



CR Art. 24

Exploitation and Abuse of Vulnerable Persons

TITLE 04 — OFFENCES AGAINST PERSONS AND DIGNITY · CHAPTER 01 — OFFENCES AGAINST LIFE LIBERTY AND DIGNITY

- 1** In furtherance of the protections guaranteed by [Article 34\(5\)](#) of the Fundamental Laws, this Article criminalises the exploitation, abuse, and violence directed against vulnerable persons.
- 2** For the purposes of this Article, "vulnerable person" means a child under the age of eighteen, a person who is incapacitated within the meaning of [Article 12](#) of the Civil Code, a person subject to protective measures under [Article 13](#) of the Civil Code, or a person who, by reason of age, illness, or physical or mental disability, is substantially unable to protect themselves from exploitation or abuse.
- 3** Any national who commits any of the following acts against a vulnerable person commits an offence:
 - a. Physical abuse, being the intentional infliction of bodily harm or the use of physical force against a vulnerable person.
 - b. Psychological abuse or coercive control, being a pattern of acts of intimidation, humiliation, isolation, or manipulation directed at a vulnerable person with the purpose or effect of substantially impairing their autonomy.
 - c. Economic exploitation, being the misuse of a vulnerable person's assets, labour, or financial resources for the benefit of another.
 - d. Neglect, being the failure by a person who owes a duty of care to a vulnerable person to provide the care, sustenance, or protection that the vulnerable person reasonably requires.
- 4** An offence under this Article is aggravated where the offender holds a position of trust, authority, or dependency over the victim.



- 5 An offence under this Article is classified as a **grave** offence.
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- 6 A person convicted of an offence under this Article is liable to the following sanctions, in accordance with [Article 10](#):
- a. A fine of not less than \$50,000 and not exceeding \$500,000.
 - b. Public censure.
 - c. Exclusion from State services.
 - d. Revocation of any position of trust held by the offender.
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- 7 A conviction under this Article constitutes a conviction for "exploitation" or "violence" within the meaning of [Article 13\(4\)\(d\)](#) of the Civil Code and bars the convicted person from appointment as guardian.
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