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MARRIAGE COERCION AND ABANDONMENT IN MOROCCO AND TURKEY

There are still women and children in the Netherlands who are taken abroad by their husbands or parents. Their passports and residence papers are taken away from them, so that they cannot return to the Netherlands by themselves. The Dutch Centre of forced marriage and abandonment (LKHA) helps victims of marriage coercion and abandonment abroad to return safely to the Netherlands.

In preparing to take these women, children and adolescents back to the Netherlands, it is important to know the local laws and regulations. Two research reports are available that describe the legislation in Morocco and Turkey, respectively, in the area of marriage, divorce, parentage and parental authority, as well as legislation on travel for women and minors.

 [Research report Morocco \(in Dutch\)](#)

 [Research report Turkey \(in Dutch\)](#)

BASIC RIGHTS

Dutch Council of State: acknowledging a child from a bigamous relationship is possible

The bigamous marriage of this Dutch man is not recognised, but the Dutch Council of State has ruled that his children from this relationship can be registered as his own and will also receive the Dutch nationality. See [here](#).

ADMISSION POLICY

Dutch Council of State: ruling on residence permit for father of Dutch child

Dutch authorities are judging ever more strictly on the preconditions related to residence permits for parents caring for a Dutch child. In this case, the father had acknowledged the child as his, but he had no parental authority. He did have proof that he had been living with the mother and child for years, and that he was actively involved in taking the children to school and attending church with them. Furthermore, it was shown that the mother has a job. The Council of State, however, found that the father was too late in registering at the GBA (i.e. Dutch Municipal Personal Records Database) and that his role in relation to school and church was too marginal. See [here](#).

District Court: No leniency on citizenship course exam abroad for elderly Moroccan woman

This woman wants to join her Moroccan-Dutch husband and settle in the Netherlands. He has a heart condition. She has not passed the citizenship course exam and petitioned the court for an exemption. The judge finds that it has not been proven that the woman will never be able to pass this exam, nor that it has been proven that the husband is truly unable to travel to Morocco. Therefore, the IND has not granted her an exemption from this integration requirement. See [here](#).

CHECK AND DETENTION

District Court: No prospect of deportation to Algeria

Over the past 13 months, no one could be deported to Algeria. The judge agrees that the obstacles to deportation mainly have to do with the coronavirus. Nevertheless, the situation has lasted for too long. The Algerian alien must be released from detention See [here](#).

ACTIVITIES

International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) : Living Undocumented in Europe

This is a new video that has gathered testimonies from undocumented people telling us what it means to be undocumented, how it feels to be called 'illegal' and how they would like to be seen, instead.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFLjd84iwGQ&t=42s>, 14.4.21

EU: Counteracting undeclared work and labour exploitation of third-country national workers

According to this report, workers with no valid work or residence permit are the most at risk of undeclared work and exploitation. They also have limited or no alternative options and experience fear in reporting exploitative conditions to authorities. The report finds that labour inspectorates are often asked to monitor the immigration law, and this can conflict with their mandate to ensure fair work and decent working conditions for all workers. Among the solutions, it recommends establishing confidential reporting mechanisms to protect workers, and carefully designed regularisation schemes. See [here](#).

European Commission : EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021–2025)

The EU anti-trafficking strategy remains largely focused on criminal law responses, but some attention is paid to empowerment of victims, which would lead to a more human-rights-based approach to anti-trafficking. The strategy invites EU governments to create safe environments for victims to report crime without fear of prosecution for acts they were forced to commit, or being exposed to secondary victimisation, intimidation or retaliation. Challenges around access to residence permits and reflection periods for non-EU citizens and Dublin transfers are also mentioned. See [here](#).