

Human Trafficking via Irregular Migration Routes: An Analytical Study of Causes and Counter-Strategies

La trata de personas en las rutas de migración irregular: un estudio analítico de sus causas y estrategias de respuesta

Dr. Razika Alili

University Center of Barika, Algeria,
razika.alili@cu-barika.dz

Dr. Ghania Fenni,

University Center of Barika, Algeria,
Ghania.fenni@cu-barika.dz

Dr. Aicha Bennoui,

University Center of Barika, Algeria,
aicha.bennoui@cu-barika.dz

Prof. Said Ziouche,

University Center of Barika, Algeria,
said.ziouche@cu-barika.dz

Recibido: 31/07/2026 · Aceptado: 15/09/2026 · Publicado: 18/10/2026

Abstract

The crime of human trafficking is one of the most serious forms of cross-border organised crime and one of the greatest threats to human security; irregular migration provides a fertile environment for its growth, as criminal networks exploit the economic and political crises faced by migrants.

This article aims to define the legal concepts underlying these two phenomena, review the international frameworks and conventions governing the fight against them, identify the security risks faced by migrants, and analyse the preventive and punitive measures adopted to address and curb them. The study concluded that there is a close interconnection between the two phenomena; although they are legally distinct, together they constitute a complex threat to national and international security, necessitating the strengthening of legal approaches and the enhancement of international cooperation to tackle them.

Keywords: human trafficking; irregular migration; organised crime; international security; international conventions.

Resumen

La trata de personas constituye una de las formas más graves de delincuencia organizada transnacional y una de las mayores amenazas para la seguridad humana. La migración irregular ofrece un contexto propicio para su expansión, dado que las redes delictivas se aprovechan de las crisis económicas y políticas que afectan a las personas migrantes.

El presente artículo tiene como objetivo delimitar los conceptos jurídicos de ambos fenómenos, examinar los marcos y convenios internacionales que regulan la lucha contra ellos, identificar los riesgos para la seguridad de las personas migrantes y analizar las medidas preventivas y punitivas adoptadas para hacerles frente y frenar su expansión. El estudio concluye que existe una estrecha interrelación entre ambos fenómenos: aunque son jurídicamente distintos, su confluencia constituye una amenaza compleja para la seguridad nacional e internacional, lo que exige reforzar los mecanismos jurídicos y fortalecer la cooperación internacional para abordarlos.

Palabras clave: Trata de personas; migración irregular; delincuencia organizada; seguridad internacional; convenios internacionales.

Introduction:

The issue of irregular migration has recently attracted increasing international attention, particularly with the growth of transnational organised crime networks active in this field. This phenomenon coincides with a decline in the absorption capacity of Northern (host) countries as a result of successive global economic crises, as well as their mounting security concerns. In light of this situation, international and national efforts have focused on combating the phenomenon at its source and in all its manifestations; for the inability to address the root causes does not in any way mean that its repercussions should be allowed to escalate.

The fundamental problem of irregular (informal) migration lies in the failure of countries of origin to provide a safe environment and a standard of living that meets the aspirations of their citizens, thereby driving them to seek alternative destinations to secure their needs, even if this requires resorting to illegal channels. Under pressure and at the behest of host countries, countries of origin have sought to dismantle criminal networks specialising in migrant smuggling, based on the assumption that the absence of facilitation and intermediary channels might dissuade those wishing to migrate from going ahead with their plans.

Consequently, the focus of the security and legal approach to combating irregular migration has shifted from the migrant themselves to tracking down those who assist and facilitate this criminal act. The first international legislative manifestations of this trend took shape with the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its accompanying protocols in Palermo on 15 November 2000.

What compounds the gravity of this issue is the close overlap between the crimes of 'smuggling of migrants' and 'trafficking in persons'; the paths of these two crimes often intersect, with the smuggled migrant ultimately becoming a victim of trafficking and exploitation. Although there is substantive overlap between the two offences in their violation of human dignity and rights, they differ in the material acts and criminal conduct constituting each, as well as in the mechanism of victim exploitation and the extent of the victim's initial consent to and acceptance of the criminal conduct¹.

1. General framework of the study:

1.1 Research Problem:

The phenomenon of irregular migration and the associated human trafficking networks represent one of the most prominent emerging security and humanitarian challenges in the contemporary landscape of international relations. With the radical transformations the world has witnessed in the post-Cold War era, the concept of security has moved beyond its traditional military dimensions to encompass political, economic, social and environmental dimensions. In this context, irregular migration has evolved from merely a cross-border population movement driven by poverty and conflict in developing countries into a 'security threat' and a complex dilemma that undermines the values of stability and sovereignty in host countries, particularly those of the European Union.

Given the futility of traditional security approaches based on deterrence, repression and forced deportation, an urgent need has emerged to adopt comprehensive international strategies that strike a balance between dismantling organised crime networks that exploit migrants and addressing the structural root causes of the phenomenon through enhanced regional cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

In light of these intertwined realities, the central issue of this paper revolves around the following fundamental question:

What is the nature of irregular migration in the context of new security approaches, and how does it intersect with the phenomenon of exploitation and human trafficking? What is the basis for the joint

¹ Nasira Mahira, Mohamed Khalifa, 'Irregular Migration: The Distinguishing Factor Between the Crime of Trafficking in Persons and the Crime of Migrant Smuggling', *The Researcher* in Legal and Political Sciences, Vol. 03, No. 06, University of Souk Ahras, 2021, p. 94.

mechanisms and strategies that must be implemented between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries to curb this phenomenon and address its underlying causes?

2.1 Significance of the study:

This study is of paramount importance given the continuing escalation of irregular migration and human trafficking; the latter has evolved into a form of organised crime that has expanded significantly in geographical scope. These phenomena have become a source of constant security and global concern, given the profound and direct negative repercussions they have on security, economic, social and political levels, as well as the flagrant violation of human rights and the erosion of inherent human dignity that they represent.

3.1 Objectives of the study:

This study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- To identify the extent of the dangers posed by the phenomena of human trafficking and irregular migration.
- To identify the overlaps and differences between the concepts of human trafficking and irregular migration.
- To analyse the main causes and drivers of the growing phenomenon of human trafficking, and to explore the nature of its relationship with irregular migration.
- To review and evaluate the most significant legal and institutional strategies and mechanisms capable of addressing these two phenomena.

4.1 Research Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive-analytical approach, with the aim of investigating the dimensions of the crimes of human trafficking and irregular migration and deconstructing their structures. This methodology seeks to elucidate the facts surrounding these two phenomena and to monitor their real-world manifestations, thereby arriving at a precise analytical framework consistent with the regulatory and legal frameworks governing them

5.1 Definition of Study Concepts:

The conceptual and theoretical framework forms the cornerstone of scientific research; it provides the study with a rigorous methodological dimension and contributes to grounding its subject matter. In order to construct a comprehensive and clear scientific perspective, this section seeks to define and clarify the conceptual dimensions of both human trafficking and irregular migration.

***The concept of human trafficking:**

The crime of human trafficking is considered one of the most serious offences threatening human rights and fundamental freedoms; it constitutes the modern face of the slave trade or 'new slavery', which affects all sections of society—children, women and men, and takes many forms, such as forced labour and sexual exploitation. It is recognised by all states, whether they are the countries of origin of the victims or transit countries through which these victims pass¹.

Behind this phenomenon lie large, transnational criminal organisations whose mission is to transport the largest possible number of people across international borders and exploit them in various illegal activities, constituting a new form of slavery and a clear violation and infringement of human dignity. The phenomenon has been defined in various ways, the most significant of which are:

* The use, transport and transfer of persons through threats, abduction, the use of force, deception, coercion, or through the giving or receiving of benefits to obtain the consent or acceptance of a person to exercise control over another, with the aim of sexual exploitation or forced labour.

- Legal scholarship has defined human trafficking as: "all lawful and unlawful acts that reduce a human being to a mere commodity or victim, to be disposed of by intermediaries and professionals across national borders, with the intention of exploiting them in low-paid labour, sexual work or similar

¹ Nafisa Raziq, Al-Yasin Muqaddam, 'Human Trafficking in the Arab Region: A Study of the Causes and Ways to Combat It', Journal of Legal Studies and Research, Vol. 06, No. 02, University of M'Sila, Algeria, 2021, p. 154.

activities, whether such acts are carried out with the victim's consent, against their will, or in any other form of slavery¹.

