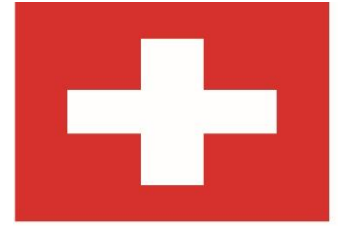




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Professional Coverage on Asylum, Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Persons in Egypt

A Concise Guide for Journalists and Media Professionals



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Introduction

This is a summary of the training manual for journalists and media professionals on covering issues of migration and asylum.

The Arabic version of the manual — spanning 77 medium-format pages — served as the basis for a training course held in partnership with the Training and Professional Development Committee of the Journalists Syndicate. The course was attended by twenty-five journalists, representing a range of newspapers and news websites.

The Arabic-language training manual consists of six interconnected units. It opens with a general overview of the legal framework governing asylum and migration issues in Egypt, followed by an outline of the international and national legal instruments regulating refugee rights and asylum procedures in Egypt. It then covers the legal provisions related to combating irregular migration and migrant smuggling, including the legal distinctions between these offences and related phenomena. The manual goes on to address the professional dimensions of media coverage, presenting the ethical principles that should guide reporting on these issues, methods for interviewing vulnerable groups- those in most need for protection-, approaches to information verification, and standards for producing content that upholds accuracy, fairness, and trauma sensitivity. It concludes with a professional code of conduct to help journalists produce responsible coverage that is legally grounded and respectful of human rights. A glossary of the most commonly used legal terms in asylum and migration cases is also included, making the manual a practical reference both during and after training.

This summary, the full Arabic manual, and the training held at the Journalists Syndicate are all part of a joint project aimed at deepening understanding of the laws on irregular migration and asylum. The first phase was implemented last year, and this phase serves as its continuation. The project is being carried out in collaboration between the United Group for Law and the Embassy of Switzerland in Cairo.

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Preface

Issues related to asylum, irregular migration and trafficking in persons are considered among the most sensitive and complex issues covered by journalists and media professionals, given their humanitarian, legal, security, social and political dimensions. In covering these files, journalists are not merely dealing with figures or isolated facts, but with persons who may have fled conflict or persecution, been subjected to exploitation, or are facing complex legal and humanitarian situations.

Accordingly, professional reporting on these issues requires a basic understanding of the applicable legal framework, accuracy in the use of terminology, the ability to distinguish between different legal statuses, and adherence to ethical standards that safeguard human dignity, respect privacy, and avoid sensationalism, stigmatization or the dissemination of inaccurate information.

This abridged version aims to provide journalists and media professionals with the key legal and professional principles required to produce accurate, balanced and responsible reporting on asylum, irregular migration and trafficking in persons in Egypt.

I. General Overview of the Legal Framework Governing Asylum and Migration

Before addressing any journalistic story relating to asylum, migration or trafficking in persons, journalists should identify the legal framework applicable to the facts at hand. Each field has its own definitions, terminology, procedures and competent authorities.

The relevant legal framework is based on several key laws:

Law No. 164 of 2024 on Asylum of Foreigners and its Executive Regulations, which regulate the status of asylum-seekers and refugees in Egypt, set out asylum procedures, rights and obligations, and identify the authority competent to determine asylum applications, namely the Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs.

Law No. 82 of 2016 on Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants, which addresses the crime of migrant smuggling and related acts, while emphasizing the protection of smuggled migrants as victims rather than offenders.

Law No. 64 of 2010 on Combating Trafficking in Persons, which criminalizes forms of trafficking in persons based on exploitation, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, begging, removal of organs and other forms of exploitation.

In addition, the relevant legal framework includes **Law No. 89 of 1960 on the Entry and Residence of Foreigners**, **Law No. 151 of 2020 on Personal Data Protection**, and **Law No. 12 of 1996 on the Child**, particularly in cases involving unaccompanied children.

When preparing any media content, the first question should be: does the case concern an asylum application, migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons, or the residence of foreigners? Identifying the applicable legal framework is the entry point for accurate reporting.

