

ALGERIA'S LEGAL RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING: FROM NORMATIVE ALIGNMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES IN LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE STANDARDS

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Abstract - This study investigates the legal frameworks addressing human trafficking at both international and domestic levels, with a primary focus on Algeria. It explores how the Algerian legislator has responded to international obligations by adopting a series of legal mechanisms intended to suppress this grave violation of human dignity. The paper analyses relevant international conventions, foremost among them the Palermo Protocol (2000), alongside regional instruments and domestic legislation, particularly Ordinance No. 09-01 and the landmark Law No. 23-04 of 2023. The study highlights Algeria's recent shift toward a more comprehensive and rights-based approach to combating trafficking. By drawing comparisons with selected international models, such as those adopted in the European Union, the United States, and Canada, the paper evaluates the effectiveness of Algeria's legislative efforts within a global framework. Ultimately, it argues that while Algeria has significantly progressed in aligning with international legal standards, several challenges remain regarding enforcement, victim protection, and multi-sectoral coordination.

Keywords: Human Trafficking; Algerian Law; International Legal Standards.

INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking constitutes a flagrant violation of fundamental human rights and is widely considered a contemporary form of slavery. It undermines the principle of human dignity, erodes the moral and legal foundations of civil society, and represents one of the most complex criminal phenomena of our time. The United Nations defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion... for the purpose of exploitation”¹.

The legislative treatment of this crime at the national and international levels has undergone considerable development. International law, especially since the early 2000s, has crystallised the concept of trafficking in persons, leading to the creation of binding instruments that compel States to combat this crime in all its forms. Among these, the 2000 Palermo Protocol represents the most important multilateral treaty to date, laying the foundation for a global consensus on definition, prevention, protection, and prosecution². Many countries have since adapted their domestic laws accordingly, integrating anti-trafficking provisions into their criminal codes and adopting specialised mechanisms to address the issue³.

In Algeria, the crime of human trafficking remained legally undefined until recent years. Despite ratifying the Palermo Protocol and other key international instruments, Algeria's legislative landscape lacked a dedicated and coherent legal framework for years. The introduction of Ordinance No. 09-01 in 2009 marked a critical turning point, criminalising trafficking under specific penal code provisions⁴. However, this legislative intervention, though significant, was limited in scope and effect. It was not until the adoption of Law No. 23-04 of 7 May 2023 that Algeria enacted a comprehensive legal regime designed to align more fully with international standards and to implement a multidimensional response to human trafficking⁵.

This study examines the evolution and adequacy of Algeria's legal mechanisms in light of international standards and regional developments. It aims to assess the extent to which Algeria's domestic framework effectively combats human trafficking, safeguards victims, and fulfills its international obligations. Through comparative legal analysis, the paper also reflects on best practices from other jurisdictions, seeking to inform future reforms and policy-making in Algeria⁶.

1. Conceptual Framework of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is one of the gravest forms of transnational organised crime and represents a flagrant violation of international human rights norms. It encompasses multiple criminal behaviours aimed at the exploitation of human beings, particularly those in vulnerable situations. The phenomenon is not limited to sexual exploitation or forced labour; it also includes organ trafficking, servitude, slavery-like practices, and exploitation for begging and delinquent activities⁷.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) defines trafficking in persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation (United Nations, Protocol, Art. 3(a)). Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs.

This definition implies that three elements must converge for an act to constitute trafficking:

The act (*actus reus*): such as recruitment, transportation, or harbouring;

The means (*mens rea*): involving coercion, fraud, or deception;

The purpose: exploitation in all its recognised forms⁸.

In the case of children, the element of "means" is waived. The mere act of transferring a minor for exploitative purposes is sufficient to qualify as trafficking, regardless of whether force or deception is involved⁹.

The distinction between trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling must also be clearly understood. While the latter generally involves voluntary movement across borders in exchange for payment, trafficking entails coercion and ends in exploitation. Migrant smuggling violates state sovereignty and immigration laws, whereas trafficking is a direct violation of the individual's rights and dignity¹⁰.

Moreover, trafficking in persons is often fuelled by broader structural causes such as poverty, armed conflict, gender-based violence, lack of education, and unemployment. These conditions render individuals more susceptible to coercion and deception. Traffickers prey on such vulnerabilities, exploiting victims across borders and even within their own countries¹¹.