- International conventions and protocols have also included several definitions, whether relating directly to this crime or to human rights in general, on the grounds that the crime of human trafficking affects human beings and their rights and freedoms. Among the most important of these are:

The definition of the term 'trafficking in persons' in the Protocol to Prevent Trafficking is: 'the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, fraud, deception, abuse of power or abuse of a position of vulnerability, or by giving or receiving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation; and exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour, servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, or the removal of organs².

Definition from the 2005 Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings:³ The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or exploitation of a position of vulnerability, or by giving or receiving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation; and exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, slavery or practices similar to slavery, theft, exclusion or the removal of organs.

***The concept of irregular migration:**

The concept of irregular migration is used primarily in a legal sense, implying a breach of the laws and regulations governing migration and the movement of individuals between states⁴.

Irregular migration is defined as 'a person leaving the territory of their own state or another state, whether legally or illegally, with the intention of entering another state without its authorisation, or having obtained authorisation for a specific period or purpose, and remaining in its territory with the intention of permanent residence after the expiry of the authorised period, or entering the territory of that state (the receiving country) via an unauthorised point of entry whilst in possession of false documents to enter the destination country, thereby contravening its regulations, internal rules and internationally recognised norms⁵.

Internationally, the term has multiple meanings, including clandestine migration, illegal migration and unauthorised migration; the concept of irregular migration is a comprehensive framework encompassing all these situations that give rise to this phenomenon, which refers to the movement of an individual or group from one place to another by clandestine means in contravention of immigration law⁶.

The United Nations has defined irregular migration as the unauthorised entry of an individual from one country to another by land, air or sea, without holding any form of permanent or temporary residence permit⁷.

¹ Ali Al-Asimi bin Jazaa, **Criminal Protection for People with Special Needs against the Crime of Human Trafficking**, 1st ed., Law and Economics Library, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2014, p. 24.

² United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime, **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols**, New York, 2004, p. 41.

³ Nafisa Raziq, Al-Yassin Muqaddam, op. cit., p. 157.

⁴ Atiq Ben Yahya, 'European Efforts in the Field of Combating Irregular Migration', Journal of Research in Law and Political Science, Vol. 03, No. 02, Ibn Khaldoun University, Tiaret, Algeria, 2018, p. 457.

⁵ Fayza Khatou, 'The Security Dimension of Irregular Migration in the Context of Euro-Maghreb Relations, 1995–2010', Master's thesis, University of Algiers, 2011, p. 35.

⁶ Abdul Halim Ben Mashri, 'The Nature of Irregular Migration', *Al-Mufakkar* Journal, Issue 07, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Biskra, Algeria, 2018, p. 98.

⁷ Atiq Ben Yahya, op. cit., p. 457.

The European Commission defines **irregular, clandestine or illegal migration** as: “a diverse phenomenon involving individuals of various nationalities who enter the territory of a Member State unlawfully by land, sea or air, including transit areas in airports; usually using forged documents or with the assistance of organised crime networks of smugglers and traffickers. There are also those who enter legally with a valid visa but then overstay or change the purpose of their visit, remaining without the authorities’ consent. Finally, there is a group of asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected but who remain in the country¹ . As defined in **the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, published in October 2005**: The term ‘**irregular migration**’ is used to describe the phenomenon of individuals entering countries other than their own in breach of those countries’ domestic laws. This includes migrants who enter and remain in a country without authorisation, as well as migrants who are victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling across borders, and asylum seekers who do not comply with expulsion orders² .

2. Irregular migration and victims of human trafficking – a phenomenon that troubles the global conscience –

In the 1990s, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) recorded more than 100,000 victims of human trafficking worldwide. Through these direct assistance activities, the organisation established its Central Case Management Database, which contains information on more than 55,000 individual cases since 2002. This data includes information on victims of trafficking , including demographic characteristics and details of their experiences in the context of trafficking. A total of 10,940 new cases were recorded during 2016 and 2017. The victims registered during this period came from 147 countries and were exploited in 107 countries; women accounted for the majority, at 54 per cent , whilst girls accounted for 20 per cent, men for 22 per cent and boys for 5 per cent. Just over a quarter of the victims were children; 16 per cent of them were aged between 15 and 17, and approximately 30 per cent were trafficked for forced labour, whilst 47 per cent were trafficked for sexual exploitation³ .

