

## **The importance of collaboration and prevention are repeatedly emphasised in the Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP), issued 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.**

Regarded by the United States' State Department as "...the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-trafficking efforts," the 422 paged TIP report rates 190 nations – increased from 188 in 2015, with the addition of Yemen and Libya this year - on how effectively governments are addressing the human trafficking industry.

"The purpose of this report is to enlighten, *energise* and empower. That is why it incorporates the insights of NGO's, advocates and survivors with first-hand experience of this horrific crime. By issuing it, we want to bring to the public's attention, the full nature and scope of the \$150 Billion illicit human trafficking industry. We want to provide evidence and facts that will help people who are already working to achieve reforms and alleviate suffering. And we want to provide a strong incentive for governments at every level to do all they can to prevent and prosecute trafficking, identify and support victims and shield at-risk populations."

John F. Kerry, US Secretary of State.

### **3 categories of ranking:**

The report ranks countries based on whether and how well they are addressing modern slavery; how well they identify and prosecute traffickers and how to use the threat of prosecution as a deterrent.

A 3-tiered scale is used, as follows:

- **Tier 1:** Governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards.
- **Tier 2:** Governments do not fully comply, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.
- **Tier 2 Watch List:** Governments do not fully comply, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance, as well as other negative indicators.
- **Tier 3:** Governments do not fully comply and are not making significant efforts to do so. (Source: U.S. State Department).

### **Category analysis:**

According to this year's report, global prosecutions increased by 88%; convictions increased by 49% and victims identified by law enforcement officials increased by 75% over the previous year 2015. However, this year's report indicates that 27 nations have been downgraded.

### TIP Report, June 2016 – 27 Countries downgraded since last year’s report.

Afghanistan, Benin, Capo Verde, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti , Haiti, Hong Kong, Kiribati, Luxembourg.	Mozambique, Macedonia, Myanmar (3), Niger, Oman, Papua New Guinea (3), Rwanda.	Serbia, Senegal, the Seychelles, St. Lucia, Swaziland, Surinam (3), Sudan (3), Tonga, Turkmenistan (3), Uzbekistan.
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- On the other hand, the 2016 TIP report finds that twenty nations are doing better in the fight against human trafficking, as set out in the following three tables:

### TIP Report, June 2016- Countries upgraded from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List (T2WL).

Thailand.			
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**Thailand** has moved up from the bottom rung to the Tier 2 Watch List (2 WL), due to the government's "significant efforts" to eliminate human trafficking. However, the report acknowledges widespread labour trafficking in the seafood and fishing industry, in addition to Thailand’s extensive commercial sex industry.

- Twelve nations have been upgraded from the Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2 as follows,

### TIP Report, June 2016- 12 Countries upgraded from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2.

Cambodia.	Egypt.	Lebanon.	Namibia.
Botswana.	Burkina Faso.	Guyana.	Jamaica.
Kuwait.	Lesotho.	Mauritius.	Timor Leste.

- Seven countries moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1, including **Colombia, Cyprus, Lithuania** and the **Philippines**.

### TIP Report, June 2016- Countries upgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 1.

Colombia.	Cyprus.	Lithuania.	The Philippines.
Georgia.	St. Maarten.	Slovenia.	

### An overview of the general contents:

Calling for increased public awareness of human trafficking and for campaigns to reduce local demands for the sex industry, the report recommends effective strategies to help prevent human trafficking. It also recommends the use of the 3P paradigms, Prosecution, Protection and Prevention.

The report documents multi-lateral collaborations among countries; the importance of awareness-raising activities (examples on p.13); the value of research, data collection and programme evaluations; the establishment of policies and programmes to reduce risk and help empower vulnerable people (examples p. 15 & 16). Throughout, there is an emphasis on the power of collaborative efforts, examples of which are to be found on pp. 17 and 18.

Categorised as being of *Special Interest*, the report calls attention to the challenges met when trying to protect populations rendered vulnerable by war, civil unrest and extreme climate change.

Specific reference is made to the need for efforts to ensure victims are protected from wrongful prosecution and further victimisation. It is hoped that this should eventually encourage victims to find their voice and expose their traffickers. The report highlights the power of "isolation" and the very significant role it plays in facilitating human trafficking. The report identifies certain populations as being especially vulnerable to human trafficking, in particular, refugees, migrants, LGBTI individuals, people with disabilities, religious minorities and those who are misplaced.

Despite sustained anti-trafficking efforts, the report acknowledges that traffickers still manage to coerce and manipulate the vulnerable for profit. The report demands recognition for the broader impacts of human trafficking on society such as the dissention of families and communities; the distortion of global markets; the undermining of the rule of law and the strengthening of criminal networks internationally.

The critical importance of preventative measures and of collaboration, are repeated throughout the report, which demands that "Governments must work in partnerships with NGOs, survivors, community and religious leaders and the private sector to study vulnerable populations and develop targeted strategies to prevent and address the factors that drive modern slavery in their communities.

Without prevention, governments are left to respond to the consequences of human trafficking without coming any nearer to seeing the end." (John F. Kerry, p.7). Susan Coppedge, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, states this year's report "...focuses on strategies to prevent human trafficking around the globe...and features ways governments can identify people most at-risk and reduce their vulnerability. The more governments understand the needs of these populations, the better they can partner with civil society to support communities and educate individuals to prevent their being exploited" (TIP report, 2016, p3).

In referring to victims' experiences of trauma, violence and abuse, the report recognises the power and impact of *vicarious traumas* resembling post-traumatic stress syndromes which can include emotional, behavioural and physical symptoms such as anxiety, depression, disturbed sleep, changes in appetite, nightmares, irritability, loss of empathy and numbness. The report alerts us also to the need to "care for the carers," such as social workers, interpreters, prosecutors, shelter staff, direct-service providers and others involved in providing care and support to victims of human trafficking.

In conclusion, there is much done but so much more to be done. Greater collaborative efforts are necessary. There is an urgency to find more creative ways to work together in service of

those who are most vulnerable to traffickers. There must be no let-up in the fight against human trafficking.

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