? How should we understand these factors crucially for developing targeted prevention strategies and providing support to at-risk populations?

We will divide this research into three chapters

Chapter one: Defining Human trafficking according to international and regional organisations

- 1- Definition of the United Nation for Human Trafficking
- 2- Definition of Human Trafficking by other international organizations:
- 3- Definition of Human trafficking according to regional organizations

Chapter two: Using technology to facilitate human trafficking

- 1- The transition from traditional forms to online human trafficking
- 2- Recruiting in a new way
- 3- How Online Human Trafficking has been aggravated through

Chapter three: United Arab Emirates and Lebanon case study

### **Chapter one: Definition of online human trafficking crime**

Before defining online human trafficking we should first define human trafficking crime and its elements according to the United Nations the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplemented the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, then we will move on to its definition according to other international organizations, and at last we will deal with the definition by regional organizations.

#### **1- Definition of the United Nation for Human Trafficking**

The issue of the international consensus on what should be regarded as human trafficking is relatively recent. Indeed, not until the late 1990s did governments start distinguishing trafficking among other activities with which it was often linked, including facilitated irregular migration. A new, agreed-upon definition of trafficking was included in the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, an addition to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Trafficking Protocol). That definition has since been endorsed in many other legal and policy tools, and national laws. (UNOHCHR, 2014)

According to Article 3, paragraph (a) of the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime states that trafficking in persons “shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.” (Assembly, 2000)



- Trafficking in Children (Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000)

-Trafficking for the purpose of illegal adoption (Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, 1956)

-Child Sex Tourism (Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2002)

-Pornography (Travaux Preparatoire of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, 2006)

## 2- Definition of Human Trafficking by other international organizations:

Several other international legal documents have had clauses against human trafficking. These provisions, together with the United Nations Protocol, are a fundamental part of the international legal framework on human trafficking, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence, the International Criminal Court, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. Among these instruments are the following:

**2.1- The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women** was adopted in 1993, and it includes human trafficking as a form of "violence against women." Article 2 specifically includes "rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions, and elsewhere, trafficking in women, and forced prostitution" in that definition. (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006)

## 2.2- International Criminal court

One of the most significant milestones in international law is the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which was adopted in July 1998 in Rome and came into effect in 2002 with the ratification of the 60th State, which made it clear that human trafficking is a crime against humanity and, therefore, brought it under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

Article 7 of the statute includes enslavement in its definition of "crimes against humanity" and defines "enslavement" as "the exercise of any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership over a person, including the exercise of such power in the course of trafficking in persons, particularly women and children." (Rome Status, 2002)

## 2.3- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

In 1993, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women was adopted, and it encompasses human trafficking as a type of violence against women. In Article 2, as a specific definition, rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions, and elsewhere, trafficking in women, and forced prostitution are included in that definition. (Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993)

## 2.4 International Labor Organization

Another international convention that illuminates the meaning and extent of human trafficking is the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action to the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor of 1999. The definition of "worst forms of child labor" in the convention includes child trafficking, as stated in article 3:

To the extent to which this Convention would apply, the term, the worst forms of child labor, would include: (a) all forms of slavery or practices that are similar to slavery, including the sale and the trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, and forced or compulsory labor, including the use of children in armed conflict; (b) the use, the procurement or the offering of a child in prostitution, in the production of pornography or the presentation of pornographic performance; (c) the use, the procurement or offering of a child in illicit activities, in International labor Organization (ILO) Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action towards elimination of worst forms of child labor, 2000)

## 2.5 - World Health Organization

In addition to this The World Health Organization was instrumental in including organ removal among the forms of human trafficking. The World Health Assembly adopted the Commentary to Principle 5 of the Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue, and Organ Transplantation on May 21, 2010. (Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation, 2010)

## 2.6- ILO convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labor

Article 2 of the International Labor Organization's Convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labor of 1930 defines "forced or compulsory labor" as "all work or service exacted from any person under the threat of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily." (ILO convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labor, 1932). Article 1 also requires States Parties to "commit to the abolition of the use of forced or compulsory labor." (ILO, 1932)

### 3- Definition of Human trafficking according to regional organizations

In this section we will discuss the definition of human trafficking according to regional organizations like the league of Arab States , the European council, the European Union, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the League of Arab States Model Law to Combat the Crime of Trafficking in Persons.

