

## Law No. 27-14 on combating human trafficking

**Reference:** Dahir No. 1-16-127 of 21 Kaada 1437 (25 August 2016) promulgating Law No. 27-14 on combating human trafficking

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**Practice areas:** Criminal law and business crime

Law 27-14 criminalises human trafficking, defined as recruiting, transporting or harbouring a person by coercion, deception or abuse of authority for the purpose of exploitation. It increases penalties where the victim is a minor or vulnerable and organises the protection of and assistance to victims.

### The offence

- The acts covered: recruiting, enticing, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person.
- The means: threats, violence, abduction, deception, abuse of authority or of a position of vulnerability.
- The exploitative purposes: sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced begging, slavery or organ removal.
- The victim's consent is irrelevant where any of these means has been used.

### Protection of victims

- Legal, medical and social assistance, and care adapted to minors.
- Protective measures and confidentiality of identity may be ordered.
- A national commission coordinates policies on combating trafficking and supporting victims.

### Points to watch

- A trafficking victim should not be prosecuted for offences committed under coercion by their exploiters.
- Acts committed abroad by or against a Moroccan national may fall within the jurisdiction of the Moroccan courts.
- Early reporting to the specialised services is a precondition for access to protective measures.

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