



Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015

2015 asp 12

PART 1

OFFENCES

Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour

4 Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
 - (a) the person holds another person in slavery or servitude and the circumstances are such that the person knows or ought to know that the other person is so held, or
 - (b) the person requires another person to perform forced or compulsory labour and the circumstances are such that the person knows or ought to know that the other person is being required to perform such labour.
- (2) In subsection (1) the references to holding a person in slavery or servitude or requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour are to be construed in accordance with Article 4 of the Human Rights Convention (which prohibits a person from being held in slavery or servitude or being required to perform forced or compulsory labour).
- (3) In determining whether a person is being held in slavery or servitude or required to perform forced or compulsory labour, regard is to be had in particular to any personal circumstances of the person (for example the person being a child, or the person's age, or the person's family relationships or health) that may make the person more vulnerable than other persons.
- (4) The consent of a person to any of the acts alleged to constitute holding the person in slavery or servitude or requiring the person to perform forced or compulsory labour, does not preclude a determination that the person is being held in slavery or servitude or required to perform forced or compulsory labour.
- (5) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable—

Changes to legislation: Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, Cross Heading: Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum (or both),
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for life or a fine (or both).
- (6) In this section “the Human Rights Convention” means the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms agreed by the Council of Europe at Rome on 4 November 1950.

Commencement Information

II [S. 4](#) in force at 31.5.2016 by [S.S.I. 2016/128](#), [reg. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 9(10) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 28\(3\)](#)
- s. 10(3) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 28\(4\)](#)