

Indicators of Trafficking in Persons

The human trafficking crimes are considered heinous violations of human rights given that they deprive the human being of their liberty and violate their dignity. Despite the efforts of the countries worldwide to combat them, the effectiveness of these efforts, however, requires further global awareness, international cooperation and ongoing coordination.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exerts continuous and sustained efforts to combat human trafficking crimes based on its commitment to the provisions of Islamic Shariah, which forbids all forms of offence to human dignity, and emphasizes the respect and preservation of their rights.



Saudi Arabia has not only issued legislations and regulations to fight the crimes of human trafficking, but also has been keen on exerting the necessary efforts for the application of, and abidance by, these regulations as well as finding the implementing mechanisms to ensure the activation thereof.

In spite of the multiple types and forms of human trafficking that differ from one country to another depending on the economic and social conditions of each country, there are criminals that must be brought to justice and victims in need of care and assistance besides addressing the impacts of the crime committed against them which caused them serious harm.

There are key features and indicators for identifying the trafficked victims and discriminating them as victims, the matter that helps save them and prepare them to receive assistance and protection, so the personnel of security, justice, medical care, social services and other competent personnel should get acquainted with these indicators that help them know and discriminate the victims of human trafficking.

General Indicators of Trafficking Persons

Trafficked persons can be characterized by some of the following:

- Showing signs indicating that their movements are monitored or controlled.
- Working in a particular area which they are not allowed to leave.
- Believing that they have to work unwillingly and they are burdened with debts.
- Looking scared and anxious.
- Exposed to violence and may suffer from injuries resulting from exposure to assault.
- Exposed to the threat of harm or one of their family members.
- Suffering from injuries or disabilities usually suffered by those working in certain jobs.
- Are subject to the threat of extradition to official authorities.
- Afraid of revealing their situation that contradicts residence and work systems.
- Not holding their passports or documents proving their identity because these documents are being held by other people.
- Having counterfeited passports and identity documents.
- Not speaking or having good command of local language.
- Not knowing their place of residence or work address.



- Allowing others to speak on their behalf when other people talk directly to them, and they are in a state of dependency.
- Acting as if they got instructions from someone else.
- Being unable to negotiate working conditions.
- Receiving a modest pay or working for free.
- Experiencing physical and verbal punishment.
- Forced to work under unfair conditions.
- Being unable to get the wages they gained.
- Not having days of leave.
- Working for very long hours.
- Having limited or no contact with their families or those who are outside their social surroundings.
- Unable to communicate freely.
- Living in bad or substandard places.
- Not having medical care.
- Enticed to work on the basis of false promises.
- Coming from countries and places which are known as a source of human trafficking.
- Existing in or in relation with places used for the exploitation of and trafficking in people.
- Paid fees for being moved to the country of destination and must work and provide services to other people for this purpose in the country of destination.

Indicators of Forced Labor

The trafficked persons on purpose of forced labor can be characterized by the following:

- Living as groups in the same place where they work and leaving it rarely.
- Living in inappropriate places.
- Not wearing the clothes allocated for the work they are doing.
- Unable to get the wages they have gained.
- Not having a contract of employment.
- Their working hours are too long.
- Depending on the employer to obtain a number of services such as transportation and housing.
- Not entitled the right to choose the place of residence.
- Never leaving the workplace unless accompanied by the employer.
- Unable to move freely.
- Subject to security measures designed to keep them in the workplace.
- Punished by fines.
- Subject to insults, ill-treatment, threats or violence.
- Lacking access to basic training and professional licenses.



Furthermore, the existence of persons subject to forced labor can be identified through observing the following:

- The existence of advertisements in the workplace in languages other than the local language.
- Lack of advertisements on occupational health and safety in the work site.
- The inability of the employer to show the relevant documents of hiring the workers coming from other countries.
- The inability of the employer to show the records of salaries and wages paid to workers.
- The equipment is designed or modified so that children can operate them.
- The existence of indications evidencing the violation of labor laws.

Indicators of the Exploitation of Domestic Labor

The domestic labor subject to exploitation is characterized by the following:

- Not having a special place to rest and sleep.
- Sleeping in a common or inappropriate place.
- Employer reports that they escaped or left work even though they are still living in his house.
- Not leaving the house for social reasons.
- Not leaving the house unless accompanied by the employer.
- Not having food to eat but leftovers.
- Exposed to insults, ill-treatment, threats or violence.



Indicators of Child Trafficking

Children who have been trafficked can be characterized by the following:

- They cannot communicate with their parents or families.
- They look afraid and act in a manner inconsistent with the typical behavior of children in their age.
- They do not have friends in their age beyond the scope of work.
- They do not go to school and they cannot get education.
- They live in places that are not adequate for living.
- They have their food away from other (family) members.
- They are provided with only food scraps.
- They do work inappropriate for children.
- They travel alone without companions or in groups with people who are not relatives.

Additionally, the presence of children trafficked can be inferred through observing the following:

- An adult claims that a child was found without a companion.
- The discovery of cases involving illegal adoption.
- Finding children with no companions, and carrying telephone numbers for calling taxis.
- The existence of clothes with children sizes, which are usually worn for performing manual labor.
- The existence of children toys, beds and clothes in inappropriate places such as factories.

Indicators of Trafficking on Purpose of Begging

People who have been trafficked on purpose of begging and committing minor crimes can be characterized by the following:

- Being children, aged or immigrants, often begging in public places.
- Having physical disabilities that seem to be caused by amputation.
- Being children of the same nationality or ethnic group traveling in groups, along with a few number of adults.
- Being minor with no companions (who have been found) by adults of the same nationality or ethnic group.
- Participating in the activities of organized criminal gangs.
- Belonging to gangs of the same nationality or ethnic group.
- Being Punished if they do not collect or steal enough money.
- Traveling to the country of destination with members of their gangs and living with them.
- Living with adults who are not their fathers or mothers.
- Moving daily for long distances in groups.
- Movement of those suspected to be victims within a period of time among several countries.
- Begging or committing minor crimes by those suspected to be victims in another country.



Indicators of Sexual Exploitation

The persons who have been trafficked on purpose of sexual exploitation can be characterized by the following:

- They are accompanied and monitored by those trafficking in them, in addition to restricting their freedom of movement.
- They have a tattoo or other signs indicating «ownership» by their exploiters.
- They sleep where they work.
- They live and travel in a group.
- They do not know but the words related to sex in the local language.
- They do not have their own cash.
- They cannot provide documents indicating their identity.