#### 3.1- League of Arab States

The Arab Charter on Human Rights, which the League of Arab States adopted in 2004, fails to give a comprehensive definition of trafficking. Article 9, however, outlaws the trafficking of human organs, presumably on the basis of medical experimentation. Arab Charter On Human Rights, 2008). Furthermore, article 10 forbids "all forms of slavery and human trafficking." Article 43 urges ratifying countries to agree with other international and regional human rights conventions to the Arab Charter and this will be promoting countries to comprehend human trafficking in the manner of the United Nations Protocol. ( Arab Charter, 2008)

Article 43 of this charter states that : "Nothing in this Charter may be construed or interpreted as impairing the rights and freedoms protected by the domestic laws of the States parties or those set forth in the international and regional human rights instruments which the States parties have adopted or ratified, including the rights of women, the rights of the child and the rights of persons belonging to minorities."(Arab Charter, 2008)

#### 3.2- European Council

The Council of Europe adopted the Convention on Action Against Human Trafficking in 2005, which, like the UN Protocol, defines "trafficking" in Article 4 as the following:

The threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, or the act of abduction, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or the giving or receipt of payments or benefits with the view to achieving the consent of a person having control over another person, with the intention of exploiting them. Exploitation will at least entail the exploitation of prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation of other people, forced labor or services, slavery or slavery like practices, servitude, or any other practice that is like slavery, servitude, or the extraction of body parts (Council of Europe, 2005).

#### 3.3- European Union

Continuing on the definition of the term person trafficking featured in the United Nations Protocol on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking and Protecting the Victims, the European Parliament and the Council Directive 2011/36/EU of 5 April 2011 on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking and Protecting the Victims defines the term as follows in the

Article

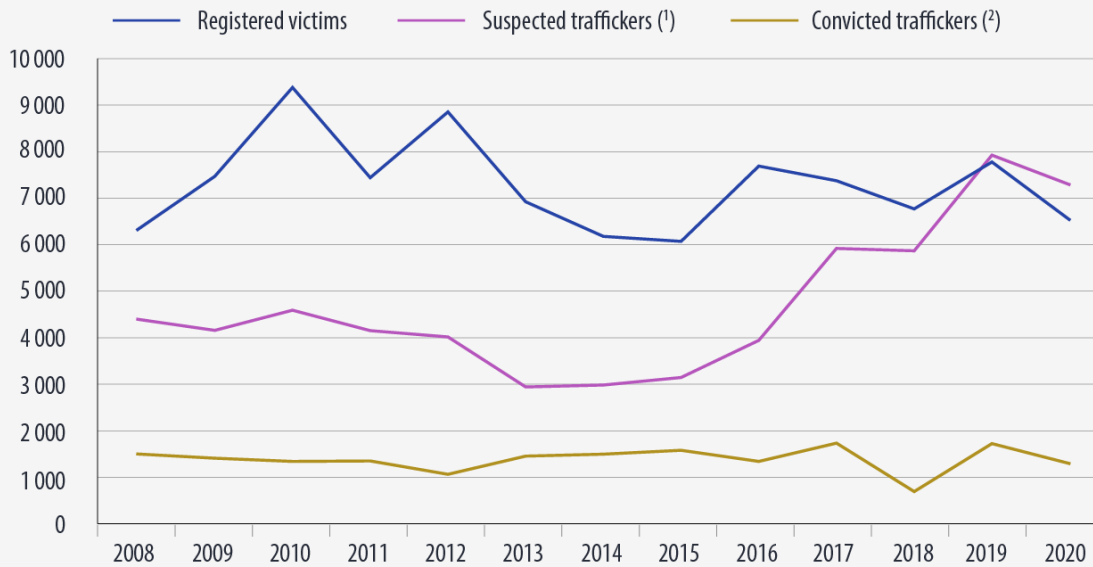
2:

Recruiting, transporting, placing, maintaining, or carrying individuals, including the transfer or exchange of control over individuals, by threat or use of force or any other form of coercion, abduction, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to induce the consent of a person having authority over another to exploit that person. Exploitation also involves at least the exploitation of prostitution or other sexual exploitation of others, forced labor or service, including, but not limited to, the following: begging, slavery or slavery-like acts or servitude, or exploitation of criminal acts, or the extraction of organs. (EU, 2011)

Human trafficking in the EU according to Eurostat statistics.