Recent academic research also emphasises the evolving nature of trafficking networks, which now use digital platforms to recruit, control, and exploit victims. The internet, particularly social media and encrypted communication tools, has become a new battleground in trafficking operations¹². In light of these transformations, legislative frameworks must remain dynamic and responsive.

Hence, combating trafficking requires more than just criminalisation. It necessitates a comprehensive, multidimensional approach that includes prevention, victim protection, prosecution of perpetrators, and international cooperation. This is encapsulated in the internationally recognised "3Ps" paradigm: Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution which forms the cornerstone of most modern anti-trafficking strategies, including the Palermo Protocol¹³.

2. The International Legal Framework for Combating Human Trafficking

The crime of human trafficking has long constituted a serious threat to human rights, public security, and global development. Its cross-border nature necessitated a unified and binding legal response from the international community, one that would oblige States to criminalise the act, provide for victim protection, and enhance cooperation across jurisdictions. Accordingly, a robust international legal corpus has emerged, led by the Palermo Protocol, and supplemented by a constellation of multilateral conventions and instruments

2.1 The Palermo Protocol (2000)

The foundational legal instrument in the fight against human trafficking is the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted in Palermo, Italy, in 2000¹⁴. It entered into force in 2003 and is regarded as the first binding international treaty to offer a comprehensive definition of trafficking, along with obligations related to criminalisation, victim protection, and international cooperation¹⁵.

- The Protocol requires States Parties to:
- Criminalise all forms of trafficking in persons;
- Provide legal protection and support services to victims;
- Adopt preventive measures, including public awareness campaigns and socio-economic interventions;
- Cooperate with other States through information exchange, training, and extradition mechanisms¹⁶.

2.2 Supplementary International Instruments

In defining trafficking, the Protocol expands the understanding of coercion to include abuse of power, fraud, deception, and exploitation of vulnerability. It further emphasises the non-criminalisation of victims and their entitlement to assistance, including access to justice, housing, medical care, and compensation¹⁷.

In addition to the Palermo Protocol, numerous international legal instruments reinforce the fight against trafficking and its associated harms. These include:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979), which urges States to suppress trafficking and exploitation of women through international cooperation¹⁸.
 - The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989), and its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2000), both of which affirm the obligation to protect children from trafficking and related abuses (CRC, Arts. 34-36);
 - ILO Conventions No. 29 (1930) and No. 105 (1957), on forced labour and its abolition, which address trafficking through a labour rights lens;
 - The ILO Protocol of 2014 to Convention No. 29, which explicitly recognises trafficking as a form of forced labour and calls for national strategies to prevent it;
 - The United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2010), which establishes a comprehensive framework of coordinated measures at all levels;
- The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 8.7, which calls for immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

2.3 Regional Instruments

Regional bodies have also adopted binding and non-binding instruments to complement the Palermo Protocol and address region-specific challenges:

- The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005), which goes further than the Palermo Protocol by integrating a human rights-based approach and explicitly protecting the rights of victims, regardless of their willingness to cooperate with law enforcement¹⁹.
- European Union Directive 2011/36/EU, which establishes minimum standards on the definition of offences, penalties, victim rights, assistance, and prevention strategies. It also mandates the appointment of National Rapporteurs and promotes gender-sensitive approaches.
- The 2015 ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), adopted by member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which replicates many of the Palermo Protocol's provisions while incorporating regionally tailored measures for cooperation and implementation.

2.4 Soft Law Instruments and Guidelines

In addition to treaties, a number of soft law instruments provide authoritative guidance and normative influence, including:

- The UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Business (2011), which outline corporate responsibility to prevent trafficking in supply chains;
- The Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking, developed by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights²⁰.
- The Joint UN Commentary on the EU Directive²¹, which integrates UN anti-trafficking standards with EU legal obligations.
- These texts reinforce the need for a comprehensive response integrating prosecution, protection, and prevention while centring the dignity and autonomy of victims.