Smuggling networks also constitute a route for human trafficking, as it is a lucrative sector overseen by international criminal groups. It is well known that migrants often fall victim to various practices ranging from demands for bribes, mass abductions and extortion. Migrants are also subjected to acts including execution, physical assault, torture and kidnapping. This applies specifically to Mexico, where reports indicate that some smuggling networks are often run by drug trafficking organisations. There is growing concern in Latin America about the exploitation of visa systems to enable migrants from countries in the region before smuggling them on to other destinations. Furthermore, a large number of people have died whilst migrating irregularly through Central America⁴ .

Human trafficking and migrant smuggling share several common features; cases of human trafficking may increase the risks faced by smuggled migrants, given the exploitation and abuse they suffer during their journeys, with smuggling often turning into trafficking.

Undocumented migrants living in irregular situations are easy prey for trafficking networks; and as they lack the necessary protection, they are at heightened risk of falling prey to criminal networks and being subjected to violence and exploitation; women and children are particularly vulnerable, with migrant women facing severe abuses along irregular migration routes.

¹ Fariha Ladamia, ‘**The European Union’s Strategy for Addressing New Security Threats (Illegal Migration as a Case Study)**’, Master’s thesis in Political Science and International Relations, specialising in Comparative Politics, University of Biskra, Algeria, 2010, p. 51.

² Report of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Commission: ‘**Migration in an Interconnected World: New Perspectives for Action**’, 2005, p. 35

³ Hanan Boutoura, Samira Mansouri, ‘**The Security Risks of Irregular Migration for Migrants in the Age of Mobility**’, Al-Bahith Journal of Academic Studies, Vol. 09, No. 02, University of Batna, Algeria, 2022, p. 262.

⁴ Hanan Boutoura, Samira Mansouri, op. cit., p. 262.

The 2020 World Migration Report indicates that human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the predominant form of human trafficking in Europe, accounting for 56 per cent, followed by labour exploitation at 26 per cent; other forms of exploitation, including forced begging or organ removal, account for 18 per cent. Women and girls remain the most vulnerable group, accounting for 68 per cent of victims, as they are often exploited in the care and domestic work sectors and forced into prostitution¹.

1.2. Drivers of the rise in human trafficking offences and their link to irregular migration

Human trafficking has become a global organised crime; it has evolved into a thriving and widespread trade for some governments, and is practised, supported and planned by international gangs, which find support amongst corrupt elements, and relies on international, professional traffickers who exploit the social, political and security situations in various countries, such as the phenomenon of irregular migration².

2.2 Motives and causes of the rise in human trafficking offences

When considering human trafficking as a global market, the victims represent the supply, whilst employers and sexual exploiters represent the demand. Several factors encourage the demand for victims, including:

a. Economic and social factors

- The growing global demand for cheap, undocumented labour.
- The economic and trade liberalisation experienced by small communities and economies, particularly poor communities.
- - The lack of a media role in raising public awareness of this phenomenon.
- The poor economic conditions in many countries, particularly widespread poverty in rural areas, migration from the countryside to the cities, and the rapid growth of commercial and industrial centres in cities.

B. Environmental factors: These include³:

- Drought resulting from low rainfall; desertification, exacerbated by deforestation; global warming; and poor agricultural performance. This has led to the emergence of a new phenomenon: environmental migrants.
- An increase in consumerism resulting from the economic liberalisation currently taking place in various countries.
- The breakdown of the family system and the weakening of social relationships and ties.
- A lack of, and poor quality in, educational opportunities.
- A lack of employment opportunities and inadequate vocational training.
- Weakening moral and religious values and the spread of crime within communities.

C. Political and security factors:

With regard to political and security factors, we shall outline some of them⁴:

- A lack of regulations and laws, as well as a failure to enforce them where they do exist, and a lack of effectiveness
- The inability of states to protect their borders.
- Wars, armed conflicts and political strife.
 - The lack of deterrent effect in criminal laws.
- Rising rates of asylum-seeking and internal and external migration in certain countries.
- Internal conflicts arising from ethnic tensions are considered the primary trigger for internal strife; these become particularly dangerous when they are religiously motivated. A prime example is the conflict between the Muslim north and the Christian south, as is the case in Sudan and Chad.
- Tribal life, in which loyalty to the tribe takes precedence over loyalty to the nation – as is the case with the Tuareg tribes – directly undermines national unity and border security, leading to the

¹ Hanan Boutoura and Samira Mansouri, op. cit., p. 262.