### People involved in trafficking in human beings by legal status, 2008-2020

(number of people)

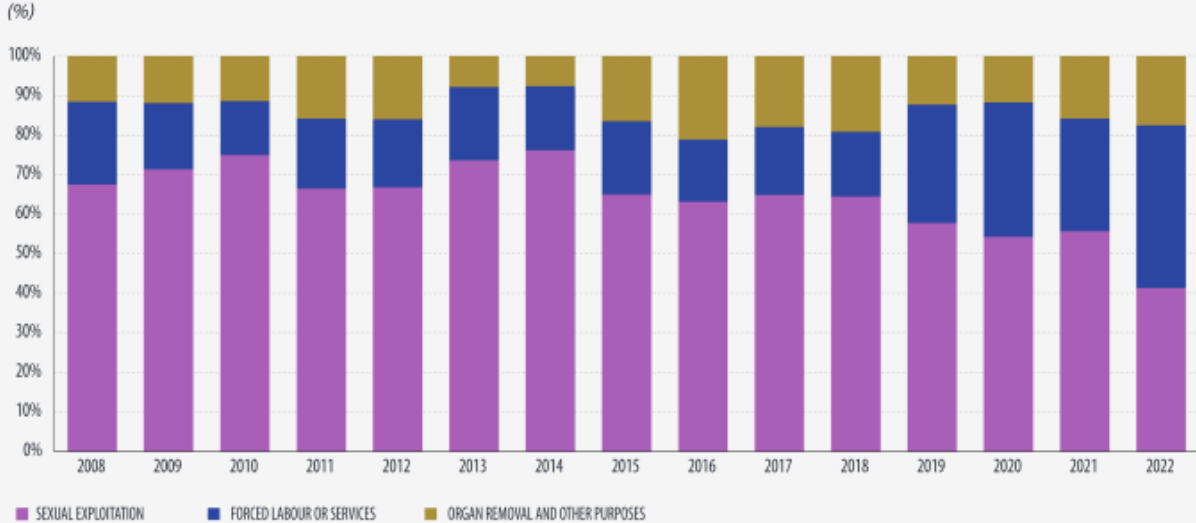


The visual shows totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made.

(¹) Estonia and Sweden: 2019 data not available. Estonia, Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden: 2020 data not available.

(²) Italy: 2019 data not available. Belgium and Italy: 2020 data not available.

**Forms of exploitation for registered victims of trafficking in human beings, 2008-2022**



Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made. More than one form of exploitation can be recorded for a victim. Organ removal and other purposes including use for benefit fraud, criminal activities and forced begging.

eurostat

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Trafficking\\_in\\_human\\_beings\\_statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Trafficking_in_human_beings_statistics)

### 3.4- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Model Law against Trafficking in Person was created by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to help Member States to realize the provisions of the United Nations Protocol and to ensure adherence to all human rights standards. The law, therefore, adheres to the U.N. Protocol definition, although its commentary suggests a preference that a State should include definitions that are consistent with already existing definitions contained in domestic law. The law also stimulates the states to consult other international human rights instruments in the definition of the crime (United Nations Model Law against Trafficking in Persons, 2009), which requires states to expand the definition of human trafficking in their countries.

### 3.5- League of Arab States Model Law to Combat the Crime of Trafficking in Persons

The Arab League Model Law to Combat the Crime of Trafficking in Persons uses a definition of "trafficking in persons" that is consistent with the definition in the United Nations Protocol.

Article 1 defines human trafficking as follows:

“Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receiving of persons—whether within or outside the borders of the State—for the purpose of exploitation through the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or a situation of vulnerability or need, by offering, promising, or accepting payment or benefits to obtain the consent of a person who has authority over another. Exploitation includes any of the following acts committed against victims of human trafficking: prostitution, all forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, begging, organ removal, conducting scientific experiments, and any other legally criminalized form of exploitation.” (League of Arab States Model Law, 2012)

### 3.6 -Model Law to Combat Human Trafficking of the Gulf Cooperation Council

In March 2006, the Cooperation Council of Arab States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) adopted the Model Law to Combat Human Trafficking.