It should also be noted that international treaties ratified and published by Egypt in accordance with the Constitution form part of the national legal order. The most relevant instruments include the **1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees** and its **1967 Protocol**, the **1969 Organization of African Unity Convention**, the **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** and its Protocols, the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**, and the **Convention against Torture**.

Following the adoption of the Law on Asylum of Foreigners, refugee status determination in Egypt has moved into a national framework in which the Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs exercises primary competence, while cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees continues as an international partner. Reporting should therefore distinguish between the role of the competent national authority and that of UNHCR, and avoid conflating the two.

When covering these issues, journalists should also be familiar with a number of basic legal principles, including the hierarchy of legal norms, the limits of the relationship between a law and its executive regulations, the principle of non-retroactivity of laws, the application of the law most favourable to the accused, and the principle of legality of crimes and penalties. Such knowledge is not intended to turn journalists into legal specialists, but rather to enable them to read legal texts and decisions accurately and to avoid using criminal or legal characterizations that lack a proper legal basis.

II. Asylum of Foreigners in Egypt: Key Concepts and Procedures

Professional reporting on asylum requires particular accuracy in the use of terminology. Not every person who leaves his or her country is a refugee, and not every foreigner who enters the country in an irregular manner loses the right to seek asylum where the conditions for protection are met.

A **refugee** is any foreigner who is outside the country of his or her nationality or habitual residence owing to a well-founded fear of persecution, or owing to external aggression, occupation or events seriously disturbing public order in his or her country, and is unable or unwilling to return to, or avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country. This status is conferred by the competent committee in accordance with the law.

An **asylum-seeker** is any foreigner who has submitted an application to the competent committee to be recognized as a refugee and whose application has not yet been determined. This is a temporary status, but it entails legal protection pending determination of the application.

Certain categories are given priority in examination and care, including persons with disabilities, older persons, pregnant women, unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking in persons, and

victims of torture and sexual violence. These categories require heightened sensitivity in journalistic reporting, whether in relation to language, images, interviews or data protection.

Asylum Procedures

An asylum application is submitted by the asylum-seeker personally if he or she has full legal capacity, or by his or her legal representative if the person lacks or has limited legal capacity. In the case of an unaccompanied child, or a person without a legal representative, the competent committee shall appoint a qualified legal representative free of charge.

A family asylum application may be submitted on behalf of dependent family members, provided that no adult family member is included without his or her written consent. The application may also extend to children born in, or entering, the country after the submission of the application, provided that the committee is notified and the children are added to the file.

Cases involving unaccompanied children require particular care, including the appointment of a qualified legal representative, hearing the views of the child in a manner appropriate to his or her age and maturity, and ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration throughout all stages of the procedure.

Irregular entry into the country does not prevent a person from submitting an asylum application where the relevant conditions are met, provided that the application is submitted to the competent committee within the legally prescribed time limit.

The asylum process includes several main stages, beginning with the initial registration interview, followed by the registration of biometric data, formal registration of the application, medical examination, case classification, personal interview, case assessment and determination of the application. The committee determines applications within six months in cases of lawful entry and within one year in cases of irregular entry, with priority given to persons in vulnerable situations.

An asylum-seeker has the right to appeal decisions rejecting the application, deeming it withdrawn, revoking refugee status, refusing to renew refugee status, or terminating asylum, within the legally prescribed period.

Pending determination of the asylum application, the competent committee may take temporary measures proportionate to the circumstances of each case and to considerations of national security or public order, while taking into account the needs of persons in vulnerable situations and the asylum-seeker's right to appeal in accordance with the prescribed procedures. The file may also be closed, or the application deemed withdrawn, in specific cases, such as failure to pursue the procedures or inability to establish contact, with the possibility of reopening the file in accordance with the applicable legal safeguards.

Rights and Obligations of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

Refugees enjoy a number of fundamental rights, including the right to access essential health services provided in public health facilities, including preventive and curative care, emergency services, maternity care, basic vaccinations and other services.

