



2015 CHAPTER 2

PART 4

PROTECTION OF SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

Special measures: amendments to the Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

24.—(1) The Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 is amended as follows.

(2) In Article 3 after paragraph (1) insert—

“(1A) In this Order “a slavery or human trafficking offence” means an offence under—

- (a) section 57, 58, 58A or 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (trafficking for sexual exploitation);
- (b) section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 (trafficking for exploitation);
- (c) section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour); or
- (d) section 1 or 2 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking).”.

(3) In Article 5(4) (witnesses eligible for assistance on grounds of fear or distress about testifying) after “sexual offence” insert “ or a slavery or human trafficking offence ”.

Changes to legislation: *Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, Section 24 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 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*

(4) In Article 13(4)(a) (evidence given in private) after “sexual offence” insert “or a slavery or human trafficking offence”.

(5) In Article 21 (interpretation etc. of Part 2) after paragraph (4) insert—

“(5) For the purposes of this Part as it applies in relation to a witness who is the complainant in respect of a slavery or human trafficking offence, where the age of the witness is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that the witness is under the age of 18, that witness is presumed to be under the age of 18.”.

(6) In Article 22 (complainants in proceedings for sexual offences) after “sexual offence” insert “or a slavery or human trafficking offence”.

(7) In Article 23 (child complainants and other child witnesses) in paragraph (3) for sub-paragraph (cc) substitute—

“(cc) a slavery or human trafficking offence;”.

(8) In Article 39 (general supplementary provisions) after paragraph (2) insert—

“(3) Paragraph (2) is subject to Article 21(5).”.

Changes to legislation:

Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, Section 24 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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. 18(10A) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 28\(5\)](#)