² Zakaria Tartag, 'The Phenomenon of Irregular Migration and Its Relationship with Organised Crime – Human Trafficking in North African Countries: A Case Study', Journal of Humanities, Vol. 32, No. 03, 2021, p. 131.

³ Zakaria Tartag, op. cit., p. 132.

⁴ Ramiya Muhammad Sha'ir, **Human Trafficking: A Legal and Sociological Analysis**, 1st ed., Al-Halabi Legal Publications, Beirut, Lebanon, 2016, pp. 14–15.

emergence of what amounts to a 'state within a state'. This has prevented the state, built upon the ruins of colonialism, from fulfilling its role in the region.

3.2. The relationship between irregular migration and the crime of human trafficking

The relationship between the phenomenon of irregular migration and the crime of human trafficking is particularly evident through an examination of the similarities and differences between them¹.

A. Similarities between irregular migration and human trafficking

- Both human trafficking and irregular migration are offences punishable by law.
- Human trafficking constitutes, in itself, a form of forced irregular migration, where a person is transported from one country to another.
- Both are aimed at making a profit or financial gain.
- The phenomenon of irregular migration goes hand in hand with the crime of human trafficking, where organised gangs are active in smuggling irregular migrants through cross-border smuggling networks that utilise sea and land routes not subject to border guards' checks and inspections, in exchange for sums of money paid by the irregular migrants, and without any guarantees regarding safety or health during the smuggling journey. The smuggled migrants are quickly reduced to commodities traded through these criminal networks, and the irregular migrant falls victim to extortion, sexual exploitation, slavery and forced labour

B. Differences between irregular migration and human trafficking

- Human trafficking presupposes the use of force, coercion, deception, extortion or abduction throughout the trafficking process or during any part or stage thereof, whereas irregular migration does not require this.

Trafficking presupposes the intention to exploit, whereas this is generally absent in migration.

- In the case of trafficking, the victim is in a situation of forced labour and lacks free will, whereas in irregular migration the migrant is free to act of their own volition.
- Trafficking does not necessarily take place beyond a country's land borders; rather, the offence may arise whenever its constituent elements are present.
- The main source of profit for human traffickers is the exploitation of their victims through forced labour, prostitution or slavery.
- In irregular migration, the main source of profit is the fee paid by the irregular migrant in exchange for being smuggled.
- In human trafficking, the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim continues on the basis of ownership, whereas there is no ongoing relationship between smugglers and irregular migrants once they reach their intended destination.

3. Strategies adopted to tackle the phenomenon of irregular migration and the crime of human trafficking

Whilst it is important to have sound legislation aimed at curbing the phenomenon, as discussed previously, this alone remains insufficient unless an effective strategy is adopted comprising a range of programmes relating to prevention, educational and awareness-raising initiatives, and community engagement. In addition to enacting deterrent legislation and ensuring its strict enforcement, it is essential not to overlook the role of religious conscience and to criminalise human trafficking, as it primarily undermines human dignity. It also requires a great many action plans and national strategies to achieve further results; the following programmes from the proposed strategy to combat human trafficking and irregular migration² may be adopted:

- **Preventive programmes:** The aim is to launch a wide-ranging campaign to raise awareness and uphold the principle that prevention is better than cure. This can be achieved by focusing on religious and media awareness, and by developing preventive programmes on how to use the World Wide

¹ Zakaria Tartag, op. cit., p. 133.

² Zakaria Tartag, op. cit., p. 133.

Web. Nor should we overlook the importance of providing prevention, treatment, protection and rehabilitation for victims of human trafficking.