2.5 Challenges in International Enforcement

Despite the proliferation of instruments, the implementation of international anti-trafficking law remains uneven across jurisdictions. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2022) noted a significant decline in the number of victims identified during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite increased vulnerabilities²². This highlights ongoing difficulties in detection, prosecution, and victim services especially in countries with limited institutional capacity or insufficient political will.

3. The National Legal Framework for Combating Human Trafficking in Algeria

Algeria has made significant progress in aligning its domestic legal system with international standards on combating human trafficking. After years of legislative silence on the issue, the Algerian authorities have adopted a series of normative reforms aimed at criminalising trafficking in persons, protecting victims, and reinforcing the State's obligations under international law.

3.1. The 2009 Penal Code Amendments: A Foundational Step

The first legislative milestone in Algeria's anti-trafficking framework was the promulgation of Ordinance No. 09-01 of 25 February 2009, which introduced new provisions into the Penal Code to criminalise acts of trafficking in persons. Articles 303 bis 04 to 303 bis 15 of the Penal Code established a clear legal definition of trafficking, criminalising recruitment, transportation, harbouring, or receipt of persons for the purpose of exploitation, through the use of coercion, fraud, abuse of vulnerability, or similar means²³.

- The ordinance imposed penalties ranging from 3 to 20 years of imprisonment, depending on aggravating circumstances such as:

- The trafficking of minors;
- Involvement of organised criminal groups;
- Use of violence or threats;
- Exploitation for prostitution, forced labour, slavery, or removal of organs²⁴.

While the 2009 ordinance marked a crucial turning point, its practical application remained limited. The absence of procedural provisions regarding victim identification, protection, and assistance weakened its efficacy. Moreover, institutional mechanisms for monitoring and coordinating anti-trafficking efforts were lacking, resulting in implementation gaps²⁵.

3.2. Law No. 23-04 of 7 May 2023: A Comprehensive Reform

To overcome these limitations and comply more fully with international obligations²⁶. This law repealed the provisions introduced by the 2009 ordinance and established a comprehensive legal and institutional framework designed to address all dimensions of trafficking in persons.

The law provides a broadened definition of trafficking in line with the Palermo Protocol and covers acts committed “by means of threat, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of authority or vulnerability... for the purpose of exploitation in any form”²⁷. It explicitly criminalises child trafficking, whether or not coercion is involved, and includes as forms of exploitation: sexual slavery, servitude, forced labour, organ harvesting, illegal adoption, forced begging, and the exploitation of children in criminal activities²⁸.

3.3. Victim-Centred Provisions and the Non-Punishment Principle

Law 23-04 distinguishes itself by incorporating a victim-centred approach, introducing legal guarantees for those affected by trafficking. Notably:

- Article 51 affirms the non-punishment principle, stipulating that victims shall not be prosecuted for offences committed as a direct result of their exploitation, such as prostitution, illegal entry, or falsified documents;
- Articles 13 to 17 provide for assistance measures, including medical care, psychological support, legal aid, and safe accommodation;
- Article 26 establishes a special compensation fund for victims, financed by the proceeds of fines and confiscated property resulting from trafficking-related convictions;
- Article 30 provides for the repatriation and reintegration of foreign victims in cooperation with international bodies and NGOs²⁹.

These measures reflect Algeria’s commitment to the “Protection” pillar of the Palermo Protocol’s tripartite strategy: Prevention-Protection-Prosecution³⁰. They also align with recommendations issued by international human rights bodies concerning the importance of ensuring non-criminalisation and access to remedies for victims³¹.

3.4. Penalties and Judicial Competence

3.5. The law reinforces criminal penalties for perpetrators, calibrated according to the gravity of the offence:

- Basic trafficking offences carry imprisonment from 5 to 15 years and significant financial penalties;
- Aggravated circumstances, such as the involvement of organised networks, public officials, or repeat offenders, raise the penalty to 10 to 20 years’ imprisonment;
- In cases involving torture, rape, or death, the penalty may reach life imprisonment³².

The law grants jurisdiction to ordinary criminal courts, while also allowing for the establishment of specialised investigative units and trained judicial actors. However, it remains unclear whether

sufficient resources and training have been allocated to enable effective enforcement, as pointed out in recent commentaries³³.