During the examination of an asylum application, the competent authorities, in cooperation with governmental bodies, civil society organizations and international organizations, support asylum-seekers' access to essential humanitarian and social services, particularly health care and basic education for children.

At the same time, asylum-seekers are required to cooperate with the competent committee, attend scheduled appointments, notify the committee of any material change in their data, place of residence, legal or family status, and comply with the procedures and measures determined by the competent authorities.

An asylum-seeker is issued a registration card proving that his or her application is under consideration. This card is not a travel document and does not replace a passport. Upon approval of the application, a refugee document is issued to confirm legal status and is valid for three years, renewable for similar periods.

Refugee status terminates in specific cases, including voluntary return to the country of nationality or habitual residence, resettlement in a third country, acquisition of Egyptian nationality, cessation of the grounds for asylum, or departure from Egypt for six consecutive months without an excuse accepted by the committee

III. Irregular Migration, Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons

Professional reporting on irregular migration and trafficking in persons requires a clear distinction between related but legally distinct concepts. Conflating irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons may mislead the public, harm the persons concerned, or result in an incorrect legal characterization of the case.

International and Legal Framework

The Law on Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants is grounded in the international framework for combating transnational organized crime, in particular the Palermo Convention and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. This field is also linked to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as some cases of migrant smuggling may turn into trafficking in persons where exploitation is involved.

Egyptian law seeks to strike a balance between combating criminal networks that organize smuggling operations and protecting smuggled migrants as victims exposed to exploitation or danger.

Key Concepts

Migrant smuggling means the procurement of the irregular movement of one or more persons from one State to another in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial, material or moral benefit, or for any other purpose.

A **smuggled migrant** is a person whose irregular movement has been procured by an individual or a group in exchange for a benefit. Journalists should understand that the law does not treat the smuggled migrant as a member of a criminal network, but rather as a person exploited by such a network. For this reason, modern legislation tends to provide protection and assistance to smuggled migrants.

Trafficking in persons differs from smuggling because it involves the exploitation of the person, whether through coercion, deception, abuse of vulnerability or need, or other means, for purposes such as sexual exploitation, forced labour, begging, removal of organs or other forms of exploitation.

The key distinction is that migrant smuggling is generally linked to irregular border crossing in exchange for a benefit, whereas trafficking in persons may occur within a single State and is fundamentally based on exploitation.

Basic Principles for Reporting

Not every irregular border crossing constitutes migrant smuggling. The crime of smuggling presupposes the involvement of an individual or a group that organizes or facilitates irregular movement in exchange for a benefit. Moreover, the law on combating irregular migration does not target migrants themselves; it targets smuggling networks, organizers, financiers, intermediaries and their accomplices.

When reporting on arrests and criminal cases, journalists should observe several basic rules: avoid presuming guilt before a judicial ruling is issued; distinguish between suspects and victims; avoid publishing information that may place victims or witnesses at risk; avoid sensationalism and exaggeration; and explain the legal context of the offence.

Protection of Smuggled Migrants

The philosophy of the law is not limited to prosecuting and punishing smugglers; it also extends to the protection of smuggled migrants, especially women, children and persons in particularly vulnerable situations. Protection includes safeguarding life and safety, providing health care where needed, ensuring basic humanitarian assistance, addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, and protecting human dignity.

Legal liability in migrant smuggling offences is not limited to the direct perpetrator; it may also extend to organizers, financiers, intermediaries, accomplices and legal persons where the offence is committed in their name or for their benefit. Criminal policy also seeks to deprive perpetrators of the financial proceeds of the crime through the confiscation of proceeds, means of transport and tools used in the commission of the offence. This helps journalists understand the organized

economic dimension of these crimes and avoid reducing them to a mere incident of border crossing.

When dealing with victims of smuggling, witnesses, children who have survived migration journeys, or families of victims, journalists must observe protection principles and refrain from publishing information that may reveal their identity or expose them to danger or retaliation.

The National Committee and the Fund

Combating irregular migration and trafficking in persons requires coordination among a large number of governmental bodies. The National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons therefore plays an important role in developing national policies and plans, coordinating among relevant entities, following up on the implementation of treaties, preparing studies and research, and carrying out awareness-raising campaigns.

