

National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

2021-2023



اللجنة الوطنية لمكافحة
الاتجار بالبشر
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT
Human Trafficking

<http://www.nccht.om>

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General Expressions

1.The Responsibility:

The responsibility for the preparation of the national action plan rests with the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, under the direct supervision of the Chairman of the National Committee and in coordination with the Council of Ministers.

2.The National Action Plan:

The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking establishes a strategic national action plan every three years based on the outcome of national and international reports and recommendations to combat human trafficking in line with the Sultanate's applicable laws and systems.

3.Follow-up and evaluation:

The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking undertakes an annual review of what has been achieved of the plan. It also reviews the obstacles and challenges that hinder the implementation of the plan and submit a report to the Council of Ministers.

Vision

To be leading in combating human trafficking at the local, regional and global levels, and to be committed to the slogan "We are all partners in humanity".

Mission

Mobilize and lead national efforts to combat human trafficking, improve prevention mechanisms, increase public awareness, intensify measures to combat human trafficking, protect victims, prosecute traffickers, and enhance cooperation at the local level between the relevant institutions and bodies and at the regional and international levels.

Objectives

The main objectives of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (2021-2023 AD) are as follows:

1. Find appropriate solutions and strategies to address, prevent and combat the phenomenon of human trafficking in its various forms and manifestations in the Sultanate of Oman, and protect the victims based on the anti-human trafficking law, which was promulgated by Royal Decree 126/2008 on 22 November 2008.
2. Strengthen regional and international cooperation in the field of combating human trafficking; adopt the best experiences and practices in this regard in line with national interests, values and the relevant international agreements ratified by the Sultanate.
3. Support efforts to raise specialized competence of agencies working on monitoring, investigating, addressing the phenomenon and providing care for victims through sustained regular training programmes for judges, members of the public prosecution, and other law enforcement officers, labor inspectors, receivers of reports on human trafficking, hotline operators, and supervisors of care and shelter houses.

Main Pillars

Prevention, prosecution and protection are the three main pillars of the Anti-Human Trafficking Law promulgated by Royal Decree 126/2008 on November 22, 2008 AD. Therefore, these pillars embody the elements of the National Action Plan, and are also part of the efforts to make a positive impact on the Sultanate's national and international record and to achieve the vision, mission and objectives of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, as follows:

First: Prevention

1. Prepare public awareness campaigns over the duration of the plan and benefit from all available media outlets, including social media platforms, radio and television channels, newspapers and magazines.
2. Update the official website of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, in order to expand public awareness and serve website users, especially the victims.
3. Organize training courses throughout the years of the plan for all hotline operators, receivers of reports in the Sultanate and other stakeholders as well as officials as part of capacity building and prevention efforts.
4. Create an integrated mechanism for the national referral system of human trafficking victims, starting from the identification of victims, legal protection, sheltering and social reintegration.
5. Implement programmes on cooperation between the National Committee and civil society organizations in order to enhance the role of these organizations in the field of combating human trafficking and raise their level of awareness.

6. Adopt a standard official form to examine all detained persons, whether due to violations of the labour law or for illegal practices, to determine whether they are victims of human trafficking or otherwise.
7. Maintain coordination and cooperation with the Higher Judicial Institute, the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences, and the College of Law at Sultan Qaboos University to ensure that they in their curriculum courses on human trafficking and its harmful impact and ways to combat it within their academic programme.

Second: Prosecution

1. Establish a deterrent penalty against anyone who confiscates a citizen or resident's passport without consent.
2. Accelerate advanced training for all labour inspectors and judicial personnel in order to raise their knowledge in terms of human-trafficking-related investigations and prosecutions.
3. Review and update the current human trafficking law.
4. Boost investigation and prosecution efforts to convict human traffickers, including the examination of possible indicators of human trafficking crimes as part of violations of the labor law.
5. Promote the use and efficiency of the Rapid Intervention Team in the prosecution of human trafficking crimes.
6. Provide the necessary training for the Royal Oman Police personnel working at airports and border points, in order to enable them to identify the signs of potential victims of human trafficking.

Third: Protection

1. Change the Kafala (sponsorship) system to a contract-based employment system within the framework of the Labor Law, whereby employment visas are granted directly to the worker as per an attested legal contract. The worker shall be responsible for his rights and duties in accordance with the law.
2. Develop the current Dar Al-Wufoq, so that it can serve as an integrated house for victims of all groups, with the participation and financial contribution of the private sector and in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Social Development.
3. Establish temporary shelters for victims in a number of governorates before their transfer to Dar Al-Wufoq in Muscat.
4. Call upon the concerned authorities to expedite the promulgation of a new labor law that provides protection for domestic workers.
5. Work to establish a unified digital database between the competent authorities to collect data, statistics and figures related to human trafficking.

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