3.6. Institutional Mechanisms and National Coordination

A major innovation of Law 23-04 is the establishment of a National Committee for the Prevention and Fight against Trafficking in Persons, tasked with:

- Coordinating national policies and strategies;
- Collecting and analysing data on trafficking;
- Drafting annual reports and making recommendations;
- Collaborating with international organisations and NGOs.

Despite the creation of this Committee, the effectiveness of its operations depends on political will, budgetary allocations, and genuine inter-institutional cooperation elements that remain to be evaluated in practice³⁴.

4. Comparative Legal Analysis: Algeria and International Models

A thorough understanding of the effectiveness of Algeria's legal response to human trafficking requires its positioning within a broader comparative legal context. By examining legislative and institutional frameworks in selected jurisdictions particularly those that are internationally recognised for their advanced anti-trafficking mechanisms we can draw valuable insights and benchmarks. This section will focus on three such models: the European Union, the United States, and Canada.

4.1. The European Union: A Rights-Based and Evolving Model

The European Union has taken a leading role in combating human trafficking through a harmonised legal framework that integrates prevention, protection, and prosecution, grounded in human rights principles. The cornerstone of this framework is Directive 2011/36/EU, which sets minimum standards for defining offences, punishing perpetrators, supporting victims, and facilitating cooperation among Member States.

- The Directive requires all Member States to:
- Criminalise trafficking with penalties of no less than 5 years' imprisonment, and up to 10 years in aggravated cases;
- Provide for the non-prosecution of victims for unlawful acts they were compelled to commit;
- Establish National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms to monitor implementation;

Offer comprehensive assistance to victims, including psychological, medical, and housing support³⁵.

Moreover, in April 2024, the EU adopted Directive 2024/1712, which expands the definition of trafficking to include forced marriage, illegal adoption, and surrogacy exploitation. It also requires the criminalisation of those who knowingly use services derived from trafficked persons³⁶. This evolution reflects the EU's responsiveness to emerging exploitation patterns, and its focus on curbing demand, not just supply.

By comparison, Algeria's Law No. 23-04 shares many of the Directive's elements particularly the recognition of a wide array of exploitative forms and the non-punishment principle³⁷. However, Algeria does not yet operate an equivalent to the EU's Rapporteur system, nor does it collect and publish detailed statistical reports on victim identification or prosecutions, as is common across the EU

³⁸.

4.2. The United States: A Comprehensive Statutory and Diplomatic Model

The United States pioneered a modern legislative approach to trafficking with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, which has since undergone multiple reauthorisations. The TVPA articulates the "3P" paradigm Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution and establishes concrete mechanisms for implementation³⁹.

Salient features of the U.S. model include:

- A T visa system, which grants legal residence and work permits to foreign victims willing to assist in investigations;
- Severe criminal penalties, including up to life imprisonment in aggravated cases;
- An Interagency Task Force, chaired by the Secretary of State, to coordinate federal efforts;
- The TIP Report, which ranks countries by their compliance with anti-trafficking norms and incentivises reform through aid linkage and public scrutiny.

The TIP Report's Tier system is particularly influential. It has played a critical role in pushing governments including Algeria to reform their legislation to avoid diplomatic and financial consequences⁴⁰.

In terms of convergence, Algeria's recent legislation reflects an alignment with the protection and prosecution dimensions of the U.S. model. However, Algeria lacks an equivalent visa regime or a mechanism similar to the TIP Report, which remains a powerful soft-law tool in U.S. foreign policy. The absence of a comparable interagency framework or public monitoring tool limits Algeria's institutional effectiveness⁴¹.

4.3. Canada: A Federal Model with Strong Victim-Centred Measures

Canada adopts a federal legal framework against trafficking, grounded in the Criminal Code and supported by the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking (2019-2024). Sections 279.01 to 279.04 of the Code criminalise trafficking, with penalties reaching life imprisonment in cases involving minors, violence, or death (Department of Justice Canada).

Notably, Canada integrates immigration law protections, offering Temporary Resident Permits (TRPs) to foreign victims, regardless of their cooperation with law enforcement. Furthermore, federal and provincial governments fund a network of shelters, legal clinics, and counselling centres, often operated by NGOs.

The Interdepartmental Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, now part of Public Safety Canada, ensures coordination among departments, and regularly publishes impact reports and victim data.

