HOW TO READ A COUNTRY NARRATIVE

This page shows a sample country narrative. The tier ranking justification for each country in this year’s report appears in the first paragraph of each country narrative and includes language that explicitly highlights the factors supporting a given tier ranking. The Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention sections of each country narrative describe how a government has or has not addressed the relevant TVPA minimum standards (see page 40), during the reporting period. This truncated narrative gives a few examples.

COUNTRY X: TIER 2 WATCHLIST

The country's tier ranking is based on the government's efforts to combat trafficking as measured against the TVPA minimum standards and compared to its efforts in the preceding year.

The Government of X does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated significant efforts during the reporting period by undertaking awareness raising efforts and reaffirming its commitment to enact anti-trafficking legislation. However, the government did not demonstrate increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period. The government did not show evidence of convicting or punishing trafficking offenders and identifying victims of trafficking. Therefore X remained on Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Enact the draft comprehensive anti-trafficking law to increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses.

2. Apply formal procedures to identify vulnerable groups, such as those arrested for prostitution and collect, disaggregate, analyze and disseminate counter-trafficking law enforcement data.

3. The Ministry of the Interior has a process by which it refers victims to the trafficking shelter; however, this process is underutilized in practice.

PROSECUTION

The Government of X took no new actions to convict its nationals for soliciting children for sex in other countries. This is a pending case. The government did not adequately protect victims of trafficking, including by providing legal alternatives to their removal from the country.

PROTECTION

Country X maintained minimal efforts to protect victims of trafficking during the reporting period. Although health care facilities reportedly refer suspected abuse cases to the government anti-trafficking shelter for investigation, the government continues to lack a systematic procedure for law enforcement to identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable populations, such as foreign workers awaiting deportation and women arrested for prostitution. As a result, victims may be punished and automatically deported without being identified as victims or offered protection. The government reported that the Ministry of the Interior has a process by which it refers victims to the trafficking shelter; however, the process is underutilized in practice.

TRAFFICKING PROFILE

As reported over the past five years, Country X is a transit and destination country for men and women subjected to forced labor, and, to a much lesser extent, forced prostitution. Men and women from South and Southeast Asia, East Africa, and the Middle East are destination country for men and women subjected to forced labor and, to a much lesser extent, forced prostitution. Men and women subjected to forced labor and, to a much lesser extent, forced prostitution.

SUMMARY OF THE DEVELOPMENTS

Country X commonly fines and detains potential trafficking victims for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking, such as immigration violations and running away from their sponsors, without determining whether the individuals are victims of trafficking.

Country X sometimes offers temporary relief from deportations so that victims can testify as witnesses against their exploiters. However, victims were generally not permitted to leave the country if there is a pending case. The government did not routinely encourage victims to assist in trafficking investigations or consistently offer victims alternative removal to countries where they may face retribution or hardship.

PREVENTION

Country X increased efforts to prevent trafficking in persons during the reporting period. While the government made no apparent effort to amend provisions of Country X’s sponsorship law to help prevent the forced labor of migrant workers, the government did start to enforce other parts of the law to the benefit of migrant workers. One provision in the sponsorship law continues to require foreign workers to request exit permits from their sponsors in order to leave Country X. Although this may increase migrant workers’ vulnerability to forced labor, the law created a new process through which a laborer who was not granted an exit permit due to a sponsor’s refusal or other circumstances can seek one by other means. The Ministry of Labor sponsored media campaigns and organized informational workshops for officials, NGOs, and labor recruitment agencies.

However, the government did not provide anti-trafficking training or guidance to its diplomatic personnel during the reporting period. The government did not take any public awareness campaigns aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sex acts in Country X, but it government convicted two of its nationals for soliciting children for sex in other countries and sentenced them to 10 years’ imprisonment.

Overview of human trafficking in the country and factors affecting vulnerability to trafficking in the country’s nationals abroad.