The Fund for Combating Illegal Migration and Protecting Migrants and Witnesses was also established to support protection programmes for smuggled migrants, care for witnesses and victims, awareness-raising and prevention activities, and related research and training initiatives. Journalists should not reduce these issues to their criminal dimension only, but should also highlight preventive, developmental and institutional protection roles.

IV. Professional Standards and Guidelines for Reporting on Asylum and Migration

Issues of asylum, irregular migration and trafficking in persons are among the most sensitive topics in media work, as they often concern persons facing complex legal or humanitarian situations. Legal knowledge alone is therefore insufficient; it must be accompanied by clear professional and ethical standards.

The Specific Nature of Reporting

These issues differ from others because they relate to persons who may have fled conflict or persecution, risked their lives in search of better opportunities, or been subjected to exploitation, violence or coercion. They also involve overlapping considerations of human rights, security, law, public policy and international relations.

The journalist's role in seeking truth and providing accurate information cannot be separated from his or her responsibility towards the persons covered. A journalistic scoop or exclusive material does not justify exposing persons to danger, disclosing their data or violating their privacy. Journalists should always ask: does this information add real value for the public? What impact could publication have on the person concerned?

Language and Terminology

Language shapes public opinion, and certain expressions may reinforce fear, discrimination or hatred. Journalists should therefore use accurate and neutral terminology and avoid expressions such as “refugee invasion”, “flood of migrants” or “illegal refugee”.

A refugee should not be described as legal or illegal, as refugee status is linked to legal protection. Journalists should also avoid conflating migrant smuggling with trafficking in persons, or an irregular migrant with an asylum-seeker.

Choosing the Reporting Angle

Reporting does not begin with writing the story, but with choosing the angle of coverage. In asylum and migration issues, possible angles include legal, humanitarian, social, economic, health-related, educational and institutional dimensions. These issues should not be reduced to crises, incidents or security operations. When presenting the human dimension of a story, journalists should respect the persons concerned and should not turn their suffering into a means of eliciting sympathy or attracting attention.

The lives of refugees and migrants are not limited to moments of crisis; they also include education, work, health care, integration and the daily challenges faced within host communities. Reporting should therefore provide a broader and more balanced picture, including the situation of unaccompanied children, refugees’ access to services, the role of women, the impact of migration on local communities, and stories of success and adaptation.

Verification of Information and Combating Disinformation

Asylum and migration issues are often surrounded by rumours and inaccurate information, particularly on social media. Every piece of information should therefore be treated as requiring verification before publication.

When using figures, it is not sufficient to cite the number; journalists should identify its source, date and context, and determine whether it was issued by an official authority or specialized organization, and whether it is recent or outdated. Images and videos should also be verified, as much visual material may be old, taken in another country, or linked to a different event.

The wide circulation of an image, figure or narrative should not be treated as evidence of its accuracy. The more sensational or shocking the information appears, the greater the need to verify its source and context before publication.

Individual testimonies alone are not sufficient to establish facts. They are important sources, but they are part of the story, not the whole story. Whenever possible, they should be cross-checked against other sources, documents or additional testimonies.

Journalistic Interviews

Interviews with refugees, migrants or victims of trafficking in persons differ from many other journalistic interviews, because the persons interviewed may have experienced severe or traumatic events, or may still be in legally, psychologically or socially unstable situations.

Before conducting an interview, the journalist should explain its nature, purpose and how the information will be used, including whether it will be published under the person's name or in a form that may reveal his or her identity. During the interview, the person should be given sufficient time to express his or her experience without pressure or interruption. Journalists should avoid hostile questions or questions that compel the person to relive painful details that do not serve the journalistic purpose.

Privacy and Personal Data

Protecting privacy is one of the most important principles of professional reporting in these areas. Disclosing a name, address, photograph, document number or place of residence may expose the person or his or her family to danger, particularly if the person is an asylum-seeker, a victim of trafficking or a witness in a case.