According to Article 1, "trafficking" includes "using or recruiting or transporting or harboring or receiving a person with the intention of misusing them by forcing, threatening, deceiving, kidnapping them or abusing office, or using position or influence or abusing power in any other way that is illegal, whether directly or indirectly, or using that person in any way such as prostitution, assault, forced work or servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery..... (Model Law to Combat Human Trafficking, 2006)

After we have finished defining the Human trafficking crime according to the United nations, other international organization and regional organization now we will move to chapter two to discuss The transition from traditional forms to online human trafficking.

### Chapter two: Using technology to facilitate human trafficking

These days, many people depend on the internet. But in the last 20 years, the internet has created new channels for human trafficking and offered traffickers a new way of doing business. How internet technologies are applied by traffickers to perpetrate their crimes in the digital age and the new way of recruitment and lastly how human trafficking crime has been aggravated?

#### 1- The transition from traditional forms to online human trafficking

Traffickers utilize internet networks on a daily basis to market exploitative services to prospective paying clients and to post false job opportunities. Social media is used to recruit victims, and traffickers use the anonymity of online spaces and readily available personal information to get in touch with victims. Digital platforms have changed the ways that victims are exploited, as the use of cameras and livestreams has reduced the need for victim transfers and has opened up new avenues for exploitation. (UNODC, 2021)

The widespread use of the internet has resulted in new control mechanisms and ways for traffickers to recruit, market, and take advantage of victims. First, traffickers marketed largely adult victims on independent websites. (UNODC, 2021)

So how internet technologies are applied by traffickers to perpetrate their crimes in the digital age?

#### a- Digital platforms and markets: Utilizing technology for recruiting, advertising, and profit-making

##### a-1- usage of advertisement as a tool for human trafficking

Subsequently, they changed to promoting their victim's "services" on internet classified platforms such as Craigslist, Backpage, and AdultSearch.com, mostly targeting sex purchasers. (UNODC, 2021)

Using popular social media platforms like Facebook, Snapchat, WhatsApp, and Xbox Live for advertising is the newest trend. (Hickle, 2017)

These same social media platforms are also used to entice victims—mostly children (UNODC, 2021)—through direct message or more dishonest communication techniques known as "catfishing." (Derzakarian, 2017) ("The term 'catfish' has been popularly used to refer to those who use the cloak of technology to fabricate online personas and lure victims into romantic relationships." Another method of enlisting victims is the posting of fictitious job ads, generally on classified websites, usually for forced labor or sexual exploitation. (UNODC, The Vienna Forum to Fight Human trafficking , 2008) Additionally, the internet gave rise to new kinds of online exploitation, such cybersex dens, which broadcast live webcam acts of sex. (UNODC, Global Report on trafficking in person 2020, 2021)

Traffickers operate on the so-called "Dark Web" in addition to the surface web. Online classifieds, which gained popularity in the mid-2000s, and social media platforms, which are the main venues for online trafficking nowadays, are both hosted on the surface web. (UNODC, Global Report on trafficking in person 2020, 2021) Even though there don't seem to be any documented incidents of trafficking on the "Dark Web," traffickers do utilize this area of the internet for anonymous communication.

Additionally, traffickers can now exert more control over their victims because to the internet, which offers them tools like GPS tracking, video surveillance, and threats to distribute sexual photographs. (UNODC, Global Report on trafficking in person 2020, 2021)

## a-2- Recruiting in a new way

Traffickers discovered two ways to recruit online: by hunting and fishing. (UNODC, Global Report on trafficking in person 2020, 2021) They also learnt to adapt to this environment. Hunting illustrates the online pursuit of a particular victim, much like in nature. (UNODC, Global Report on trafficking in person 2020, 2021) Online predators might employ fictitious personas to entice their victims; for example, they can use one character to cyberbully the victim and another to show sympathy and establish credibility (Devaney, 2022). In this scenario, interactions between the young victims—who are more prone to become victims of trafficking on social media—and the “compassionate” trafficker are more likely to develop very rapidly. (Hickle, 2017) The other method of recruitment is fishing, in which traffickers wait for victims to approach them by answering an advertisement. (UNODC, Global Report on trafficking in person 2020, 2021) Adults responding to fake job advertisements are more likely to use this technique. The victims are subsequently taken advantage of, either through online blackmail or in-person meetings with the trafficker. (Dixon, 2013)