- **Educational and training programmes for personnel combating human trafficking and irregular migration:** The aim of these programmes is to train volunteers on how to combat human trafficking and irregular migration, as well as to engage young people and utilise their time to contribute to the training process; this will benefit them in the future when implementing strategies to combat human trafficking.
- – **Academic research programmes:** Tackling this phenomenon requires research into its causes and ways of addressing them. Educational institutions must contribute to this by developing educational programmes and curricula within the Ministry of Education to raise awareness of the dangers of human trafficking, whilst universities must contribute by conducting scientific, theoretical and field-based research and studies, so that such studies can gather information on the phenomenon of human trafficking and analyse the data with a view to addressing and resolving the causes of its spread and combating it.
- **Internal environmental programmes:** Given that one of the main factors contributing to the prevalence of this phenomenon is fundamentally linked to the social circumstances of members of society who seek to improve these conditions, the strategy to combat the phenomenon must focus on the internal environment of society (the family), emphasise the proper upbringing of young people, and work towards achieving psychological, family and social stability.
- **External environmental programmes:** It is not possible to address the internal environment without considering the role of religious institutions and providing them with all the necessary resources to tackle the phenomenon and address the religious and moral dimensions for both perpetrators and victims. This must be accompanied by coordination between government institutions and civil society organisations to combat human trafficking and irregular migration.
- **Legislative programmes:** Whilst the religious and ethical dimensions are important in tackling this phenomenon, the enactment of deterrent laws—including the necessary treaties and legislation to implement policies and laws combating human trafficking and irregular migration—remains crucial to curbing it. This includes adopting international stances on combating human trafficking offences and liaising with official bodies and organisations working to combat this crime.
- **Regulatory programmes:** In addition to legislation, it is necessary to issue regulations, laws and rules relating to the fight against this crime, and to draw up regulatory decisions to combat it.
- **IT programmes:** In light of the technological revolution and the development of communication and information technologies, combating human trafficking and irregular migration necessitates utilising these advancements by focusing on anti-trafficking centres and supporting them with technological and IT resources, and working to establish a database to provide information on human trafficking networks and gangs and illegal migration, as well as methods to combat them.

4. Conclusion:

Current indicators confirm that irregular migration is no longer merely a passing phenomenon, but has become a worsening international dilemma facing both developing and developed countries alike. This surge is attributable to a combination of factors and causes that have led to its steady growth, leaving profound negative repercussions that cast a shadow over economic, social, psychological and security dimensions;

particularly given its link to criminal activities that threaten national security, social stability and the path to sustainable development.

Consequently, tackling this problem requires the implementation of robust legal and security mechanisms, based primarily on strict adherence to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its accompanying protocols, foremost among which is the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons — particularly women and children — and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

In the same context, it is evident that international aid directed towards supporting development in developing countries is insufficient, a fact confirmed by the alarming statistics published in specialist reports, alongside the widening technological and industrial gap between the North and the South. Consequently, the major economic powers bear a moral, humanitarian and economic responsibility that goes beyond traditional support; namely to improve living conditions in the Global South by enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation (North–South) and supporting sound economic policies and effective governance, thereby ensuring that these countries are empowered to achieve civilisational advancement and to curb mass migration flows and the associated cross-border organised crime.

In conclusion, this study identifies a set of key guidelines that form the basis for formulating practical proposals to curb this trafficking in human beings:

- **The inevitability of technological transformation and globalisation:** Contemporary technological progress has imposed an interconnected reality that has made the world an integrated whole, such that developing societies are no longer immune to global transformations and their reciprocal effects, whether positive or negative.
- **Developing the functional role of the United Nations:** It has become essential for the United Nations to reclaim the pivotal role for which it was established; so that its activities are not limited merely to maintaining international peace, resolving conflicts and protecting the rights of minorities, but extend to include effective oversight of the movement of global capital, and regulating its practices to prevent the circumvention of national and international laws at the expense of fundamental human rights.
- **Implementing a preventive and awareness-raising approach:** Introducing educational programmes and curricula aimed at young people at various stages of their schooling, with the aim of fostering early societal awareness to combat human trafficking and limit its spread.
- **Updating the legislative framework:** Reviewing existing national laws and legislation, and making the necessary amendments, whilst ensuring that mechanisms for their strict enforcement and implementation are in place.
- **Removing strategic barriers:** Identifying and eliminating all structural and procedural obstacles that prevent the effective implementation of national strategies aimed at combating this phenomenon.
- **Addressing the root causes through development and cultural measures:** working to eradicate knowledge-based illiteracy and combat gender-based poverty, whilst raising awareness of the risks associated with certain emerging forms of marriage, such as ‘temporary marriage’, and the exploitation inherent therein.
- **Strengthening cross-border cooperation frameworks:** enhancing joint coordination at local, regional and international levels to ensure a unified response involving countries of origin, transit and destination.
- **Institutional integration across sectors:** Building strategic and practical partnerships between civil society organisations, community associations and international organisations to unite efforts in tackling the phenomenon.
- **Institutionalising civil society efforts:** Supporting and establishing specialised civil society centres dedicated to monitoring and combating the phenomenon, and providing the necessary support and assistance.

