

YOUNG ACADEMICS

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13

Angelika-Naemi Wendelin

Protection of Human Trafficking Victims

The Positive State Obligations under
Article 4 of the European Convention
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With a Foreword by ao. Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerd Oberleitner

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Foreword

Human trafficking is a global phenomenon that is also pervasive in Europe, exacerbated by crisis situations such as the recent pandemic, by mass migration, and the war in Ukraine, rendering numerous individuals vulnerable to exploitation. In response to this multifaceted challenge, the European Court of Human Rights has, in its more recent case law, introduced positive state obligations pertaining to the protection of victims within the framework of Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights (on the prohibition of slavery and forced labour). In this publication (which was submitted as her diploma thesis in law), Angelika-Naemi Wendelin explores the scope of these state obligations and seeks to identify potential gaps within the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the protection of victims of human trafficking. She further analyses the law and practice of Austria in a national case study to assess the country's adherence to these positive state obligations.

This publication starts with a succinct overview of the relevant legal instruments cited and considered by the European Court of Human Rights in its case law on the protection of human trafficking victims. The main part consists of a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the relevant human trafficking cases before the European Court of Human Rights. It focuses on the scope of Article 4 in light of the issue of human trafficking and the positive state obligations arising from the Convention. Drawing insights from this analysis of case law, Angelika-Naemi Wendelin examines Austrian legislation and how

cases of human trafficking victims are dealt with in practice. In the concluding chapter, the findings derived from the preceding analysis are synthesized to provide conclusive insights.

Given the increasing number of human trafficking cases adjudicated by the European Court of Human rights in recent years, this is a timely publication which provides an up-to-date analysis of relevant case law on the subject matter, distinguished by its clear structure, comprehensive research, and precise argumentation. Angelika-Naemi Wendelin's research stands out as a notable contribution to the academic discourse on the protection of victims of human trafficking.

Graz, February 2024

ao. Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerd Oberleitner

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK	5
2.1. 1926 Slavery Convention and Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery, 1956	6
2.2. Forced Labour Convention, 1930	8
2.3. Palermo Protocol, 2000	10
2.4. Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking	13
2.5. EU Trafficking Directive (2011)	17
2.6. Conclusion	19
3. ARTICLE 4 OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS	21
3.1. Introduction to the system of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights	22
3.1.1. Interpretative principles for the European Convention on Human Rights	24

Table of Contents

3.1.2. European Court of Human Rights	26
3.1.3. Relevance of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights in the context of human trafficking	27
3.2. Scope of article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights	28
3.2.1. Material scope of article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights	30
3.2.1.1. Human trafficking	30
3.2.1.1.1. Transnationality and organised crime?	33
3.2.1.1.2. Action	34
3.2.1.1.3. Means	36
3.2.1.1.4. Purpose of exploitation	38
3.2.1.2. Forced labour	42
3.2.1.3. Servitude	43
3.2.1.4. Slavery	44
3.2.2. Delimitation of the concepts of article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights	44
3.3. Positive state obligations under article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights	47
3.3.1. Theory of positive and negative state obligations	49
3.3.2. Obligation for legislative and administrative framework	51
3.3.2.1. Criminalisation	51
3.3.2.2. Requirements for wider legal and administrative framework	56
3.3.3. Obligation for protective operational measures	58
3.3.3.1. Prerequisite of knowledge of real and immediate risk	59
3.3.3.2. Prerequisite of reasonability	63

Table of Contents

3.3.3.3. Victim identification	64
3.3.3.4. Victim assistance measures	66
3.3.3.5. Non-punishment of victims	67
3.3.4. Obligation for effective investigation and prosecution	69
3.3.4.1. Triggering investigation obligation	70
3.3.4.2. Criteria for effective investigation	73
3.4. Conclusion	76
4. AUSTRIAN IMPLEMENTATION OF POSITIVE OBLIGATIONS	79
4.1. Human trafficking situation in Austria	80
4.2. Criminal legal framework of Austria	84
4.3. Victim protective measures	87
4.4. Investigations in practice	89
4.5. Conclusion	90
5. Conclusion	93
6. References	99

Abbreviations

Ed	Editor
Edn	Edition
Eg	For example
EU	European Union
CC	Austrian Criminal Code
CoE	Council of Europe
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EU	European Union
FPG	Fremdenpolizeigesetz (Austrian Aliens Police Act)
GRETA	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
ILO	International Labour Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
Para	Paragraph
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
VCLT	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties
VOL	Volume