Protecting privacy does not mean refraining from reporting; it means choosing a method that allows important information to be published without harming individuals, such as using pseudonyms, blurring faces or omitting identifying details. The core professional rule is that not everything known to the journalist should be published.

Images and Video

Images and video have a powerful impact on audiences, but may become tools of stigmatization, defamation or privacy violation if used unprofessionally. Journalists should avoid publishing images of children or victims in a manner that allows them to be identified without clear necessity, or using shocking or degrading images to attract attention.

It is preferable, where appropriate, to use general images or techniques to conceal faces or identifying marks. The purpose should always be to convey the truth with respect and responsibility, not to provoke emotions or maximize reach.

Avoiding Stereotypes and Hate Speech

A common professional error is portraying all refugees as poor or helpless, all migrants as a burden or security threat, or every person crossing borders irregularly as dangerous. These generalizations are not fact-based and may contribute to bias or hatred.

Reporting should present a more balanced picture that reflects diverse experiences and backgrounds and avoids reducing persons to their legal or humanitarian status.

Reporting During Crises and Major Incidents

Reporting becomes more difficult during crises, such as the sinking of migrant boats, mass displacement, or the exposure of trafficking networks. In such moments, information is often incomplete, and conflicting estimates and inaccurate images may circulate widely.

Journalists must balance speed and accuracy by publishing only verified information and updating it as new reliable data becomes available, while clarifying whether figures are preliminary or confirmed. They should also respect the feelings of victims and their families, avoid pressuring them to give interviews during moments of shock, and refrain from publishing images or details that undermine human dignity.

V. Towards an Ethical and Professional Code for Reporting on Asylum, Migration and Trafficking in Persons

The training guide includes a proposed ethical and professional code based on the principle that professional reporting on asylum, irregular migration and trafficking in persons is not assessed solely by the accuracy of information, but also by the way in which such information is gathered and presented to the public. In these cases, information may be factually correct, yet its publication without due regard for ethical and professional considerations may cause serious harm to the persons concerned, their families, or their legal status. A professional journalist should therefore ask not only whether the information is accurate, but also whether its publication serves the public interest without harming the persons concerned.

The ethical and professional code in this field is grounded in a set of guiding principles, foremost among them respect for human dignity, the principle of “do no harm”, protection of privacy and personal data, the best interests of the child, informed consent before conducting interviews or using information, and balance and fairness in presenting facts. These principles mean that a refugee, migrant or victim of trafficking in persons is not merely a subject of coverage, but a rights-holder whose inherent rights must be respected. This requires avoiding degrading, stigmatizing or stereotypical language, and refraining from disclosing identity, place of residence, documents or images in cases where such disclosure could expose the person to risk or affect his or her legal status or safety.

The code also emphasizes the importance of responsible handling of images and other visual material, particularly when they concern children, victims of violence or trafficking in persons, or persons in degrading or traumatic situations. An image may be more powerful than text, but it may also be more capable of causing harm if it reveals the identity of a person at risk, violates privacy, or turns suffering into sensational material. Ethical reporting therefore requires a trauma-informed approach, respect for the person’s wish to stop speaking or decline to answer, and avoidance of pressure to obtain painful details that add no genuine value to the story. Humanitarian and professional considerations should prevail over the desire to attract attention or maximize visibility.

VI. Concise Glossary of Key Terms

The guide concludes with a concise glossary of terms, which serves as a practical tool for journalists and media professionals covering asylum, irregular migration and trafficking in persons. It helps ensure accurate use of legal terminology and avoids confusion between concepts that may appear similar in public discourse but differ legally and professionally. Distinguishing between a refugee and an asylum-seeker, between an irregular migrant and a smuggled migrant, and between migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons is not merely a linguistic matter; it is a prerequisite for accurate reporting that does not mislead the public or harm the persons concerned.

The glossary includes terms related to the Law on Asylum of Foreigners, the Law on Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants, and the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons, as well as terms related to the Law on the Entry and Residence of Foreigners, procedural and institutional terminology, international principles and instruments, and basic criminal law concepts that journalists need when reporting on legal or judicial matters.

