

Human trafficking, forced labor and other forms of exploitation in the Russian Federation



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ISSUE 1. Human Trafficking

Previous recommendations

- Develop a national action plan
- Strengthen the relevant legal framework
- Ensure effective investigation and prosecution of perpetrators
- Provide assistance to the victims

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Developments

- Russia ranked **8th** in the Global Slavery Index 2023
- Estimated **1,899,000** individuals in a state of modern slavery in Russia
- Primary victims — **women and migrant workers**

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Inadequate criminal legislation

Previous recommendation

Make further efforts to fight organized crime, including the fight against trafficking in human beings (Armenia)

Current situation

- The Criminal Code does not refer to means (*threats, force, coercion*) as a constituent element of human trafficking
- Victims' formal consent given under coercion is considered valid and exonerates perpetrators

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Lack of preventive measures

Previous recommendations

Step up efforts to combat human trafficking and consider the possibility of developing a relevant national action plan (Qatar)

Strengthen the legal framework to combat human trafficking, which affects women and children in particular (Poland)

Current situation

- No national action plan
- No framework legislation
- No coordination mechanisms among responsible authorities
- No systemic data collection and analysis
- No specific trainings for law enforcement officers
- Suppression of NGOs dealing with human trafficking

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Ineffective investigation

Previous recommendation

Take measures to ensure the elimination of the sale and trafficking of children, through investigations and robust prosecutions of persons engaging in those crimes (Thailand)

Current situation

From 2018 to mid-2022, an average of only **16 convictions for human trafficking and 2 for forced labor** recorded annually

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Lack of victim protection and assistance

Previous recommendation

Enhance efforts to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking (Sri Lanka)

Current situation

- No mechanisms for victims' identification and assistance
- No specific material, legal or medical aid
- No specific shelter services
- Punishment for crimes victims were forced into

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Our recommendations

1. Bring the criminal legislation in line with International Law
 - ▶ include means as a constituent element of human trafficking
 - ▶ establish irrelevance of trafficking victims' consent
2. Adopt Anti-trafficking Law and National Action Plan that would provide for
 - ▶ national coordination mechanisms
 - ▶ data gathering and specific trainings for state officials
3. Set up a framework for trafficking victims' identification, their material, medical, legal and shelter assistance

ISSUE 2. Exploitation of Prisoners

- Work up to 6 days a week, 12-16 hours a day
- Miserable monthly wages (1-4 euros)
- Lack of effective complaint mechanisms
- Punishment for any dissent or resistance

ISSUE 2. Exploitation of Prisoners

Military Exploitation

- Forced recruitment of prisoners by the Government and private military companies
- Tens of thousands of prisoners recruited
- Forced mobilization of other military reservists
- Prosecution of conscientious objectors

ISSUE 2. Exploitation of Prisoners

Our recommendations

1. Repeal legislation allowing forced labor in prisons and imposing punishment on prisoners for refusing it
2. Ensure that prisoners work in decent conditions and are paid no less than the federal minimum wage
3. Institute legal safeguards against compelled recruitment and mobilization for prisoners and conscientious objectors and conduct thorough investigations into reported cases

Thank you!



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