



Tool 9.6 Measures relating to travel and identity documents

Overview

This tool introduces article 12 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, relating to security of travel and identity documents.

Travel and identity documents

Article 12 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol requires States parties to implement measures to ensure the adequacy of the “quality” and “integrity and security” of documents such as passports. The language of the article makes it clear that this includes technical measures to make documents more difficult to falsify, forge or alter and administrative and security measures to protect the production and issuance process against corruption, theft or other diversion of documents. Indirectly, supplementary offences to deal with theft, falsification and other misconduct in relation to travel or identity documents can be created if they do not exist in national law or are not covered in the definition of more general offences.

A number of new and developing technologies offer considerable potential for the creation of new types of document that uniquely identify individuals, can rapidly and accurately be read by machines and are difficult to falsify because they rely on information stored in a database out of the reach of offenders rather than on the face of the document itself.

Trafficking in Persons Protocol

Article 12. Security and control of documents

Each State Party shall take such measures as may be necessary, within available means:

(a) To ensure that travel or identity documents issued by it are of such quality that they cannot easily be misused and cannot readily be falsified or unlawfully altered, replicated or issued; and

(b) To ensure the integrity and security of travel or identity documents issued by or on behalf of the State Party and to prevent their unlawful creation, issuance and use.

Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol are identical to the corresponding provisions of the Migrants Protocol and, where a State is or intends to become a party to both Protocols, joint implementation is recommended, at least in so far as legislative measures are concerned.



For information on the related issue of border control measures, see Tool 5.11.