Algeria's Law 23-04 includes many of these aspects particularly victim compensation (art. 26), shelter access (art. 15), and the establishment of a national committee. However, as with the EU and U.S. models, Algeria still needs to develop clear protocols for intersectoral coordination, victim data transparency, and the integration of civil society into implementation⁴².

4.4. Comparative Overview

Feature	European Union	United States	Canada	Algeria
Broad Definition of Trafficking	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-punishment of Victims	✓ (Directive 2011/36/EU)	✓ (TVPA)	✓ (Criminal Code + policy)	✓ (Art. 51, Law 23-04)
Victim Assistance and Shelters	✓	✓	✓	Partially operational
Dedicated Visa Mechanism	✗	✓ (T Visa)	✓ (TRP)	✗
National Coordination Body	✓ (Rapporteurs)	✓ (Interagency Task Force)	✓ (Working Group)	✓ (National Committee)
Public Reporting Mechanisms	✓ (Eurostat, GRETA)	✓ (TIP Report)	✓ (Public Safety Canada)	✗

4.5. Conclusion of the Comparative Section

Algeria's Law No. 23-04 represents a substantial normative advancement, particularly in its alignment with international standards regarding the definition of trafficking, the non-criminalisation of victims, and the scope of criminal sanctions. However, comparative models reveal that effective implementation requires more than legislative text: it necessitates robust institutions, transparent data systems, interagency coordination, and victim-centred services supported by sustainable funding. The European, American, and Canadian experiences offer critical insights for Algeria as it transitions from legislative reform to operational capacity. Without structural reinforcement and civil society engagement, Algeria risks falling short in meeting its international obligations despite the strength of its new legal framework.

5. Findings and Discussion

The comparative and doctrinal analysis presented above yields several critical findings regarding the evolution and current status of Algeria's legal framework for combating human trafficking. These findings provide a foundation for assessing both normative alignment with international standards and the practical challenges facing implementation.

5.1. Algeria's Legal Convergence with International Norms

The adoption of Law No. 23-04 of 2023 represents a significant legislative advance in Algeria's efforts to harmonise its domestic laws with the obligations set forth in the Palermo Protocol and other international instruments. Key areas of convergence include:

- A comprehensive definition of trafficking that mirrors Article 3 of the Protocol;
- The explicit inclusion of various forms of exploitation (e.g., sexual, labour, organ removal, and forced begging);
- The non-criminalisation of victims for acts committed under coercion (Art. 51);
- Victim-centred assistance measures, including compensation, shelter, legal aid, and medical support;
- The establishment of a national coordination body to oversee implementation⁴³. In doing so, Algeria has fulfilled several critical components of the "3P" strategy Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution advocated globally by the United Nations and reflected in the anti-trafficking models of the EU, US, and Canada.

5.2. Persistent Implementation Gaps

Despite this legal alignment, Algeria continues to face significant challenges in operationalising its legal framework:

- Lack of statistical data: Unlike EU countries or Canada, Algeria does not regularly publish data on identified victims, prosecutions, or the disbursement of victim funds. This undermines transparency and weakens monitoring capacity⁴⁴.
- Limited inter-agency coordination: The national committee created by Law 23-04 has not, to date, demonstrated a clear action plan or institutional presence. The absence of trained police, prosecutors, and social workers inhibits consistent application.
- Insufficient victim access: While shelters and support services are guaranteed in law, there is scarce evidence of such services being operationalised nationwide particularly for foreign victims, who are sometimes detained or deported rather than protected⁴⁵.
- Absence of demand-side interventions: Unlike the EU, which now criminalises the knowing use of services provided by trafficking victims⁴⁶, Algeria's legislation has yet to address this angle, thereby missing an opportunity to curtail the economic incentives behind exploitation⁴⁷.

5.3. The Role of International Pressure and Soft Law Tools

One of the most instructive observations from the comparative analysis is the power of international monitoring. In the US, the TIP Report operates as a form of soft law diplomacy, pressuring

governments to meet anti-trafficking standards through public rankings and the threat of aid conditionality. Similarly, the GRETA mechanism in Europe holds States accountable through independent evaluations.

