



CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child trafficking was initially covered by the Child Care and Protection Act, but the provisions on this topic were moved to the **Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act 1 of 2018** (with a few changes).

Child trafficking is committed if certain acts are done for the purpose of exploitation (see the box below). Factors such as poverty, crime and violence can contribute to child trafficking. Where such problems are present, the parents or the child might think that the move will be a chance for a “better” life – such as access to better education or a chance to earn some income.

A few cases of child trafficking have been reported in Namibia, but there may be other cases that are unreported. For example, it appears that children have been brought into Namibia from Angola and Zambia to herd livestock or do domestic work for relatives. It also appears that some children are being exploited within the country to care for livestock, do road construction or sell food. Some children are exploited for sex, and some may even be forced into commercial sex work.

Trafficking of children is a serious crime. A child cannot consent to be trafficked. A parent or guardian cannot give consent to child trafficking. The means by which the trafficking takes place are irrelevant when the victim is a child.

TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN	
ACTION	EXPLOITATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">☉ Recruits☉ Transports☉ Delivers☉ Transfers☉ Harbours☉ Sells☉ Exchanges☉ Leases☉ Receives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">☉ Prostitution or sexual exploitation☉ Forced labour or services, prohibited child labour or economic exploitation☉ Slavery☉ Debt bondage☉ Forced marriage☉ Involuntary servitude☉ Criminal exploitation☉ Removal of organs or body parts☉ Impregnation of a female against her will for the purpose of selling the child☉ Some other kind of exploitation

There are stiff penalties for trafficking. A first offence is punishable by a fine of up to N\$1 million, or imprisonment for up to 30 years, or both. Subsequent convictions are punishable by a fine of up to N\$2,5 million or imprisonment for up to 50 years, or both.

It is also a crime to facilitate trafficking of persons in various ways, such as transporting persons who are being trafficked, providing false identification documents for them or providing premises.



If a parent or guardian was involved in trafficking a child, the law provides a procedure for suspending or terminating that person's parental responsibilities and rights.

One of the most important features of the law is the provision for services to victims of suspected child trafficking – including steps to return children who have been moved across borders to their home countries safely and with the least possible trauma. Trafficked children will be provided with appropriate services, such as shelter, medical attention and counselling. A non-Namibian child who has been trafficked into Namibia has the same right to government services as a Namibian child, including public health care and education services.



To help prevent child trafficking, there are also various offences in the Child Care and Protection Act which relate to unlawful movement of children even in situations where trafficking cannot be proved. It is an offence to remove a child from anyone who is lawfully caring for the child (such as the child's parent or care-giver), or to detain a child in order to keep the child away from the lawful care-giver. It is also illegal to take a child out of Namibia without consent from the child's parents or from a court.

Special reporting requirements

Any person who has information about child trafficking (or trafficking of an adult) has a duty to make a report to a state social worker or to the police. Reports from members of the public can be made anonymously.

Also, every electronic communication service provider operating in Namibia must make a report to the police if it becomes aware of anything on its system that contains an advertisement or other information that facilitates or promotes child trafficking.

she sees her future in medicine

HE SEES HER FUTURE IN SLAVERY

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A CRIME.

REPORT IT TO STOP IT.

Call 10111 for help.

MDG IF
MDG ACHIEVEMENT FUND

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR GBV

Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare

