



## COI QUERY

Country of Origin

**EGYPT**

Title	Situation of children
Reference period	November 2022 to 6 December 2024
Topic(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Children under the justice system</a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. <a href="#">Legal framework</a></li> <li>1.2. <a href="#">Arrests and detention of children</a></li> <li>1.3. <a href="#">Prosecution of children and treatment by the judicial authorities</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <a href="#">Conscription and recruitment of children and impact of the security situation</a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. <a href="#">Conscription and recruitment</a></li> <li>2.2. <a href="#">Impact of the security situation</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <a href="#">Children from religious minority groups</a></li> <li>4. <a href="#">Children with disabilities</a></li> <li>5. <a href="#">Children living in street situations and orphaned children</a></li> <li>6. <a href="#">Migrant and refugee children</a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1. <a href="#">Figures</a></li> <li>6.2. <a href="#">Legal framework</a></li> <li>6.3. <a href="#">Treatment by the state</a></li> <li>6.4. <a href="#">Treatment by society</a></li> <li>6.5. <a href="#">Access to services, including education and healthcare</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <a href="#">Forced and underage/child marriage</a></li> <li>8. <a href="#">Children victims of female genital mutilation (FGM)</a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1. <a href="#">Prevalence</a></li> <li>8.2. <a href="#">Legal framework</a></li> <li>8.3. <a href="#">Access to justice</a></li> <li>8.4. <a href="#">Societal attitudes</a></li> <li>8.5. <a href="#">Access to support services</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>9. <a href="#">Trafficking in human beings (THB) among children</a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.1. <a href="#">Prevalence</a></li> <li>9.2. <a href="#">Legal framework</a></li> <li>9.3. <a href="#">Access to justice</a></li> <li>9.4. <a href="#">Availability and access to support services</a></li> </ol> </li> </ol>



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Cite as: EUAA, Country of Origin Information Query, Egypt: Situation of children, 6 December 2024, [url](#)

## COI QUERY RESPONSE – Egypt

### Situation of children

#### 1. Children under the justice system

##### 1.1. Legal framework

The Child Law of Egypt, as amended in 2008, in Part Eight included provisions '[d]ealing with children having infringed the penal law'.<sup>1</sup>

Specifically, articles 94, and 95 of the Child Law stipulate the following concerning the criminal responsibility of children:

**'Article 94**

Criminal responsibility shall not apply to the child who has not reached the age of twelve (12) years at the time of committing the crime.

Yet, if the child is at or above seven (7) years and below twelve (12) calendar years, and has committed a felony or a misdemeanor, only the Child Court being the competent court, may rule in accordance with any of the measures set forth in Article 101 Items 1, 2, 7, and 8 of this Law.

**Article 95**

Subject to the provisions of Article 111 of this Law, the provisions found in this chapter, shall apply to a child who has not reached the age of eighteen (18) calendar years at the time of committing the crime, or if the child is in an at risk situation.'<sup>2</sup>

Article 101 of the above-mentioned law also notes the following with regards to the penalties against children:

'The verdict for a child who has not reached fifteen (15) years of age, in case he commits a crime shall include one of the following interventions:

- 1 - Reproach/censure
- 2 - Delivery to parents, guardians, or custodians
- 3 - Training and rehabilitation
- 4 - Committing to certain obligations
- 5 - Judicial probation
- 6 - Community service activities not harmful to the child's health or mental state. The By-laws shall determine the nature of this work and restrictions thereof.
- 7 - Placement in one of the specialized hospitals

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<sup>1</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)

<sup>2</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)

## 8 - Placement in one of the social care institutions

With the exception of confiscation, closing stores, and returning the place to its original state, the child shall not be subjected to any other penalty or intervention stated in any other law.<sup>3</sup>

The Constitution of Egypt, in article 52, stipulates that: ‘Torture in all forms and types is a criminal offence that is not subject to any statute of limitations.’<sup>4</sup> The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) in its concluding observations report on Egypt, published in June 2024, noted that torture was also ‘explicitly prohibited’ under article 126 of the Egyptian Penal Code, while article 116 bis of the same law ‘provides for harsher penalties if the victim of torture is a child’.<sup>5</sup>

Articles 112 and 119 of the Child Law of Egypt also included provisions concerning the detention and the placement of children in custody, as following:

### ‘Article 112

Children may not be detained, placed in custody, or imprisoned with adults in one place. In detention, it should be observed that children are to be classified according to their age, sex, and nature of their crime.

Shall be sentenced to jail for a period not less than three (3) months, and not exceeding two (2) years, and a fine not less than one thousand (1,000) Egyptian pounds [about EUR 19<sup>6</sup>], and not more than five thousand (5,000) Egyptian pounds [about EUR 95<sup>7</sup>], or by one of the two penalties, any public official or in charge of a public service who detains, places in custody, or imprisons a child with one or more adults in one place [...]

### Article 119

A child who has not reached fifteen (15) years of age shall not be placed in temporary custody. The Public Prosecution may place him in one of the observation centers, for a period not exceeding one (1) week, and shall make him available upon each request if the circumstances of the case necessitate keeping him in custody. However, the period for keeping the child in custody shall not exceed one (1) week unless the court decides to extend the period according to the regulations for temporary custody as stipulated in the Criminal Procedure Code.

As an alternative to the procedure of the previous paragraph, an order may be issued to deliver the child to one of his parents, or to his guardian, and make him available

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<sup>3</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)

<sup>4</sup> Egypt, Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 2019, [url](#)

<sup>5</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 27

<sup>6</sup> The calculation was made based on the European Commission’s official monthly accounting rates for the euro for Egyptian pound (EGP) for December 2024, EC, Exchange rate (InforEuro), n.d., [url](#), accessed 4 December 2024

<sup>7</sup> The calculation was made based on the European Commission’s official monthly accounting rates for the euro for Egyptian pound (EGP) for December 2024, EC, Exchange rate (InforEuro), n.d., [url](#), accessed 4 December 2024

upon each request. Any person violating this duty shall be penalized with a fine not exceeding one hundred (100) Egyptian pounds [about EUR 2<sup>8</sup>].<sup>9</sup>

The Child Law of Egypt in article 111 also stipulated the following about the death penalty:

‘No accused person shall be sentenced to death, life imprisonment, or forced labor if, at the time of committing the crime, he did not reach the age of eighteen (18) years.

Without prejudice to the provision of Article 17 of the Penal Code, if the child who has reached the age of fifteen (15) years commits a crime punishable by a death sentence, or life imprisonment, or forced labor, he shall be sentenced to imprisonment. Furthermore, if the crime committed is punishable by imprisonment, he shall be placed in custody for a period not less than three (3) months.

The Court, instead of placing the child in custody, may sentence him with the measure stated in Article 101, Item 8 of this Law.

However, if the child who has reached fifteen (15) years of age commits a misdemeanor punishable by placing him in custody, the Court may, instead of sentencing the child to the penalty decreed for it, sentence the child to one of the measures set forth in Article 101, Items 5, 6, and 8 of this Law.<sup>10</sup>

Article 122 of the Egyptian Child Law stated the following with regards to jurisdiction of criminal cases against children:

‘The Child Court shall exclusively deal with issues concerning the child when accused of a crime or in case of his delinquency. The Court shall also be entitled to pass judgments regarding criminal cases set forth in Articles 113 to 116 and in Article 119 of this Law.

As an exception to the provision of the previous paragraph, the Criminal Court or the Supreme State Security Court, according to each case, shall have jurisdiction over criminal cases where the accused - at the time of committing the crime - is a child above fifteen (15) years of age while the accomplice is not a child and the case necessitated bringing the criminal action against the accomplice jointly with the child. In this case, the Court – prior to passing its judgment – shall examine the circumstances of the child from all aspects and may seek the assistance of experts if it so wishes.<sup>11</sup>

According to Ahram Online, an Egyptian news website, the Egyptian Child Law was amended in May 2023, affecting issues of guardianship, birth registration and child neglect.<sup>12</sup> A

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<sup>8</sup> The calculation was made based on the European Commission’s official monthly accounting rates for the euro for Egyptian pound (EGP) for December 2024, EC, Exchange rate (InforEuro), n.d., [url](#), accessed 4 December 2024

<sup>9</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)

<sup>10</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)

<sup>11</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)

<sup>12</sup> Ahram Online, Egypt amends penal code & child law to combat Sexual harassment, protect children, 3 May 2023, [url](#)

translated version of the 2023 amended Child Law in English could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

## ***1.2. Arrests and detention of children***

Sources reported on the use of excessive force and the arrests of children in the context of anti-government protests.<sup>13</sup> The United Nations Committee Against Torture (UNCAT) in its December 2023 concluding observations report on Egypt, reported that hundreds of protesters, including children, died or were injured due to the use of force by the Egyptian security forces.<sup>14</sup>

Incidents of arrests of children as reported by sources during the reference period of this query response included:

- In July 2024, Amnesty International reported that Egyptian security forces arrested and detained 119 individuals, including one child, in at least six governorates in the context of online calls for the organization of an anti-government protest.<sup>15</sup>
- In June 2024, Amnesty International indicated that at least 53 of the individuals arrested during the October 2023 Palestinian solidarity protests, including two children, remained in pretrial detention 'pending investigations into terrorism-related charges, participation in unauthorized gatherings harming national security and public order, and vandalism'.<sup>16</sup>
- Between 20 and 24 October 2023, security forces were reported to have detained at least 72 individuals, including 4 children, who participated in pro-Palestine protests in Cairo and Alexandria.<sup>17</sup> A May 2024 article by Middle East Eye (MEE), citing the human rights organization Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, noted that since the beginning of the conflict in Gaza in October 2023 at least 120 individuals, including two children, were detained in the context of pro-Palestine movement and protests.<sup>18</sup> In March 2024, the Egyptian Front for Human Rights (EFHR)<sup>19</sup> reported on the arrest of six individuals, including one child, in Dar El-Salam, Cairo, for writing pro-Palestine and anti-government slogans on a bridge.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> AI, Egypt: More than 100 arbitrarily detained over calls for anti-government protests, 18 July 2024, [url](#); UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 25; HRW, Egypt: Dozens of Peaceful Protesters Detained, 1 November 2023, [url](#)

<sup>14</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 25

<sup>15</sup> AI, Egypt: More than 100 arbitrarily detained over calls for anti-government protests, 18 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>16</sup> AI, Egypt: Release protesters and activists detained over Palestine solidarity, 14 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>17</sup> HRW, Egypt: Dozens of Peaceful Protesters Detained, 1 November 2023, [url](#)

<sup>18</sup> MME, Egypt: Students violently detained for supporting pro-Palestine movement, 13 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>19</sup> The Egyptian Front for Human Rights (EFHR) is a European organization established in Czech Republic in 2017, working 'to improve the human rights situation in Egypt through research, advocacy and legal work, specifically in criminal justice'. EFHR, About, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>20</sup> EFHR, [X], posted on: 15 June 2024, [url](#)

Egyptian authorities were reported to carry out arbitrary arrests of children<sup>21</sup> and enforced disappearances of children ‘for extended periods of time’.<sup>22</sup> Furthermore, incidents of prolonged pretrial detention of children<sup>23</sup>, detention of children sometimes together with adults<sup>24</sup>, and inadequate access of children to legal assistance were also reported.<sup>25</sup>

UN CRC noted that, despite the Children’s Code prohibition of placing children below the age of 15 in custody, there was a ‘high number of children aged between 12 and 18 years’ who were detained during investigation.<sup>26</sup> The same source also indicated that there was a lack of data concerning detained children, as well as ‘lack of regular monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty of children by independent monitors’.<sup>27</sup> Sources also indicated that children under detention faced ill-treatment and abusive conditions, including during pretrial interrogations.<sup>28</sup> UN CRC also noted that there was a ‘lack of accountability for the police and security personnel who committed such crimes’.<sup>29</sup>

### ***1.3. Prosecution of children and treatment by the judicial authorities***

The UNCAT in its concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, published in December 2023, expressed its concerns about ‘extended jurisdiction of and increasing recourse to military courts to prosecute individuals, including civilians, under overly broad provisions of counter-terrorism and other legislation’.<sup>30</sup> According to the same source, there were reports of a ‘very large number’ of political opponents or perceived critics of the government, including children, that ‘have been tried and convicted in such courts in trials, including mass trials, that lack due process and fair trial guarantees’.<sup>31</sup>

Human Rights Watch noted that due to the legal provision in the Child Law which ‘allows children who are accused of crimes along with an adult accomplice to be tried before criminal courts [...] dozens of children have been prosecuted alongside adults before terrorism and military courts’.<sup>32</sup>

In its annual report on the situation of human rights in Egypt covering 2023, Amnesty International reported that in January 2023, an Emergency Supreme State Security Court (ESSC) convicted 82 individuals from Suez governorate, including 23 who were children at the time of the alleged offences, in relation to September 2019 anti-government protests. The sentences were reported to range between five years and life imprisonment.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 25

<sup>22</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 27

<sup>23</sup> HRW, Egypt: Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 6 July 2023, [url](#)

<sup>24</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 46

<sup>25</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 46

<sup>26</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 46

<sup>27</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 46

<sup>28</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 27; USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 7

<sup>29</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 27

<sup>30</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 31

<sup>31</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 31

<sup>32</sup> HRW, Egypt: Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 6 July 2023, [url](#)

<sup>33</sup> AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Egypt 2023, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in a July 2023 report indicated that despite specialized justice services existed in Egypt, such as Child Courts and prosecution services, these services remained limited ‘to the largest urban centres’, including Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria.<sup>34</sup> Similarly, the UN CRC, in its June 2024 report, noted that there was ‘slow progress in the establishment of specialized child courts and specialized child prosecution offices, which have been established in only a few cities’.<sup>35</sup>

Moreover, according to the annual report of Human Rights Watch covering 2023, Egyptian authorities ‘in recent years have systematically refused to provide or renew the identity documents of dozens of dissidents, journalists, and human rights activists living abroad’, and of their dependent family members, including children.<sup>36</sup>

Furthermore, the UN CRC in its concluding observations report on Egypt, published in June 2024, noted that, despite the legal prohibition of the death penalty for all individuals under the age of 18, in accordance with article 111 of the Children’s Code, there were reports of death sentences imposed on persons, who were children at the time of the alleged committed offence.<sup>37</sup> According to the same source, there were also reports on children being sentenced to death in the context of mass trials as co-defendants with adults pursuant to article 122 of the Children’s Code’.<sup>38</sup>

Specific information on cases where the death penalty was imposed on children, or on individuals who were children at the time of the alleged committed offences in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

## **2. Conscription and recruitment of children and impact of the security situation**

### **2.1. Conscription and recruitment**

Egypt ratified the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict in 2007.<sup>39</sup> Egypt issued a declaration regarding the provision of the Protocol, which stipulates the minimum age for conscription or voluntary recruitment into the armed forces.<sup>40</sup> The above-mentioned declaration stated that in

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<sup>34</sup> OECD, Towards a Child-friendly Justice System in Egypt: Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, 25 July 2023, [url](#), pp. 9, 15

<sup>35</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 46

<sup>36</sup> HRW, World Report 2024 - Egypt, 11 January 2024, [url](#)

<sup>37</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 16

<sup>38</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 16

<sup>39</sup> UN Treaty Collection, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, last updated 25 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>40</sup> UN Treaty Collection, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, last updated 25 November 2024, [url](#); UN CRC, Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by Egypt under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2016, 22 March 2023, [url](#), para. 250



Egypt, the minimum age for conscription into the armed forces is 18 and the minimum age for voluntary recruitment is 16.<sup>41</sup> The Egyptian government in periodic reports submitted to the UN CRC in March 2023, noted that voluntary recruitment is based upon the free will of the volunteers, after being fully informed of the duties included in such voluntary military service, their parent's or guardian's consent, evidence of the age of volunteers by official documentation, such as identity card or birth certificate, and passing a medical examination.<sup>42</sup> In the same report, the Egyptian government also noted that '[t]he activities of such recruits are limited to training, and they do not participate in military operations'.<sup>43</sup> The US Department of Labor (USDOL) indicated that the prohibition of compulsory recruitment of children by the state military is stipulated in the Law on Military and National Service.<sup>44</sup> USDOL also noted that Egypt's 'laws do not criminally prohibit military recruitment by non-state armed groups'.<sup>45</sup> A translated version of the Egyptian Law on Military and National Service in English could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

The Sinai Foundation for Human Rights<sup>46</sup> in a report published in August 2023 reported that armed forces and pro-government armed militias recruited and used children in their conflict with Wilayat Sina' group [local ISIS affiliate group].<sup>47</sup> The same source indicated that between 2013 and 2022, the Egyptian armed forces in North Sinai 'enlisted children as young as 12'.<sup>48</sup> According to the same source, children enlisted by the Egyptian armed forces were mainly assigned with spying or delivering food supplies, activities which reportedly 'exposed them to Wilayat Sina'. The same source also indicated that Wilayat Sina' group was responsible for the killings of recruited children.<sup>49</sup>

The UN CRC also made references to reports of alleged recruitment of children by non-state armed groups in North Sinai.<sup>50</sup> Similarly, in an article published in May 2022, the New Arab reported on the recruitment of children by tribal militias, such as the Sinai Tribal Union group, allegedly affiliated with the Egyptian government.<sup>51</sup> The same source indicated that, according to testimonies of witnesses, 'the tribal force encourages children, aged under-18, to take part

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<sup>41</sup> UN Treaty Collection, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, last updated 25 November 2024, [url](#); UN CRC, Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by Egypt under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2016, 22 March 2023, [url](#), para. 250

<sup>42</sup> UN CRC, Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by Egypt under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2016, 22 March 2023, [url](#), para. 256

<sup>43</sup> UN CRC, Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by Egypt under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2016, 22 March 2023, [url](#), para. 256

<sup>44</sup> USDOL, 2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Egypt, 5 September 2024, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>45</sup> USDOL, 2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Egypt, 5 September 2024, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>46</sup> The Sinai Foundation for Human Rights is a non-governmental human rights group, which established in 2020 by a group of local activists, researchers, and journalists, focusing on reporting on the situation in the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, Founding Statement Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, 8 October 2022, [url](#)

<sup>47</sup> Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, "I was afraid...I was only 17", The Untold Stories of Child Soldiers in Egypt, North Sinai, updated 9 August 2023, [url](#), p. ii

<sup>48</sup> Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, "I was afraid...I was only 17", The Untold Stories of Child Soldiers in Egypt, North Sinai, updated 9 August 2023, [url](#), p. ii

<sup>49</sup> Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, "I was afraid...I was only 17", The Untold Stories of Child Soldiers in Egypt, North Sinai, updated 9 August 2023, [url](#), p. ii

<sup>50</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 48

<sup>51</sup> New Arab (The), Egypt recruiting children 'to fight IS militants' in northern Sinai, 18 May 2022, [url](#)

in counter-insurgency operations, particularly those with family members already in the force'.<sup>52</sup> The 2023 US Department of State (USDOS) report on human rights practices in Egypt noted that during the period between April 2022 to March 2023, 'Egypt supported progovernment tribal militias in the Sinai that recruited or used child soldiers'.<sup>53</sup>

The USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Egypt, covering the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, reported, however, that '[t]here was no evidence the militia in the Sinai Peninsula that previously recruited or used children did so nor that the government provided support to or coordinated with the militia'.<sup>54</sup>

## **2.2. Impact of the security situation**

Mada Masr, a local news website, reported in June 2024 that, according to local and medical sources in North Sinai, 15 people, including 12 children, were killed, and 28 others were injured, including 20 children, since January 2022 due to improvised explosive devices (IEDs), planted during the conflict.<sup>55</sup> In June 2024, media sources reported on an incident where two children were killed and five more were injured after a landmine detonated in Sheikh Zuweid, in North Sinai province.<sup>56</sup>

UDSOS noted that, according to a local human rights group, in May 2023 an explosive device left by ISIS killed a child and injured two more in the Tuffaha area of western Sinai.<sup>57</sup>

The Sinai Foundation for Human Rights in an April 2024 report noted that the conflict has affected children's access to education, including the closure of schools, targeting and destruction of educational facilities and use of schools for military purposes.<sup>58</sup> The same source indicated that, based on its report findings, during the period from 2013 to 2023, 386 attacks on educational facilities and the demolition of 73 schools in five cities in North Sinai governorate were recorded.<sup>59</sup> According to the same source, attacks on educational facilities by Egyptian government forces and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in North Sinai also resulted in the death of students.<sup>60</sup>

## **3. Children from religious minority groups**

The Constitution of Egypt, in articles 2 and 3, stipulates the following:

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<sup>52</sup> New Arab (The), Egypt recruiting children 'to fight IS militants' in northern Sinai, 18 May 2022, [url](#)

<sup>53</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 32

<sup>54</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>55</sup> Mada Masr, IEDs in Sinai: Bygone war claims new victims, 13 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>56</sup> Mada Masr, IEDs in Sinai: Bygone war claims new victims, 13 June 2024, [url](#); New Arab (The), Landmine explosion kills two children in Egypt's North Sinai, 2 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>57</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 31 – 32

<sup>58</sup> Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, Mines of the Future: Violations of the Right to Education in North Sinai in the War Decade (2013 - 2023), 8 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 1, 2, 3

<sup>59</sup> Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, Mines of the Future: Violations of the Right to Education in North Sinai in the War Decade (2013 - 2023), 8 April 2024, [url](#), p. 33

<sup>60</sup> Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, Mines of the Future: Violations of the Right to Education in North Sinai in the War Decade (2013 - 2023), 8 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 25, 139

‘Article 2

Islam is the official religion of the State, its official language is Arabic. The principles of Islamic Sharia are the main source of legislation.

Article 3

The principles of Christians and Jewish canons of Egyptian Christians and Jews are the main source of legislations that regulate their respective personal status, religious affairs, and selection of their religious leaders.’<sup>61</sup>

The UN CRC in its report on the concluding observations report on Egypt, published in June 2024, noted that the Egyptian Constitution recognizes only the religions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism, ‘excluding other religious or belief communities from official recognition’.<sup>62</sup> According to the same UN CRC report, children of religious minorities, including Coptic Christians, Shia Muslims, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Baha’is, and atheists continued ‘to face varying forms of discrimination’.<sup>63</sup>

In a joint submission to the UN CRC in April 2024, Minority Rights Group International (MRG) and the EFHR noted that the provisions of the Constitution ‘contribute to discrimination against children belonging to minorities in areas of freedom of religion or belief’ and excluded these children ‘from official recognition and public worship’.<sup>64</sup> The same source indicated that children belonging to religious minorities faced societal discrimination and barriers, including access to housing, healthcare and education.<sup>65</sup>

According to Open Doors, an organisation working to support Christians who are subjected to religious discrimination<sup>66</sup>, Christians in Egypt were reportedly ‘regularly facing discrimination’ and violations of freedom of religion mainly at the community level, including ‘Christian children being bullied at state schools’.<sup>67</sup> The same source noted that ‘many Christian children face discrimination within the educational system from both teachers and peers’, while despite the operation of private Christian schools ‘most Christians cannot afford them’.<sup>68</sup>

Concerning access to national identification document (ID), sources reported that national identity cards allow citizens to register their religion under one of the three religious designations officially recognized, namely Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.<sup>69</sup> Citizens belonging to unrecognized religious minorities, including Baha’is, ‘may have their religious

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<sup>61</sup> Egypt, Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 2019, [url](#)

<sup>62</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 20

<sup>63</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 20

<sup>64</sup> MRG and EFHR, Submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Alternative report for the review of Egypt, 19 April 2024, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>65</sup> MRG and EFHR, Submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Alternative report for the review of Egypt, 19 April 2024, [url](#), p. 7

<sup>66</sup> Open Doors, About, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>67</sup> Open Doors, Egypt: Full Country Dossier, January 2024, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>68</sup> Open Doors, Egypt: Full Country Dossier, January 2024, [url](#), p. 18

<sup>69</sup> USDOS, 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Egypt, 26 June 2024, [url](#), p. 9; MRG and EFHR, Submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Alternative report for the review of Egypt, 19 April 2024, [url](#), p. 3

affiliation denoted by a dash (“-”) on national identity cards<sup>70</sup>, or reportedly faced the risk of not being able to issue documentation.<sup>71</sup> According to the joint report by MRG and the EFHR in April 2024, this particularly affected children from religious minorities groups, and especially children from the Baha’i community.<sup>72</sup> The same source also indicated that Baha’is, including due to lack of identity documents or lack of recognition of marriages, were often unable to register their children and issue birth certification, which subsequently prevented them ‘from register[ing] their children for schools, get[ing] health insurance, or other forms of documentation’.<sup>73</sup>

Sources reported that children of individuals who have converted from Islam continued to be officially registered as Muslims.<sup>74</sup> According to USDOS, children of individuals who had converted from Islam, had the option ‘of converting to Christianity and having that reflected on their identity cards’ upon reaching the age of 18 years old.<sup>75</sup>

Furthermore, sources indicated that there were reports of abduction and forced marriage and conversion of Coptic Christian women and girls.<sup>76</sup> The USDOS report on religious freedom in Egypt noted that, according to civil society groups and Coptic organizations, at least eight cases of alleged abduction and forced conversion of Coptic women and girls were reported during 2023.<sup>77</sup> According to the same source, in several of these cases involving children, security services assisted in locating and returning the girls to their families.<sup>78</sup> Open Doors reported, however, that ‘police response to incidents of violence against Christians has been often complicit or apathetic and in cases of abduction, many women remain missing’.<sup>79</sup>

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) noted that adoption is not legally recognized in Egypt based on interpretations of the Islamic religious laws, however orphans ‘can be raised by foster parents of the same religion pursuant to a 2010 law’.<sup>80</sup> The New Arab reported in a March 2023 article that although ‘adoption is allowed in Christianity, unlike Islam, Christians in Egypt can only foster a child if s/he lives at an orphanage annexed

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<sup>70</sup> USDOS, 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Egypt, 26 June 2024, [url](#), p. 9

<sup>71</sup> MRG and EFHR, Submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Alternative report for the review of Egypt, 19 April 2024, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>72</sup> MRG and EFHR, Submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Alternative report for the review of Egypt, 19 April 2024, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>73</sup> MRG and EFHR, Submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Alternative report for the review of Egypt, 19 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 3, 4

<sup>74</sup> USDOS, 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Egypt, 26 June 2024, [url](#), p. 9; Open Doors, Egypt: Full Country Dossier, January 2024, [url](#), p. 35

<sup>75</sup> USDOS, 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Egypt, 26 June 2024, [url](#), p. 9

<sup>76</sup> USDOS, 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Egypt, 26 June 2024, [url](#), p. 3; Open Doors, Egypt: Full Country Dossier, January 2024, [url](#), p. 22

<sup>77</sup> USDOS, 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Egypt, 26 June 2024, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>78</sup> USDOS, 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Egypt, 26 June 2024, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>79</sup> Open Doors, Egypt: Full Country Dossier, January 2024, [url](#), p. 44

<sup>80</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Religious Freedom Conditions in Egypt, August 2023, [url](#), p. 5

to a church'.<sup>81</sup> Sources also reported that children of unknown parentage were considered Muslim by default.<sup>82</sup>

Sources reported on a case where Egyptian authorities removed a five-year-old child from Egyptian foster Coptic Christian parents in 2022.<sup>83</sup> According to USDOS, the child was removed from the foster family, as due to 'absent definitive proof of his biological parentage he was assumed to be a Muslim'.<sup>84</sup> According to the USCIRF, the child was placed in an orphanage and was registered as Muslim.<sup>85</sup> In March 2023, following the release of an edict from Egypt's Grand Mufti and a fatwa from the Grand Imam of al-Azhar mosque in Cairo<sup>86</sup>, authorities issued an order for the child to be returned under temporary custody of the foster parents.<sup>87</sup>

#### 4. Children with disabilities

Egypt ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008.<sup>88</sup>

The Egyptian Constitution in article 53 stated the following on the equality before the law, including for persons with disabilities:

'All citizens are equal before the law. They are equal in rights, freedoms and general duties, without discrimination based on religion, belief, sex, origin, race, color, language, disability, social class, political or geographic affiliation or any other reason.'<sup>89</sup>

Law No. 10 of 2018 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in article 4 also stipulates that:

'The State shall protect the rights of persons with disabilities stipulated in this Law or in any other laws, particularly the following rights:

- 1- Non-discrimination on the basis of disability, type of disability or gender of persons with disabilities, ensuring effective equality in terms of enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields, and elimination of all barriers and impediments that prevent enjoyment of these rights.'<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> New Arab (The), After Islamic 'fatwa', five-year-old Shenouda returns to Egyptian Coptic foster parents, 29 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>82</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Religious Freedom Conditions in Egypt, August 2023, [url](#), p. 5; New Arab (The), After Islamic 'fatwa', five-year-old Shenouda returns to Egyptian Coptic foster parents, 29 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>83</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Religious Freedom Conditions in Egypt, August 2023, [url](#), p. 5; New Arab (The), After Islamic 'fatwa', five-year-old Shenouda returns to Egyptian Coptic foster parents, 29 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>84</sup> USDOS, 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Egypt, 26 June 2024, [url](#), p. 22

<sup>85</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Religious Freedom Conditions in Egypt, August 2023, [url](#), p. 5

<sup>86</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Religious Freedom Conditions in Egypt, August 2023, [url](#), p. 5

<sup>87</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Religious Freedom Conditions in Egypt, August 2023, [url](#), p. 5; New Arab (The), After Islamic 'fatwa', five-year-old Shenouda returns to Egyptian Coptic foster parents, 29 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>88</sup> UN Treaty Collection, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, last updated 26 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>89</sup> Egypt, Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 2019, [url](#)

<sup>90</sup> Egypt, Law No. 10 of 2018 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2018, [url](#)

Egyptian Child Law, in article 3, also stipulates concerning children with disabilities:

‘The present law shall particularly ensure the following principles and rights:  
[...] b) The right to be protected from all forms of discrimination among children, on the basis of birth place, parents, sex, religion, race, disability, or on any other status, and ensure equal opportunities among children to benefit from all rights.’<sup>91</sup>

The Egyptian Children’s Code in Part Six also includes provisions on the ‘Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled Child’.<sup>92</sup>

According to USDOS, following a 2021 amendment<sup>93</sup>, the law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stipulated a prison sentence of no less than two years, a fine, or both, for bullying persons with disabilities, with prison terms and fines doubled for repeated offenders.<sup>94</sup> USDOS in its annual report on human rights practices in Egypt covering 2023, indicated that the government enforced the law.<sup>95</sup>

The UN CRC stated that the implementation of the legislation concerning children with disabilities was insufficient.<sup>96</sup> The same source also indicated that there was a lack of policy or strategy to provide for the rights of children with disabilities, including their rights to access services and education’.<sup>97</sup>

In December 2023, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) noted that according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt, the number of persons with disability in Egypt was 10.64 percent of the whole population.<sup>98</sup> The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated that there were 12 million individuals living with disabilities in Egypt.<sup>99</sup>

USDOS indicated that persons with disabilities in Egypt did not have ‘access on an equal basis with others to education, health services, public buildings, and transportation’.<sup>100</sup> Freedom House noted that people with disabilities faced ‘various forms of discrimination and harassment’ in Egypt.<sup>101</sup> USDOS also indicated that persons with disabilities also faced bullying online.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)

<sup>92</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)

<sup>93</sup> USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 68

<sup>94</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 77

<sup>95</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 77

<sup>96</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 32

<sup>97</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 32

<sup>98</sup> UNODC, UNODC and Egypt Partner to Guarantee Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2023, [url](#)

<sup>99</sup> UNDP, Pioneering Inclusive Innovations: UNDP Egypt's Commitment to Persons with Disabilities, 4 December 2023, [url](#)

<sup>100</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 77

<sup>101</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024 - Egypt, 2024, [url](#)

<sup>102</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 77

Specific information on data and statistics on children with disabilities in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. UN CRC also reported that there was a lack of data on children with disabilities.<sup>103</sup>

The UN CRC in its concluding observations report on Egypt, published in June 2024, reported on the '[p]ersistent discrimination against and stigmatization of children with disabilities'.<sup>104</sup> Furthermore, USDOS noted that women and girls with disabilities faced 'a higher risk of violence, abuse, and neglect compared to those without disabilities'.<sup>105</sup>

USDOS noted that some children with disabilities 'attended schools with their peers who did not have disabilities, while others attended segregated schools', some of which were informal institutions operated by NGOs.<sup>106</sup>

Moreover, the UN CRC noted that 'rehabilitation services and the general health insurance do not cover children with disabilities who are outside the education system, which particularly affects children with intellectual, severe and multiple disabilities'.<sup>107</sup>

## 5. Children living in street situations and orphaned children

The Egyptian Child Law stipulated in article 96 that:

'The child shall be considered at risk if he is exposed to a situation threatening the sound upbringing that should be made available to him, or in any of the following cases:

[...]

4 - If those responsible for covering the child's expenses abandon him, or if the child loses his parents, or one of them, or if the child's parents or his guardian abandon all responsibility towards him.

[...]

9 - If the child has no permanent residence, or generally sleeps in the streets or in other unfit places for residence or accommodation.

[...]

12 - If the child has no legitimate means of supporting himself or does not have trustworthy provider.'<sup>108</sup>

Specific information and statistics on children in street situations and orphaned children could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. According to

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<sup>103</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 32

<sup>104</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 32

<sup>105</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 78

<sup>106</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 79

<sup>107</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 32

<sup>108</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)



sources, precise numbers of children in street situations were not available.<sup>109</sup> USDOS in its annual report on human rights practices for 2022 noted that, according to estimations of UN and academic sources, the number ranged ‘from 300,000 to three million children, depending on the source and time period of the estimates’.<sup>110</sup>

In November 2023, Egypt Today, a local media source, citing a statement by the Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Social Solidarity, noted that 497 orphanages were operating in Egypt, a figure dropping from 526 facilities following the closure of orphanages ‘due to the increase in alternative care’.<sup>111</sup> However, in August 2023 Egypt Today reported on a press statement released by the Minister of Social Solidarity, noting that the ministry operated 435 orphanages, 43 facilities for homeless children, and 51 facilities for rescued children, without though further specifying this.<sup>112</sup>

The Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity was reported to operate 17 mobile health clinics in 10 governorates, providing emergency services, including food and health care, to children in street situations, while the Ministry of Health and Population also operated mobile health clinics staffed by nurses and social workers.<sup>113</sup>

USDOS in its report on human rights practices in Egypt covering 2022 noted that the Egyptian government provided shelters to children in street situations, however, according to local human rights groups, ‘many children chose not to use them’.<sup>114</sup> The same source indicated that ‘the incidence of violence, prostitution, and drug dealing in these shelters was high’.<sup>115</sup>

Further information on the situation and the treatment of children in street situations and orphaned children could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

## 6. Migrant and refugee children

### 6.1. Figures

Specific information on data and statistics on the population of migrant and refugee children in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information could be relevant.

In a November 2024 article, DW indicated that, according to Egyptian government’s statement the number of refugees from Sudan, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen, Eritrea and Gaza had

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<sup>109</sup> USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 64; UNODC, Egypt: Street children and substance abuse, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>110</sup> USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 64

<sup>111</sup> Egypt Today, 29 orphanages shut down in Egypt due to higher rates of adoption, 27 February 2023, [url](#)

<sup>112</sup> Egypt Today, Egypt takes steps to develop care system of homeless individuals, 13 August 2023, [url](#)

<sup>113</sup> USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 64

<sup>114</sup> USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 64

<sup>115</sup> USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 64



reached around 9 million.<sup>116</sup> Sources, however, indicated that the Egyptian government conflated the above-mentioned data<sup>117</sup>, by referring to all foreigners residing in Egypt<sup>118</sup> and including the numbers of refugees, migrants, and temporary residents into a single category.<sup>119</sup>

According to an Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Fact Sheet on Egypt, published in October 2024, 800 000 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR in Egypt.<sup>120</sup> Sudanese were reported to be the largest group, followed by nationals of Syria, South Sudan and Eritrea.<sup>121</sup> According to sources, since April 2023 there was a significant increase in Sudanese refugees<sup>122</sup>, mainly women and children,<sup>123</sup> in Egypt, who reached about 500 000 and accounted 'for over 63% of the total refugee and asylum-seeker population in Egypt'.<sup>124</sup>

Furthermore, the European Commission indicated that about 38 % of all refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt were children.<sup>125</sup> European Commission also noted that '[t]here has been a sharp increase in the numbers of unaccompanied minors and separated children among recent arrivals'.<sup>126</sup>

Most refugees were reported to live in urban areas, including in Greater Cairo and Alexandria.<sup>127</sup>

## **6.2. Legal framework**

Egypt ratified the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in 1981.<sup>128</sup>

European Commission in its annual report on human rights and democracy covering 2023 noted that Egypt did not adopt any asylum laws.<sup>129</sup> In November 2023, sources reported that the Egyptian parliament approved the first asylum law in the country.<sup>130</sup> According to sources, the new law stipulates the establishment of a new body that would operate under the Egyptian government and would be responsible for processing and deciding on applications

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<sup>116</sup> DW, Egypt: New asylum law could badly impact refugee rights, 22 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>117</sup> Al, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#);

Carnegie Endowment, Egypt's Refugee Situation: Economic Gain or Drain?, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

<sup>118</sup> TIMEP, How Misinformation Fuels Hate Against Refugees in Egypt, 27 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>119</sup> Carnegie Endowment, Egypt's Refugee Situation: Economic Gain or Drain?, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

<sup>120</sup> UNHCR, UNHCR Egypt Fact Sheet: October 2024, 9 October 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>121</sup> UNHCR, UNHCR Egypt Fact Sheet: October 2024, 9 October 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>122</sup> EC, Egypt, last updated 4 October 2024, [url](#); UNHCR, UNHCR Egypt Fact Sheet: October 2024, 9 October 2024, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>123</sup> UNHCR, UNHCR Egypt Fact Sheet: October 2024, 9 October 2024, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>124</sup> EC, Egypt, last updated 4 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>125</sup> EC, Egypt, last updated 4 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>126</sup> EC, Egypt, last updated 4 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>127</sup> UNHCR, UNHCR Egypt Fact Sheet: October 2024, 9 October 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>128</sup> UN Treaty Collection, Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, last updated 26 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>129</sup> EU, EEAS, EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World: 2023 Country Updates, 24 May 2024, [url](#), p. 43

<sup>130</sup> Al, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#); TIMEP, How Misinformation Fuels Hate Against Refugees in Egypt, 27 November 2024, [url](#)

of international protection<sup>131</sup>, thus shifting this responsibility from UNHCR to the Egyptian government.<sup>132</sup> As of 5 December 2024, sources reported that the new asylum law was pending the president's ratification.<sup>133</sup> Human rights and civil society organizations were reported to express criticism over the new law<sup>134</sup>, for not enlisting the views of 'stakeholders, Egypt's international partners and civil society organisations working on asylum-seekers' and refugees' issues'<sup>135</sup>, and for including provisions not conforming with relevant international legislation.<sup>136</sup>

### **6.3. Treatment by the state**

UNHCR indicated that through its partners, such as NGOs, provided support services to refugees in Egypt, including to unaccompanied children, and facilitated 'access to protection, basic needs, and essential services, such as healthcare and education'.<sup>137</sup> In November 2024, DW reported that refugees registered with the UNHCR were entitled to services, such as healthcare and education, however '[t]he vast majority live in Egypt without official refugee status and rely on their own savings, communal help, relatives, volunteers or donations'.<sup>138</sup>

The European Commission also reported that during 2023 Egypt provided protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, however, external factors, including the conflicts in Sudan and in Gaza 'exacerbated the pressure on state resources devoted to socio-economic protection'.<sup>139</sup>

Sources reported that in June 2023, the Egyptian authorities issued a decision revoking a visa exemption for Sudanese children, women, and elderly persons.<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> New Arab (The), Deemed 'exclusionary' and 'harmful', new asylum-seekers' law stirs up debate in Egypt, 21 November 2024, [url](#); Ahram Online, Can Egypt's new Refugee Law balance protection and control?, 21 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>132</sup> Al, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#); DW, Egypt: New asylum law could badly impact refugee rights, 22 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>133</sup> Al, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#); TIMEP, How Misinformation Fuels Hate Against Refugees in Egypt, 27 November 2024, [url](#); DW, Egypt: New asylum law could badly impact refugee rights, 22 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>134</sup> Ahram Online, Can Egypt's new Refugee Law balance protection and control?, 21 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>135</sup> Al, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#); New Arab (The), Deemed 'exclusionary' and 'harmful', new asylum-seekers' law stirs up debate in Egypt, 21 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>136</sup> Ahram Online, Can Egypt's new Refugee Law balance protection and control?, 21 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>137</sup> UNHCR, UNHCR Egypt Fact Sheet: October 2024, 9 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 2 – 4

<sup>138</sup> DW, Egypt: New asylum law could badly impact refugee rights, 22 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>139</sup> EU, EEAS, EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World: 2023 Country Updates, 24 May 2024, [url](#), p. 43

<sup>140</sup> Africa News, Egypt introduces entry visa for all Sudanese as truce ends, last updated 13 August 2024, [url](#); GDP, Urgent Appeal on the Detention and Refoulement of Sudanese Refugees in Egypt, 1 April 2024, [url](#), p. 8; HRW, World Report 2024 - Egypt, 11 January 2024, [url](#)

Sources reported that Egypt authorities arrested, detained and deported refugees and migrants, including children<sup>141</sup>, without previously providing access to the asylum procedure.<sup>142</sup> Children reported to be detained and deported included children accompanied by their families and unaccompanied children.<sup>143</sup>

Furthermore, sources dated in 2024 reported on the deportation of Sudanese nationals by Egyptian authorities.<sup>144</sup> In particular, in a June 2024 publication Amnesty International noted that since September 2023 Egyptian border guard and police forces carried out ‘mass arbitrary arrests’ of Sudanese people, including children, ‘for irregularly entering or staying in Egypt’ and detained them under ‘cruel and inhuman conditions’.<sup>145</sup> The same source also indicated that, according to its estimations, 800 Sudanese nationals, including children, have been deported between January and March 2024, without being provided access to international protection and the possibility to ‘challenge their deportation’.<sup>146</sup>

According to sources, Egyptian government officials adopted anti-refugee public rhetoric, portraying refugees as accountable for the country’s economic crisis.<sup>147</sup>

## **6.4. Treatment by society**

USDOS noted that, according to media, NGOs and UNHCR staff ‘multiple cases of attacks against refugees, particularly women and children’ were reported during 2023.

Sources also reported on a rise of online hate speech against refugees and an increase in ‘anti-refugee sentiment’ in Egypt.<sup>148</sup> Online campaigns on social media targeting refugees were reported, including calling the Egyptian authorities to deport refugees<sup>149</sup>, accusing them

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<sup>141</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 40; New Humanitarian (The), Exclusive: Inside Egypt's secret scheme to detain and deport thousands of Sudanese refugees, 25 April 2024, [url](#); GDP, Urgent Appeal on the Detention and Refoulement of Sudanese Refugees in Egypt, 1 April 2024, [url](#), p. 8

<sup>142</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 40

<sup>143</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 40; GDP, Urgent Appeal on the Detention and Refoulement of Sudanese Refugees in Egypt, 1 April 2024, [url](#), p. 8

<sup>144</sup> AI, Egypt: “Handcuffed like dangerous criminals”: Arbitrary detention and forced returns of Sudanese refugees in Egypt, 19 June 2024, [url](#), pp. 4, 7, 35; New Humanitarian (The), Exclusive: Inside Egypt's secret scheme to detain and deport thousands of Sudanese refugees, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>145</sup> AI, Egypt: “Handcuffed like dangerous criminals”: Arbitrary detention and forced returns of Sudanese refugees in Egypt, 19 June 2024, [url](#), pp. 4, 35

<sup>146</sup> AI, Egypt: “Handcuffed like dangerous criminals”: Arbitrary detention and forced returns of Sudanese refugees in Egypt, 19 June 2024, [url](#), pp. 4, 35

<sup>147</sup> TIMEP, How Misinformation Fuels Hate Against Refugees in Egypt, 27 November 2024, [url](#); New Arab (The), How online hate speech fuels anti-refugee sentiment in Egypt, How online hate speech fuels anti-refugee sentiment in Egypt, 28 March 2024, [url](#)

<sup>148</sup> TIMEP, How Misinformation Fuels Hate Against Refugees in Egypt, 27 November 2024, [url](#); New Arab (The), How online hate speech fuels anti-refugee sentiment in Egypt, How online hate speech fuels anti-refugee sentiment in Egypt, 28 March 2024, [url](#)

<sup>149</sup> UNHCR, UNHCR Egypt: Sudan Emergency Response Update, 26 June 2024, [url](#), p. 2; New Arab (The), How online hate speech fuels anti-refugee sentiment in Egypt, How online hate speech fuels anti-refugee sentiment in Egypt, 28 March 2024, [url](#)

of being responsible for the country's economic crisis<sup>150</sup>, and inciting violence against them.<sup>151</sup> Misinformation shared concerning the number of refugees in the country by government officials, media, mainly pro-government media,<sup>152</sup> was reported among the main reasons for the increase in the online hate speech against refugees in Egypt.<sup>153</sup>

## **6.5. Access to services, including education and healthcare**

Concerning refugee and migrant children's access to education in Egypt, Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a December 2024 publication, reported that, according to a November 2023 ministerial directive amending the previous 2014 decree refugees were permitted 'to "exceptionally" enroll in public schools'.<sup>154</sup>

According to sources, public education in Egypt was only available to nationals of Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, and Syria on equal grounds to Egyptians.<sup>155</sup> The Egyptian government in its periodic reports submitted to the UN CRC in March 2023, noted that '[a] total of 87,696 migrant and refugee students of all nationalities are registered with the Ministry of Education as being enrolled in State-run or private schools', while indicated that Syrian, Yemeni and Palestinian students were exempted from tuition fees.<sup>156</sup> However, sources reported that access to public education included requirements of presenting a residence permit.<sup>157</sup> USDOS also noted that, according to the Egyptian Ministry of Education 'refugees could access public education on the condition that they presented UNHCR documentation and proof of legal residency'.<sup>158</sup>

According to an interview with the UNICEF Representative in Egypt, '[a]pproximately half of the 246,000 school-aged refugee children remain out of school' as of October 2024.<sup>159</sup> The main reported barriers of refugee children to education included lack of identification documents<sup>160</sup>, including valid residency permits<sup>161</sup>, fees, including for school enrollment and

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<sup>150</sup> New Arab (The), How online hate speech fuels anti-refugee sentiment in Egypt, How online hate speech fuels anti-refugee sentiment in Egypt, 28 March 2024, [url](#)

<sup>151</sup> TIMEP, How Misinformation Fuels Hate Against Refugees in Egypt, 27 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>152</sup> TIMEP, How Misinformation Fuels Hate Against Refugees in Egypt, 27 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>153</sup> TIMEP, How Misinformation Fuels Hate Against Refugees in Egypt, 27 November 2024, [url](#); Carnegie Endowment, Egypt's Refugee Situation: Economic Gain or Drain?, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

<sup>154</sup> HRW, Egypt: Education Restricted for Refugees, 2 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>155</sup> HRW, Egypt: Education Restricted for Refugees, 2 December 2024, [url](#); New Arab (The), How Palestinians who fled Syria war to Egypt are forced into illiteracy, 5 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>156</sup> UN CRC, Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by Egypt under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2016, 22 March 2023, [url](#), para. 207

<sup>157</sup> DW, 'Gaza is my heart': Palestinians struggle with life in Egypt, 14 November 2024, [url](#); New Arab (The), How Palestinians who fled Syria war to Egypt are forced into illiteracy, 5 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>158</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 53

<sup>159</sup> Education Cannot Wait, Education Cannot Wait Interviews UNICEF Representative in Egypt Jeremy Hopkins, October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>160</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 53

<sup>161</sup> New Arab (The), How Palestinians who fled Syria war to Egypt are forced into illiteracy, 5 June 2024, [url](#)

transportation,<sup>162</sup> harassment or bullying in the schools<sup>163</sup>, discriminatory practices from other students and teachers, and limited capacity of public schools.<sup>164</sup> HRW also indicated that some refugee children faced ‘bullying, abuse, and discriminatory practices from other students and teachers’, which impeded their enrollment in schools or led them to drop out.<sup>165</sup> According to sources, refugee families often resorted in enrolling their children community-based educational centers and refugee-run schools<sup>166</sup>, or home schooled their children.<sup>167</sup>

Moreover, the UN CRC reported that despite two memorandums of understanding between the UNHCR and the Ministry of Health and Population were signed in 2014 and 2016 respectively, granting refugees and asylum-seekers access to health care, asylum-seeking and migrant children had limited access to public health-care facilities and the health insurance system.<sup>168</sup>

## 7. Forced and underage/child marriage

Specific information on data and statistics on child marriage in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information could be relevant.

Sources reported that child marriage was practiced in Egypt.<sup>169</sup> The UN CRC noted that the practice of child marriage continued ‘to persist’ and reported on a ‘high number of child marriages’.<sup>170</sup> The prevalence of child marriage was reported to be higher in rural areas.<sup>171</sup>

Furthermore, the practice of ‘temporary marriages’ or ‘transactional marriages’ was also reported to continue in Egypt.<sup>172</sup> According to sources, this practice, also called seasonal<sup>173</sup> and “tourism” or “summer” marriages<sup>174</sup>, referred to women and girls being forced to marry

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<sup>162</sup> HRW, Egypt: Education Restricted for Refugees, 2 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>163</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 53; New Humanitarian (The), Long hours and low budgets: Meet the refugee groups supporting Sudanese displaced in Egypt, 20 September 2023, [url](#)

<sup>164</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 53

<sup>165</sup> HRW, Egypt: Education Restricted for Refugees, 2 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>166</sup> New Arab (The), How Palestinians who fled Syria war to Egypt are forced into illiteracy, 5 June 2024, [url](#); USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 52 – 53; New Humanitarian (The), Long hours and low budgets: Meet the refugee groups supporting Sudanese displaced in Egypt, 20 September 2023, [url](#)

<sup>167</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 53

<sup>168</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 40

<sup>169</sup> CRS, Egypt: Background and U.S. Relations, updated 12 September 2024, [url](#), p. 8

UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25

<sup>170</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25

<sup>171</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25; Egypt, CAPMAS, Egypt Family Health Survey 2021, December 2022, [url](#), p. 91

<sup>172</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#); UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 14 April 2023, [url](#), para. 33

<sup>173</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25

<sup>174</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 70

wealthy foreign men, often from the Arabian Gulf,<sup>175</sup> including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.<sup>176</sup> The girls' families and marriage brokers were reported to often facilitate this form of marriage.<sup>177</sup> USDOS noted that although the practice reportedly decreased since 2022, according to NGO and government reports, it continued.<sup>178</sup> The same source also reported that girls forced into these marriages frequently resulted in trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.<sup>179</sup>

According to the amendment of article 31 bis of the Civil Status Code in accordance with Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, and as included in the Egyptian Child Law: 'The marriage contract shall not be registered for those who did not reach eighteen (18) years of age.'<sup>180</sup>

A translated version of the Civil Status Code of Egypt in English could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

The Egyptian Coalition for Child Rights (ECCR), a children's rights advocacy non-governmental organization, in a submission report to the UN CRC on the situation of children's rights in Egypt covering the period from July 2011 to December 2021, noted that the legal provision on child marriage constituted a legal ambiguity.<sup>181</sup> Specifically, ECCR indicated that the amendment of the law 'was limited to not "documenting" only and did not prohibit marriage textually, resulting in undocumented early marriages, and consequently some born children that are not registered until the mother reaches the legal age of 18 years'.<sup>182</sup> Similarly, the New Arab in November 2022 noted that, according to a children's rights advocate and lawyer, the law concerning the legal age of marriage involved 'loopholes', while underage marriages occurred and 'families tend to marry their children, mostly girls, without officially ratifying the marriage until they reach the legal age'.<sup>183</sup> Borgen Project, a non-for-profit organization that works on issues related to poverty, also indicated that 'there are no criminal penalties for families conducting child marriages through religious ceremonies'.<sup>184</sup> UN Women also noted that the law lacks provisions that specifically criminalize child marriage.<sup>185</sup>

Moreover, UN Women indicated that the law was 'widely ignored', especially in rural areas.<sup>186</sup>

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<sup>175</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#); Dawn, Does Egypt's New Draft Law Against Child Marriage Go Far Enough?, 8 July 2022, [url](#)

<sup>176</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>177</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>178</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>179</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>180</sup> Egypt, Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the child law amended by law no. 126 of 2008, 2008, [url](#)

<sup>181</sup> ECCR, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; Situation of Children's Rights in Egypt: Alternative Report, 2023, [url](#), p. 13

<sup>182</sup> ECCR, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; Situation of Children's Rights in Egypt: Alternative Report, 2023, [url](#), p. 13

<sup>183</sup> New Arab (The), Calls renew for tightening laws banning child marriage in Egypt, 22 November 2022, [url](#)

<sup>184</sup> Borgen Project (The), Child Marriage in Egypt: A Harmful Practice, 12 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>185</sup> UNWOMEN, Legislating and enforcing the minimum age of marriage: A comparative study of experiences and lessons learned in ending the legalization of child marriage, 2023, [url](#), p. 104

<sup>186</sup> UNWOMEN, Legislating and enforcing the minimum age of marriage: A comparative study of experiences and lessons learned in ending the legalization of child marriage, 2023, [url](#), p. 104



USDOS annual report on human rights practices covering 2023 noted that the Egyptian government ‘oftentimes enforced the law’.<sup>187</sup> According to the same source, during 2023 ‘the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and governorate child protection units identified attempted child marriages’, including through the national hotline available.<sup>188</sup> USDOS also reported that Egyptian authorities in August 2023 impeded 6 child marriages in Giza Governorate and one in Faiyum Governorate.<sup>189</sup>

In May 2023, Human Rights Watch reported that women and girls in North Sinai faced abuses by members of the Wilayat Sina’, an ISIS-affiliated group, including forced marriages.<sup>190</sup> According to the same source, some of these women and girls after their escape were detained by Egyptian authorities, due to their suspected affiliation to the group.<sup>191</sup>

## 8. Children victims of female genital mutilation (FGM)

### 8.1. Prevalence

Specific information on data and statistics on the prevalence of children victims of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information could be relevant.

UNCAT in its concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, published in December 2023, indicated the lack of ‘accurate data on cases of female genital mutilation’.<sup>192</sup> According to the Egypt Family Health Survey of 2021 realized by the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), 86 % of Egyptian married women between the ages of 15 and 49 have undergone FGM.<sup>193</sup> According to sources, this data demonstrated a decrease in the rate of FGM in Egypt.<sup>194</sup> The FGM/C Research Initiative (FGMCRI)<sup>195</sup> noted that the prevalence of FGM among young girls in Egypt was low, however it increased ‘dramatically from age of nine’.<sup>196</sup> The same source also indicated that most girls in Egypt undergo FGM ‘at or before puberty’.<sup>197</sup> According to a 2021 article by Reuters FGM was practiced ‘widely by both Muslims and Christians’, despite the legal prohibition.<sup>198</sup> UNWOMEN also noted that FGM was practiced in Egypt, despite it ‘has been refuted by both Muslim and

<sup>187</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 70

<sup>188</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 70 – 71

<sup>189</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 70 – 71

<sup>190</sup> HRW, Egypt: Women Abused Over Alleged ISIS Ties, 17 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>191</sup> HRW, Egypt: Women Abused Over Alleged ISIS Ties, 17 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>192</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 51

<sup>193</sup> Egypt, CAPMAS, Egypt Family Health Survey 2021, December 2022, [url](#), pp. 191 – 192

<sup>194</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 64; UNICEF, Medical Deception: Naja's daughter nearly died because of FGM medicalization, 17 December 2023, [url](#); Egypt, CAPMAS, Egypt Family Health Survey 2021, December 2022, [url](#), p. 254

<sup>195</sup> FGMCRI is an initiative led by Orchid Project focusing on ‘commissioning and curating global research on the practice of female genital mutilation and cutting’. FGMCRI, About, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>196</sup> FGMCRI, Egypt: Key findings, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>197</sup> FGMCRI, Egypt: Key findings, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>198</sup> Reuters, Egypt's cabinet toughens law banning female genital mutilation, 21 January 2021, [url](#)

Christian religious institutions in Egypt at the highest level'.<sup>199</sup> Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

Sources reported that despite the increase of penalties, the practice of FGM had high prevalence in Egypt.<sup>200</sup> FGM was reported to be more prevalent in rural and remote areas<sup>201</sup>, and in upper Egypt.<sup>202</sup>

Furthermore, sources reported on the increase of medicalization of FGM, namely when the practice is performed by medical professionals.<sup>203</sup> UNICEF noted that 'many parents have turned to medical staff informally to medically cut their daughters, believing that this will protect them from complications such as bleeding and wound contamination'.<sup>204</sup>

## **8.2. Legal framework**

In 2008, FGM was criminalized under the Penal code.<sup>205</sup> Since 2008, legislative changes concerning the penalties for committing FGM were reported<sup>206</sup>, including in 2016.<sup>207</sup> In 2021, the law No. 10 of 2021 amending the Egyptian Penal code was adopted<sup>208</sup>, introducing stricter penalties for FGM.<sup>209</sup>

A translated version of the law No. 10 of 2021, and of the Penal code of Egypt, following the 2021 amendment, or any other subsequent amendment, in English could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

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<sup>199</sup> UNWOMEN, National efforts continue to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and reinforce a zero-tolerance culture, 7 February 2022, [url](#)

<sup>200</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25; Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024 - Egypt, 2024, [url](#); Ahram Online, Social norms on FGM in Egypt still hold sway despite legislation: Study, 18 April 2022, [url](#)

<sup>201</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 51

<sup>202</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25; Egypt, CAPMAS, Egypt Family Health Survey 2021, December 2022, [url](#), p. 192

<sup>203</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25; UNICEF, Medical Deception: Naja's daughter nearly died because of FGM medicalization, 17 December 2023, [url](#)

<sup>204</sup> UNICEF, Medical Deception: Naja's daughter nearly died because of FGM medicalization, 17 December 2023, [url](#)

<sup>205</sup> DW, Egypt struggles with female genital mutilation, 3 August 2022, [url](#); UNWOMEN, National efforts continue to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and reinforce a zero-tolerance culture, 7 February 2022, [url](#); UNFPA, Egypt: Female genital mutilation, [2021], [url](#)

<sup>206</sup> UNWOMEN, National efforts continue to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and reinforce a zero-tolerance culture, 7 February 2022, [url](#)

<sup>207</sup> HRW, Egypt: Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 6 July 2023, [url](#); Egypt Today, Egypt's Senate approves new anti-FGM bill, 21 March 2021, [url](#)

<sup>208</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 51; Egypt, SSCHR, National Human Rights Strategy 2021-2026, [2021], [url](#), p. 74

<sup>209</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25; UNICEF, Medical Deception: Naja's daughter nearly died because of FGM medicalization, 17 December 2023, [url](#)



However, the Supreme Standing Committee For Human Rights (SSCHR)<sup>210</sup> on its periodical report on human rights efforts for the first quarter of 2021 noted the text of the amendments as stipulated in the Penal code, as following:

‘Anyone who performs female genital mutilation by removing part of the external genitalia partially or completely or injures the organ shall be punished with imprisonment for a period of no less than 5 years. If that act results in permanent disability, the punishment shall be for a period of no less than 7 years, but if the act results in death, the penalty shall be for a period of no less than 10 years.’<sup>211</sup>

According to sources, the law also stipulated that if the person who performed FGM was a doctor or a practitioner of the nursing profession the punishment shall be for a period of no less than 5 years<sup>212</sup>. If in the above case, the act of FGM resulted in a permanent disability the prescribed penalty shall be for no less than 10 years<sup>213</sup>, whereas in case the act resulted in death the punishment shall be for a period between 15 to 20 years in prison.<sup>214</sup>

Sources also reported that, in addition to the prescribed penalties, according to the law a private facility where FGM is performed shall be closed<sup>215</sup>, ‘whether it is owned by the doctor who committed the crime, or its actual directors are aware of its commission’.<sup>216</sup> According to the reported law provisions, the closure of the facility shall be for a period of up to 5 years<sup>217</sup>, while the closure decision shall be published in two widely circulated daily newspapers and on websites at the expense of the convicted person.<sup>218</sup>

Furthermore, according to sources, the law stipulated that medical professionals convicted of performing FGM shall be deprived of their license to practice for a period up to five years.<sup>219</sup>

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<sup>210</sup> The Supreme Standing Committee For Human Rights (SSCHR), consisting of representatives from the 12 ministries and national agencies in Egypt, is ‘a national standing committee concerned with the Periodic Review mechanism before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and its amendments’, and was established by the Ministerial Decree No. 2396 of 2018. Egypt, SSCHR, Establishment & Composition, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>211</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, Periodical on human rights efforts: First quarter of 2021, 8 April 2021, [url](#), p. 7

<sup>212</sup> NAN, An emergency meeting in Egypt to discuss illegal female genital mutilation, 25 June 2024, [url](#); Egypt, SSCHR, Periodical on human rights efforts: First quarter of 2021, 8 April 2021, [url](#), p. 7

<sup>213</sup> Ahram Online, Social norms on FGM in Egypt still hold sway despite legislation: Study, 18 April 2022, [url](#); Egypt, SSCHR, Periodical on human rights efforts: First quarter of 2021, 8 April 2021, [url](#), p. 7

<sup>214</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, Periodical on human rights efforts: First quarter of 2021, 8 April 2021, [url](#), p. 7; Egypt Independent, Egyptian cabinet approves bill harshening penalty for female genital mutilation, 21 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>215</sup> UNICEF, Medical Deception: Naja’s daughter nearly died because of FGM medicalization, 17 December 2023, [url](#); Egypt, SSCHR, Periodical on human rights efforts: First quarter of 2021, 8 April 2021, [url](#), p. 7

<sup>216</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, Periodical on human rights efforts: First quarter of 2021, 8 April 2021, [url](#), p. 7

<sup>217</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, Periodical on human rights efforts: First quarter of 2021, 8 April 2021, [url](#), p. 7; Egypt Independent, Egyptian cabinet approves bill harshening penalty for female genital mutilation, 21 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>218</sup> NAN, An emergency meeting in Egypt to discuss illegal female genital mutilation, 25 June 2024, [url](#); Egypt, SSCHR, Periodical on human rights efforts: First quarter of 2021, 8 April 2021, [url](#), p. 7

<sup>219</sup> Ahram Online, Social norms on FGM in Egypt still hold sway despite legislation: Study, 18 April 2022, [url](#); MEE, Egypt introduces tougher sentences against female genital mutilation, 26 April 2021, [url](#)

The law was reported to also prescribe imprisonment sentences for individuals requesting FGM<sup>220</sup>, as well as for those who promote or advocate the practice.<sup>221</sup> Egypt Independent, an English-language Egyptian news website, in a January 2021 article, cited the text of the above-mentioned provision of the law, as following: ‘Whoever requests female circumcision, leading to her being circumcised at their request, shall be punished with imprisonment, as stipulated in Article 242 bis, and whoever promotes, encourages, or advocates for one of the methods described in Article (171) for committing the crime of female circumcision, even if it does not have an effect, shall be imprisoned.’<sup>222</sup> However, corroborating information on the text of the law could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

### 8.3. Access to justice

USDOS in its annual report on human rights practices covering 2023 noted that, according to international and local observers, the Egyptian government ‘took steps to enforce’ FGM-related legislation.<sup>223</sup> These measures were reported to include the establishment of the National Committee for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation in 2019<sup>224</sup>, the 2021 Penal Code amendment increasing penalties for FGM<sup>225</sup>, the adoption of the National Plan for the Eradication of Genital Mutilation (2022–2026),<sup>226</sup> the launch of public awareness campaigns<sup>227</sup>, and the maintenance of hotlines ‘to inform authorities of doctors who performed the operations’.<sup>228</sup> USDOS also reported that, according to the National Committee for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation, during 2022 and 2023 the authorities prevented attempts to commit FGM in different governorates.<sup>229</sup> UNCAT, however, reported on the lack of information ‘on the impact of the awareness-raising campaigns conducted by the State party to eradicate female genital mutilation’.<sup>230</sup>

However, USDOS indicated that ‘the law was not always enforced’, as well as that ‘incidents were not consistently reported’.<sup>231</sup> Similarly, in December 2023 UNCAT noted that cases of FGM were underreported, while the rate of prosecutions was ‘relatively low’ and there was a ‘continued impunity’ of perpetrators.<sup>232</sup> According to Freedom House, the implementation of

<sup>220</sup> MEE, Egypt introduces tougher sentences against female genital mutilation, 26 April 2021, [url](#); Reuters, Egypt's cabinet toughens law banning female genital mutilation, 21 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>221</sup> Ahram Online, Social norms on FGM in Egypt still hold sway despite legislation: Study, 18 April 2022, [url](#);

UNICEF, Medical Deception: Naja's daughter nearly died because of FGM medicalization, 17 December 2023, [url](#)

<sup>222</sup> Egypt Independent, Egyptian cabinet approves bill harshening penalty for female genital mutilation, 21 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>223</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 64

<sup>224</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 51;

UNWOMEN, National efforts continue to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and reinforce a zero-tolerance culture, 7 February 2022, [url](#)

<sup>225</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25

<sup>226</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 51

<sup>227</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 64; UNWOMEN, National efforts continue to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and reinforce a zero-tolerance culture, 7 February 2022, [url](#)

<sup>228</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 64

<sup>229</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 64; USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 57

<sup>230</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 51

<sup>231</sup> USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, 23 April 2024, [url](#), p. 64

<sup>232</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 51

the law was hindered by ‘societal resistance, poor enforcement, police abuses, and lack of adequate protection for witnesses, all of which deter victims from contacting authorities’.<sup>233</sup>

Specific information on data and statistics on the prosecution of FGM in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

#### **8.4. Societal attitudes**

The main reasons reported for the practice of FGM in Egypt relate to social norms<sup>234</sup> and avoiding social stigma.<sup>235</sup> In particular, sources reported that the practice occurred under the belief that it ensures ‘chastity’ of a girl<sup>236</sup> and it guarantees a suitable marriage.<sup>237</sup> It was also reported that FGM is often associated with religion as a requirement.<sup>238</sup> Specifically, UNICEF in a June 2022 publication noted that ‘religious and community leaders encourage the practice, wrongly justifying it as a religious necessity’.<sup>239</sup> The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) also noted that there is a ‘lack of awareness among the public of its harmful effects on the health and well-being of girls’.<sup>240</sup>

Although a positive change concerning views and attitudes in favor of FGM practice was reported<sup>241</sup>, UNFPA indicated that ‘there is still widespread support for the continuation of FGM’ among the Egyptian society.<sup>242</sup>

#### **8.5. Access to support services**

Specific information on access to support services for girls that have undergone FGM in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information could be relevant.

Sources reported that a Restore FGM clinic, established in 2020 by two doctors, operated in Cairo, offering reconstruction surgery and addressing FGM complications.<sup>243</sup> The clinic was

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<sup>233</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024 - Egypt, 2024, [url](#)

<sup>234</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024 - Egypt, 2024, [url](#); Ahram Online, Social norms on FGM in Egypt still hold sway despite legislation: Study, 18 April 2022, [url](#)

<sup>235</sup> UNWOMEN, National efforts continue to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and reinforce a zero-tolerance culture, 7 February 2022, [url](#)

<sup>236</sup> DW, Egypt struggles with female genital mutilation, 3 August 2022, [url](#); UNWOMEN, National efforts continue to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and reinforce a zero-tolerance culture, 7 February 2022, [url](#)

<sup>237</sup> UNICEF, Sharing knowledge in communities to protect girls from Female Genital Mutilation, 14 June 2022, [url](#); UNWOMEN, National efforts continue to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and reinforce a zero-tolerance culture, 7 February 2022, [url](#)

<sup>238</sup> DW, Egypt struggles with female genital mutilation, 3 August 2022, [url](#); UNWOMEN, National efforts continue to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and reinforce a zero-tolerance culture, 7 February 2022, [url](#)

<sup>239</sup> UNICEF, Sharing knowledge in communities to protect girls from Female Genital Mutilation, 14 June 2022, [url](#)

<sup>240</sup> UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 25

<sup>241</sup> DW, Egypt struggles with female genital mutilation, 3 August 2022, [url](#); UNFPA, Egypt: Female genital mutilation, [2021], [url](#)

<sup>242</sup> UNFPA, Egypt: Female genital mutilation, [2021], [url](#)

<sup>243</sup> Africa News, In Egypt, a clinic helps circumcised women regain control of their bodies, 13 August 2024, [url](#); Al-Monitor, Egypt clinic helps women reclaim bodies scarred by genital mutilation, 13 June 2023, [url](#)

reported to be the first medical facility performing this type of operation.<sup>244</sup> According to the clinic's website, it also offers psychological support.<sup>245</sup>

## 9. Trafficking in human beings (THB) among children

### 9.1. Prevalence

Specific information on data and statistics on the prevalence and main profiles of children victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information could be relevant.

The 2024 United States Department of State (USDOS) report on Trafficking in Persons in Egypt reported that 'human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Egypt, and traffickers exploit victims from Egypt abroad'.<sup>246</sup>

The UNCAT in its concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, published in December 2023, expressed its concerns 'about the persistence of various forms of trafficking' in Egypt, including child trafficking.<sup>247</sup> The UN Human Rights Committee noted that various forms of THB, including trafficking of children, remained prevalent in Egypt.<sup>248</sup>

The main reported forms of THB affecting children included trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation<sup>249</sup>, forced labor<sup>250</sup>, forced begging<sup>251</sup>, and trafficking for the purpose of removing organs, including of children in a street situation.<sup>252</sup> Concerning forced labor, children were reported to be exploited in domestic servitude, street begging, drug trafficking, quarrying, and agricultural work.<sup>253</sup>

USDOS noted that traffickers 'reportedly exploit Egyptian children in sex trafficking and forced begging in Europe'.<sup>254</sup>

Freedom House in its annual reports covering 2022 and 2023 respectively, noted that 'migrants from sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, and Syrian refugees', including children, were

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<sup>244</sup> Africa News, In Egypt, a clinic helps circumcised women regain control of their bodies, 13 August 2024, [url](#); GGI, Pyramids of Power: When Government-issued Feminism Represses Grassroots Women's Movement in Egypt, 26 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>245</sup> Restore FGM, FGM: Restorative surgery, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>246</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>247</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 53

<sup>248</sup> UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 14 April 2023, [url](#), para. 33

<sup>249</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>250</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#); UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 14 April 2023, [url](#), para. 33

<sup>251</sup> USDOL, 2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Egypt, 5 September 2024, [url](#), p. 1; UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 53

<sup>252</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 53

<sup>253</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>254</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

‘vulnerable to forced labor and sex trafficking in Egypt’.<sup>255</sup> USDOL also noted that some migrant and refugee girls were subjected to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.<sup>256</sup> Similarly, USDOS indicated that, according to NGO reports, individuals migrating from the Horn of Africa to Egypt, in particular unaccompanied children, were exploited by smugglers ‘along the migration route and in Egypt in sex trafficking, domestic servitude, and forced labor on construction sites in hazardous and exploitative working conditions’.<sup>257</sup> USDOL also noted that ‘unaccompanied migrant children are at risk of being forced to sell drugs by criminal gangs’.<sup>258</sup>

According to the 2023 US Department of State (USDOS) report on Trafficking in Persons in Egypt, during the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, the government identified in total 212 THB victims, of which 147 were children. All identified victims except for one victim were Egyptian nationals.<sup>259</sup> According to the same source, during 2022, the government also reported identifying 138 children as potential THB victims through the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) hotline, however ‘did not report further details’.<sup>260</sup> USDOS also reported that, during the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, 217 THB victims were identified in total by the government, of which 164 were children.<sup>261</sup> The majority of the identified victims were reported to be Egyptians.<sup>262</sup>

According to the 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Egypt, traffickers’ profiles include at certain occasions parents and family members of the children’s victims.<sup>263</sup>

Furthermore, sources reported that the trafficking of girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labor under the pretext of ‘transactional’ or ‘temporary’ marriages continued in Egypt.<sup>264</sup> (See 7. [Forced and underage/child marriage](#)). The 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Egypt indicated that, according to NGOs, due to socio-economic challenges family members, including parents, husbands, and siblings, forced ‘girls into permanent marriages where they are subsequently coerced into domestic servitude or commercial sex’.<sup>265</sup> According to the same source, ‘[e]xtraterritorial commercial child sexual exploitation and abuse occurs primarily in Giza and Cairo’.<sup>266</sup>

## 9.2. Legal framework

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<sup>255</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024 - Egypt, 2024, [url](#); Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Egypt, 2023, [url](#)

<sup>256</sup> USDOL, 2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Egypt, 5 September 2024, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>257</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>258</sup> USDOL, 2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Egypt, 5 September 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>259</sup> USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>260</sup> USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>261</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>262</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>263</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>264</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#); UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 14 April 2023, [url](#), para. 3

<sup>265</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>266</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

Egypt ratified the United Nations (UN) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in 2004.<sup>267</sup>

The Constitution of Egypt, in article 89, stipulated the following:

‘All forms of slavery, oppression, forced exploitation of human beings, sex trade, and other forms of human trafficking are prohibited and criminalized by Law.’<sup>268</sup>

The Egyptian Law No. 64 of 2010 regarding ‘Combating Human Trafficking’, in article 2, provides the following definition of THB:

‘A person who commits the crime of human trafficking shall be considered one who deals in any manner in a natural person, including: the sale, offer for sale, purchase, or promise thereof; or the use, transport, delivery, harboring, reception, or receipt, whether within the country or across its national borders; if this occurred through the use of force, violence, or threat thereof; or through abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or exploitation of a position of vulnerability or need; or through a promise to give or receive payments or benefits in exchange for obtaining the consent of a person to traffic another having control over him; or if the purpose of the transaction was exploitation in any of its forms, including: exploitation of acts of prostitution and all forms of sexual exploitation, exploitation of children in such acts and in pornography, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery or servitude, or begging or removal of human organs, tissues or a part thereof.’<sup>269</sup>

The same law, in article 3, notes the following concerning the issue of consent, including in the case of children:

‘The consent of the victim to exploitation in any of the forms of human trafficking shall be irrelevant as long as any of the means stipulated in Article (2) of this law have been used.

To establish trafficking in a child or in the incapacitated, use of any of the means referred to is not required, and in all cases his consent or the consent of the person responsible for him or his guardian shall be irrelevant.’<sup>270</sup>

The legislation on trafficking in persons in Egypt, and specifically the Law No. 64 of 2010 was reported to cover all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.<sup>271</sup>

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<sup>267</sup> UN Treaty Collection, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, last updated 18 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>268</sup> Egypt, Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 2019, [url](#)

<sup>269</sup> Egypt, Law No. (64) of 2010 regarding Combating Human Trafficking, 2010, [url](#)

<sup>270</sup> Egypt, Law No. (64) of 2010 regarding Combating Human Trafficking, 2010, [url](#)

<sup>271</sup> UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022; Country profiles: North Africa and the Middle East, January 2023, [url](#), p. 8



Furthermore, in article 5, the Egyptian Law No. 64 of 2010 stipulates the sentences for THB, while in article 6 prescribes the sentences in case the victim is a child, as following:

‘Article (5):

Aggravated imprisonment and a fine not less than 50,000 pounds [about EUR 952<sup>272</sup>] and not to exceed 200,000 pounds [about EUR 3810<sup>273</sup>] or a fine equal to the value of the benefit gained, whichever is greater, shall be imposed on anyone who committed the crime of human trafficking.

Article (6):

Life imprisonment and a fine not less than 100,000 [about EUR 1905<sup>274</sup>] pounds and not to exceed 500,000 pounds [about EUR 9527<sup>275</sup>] shall be imposed on anyone who committed the crime of human trafficking in the following cases: [...]

3) If the perpetrator was the spouse, one of the ascendants or descendants, or custodian or guardian of the victim, or was responsible for the supervision or care or had authority over the victim; [...]

6) If the victim was a child, was incapacitated or was a person with disabilities; [...]<sup>276</sup>

### 9.3. Access to justice

Since 2012, a National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking (NRM) was established within the Egyptian Ministry of interior.<sup>277</sup> A National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons was established in 2017.<sup>278</sup> Furthermore, in 2022 the Egyptian government adopted of the Third National Strategy on Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Persons (2022–2026).<sup>279</sup> The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood of Egypt also operated a helpline receiving reports of cases of violence against children.<sup>280</sup>

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<sup>272</sup> The calculation was made based on the European Commission's official monthly accounting rates for the euro for Egyptian pound (EGP) for December 2024, EC, Exchange rate (InforEuro), n.d., [url](#), accessed 4 December 2024

<sup>273</sup> The calculation was made based on the European Commission's official monthly accounting rates for the euro for Egyptian pound (EGP) for December 2024, EC, Exchange rate (InforEuro), n.d., [url](#), accessed 4 December 2024

<sup>274</sup> The calculation was made based on the European Commission's official monthly accounting rates for the euro for Egyptian pound (EGP) for December 2024, EC, Exchange rate (InforEuro), n.d., [url](#), accessed 4 December 2024

<sup>275</sup> The calculation was made based on the European Commission's official monthly accounting rates for the euro for Egyptian pound (EGP) for December 2024, EC, Exchange rate (InforEuro), n.d., [url](#), accessed 4 December 2024

<sup>276</sup> Egypt, Law No. (64) of 2010 regarding Combating Human Trafficking, 2010, [url](#)

<sup>277</sup> ILO, Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), Comments adopted by the CEACR on Egypt in 2021, 2022, [url](#); IOM, IOM in Egypt Contribution to UPR on Egypt: Brief on the cooperation between IOM and the Government of Egypt with a focus on activities aiming to uphold Migrants Rights, February 2014, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>278</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 53

<sup>279</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 6

<sup>280</sup> IOM, NCCPIM&TIP and IOM Host Conference on Addressing Child Trafficking, 4 August 2024, [url](#); UN CRC, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports of Egypt, 20 June 2024, [url](#), para. 11;

The UNCAT in its concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, published in December 2023, noted that Egyptian Law No. 64 of 2010 regarding ‘Combating Human Trafficking’ was inadequately enforced, while the rate of prosecutions and convictions for trafficking in persons was ‘low’.<sup>281</sup>

The National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking (NRM) was reported to be not fully operational.<sup>282</sup>

The 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Egypt indicated that during the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 the Egyptian government ‘increased law enforcement efforts’, including ‘more than doubling prosecutions of alleged sex and labor traffickers, increasing investigations, and investigating and prosecuting allegedly complicit officials’.<sup>283</sup> According to the same source, in 2023, 82 individuals in 28 cases were convicted by the judicial authorities for THB, including ‘14 for sex trafficking, 35 for labor trafficking, and 33 for unspecified forms of trafficking in addition to other offenses’.<sup>284</sup> The same source reported that 95 individuals were convicted for THB in 28 cases in 2022, while 22 individuals were convicted in 11 cases in 2021.<sup>285</sup> Sentences were reported to range ‘from three years’ imprisonment and a fine to life imprisonment and a fine’.<sup>286</sup> According to the Egyptian SSCHR, from September 2022 to August 2023, in total 107 individuals in 33 cases were convicted for THB.<sup>287</sup> USDOL also reported on the lack of published data by the Egyptian government concerning the ‘its efforts to enforce its child labor laws, including labor inspectorate resources, number of child labor violations found, and penalties imposed for child labor violations’.<sup>288</sup>

Specific information on data and statistics on the number of convictions for THB in particular in cases involving children in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

The 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Egypt noted that, according to the reports of an international organization, Egyptian authorities frequently detained unaccompanied migrant children with adult detainees ‘without screening for trafficking, despite likely experiencing trafficking during their journey to Egypt’.<sup>289</sup> Freedom House indicated that Egyptian authorities ‘routinely punish individuals for offenses that stem directly from their circumstances as trafficking victims’.<sup>290</sup> Similarly, USDOS noted that Egyptian authorities ‘continued to inappropriately penalize unidentified victims for unlawful acts

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<sup>281</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 53

<sup>282</sup> UNCAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 12 December 2023, [url](#), para. 53; UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, 14 April 2023, [url](#), para. 33

<sup>283</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>284</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>285</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>286</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>287</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The National Human Rights Strategy: Two years of implementation September 2022 – August 2023, 24 October 2023, [url](#), p. 23

<sup>288</sup> USDOL, 2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Egypt, 5 September 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>289</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>290</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024 - Egypt, 2024, [url](#); Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Egypt, 2023, [url](#)



committed as a direct result of being trafficked, which contributed to ongoing distrust of authorities and reluctance to report trafficking cases'.<sup>291</sup>

#### ***9.4 Availability and access to support services***

In reference to the protection of THB victims, the 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Egypt, noted that the Egyptian government 'maintained uneven victim protection efforts'.<sup>292</sup> According to the same source, in 2023 the Egyptian government referred 70 boys and 76 girls, including '29 child sex trafficking victims, 92 child labor trafficking victims, and 25 child victims of unspecified forms of trafficking' to government shelters for children and provided psychological assistance.<sup>293</sup> USDOS also noted that the government referred 'all identified trafficking victims, 212 in total, to services but did not specify what assistance was provided'.<sup>294</sup>

Furthermore, concerning child labor, USDOL indicated that 'programs to address child labor are insufficient to adequately address the extent of the problem, particularly the lack of targeted programming to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child labor in limestone quarrying'.<sup>295</sup>

The government was reported to operate only one specialized trafficking shelter, which was staffed with 'female psychologists, social workers, and medical staff'.<sup>296</sup> According to USDOS, this shelter, which also had the capacity to accommodate children, assisted at least 27 victims during 2023. The same source indicated that the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) operated ten shelters for violence against women, located in nine governorates, which could also accommodate children victims of THB, including foreign victims. MoSS was also reported to operate 78 additional shelters, of which 18 for girls and 28 for boys, throughout the country. USDOS noted, however, that, according to NGOs, the shelters operated by MoSS 'did not meet the specific needs of some trafficking victims because of concerns about security, privacy, and a lack of adequately trained staff'.<sup>297</sup>

Further information on availability and access to support services for children victims of THB in Egypt could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

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<sup>291</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>292</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>293</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>294</sup> USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>295</sup> USDOL, 2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Egypt, 5 September 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>296</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>297</sup> USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

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