5. List of sources and references:

References in Arabic:

1. United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime, **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols**, New York, 2004.
2. Al-Sadiq Karrar Ibtihal Jamal al-Din, **'The Impact of Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking on Arab National Security'**, Arab Journal of Science and Research Publishing, Journal of Economic, Legal and Administrative Sciences, Vol. 06, No. 11, Gaza, Palestine, 2022.
3. Al-Osaimi, Ali bin Jazaa, **Criminal Protection for People with Special Needs against the Crime of Human Trafficking**, 1st ed., Law and Economics Library, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2014.
4. Ben Mashri, Abdel Halim, **'The Offence of Migrant Smuggling under the Algerian Penal Code'**, *Journal of Judicial Precedent*, Vol. 06, No. 08, Mohamed Khider University, Biskra, Algeria.
5. Ben Mashri, Abdelhalim, **'The Nature of Irregular Migration'**, Al-Mufakkar Journal, Issue 07, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Biskra, Algeria, 2018.
6. Hanan Boutoura and Samira Mansouri, **'The Security Risks of Irregular Migration for Migrants in the Age of Mobility'**, *Al-Bahith Journal of Academic Studies*, Vol. 09, No. 02, University of Batna, Algeria.
7. Ben Yahya Atiqa, **'European Efforts to Combat Irregular Migration'**, Journal of Research in Law and Political Science, Volume 03, Issue 02, Ibn Khaldoun University, Tiaret, Algeria, 2018.
8. Khato Faiza, **'The Security Dimension of Irregular Migration within the Framework of Euro-Maghreb Relations, 1995–2010'**, Master's thesis, University of Algiers, 2011.
9. Nazifa Raziq and El-Yassin Mouqaddam, **'Human Trafficking in the Arab Region: A Study of the Causes and Ways to Combat It'**, Journal of Legal Studies and Research, Vol. 06, No. 02, University of M'Sila, Algeria, 2021.
10. Sha'ir Ramia Muhammad, **Human Trafficking: A Legal and Sociological Analysis**, 1st ed., Al-Halabi Legal Publications, Beirut, Lebanon, 2016.
11. Tartag Zakaria, **'The Phenomenon of Irregular Migration and its Relationship with Organised Crime – Human Trafficking in North African Countries: A Case Study'**, Journal of Humanities, Vol. 32, No. 03, 2021.
12. Ladmia Freija, **'The European Union's Strategy for Addressing New Security Threats (Illegal Migration as a Case Study)'**, thesis submitted for a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations, specialising in Comparative Politics, University of Biskra, Algeria, 2010.
13. Mahira Nasira and Khalifa Mohamed, **'Irregular Migration: The Distinguishing Factor Between the Crime of Trafficking in Persons and the Crime of Smuggling of Migrants'**, *Al-Bahith* Journal of Legal and Political Sciences, Vol. 3, No. 6, University of Souk Ahras, Algeria, 2021.

References in foreign languages:

14. Report of the Global Commission on International Migration, **'Migration in an Interconnected World: New Perspectives for Action'**, 2005.

Declaraciones

Conflictos de interés: La autora declara no tener conflictos de interés relacionados con este estudio.

Financiación: La autora declara que este estudio no recibió financiación específica.

Responsabilidad autoral: La autora asume la responsabilidad del contenido del artículo.

Licencia

Este artículo se publica bajo la licencia Creative Commons Atribución 4.0 Internacional (CC BY 4.0), que permite su uso, distribución, reproducción y adaptación en cualquier medio, siempre que se cite adecuadamente a la autora y la fuente, se incluya un enlace a la licencia y se indiquen los cambios realizados.

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