The glossary includes key terms under the Law on Asylum of Foreigners, such as refugee, asylum-seeker, the Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs, persons in vulnerable situations, unaccompanied child, asylum-seeker registration card, refugee document and the principle of non-refoulement. It also includes core terms under the Law on Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants, such as migrant smuggling, smuggled migrant, organized criminal group, transnational offence, commercial carrier, and fraudulent travel or identity documents, as well as terms related to trafficking in persons, forms of exploitation and the essential distinction between trafficking and smuggling.

The function of the glossary is not limited to defining terms; it also contributes to standardizing the language of media coverage and guiding journalists towards the most accurate characterization of events before publication. Selecting the correct term helps protect persons from stigmatization, prevents confusion between victim and perpetrator, and ensures that the event is presented in its proper legal context. The glossary should therefore be consulted before using any legal characterization in a headline, body text or image caption, particularly in cases involving children, victims, asylum-seekers, criminal arrests, or information related to irregular migration and trafficking in persons.

Annex
A Concise Compiled Glossary of Terms Related to Asylum, Irregular Migration, and Human Trafficking

Preface,

This glossary serves as a practical quick-reference tool to help journalists and media professionals familiarize themselves with the legal definitions of the most commonly used terms in cases involving asylum, irregular migration, and human trafficking, as set out in Egyptian legislation and the international conventions referenced in this manual. Consulting it when preparing journalistic content supports accurate use of terminology and helps avoid confusion between closely related legal concepts, thereby enhancing the quality and credibility of coverage.

The glossary's role goes beyond defining terms — it also helps standardize the language used in media discourse when addressing these issues. This is particularly important given that some terms are used in everyday practice with meanings that differ from their legal definitions. Adhering to the definitions provided here contributes to more accurate and consistent media content, protects the rights of the individuals being covered, and guards against errors that could distort public understanding or carry legal and professional consequences.

This glossary is a quick reference for journalists, bringing together precise legal definitions of the most frequently used terms in asylum, irregular migration, and human trafficking cases, as they appear in Egyptian law and the international conventions adopted in this manual. It is recommended to consult it before using any term in coverage to ensure accuracy and avoid ambiguity.

First: Terms from the Foreign Asylum Law No. 164 of 2024 and Its Bylaw

Term	Definition
Refugee	Any foreigner found outside the country of their nationality or habitual residence, for well-founded reasons based on a genuine fear of persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion — or due to aggression, foreign occupation, or other events that seriously threaten public safety — and who is unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country. This includes stateless persons in the same circumstances, upon whom the competent committee has conferred this status.

Term	Definition
Asylum Seeker	Any foreigner who has submitted an application to the competent committee to be recognized as a refugee in accordance with the provisions of the law, and whose application has not yet been decided upon.
Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs	An Egyptian national committee headquartered in Cairo, with legal personality and reporting to the Prime Minister. Established under Foreign Asylum Law No. 164 of 2024, it is the body responsible for refugee affairs and for adjudicating asylum applications.
Technical Secretariat	The technical and administrative body supporting the Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs. Its terms of reference are determined by a Prime Ministerial decree.
Competent Ministry	The Ministry of Interior, which is the central executive authority responsible for managing asylum-related matters.
Persons with Priority Care Needs	Persons with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, unaccompanied children, and victims of human trafficking, torture, or sexual violence.

Term	Definition
Unaccompanied Child	Any foreigner in Egypt who has not yet reached the age of eighteen, is separated from both parents and all relatives, and has no responsible adult legally or customarily accountable for their care.
Biometric Data	Unique personal information derived from an individual's physical or behavioral characteristics, used to identify or verify a person's identity.
Asylum Seeker Registration Card	A card issued by the committee upon registration of an asylum application, confirming that the application has been lodged. Valid for six months and renewable; it does not replace a passport.
Refugee Document	A document confirming refugee status, issued by the committee upon approval of an application. Valid for three years and renewable.

Term	Definition
Non-Refoulement (Non-Return)	A principle prohibiting the forcible return of a refugee to the borders of territories where their life or freedom would be at risk.