Algeria lacks such reporting mechanisms. Establishing an independent annual report whether via the national committee or a designated rapporteur could fill this gap and enhance institutional credibility, much like the models in Canada and the EU⁴⁸.

5.4. Strategic Opportunities for Algeria

To translate its normative progress into tangible results, Algeria should consider the following reforms:

- Training and specialisation: Develop dedicated units within the police and judiciary trained in victim-sensitive investigation and prosecution techniques.
- Strengthening partnerships: Engage NGOs, academic institutions, and international organisations (e.g., UNODC, IOM) in implementation, victim care, and awareness-raising.
- Data collection and publication: Create and maintain a national database on trafficking cases to support evidence-based policymaking and reporting.
- Victim regularisation and legal standing: Introduce mechanisms similar to the US T Visa or Canadian TRP to provide secure legal status for foreign victims willing to testify or remain in the country.
- Budget allocation: Ensure that the national victim compensation fund is not only established on paper but endowed and disbursed transparently and efficiently.

5.5. Broader Socio-Legal Context

It must also be acknowledged that human trafficking in Algeria, as in many countries, is linked to broader social vulnerabilities. Factors such as unemployment, poverty, regional instability, gender-based violence, and irregular migration routes from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe all contribute to the persistence of trafficking networks⁴⁹.

Therefore, legal reforms must be embedded in broader development strategies, including education, women's empowerment, and border governance. Algeria's anti-trafficking efforts should be mainstreamed into national strategies on migration, labour regulation, and criminal justice reform.

CONCLUSION AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The present study has sought to critically examine Algeria's evolving legal response to human trafficking within the broader framework of international and comparative law. The findings indicate that Algeria has made substantial strides in recent years, particularly with the promulgation of Law No. 23-04 of 2023, which has brought the national legal framework into closer alignment with the requirements of the Palermo Protocol and other key instruments of international law.

Through this legislative reform, Algeria has demonstrated its commitment to combating trafficking by:

- Adopting a comprehensive legal definition of trafficking in persons;
- Criminalising a broad spectrum of exploitative practices;
- Enshrining the non-punishment principle for victims;
- Establishing a national coordination body and a compensation fund;
- Introducing a protective regime for victims consistent with global best practices.

Nevertheless, the study also reveals several persistent shortcomings, especially in the realm of implementation, institutional coordination, data transparency, and operational victim support. These challenges are not unique to Algeria; rather, they echo the practical difficulties observed in many jurisdictions where the enactment of robust legislation has not been accompanied by equivalent institutional or financial investment.

By comparing Algeria's legal and institutional approach to that of the European Union, United States, and Canada, the research has identified key strategies that may serve to enhance the effectiveness of the Algerian system. These include:

- Establishing public accountability mechanisms, such as an annual national trafficking report or an independent rapporteur, similar to the EU's GRETA or the U.S. TIP Report;
- Ensuring specialised training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges on victim-sensitive approaches;

- Promoting inter-agency coordination and the involvement of civil society in implementation and monitoring;
- Operationalising victim services, including shelters, reintegration programmes, and legal aid, through concrete budget allocations and partnerships with NGOs;
- Introducing legal mechanisms for residency regularisation for foreign victims willing to cooperate with investigations learning from the T Visa (U.S.) and TRP (Canada) models.

The overarching conclusion of this study is that while legislation is a crucial pillar, it is only one component of a truly effective anti-trafficking strategy. Without sustained political will, institutional commitment, and multi-sectoral engagement, the promise of legal reform will remain largely symbolic.


Therefore, the following recommendations are advanced as a roadmap for future action:

- Develop a National Action Plan that operationalises Law 23-04 through measurable objectives, timelines, and monitoring indicators.
- Establish a transparent data collection system covering victim identification, prosecutions, and fund disbursement.
- Empower the National Committee with legal authority, adequate funding, and a permanent technical secretariat.
- Institutionalise partnerships with international organisations (e.g., UNODC, IOM), academic institutions, and civil society.
- Integrate anti-trafficking efforts within broader socio-economic development, border control, and migration governance strategies.

By undertaking these measures, Algeria may move beyond legal formalism towards a truly effective, rights-based, and internationally respected anti-trafficking system, capable of both protecting victims and dismantling criminal networks in an integrated and sustainable manner.

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