
CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Purpose of the present law
The purpose of the present law is to regulate relations in the area of preventing trafficking in humans.

Article 2. Legislation regarding the prevention of trafficking in humans
The legislation regarding preventing trafficking in humans consists of the present law and other legislative acts.

If an international agreement of the Republic of Uzbekistan stipulates rules other than those that are stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding preventing trafficking in humans, then the rules of said international agreement shall be applied.

Article 3. Fundamental terms
In the present law, the following fundamental terms shall be used:

preventing trafficking in humans -- activity to anticipate, expose, and eliminate trafficking in humans, to minimize its consequences, to provide assistance to the victims of trafficking in humans;

trafficking in humans -- recruiting, transporting, transferring, concealing, or receiving persons for the purpose of exploitation by means of the threat of violence or by its use or other forms of compulsion, kidnapping, fraud, deception, misuse of power or of vulnerability, or by means of bribery in the form of payments or of profit for obtaining the consent of a person who is controlling another person. The exploitation of persons means the exploitation of the prostitution of other persons or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or service, slavery or customs equivalent to slavery, a forced condition or the removal of organs or tissues from a person;

trafficker in humans -- a physical or juridical person, who independently or as part of a group of persons commits any act connected to the trafficking in humans, as well as an official person who by his actions promotes the trafficking in humans or does not oppose or combat it, although doing this is mandated by his official position.

Article 4. Fundamental principles of preventing trafficking in humans
Preventing trafficking in humans is based on the following fundamental principles:

• legality;
• inevitability of responsibility of traffickers in humans;
• impermissibility of discrimination in victims of trafficking in humans;
• social partnership.

CHAPTER 2. ORGANIZATION OF PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMANS

Article 5. State agencies that carry out activities for preventing trafficking in humans
The state agencies that are directly involved in carrying out activities for preventing trafficking in humans are:

• Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
• National Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, diplomatic representatives and consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
• Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The activities for preventing trafficking in humans may be carried out by other state agencies in accordance with law.

**Article 6. Interdepartmental commission for preventing trafficking in humans**

For the coordination of the activities of state agencies charged with carrying out the prevention of trafficking in humans, the all-Republic Interdepartmental Commission for preventing trafficking in humans was created (hereinafter, Interdepartmental Commission). The procedure for the formation and the activities of the Interdepartmental Commission shall be determined by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the districts and city of Tashkent, regional interdepartmental commissions may be created for preventing trafficking in humans (hereinafter, regional interdepartmental commission) in accordance with the procedures established by law.

The fundamental tasks of the interdepartmental commission are:

- coordinating activities of state agencies, autonomous civil agencies, and nongovernmental-noncommercial organizations in the area of preventing trafficking in humans;
- organizing events directed at increasing the effectiveness of the work in exposing and eliminating the causes and conditions contributing to trafficking in humans;
- collecting and analyzing information regarding the scope, status, and tendencies of trafficking in humans;
- coordinating activities of the regional interdepartmental commissions;
- preparing proposals to improve the provision of assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in humans;
- preparing proposals to improve the legislation regarding preventing trafficking in humans;
- organizing events designed to inform the public regarding questions of preventing trafficking in humans.

**Article 7. Powers of state agencies directly charged with implementing activities to prevent trafficking in humans**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the area of preventing trafficking in humans:

- organizes and implements operational search activities for uncovering crimes, provides for investigations and preliminary inquiries into criminal acts associated with trafficking in humans;
- organizes and carries out a statistical accounting of crimes associated with trafficking in humans;
- promotes cooperation with international organizations and the law-enforcement agencies of other states in order to put a stop to the activities of persons, organized groups, and criminal associations that are involved with trafficking in humans;
- submits proposals for improving legislation on preventing trafficking in humans;
- provides information to the appropriate agencies of state power and of administration regarding persons, organized groups, and criminal associations that are involved in trafficking in humans;
• cooperates with autonomous civil agencies, nongovernmental-noncommercial organizations, and conducts large-scale consciousness-raising and preventive work with the public, assisted by the mass media;

• implements measures falling within the competence of agencies of internal affairs, as stipulated by the bilateral and multilateral international agreements of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The National Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the area of preventing trafficking in humans:

• exposes the connections of international terrorist organizations and organized criminal groups with trafficking in humans;

• conducts investigations and preliminary inquiries into criminal acts that are associated with trafficking in humans and that are committed by international terrorist organizations and organized criminal groups;

• undertakes measures for anticipating, exposing, and putting an end to attempts to cross the national frontier of the Republic of Uzbekistan by traffickers in humans and victims of trafficking in humans.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, diplomatic representatives and consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the area of preventing trafficking in humans:

• carry out activities for protecting the rights and legal interests of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who have become victims of trafficking in humans while they were beyond the borders of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

• promote the return to the Republic of Uzbekistan of victims of trafficking in humans, and, in the event that they do not have documents certifying their identity as citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, take measures as stipulated by law for establishing their identities and issue them with documents giving them the right to return to the Republic of Uzbekistan without having to pay consular or other duties;

• if necessary, provide information on the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding the prevention of trafficking in humans to the appropriate, competent agencies of foreign states;

• provide victims of trafficking in humans with information on their rights and legal interests.

The Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the area of preventing trafficking in humans organizes the provision of medical and psychological assistance to victims of trafficking in humans in the prescribed manner.

State agencies that are directly involved in implementing activities for preventing trafficking in humans may be afforded other powers in accordance with law.

Article 8. Cooperation with state agencies charged with implementing activities for preventing trafficking in humans

Agencies of state administration, agencies of state power in the regions, autonomous civil agencies, nongovernmental-noncommercial organizations, enterprises, institutions and organizations, officials, as well as citizens provide cooperation and the necessary assistance to state agencies charged with implementing activities for preventing trafficking in humans.

CHAPTER 3. PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMANS AND PROVIDING THEM WITH ASSISTANCE

Article 9. Specialized institutions for providing assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in humans
For the purpose of providing assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in humans, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan has created specialized institutions for providing assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in humans (hereinafter, specialized institutions).

The basic functions of the specialized institutions are:

- providing victims of trafficking in humans with favorable conditions for subsistence and personal hygiene;
- providing victims of trafficking in humans with food, medications, and materials for medical use;
- supplying immediate medical, psychological, social, juridical, and other assistance to victims of trafficking in humans;
- keeping victims of trafficking in humans safe;
- cooperating in contacting relatives of victims of trafficking in humans;
- providing information regarding the rights and legal interests of victims of trafficking in humans;
- promoting the social rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in humans.

Specialized institutions undertake their activities in accordance with the Provision confirmed by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Article 10. Social rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in humans**

The social rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in humans is undertaken for the purpose of their return to a normal life, and it includes juridical assistance to the aforementioned persons, their psychological, medical, and professional rehabilitation, employment assistance, and the provision of temporary housing.

The social rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in humans is undertaken on the basis of funds from the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other sources not prohibited by law.

The procedure for providing social rehabilitation to victims of trafficking in humans is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Article 11. Providing assistance to child victims of trafficking in humans**

If the directors of the specialized institutions become aware of information regarding child victims of trafficking in humans, they are obliged to immediately provide the child guardianship agencies with such information for the purpose of securing and protecting the rights of the child victims of trafficking in humans in accordance with law.

In the event that child victims of trafficking in humans are provided with accommodations in specialized institutions, they must be kept separate from adults.

Child victims of trafficking in humans who are provided with accommodations in specialized institutions shall be given the opportunity to attend state educational institutions in accordance with law.

If child victims of trafficking in humans remain without the guardianship of parents or information is not available regarding the whereabouts of their families, measures shall be taken for searching for their parents or for persons able to act as parents.

**Article 12. Safety measures and other guarantees afforded victims of trafficking in humans**

Investigators, examining magistrates, prosecutors, and judges shall take safety measures as stipulated by the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with
victims of trafficking in humans who have declared their wish to cooperate with law-enforcement agencies for the purpose of identifying persons suspected of trafficking in humans.

If a foreign citizen or a person without nationality who has become a victim of trafficking in humans is identified in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Uzbekistan as being a victim or a witness to a criminal act, or provides assistance to the appropriate agencies in uncovering persons suspected of trafficking in humans, in accordance with the grounded petition of the investigator, examining magistrate, prosecutor, or judge regarding such a person, measures may not be carried out for deportation before the pronouncement of a verdict in the criminal case regarding persons accused of trafficking in humans. In this regard, victims of trafficking in humans must be provided the right of temporary accommodations in the Republic of Uzbekistan irrespective of the circumstances of the entry of said person into the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Security measures as stipulated in the first part of the present article may be disallowed in the event that:

- the victim of trafficking in humans is established to have a connection to persons in connection with which an operational search, investigation, preliminary inquiry, or judicial proceeding is underway, without coercion on the part of said persons;
- it is reliably established that the desire of the person to cooperate with law-enforcement agencies was false or a means for deflecting responsibility from said person.

Victims of trafficking in humans in accordance with the procedure established by the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be relieved of civil, administrative, and criminal liability for acts committed under compulsion or threats.

**Article 13. Reimbursement for expenses in connection with the maintenance and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in humans**

Persons identified in court as guilty of trafficking in humans shall fully reimburse the expenses associated with the maintenance and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in humans.

**CHAPTER 4. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

**Article 14. International cooperation in the area of preventing trafficking in humans**

International cooperation in the area of preventing trafficking in humans is implemented in accordance with the legislation and international agreements of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Article 15. Responsibility for violating the law on preventing trafficking in humans**

Persons who are guilty of violating the law regarding preventing trafficking in humans shall bear the responsibility as established by law.

**Article 16. Harmonizing legislation with the present law**

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- shall bring decisions of the Government into harmony with the present law;
- shall assure the revision and amendment by agencies of state administration of their normative legal acts that contradict the present law.

**Article 17. Entry into force of the present law**

The present law shall enter into force on the day of its official publication.