**Second: Terms from the Law on Combating Irregular Migration and Migrant Smuggling
No. 82 of 2016**

Term	Definition
Migrant Smuggling	The facilitation of the unlawful movement of one or more persons from one country to another, for the purpose of obtaining, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material or non-material benefit, or for any other purpose.
Smuggled Migrant	A person who is transported, harbored, or whose movement across borders is facilitated unlawfully by individuals or criminal groups. They are the target of the criminalized conduct — the smuggled migrant is the victim.
Organized Criminal Group	A structured group of three or more persons, acting in concert on a continuing basis or for a period of time, with the aim of committing one or more offences — including migrant smuggling offences, alone or in combination with others — for the purpose of obtaining, directly or indirectly, a financial or other benefit, or for any other purpose. Members are not required to have defined roles or continuous membership.
Transnational Crime	Any offence committed in more than one country; or committed in one country but planned, directed, supervised, or financed in or through another; or committed in one country by an organized criminal group operating across multiple countries; or committed in one country but with effects in another.
Unaccompanied Children	Any person under the age of eighteen who is not accompanied by any family member.
Forged Travel or Identity Document	A document whose content has been wholly or partially falsified, fabricated, stamped with counterfeit seals, or altered by unlawful means;

Term	Definition
	or one that was issued or made to contain false information through forgery, corruption, coercion, fraud, or deception.
Commercial Carrier	Any natural or legal person whose profession involves the transport of passengers or goods by land, sea, or air for commercial gain.
Vessel	Any type of watercraft or craft capable of being used to transport persons over water, including floating craft and seaplanes, but excluding warships, fleet support vessels, or other government-owned or operated vessels used for non-commercial purposes.
The Committee	The National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking, established pursuant to Article 28 of this Law.
Benefit	Any interest, gain, advantage, or return accruing to a perpetrator of migrant smuggling offences, whether material or non-material in nature.
Territorial Sea	The maritime belt adjacent to the coastal borders of the state, beyond its land territory and internal waters, extending no more than twelve nautical miles from the baseline in accordance with international law of the sea.
Contiguous Zone	The zone of the high seas adjacent to the territorial sea, extending twelve nautical miles beyond the outer limit of the territorial sea, in accordance with international law of the sea.

Third: Terms from the Anti-Human Trafficking Law (Law No. 64 of 2010 and the Palermo Protocol)

Term	Definition
Human Trafficking	Any form of dealing with a natural person — including selling, offering for sale, purchasing, promising to do so, using, transporting, delivering, sheltering, receiving, or taking possession of a person, whether within the country or across its national borders — where carried out through the use or threat of force or violence, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of authority, exploitation of vulnerability or need, or the promise or exchange of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control over another — where the purpose is exploitation in any form, including prostitution and other forms of

Term	Definition
	sexual exploitation, the exploitation of children in such acts or in pornographic material, forced labor or services, slavery or slavery-like practices, servitude, begging, or the removal of human organs or tissues, or parts of it.
Forms of Exploitation	Include, at a minimum: exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or slavery-like practices, servitude, and organ removal.
Key Distinction from Smuggling	Human trafficking is a crime against the person and may occur within a single country; it is defined by exploitation. Migrant smuggling is a crime against the state, carried out across borders, and typically ends upon arrival.

Fourth: Related Terms from the Law on the Entry and Residence of Foreigners No. 89 of 1960

Term	Simplified Definition
Foreigner	Any person who does not hold Egyptian nationality.
Foreigners with Special Residence	Categories of foreigners specified by law based on the duration of residence, lawful means of entry, or having rendered distinguished services to the country.
Foreigners with Ordinary Residence	Foreigners who have resided continuously for specified periods without interruption and entered the country through lawful means.
Foreigners with Temporary Residence	Those who do not meet the conditions of either of the above two categories, and who may be granted a renewable residence permit.