## a-3- How Online Human Trafficking has been aggravated through

The rise of online trafficking presents a challenge for governments and law enforcement agencies trying to stop human trafficking on a national and global scale. First, compared to traditional trafficking, the multinational character of online trafficking presents a number of additional issues. (Kunze, 2010)

Nowadays, a trafficker can operate without ever leaving their house in a foreign country, recruiting, meeting, and abusing numerous victims at once. (UNODC, Global Report on trafficking in person 2020, 2021) These kinds of cyber flows may not make up a significant amount of online trafficking, but they do allow for the exploitation of a single victim by forcing forced livestream performances to audiences far bigger than those available to traditional trafficking methods. (UNODC, Global Report on trafficking in person 2020, 2021) The majority of cyber trafficking involves international flows, in which traffickers arrange for their victims to physically relocate between nations where 79 court cases evaluated by the 2020 Trafficking Report, 57% of the victims were relocated between two or more countries.

The international legal system is essential to the fight against online trafficking because of the transnational character of this crime, which involves numerous states. Unfortunately, when internet-enabled trafficking is involved, these agreements fall short, which makes it more challenging to prosecute these cases.

Governments frequently rely on conventions and collaboration to hold one another accountable in the fight against online human trafficking when formal international accords are not present. (ICAT, 2020) Unfortunately, these unofficial agreements between countries are not very strong. (ICAT, 2020)

In order to effectively detect and uncover trafficking, there is a deficiency of coordination and tools in the technological component of countering internet-facilitated crimes. (ICAT, 2020) Before Craigslist's Adult Services sections were shut down, the website mostly depended on users reporting classified advertisements to identify which posts went against then-current community standards. (Latonero, 2011)

While governments bear the responsibility of combating human trafficking, as of 2020, they possessed just approximately nine percent of the online technologies developed to combat online human trafficking. (OSCE, 2020) Furthermore, the problem's scope cannot be met by using the technologies that are now available in all areas. (OSCE, 2020)

After discussing in this chapter how the internet facilitates online human trafficking now we will discuss two countries and how did they combat online human trafficking.

## Chapter three: United Arab Emirates and Lebanon case study

**This chapter will be divided into two sections: the first will discuss the United Arab Emirates' efforts to combat human trafficking, and the second will focus on Lebanon's efforts to combat human trafficking.**

### 1- United Arab Emirates' actions to combat human trafficking

As for the State of the United Arab Emirates, it was credited with the forefront of the other Arab States' enactment of special penal legislation criminalizes human Trafficking and online human trafficking, by establishing may laws for combating this crime.



2,500 dirhams or more than one million dirhams, or both. If the victim is a minor, defined as someone who is eighteen years of age or under, the penalty is a fine of no more than one million dirhams and a maximum five-year jail sentence".

Offenders are subject to criminal prosecution and punishment under Article 32 of the Federal Decree law no 34/2021 (*Federal Decree-Law No. (34) of 2021 on Countering Rumors and Cybercrimes, 2022*) regarding combating rumors and cybercrimes that stipulates that: "Temporary imprisonment and a fine of not less than 500,000 dirhams and not more than 1 million dirhams AED, or one of these penalties, are imposed for the trafficking of human beings via information networks or information technology. These penalties apply to anyone who establishes or manages a website, supervises the dissemination of information on these networks or uses information technology, with the intention of dealing in human beings or human organs illegally".

Fourth: law regulating participation in camel competitions the Emirate legislator has issued law no. 15 of 2005 concerning participation in camel competition and stated in article 1 that: "Participation of the persons whose ages are less than eighteen Gregorian years from both genders shall be prohibited by any means in (the camel races) and all procedures of recruiting them shall be cancelled." (*Federal Law No. 15 of 2005 Regulating Participation in Camel Racing, 2005*)

**Fifth:** The UAE legislator has issued the Federal law decree no. 15 of 2017 concerning services workers (*FEDERAL LAW NO. (15) OF 2017 CONCERNING SUPPORT SERVICES WORKERS, 2017*)

**Sixth:** The UAE legislator has also issued Federal Law No (6) for 1973 Concerning Immigration and Residence (*Federal Law No (6) for 1973 Concerning Immigration and Residence, 1973*)

At the international level, the UAE became a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 and ratified it in 2005. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, attached to this Convention, the Palermo Protocol, was ratified in 2009. (*United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, 2003*)

The UAE Government has established Ewa'a Shelters in Abu Dhabi and Dubai to provide care, shelter, and psychological support to victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Abu Dhabi Shelter and Humanitarian Care Centre (Ewa'a) and Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC) are the first licensed non-profit shelters in the UAE. (*Combatting Human Trafficking, 2024*)

The Women's Protection Centre of the social services department of government of Sharjah offers counseling and solutions for domestic issues, while Abu Dhabi Police supervises social support centers for victims of human trafficking. The General Directorate for Human Rights Protection provides psychological, social, and legal support to victims, including temporary shelter, visas, and air tickets for return. (*Combatting Human Trafficking, 2024*)

In addition to this, UAE has conducted many bilateral agreements concerning servitude with many states such as India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, Thailand, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, in order to regulate servitude and combat companies and servitude agencies in the private sector from opportunities and abusing servitude. The National Committee for the Prevention of Human Trafficking has adopted the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2023-2026). (<http://www.ahtnc.org.jo/ar/news/اقرار-الاستراتيجية-الوطنية-لمكافحة-الاتجار-بالبشر>)

## 2- Lebanon's efforts to combat human trafficking

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplemental protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, particularly of women and children, were both signed and ratified by Lebanon on 5 October 2005.

Lebanon has signed on 2002 and ratified on 2005 the two protocols (the Palermo Protocols). The first is an addendum to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, prohibiting the smuggling of migrants by land, sea, or air. Furthermore, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was supplemented in 2002 by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. (*A Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000*)



Trafficking Protocol has been able to cover most of the problems and gaps in policy. It was the result of a long deliberative process that has lasted longer than the internationalization of international diplomacy and across numerous institutional arrangements.

The motivation behind national efforts to define and fight human trafficking is based on the fact that the international community has been trying to establish a broad anti-trafficking policy framework for long enough. But this will not be a perfect instrument. This is a policy tool that is very developed, and it needs to be enhanced. Government and social action towards human trafficking are a litmus test of how strong our democracies are nationally.

The United Arab Emirates legislator was eager to encompass criminality of many types of trafficking and enumerate various forms of exploitation by defining human trafficking in article 2 of the decree law no. 24/2023 according to the Protocol so it included the sale and purchase of human beings, as well as their promises, use, delivery, and receipt. In addition to the factors concerning the moral element and general criminal intent and on the specific criminal intent, which is the intent to exploit. The UAE Legislator's regulation was identical to the protocol governing the methods employed by human traffickers, such as using force or threatening. The simple penalty for human trafficking is a five-year prison sentence, a fine of one million dirhams, and an aggravated penalty of five million dirhams.

The UAE legislature has pursued a criminal policy of criminalizing the various forms of trafficking in human beings, not invoking the victim's consent, establishing the liability of legal persons and determining the scope of the law as applicable to all forms of trafficking in persons, whether national or transnational.

The UAE legislature has implemented subsidiary punishments in the Trafficking of Human Beings Act as an extra and required punishment, as specified in Article 18. These sanctions will be implemented in all circumstances, without regard to the rights of individuals acting in good faith.

The Human Trafficking Victim Identification Kit in Lebanon, the first of its kind in the country, emphasizes the importance of protecting personal data of victims of human trafficking which was held in Tunis on 2024. The kit provides a detailed guide on data processing and compliance with data protection principles.

So many actions have been taken but still we need more cooperation and All types of human trafficking offenses should be addressed in a separate and specialized legislative language, with a clear and precise definition. In addition to this prejudice to the definition of the means of committing the crime of human trafficking, namely the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception, the use of authority, the exploitation of a position of vulnerability, and the giving or receiving of sums of money or benefits in order to obtain the consent of a person exercising control over another.

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Arab Charter on Human Rights, League of Arab States, 22 May 2004, (entered into force 15 March 2008), art. 9; reprinted in International Human Rights Report, vol. 12, 893.

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