Fifth: Procedural and Institutional Terms

Term	Definition
Technical Secretariat	The technical and administrative body supporting the Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs, responsible for receiving applications, conducting interviews, and preparing case assessment reports.
Biometric Data	Unique personal information derived from an individual's physical or behavioral characteristics, used to identify or verify a person's identity.
Personal Interview	An interview conducted by a trained competent officer with an asylum seeker to assess their statements; a formal record is drawn up upon completion.
Case Assessment	A comprehensive report prepared by the Technical Secretariat on the asylum seeker's situation and the credibility of their statements, including a recommendation for acceptance or rejection.
Grievance	An objection submitted to the competent committee against its decisions, within fifteen days of notification.
Appeal	To contest decisions of the committee in the Administrative Court of the State Council.
Provisional Measures	Measures taken by the committee pending a final decision, on grounds of national security or public order; must be proportionate and subject to grievance.
Elected Domicile	The place of residence designated by the refugee or asylum seeker, to which notifications and decisions are addressed.
Case Management System	A system for monitoring, assessing, supporting, and following up on the situations of asylum seekers, particularly those with priority care needs.
Reopening of File	A procedure allowing an asylum seeker to request resumption of an application deemed withdrawn, once within a period of three months.

Sixth: Terms Related to International Principles and Conventions

Term	Definition
Non-Refoulement (Non-Return)	A principle prohibiting the return of a refugee to the borders of territories where their life or freedom would be at risk (Article 33 of the 1951 Convention).
Exclusion reasons	Circumstances under which a person does not acquire refugee status despite meeting the criteria — including war crimes, serious crimes, and acts against the United Nations.
Resettlement	The transfer of a refugee to a third country that agrees to receive them, as a durable solution.
Voluntary Return	The return of a refugee to their country of origin of their own free will, following the cessation of the threat.
UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	Also known as the Palermo Convention, this international treaty focuses on combating organized crime across national borders. Adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 2000 and entering into force in September 2003, it provides a comprehensive framework for international efforts against transnational organized crime.
Palermo Protocols	The three protocols supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, addressing smuggling, trafficking, and arms.
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	Adopted in 2000, this protocol represents a landmark achievement in providing the first internationally agreed definition of "trafficking in persons": the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or slavery-like practices, servitude, or the removal of organs.

Term	Definition
Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air	Signed and ratified pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 25 at its fifty-fifth session on 10 November 2000. As of July 2024, it has 152 state parties. The protocol aims to strengthen international cooperation on migration and to encourage development that addresses the root causes of migration, particularly those linked to poverty.
Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition	A treaty on combating arms trafficking, including small and light weapons. It complements the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and aims to regulate the movement of firearms, their parts, and ammunition to prevent them from reaching organized criminal groups.

Seventh: Related Criminal Law Terms

Term	Simplified Definition
Criminal Intent	The "intention to commit a crime" — the deliberate and conscious direction of the perpetrator's free will toward committing an unlawful act, with full awareness of the elements of the offence and acceptance of its criminal consequences.
Criminal Participation	The involvement of two or more persons in committing a single offence based on a shared intention and coordination, whether their role is primary in execution or secondary in planning or assistance.
Criminal Conspiracy	Under Egyptian law, an independent offence in itself, established by the mere meeting of the will of two or more persons to commit a crime (felony or misdemeanor) or to use crime as a means to achieve their ends. It is punishable by law upon the agreement alone, even if no steps toward execution have been taken.
Aggravating Circumstances	A circumstance or legal condition accompanying an offence that results in the applicable penalty being increased to a more severe level, with the aim of deterring offenders and addressing the gravity of the crime.

Term	Simplified Definition
Attempt	Beginning the execution of an offence (felony or misdemeanor) that is not completed or does not produce its final result, for reasons beyond the perpetrator's control.
Presumption of Innocence	The assumption that the accused is innocent until proven guilty by a final judgment.
The More Favorable Law	A legal principle providing that if a new law is enacted after the commission of an offence and before a final judgment is issued, and that law reduces the penalty or decriminalizes the act, it applies retroactively in favor of the accused.
Legality of Offences and Penalties	No offence and no penalty shall exist without a legal text; criminal analogy is not permitted.