

# Antigua and Barbuda - United States Department of State

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: Tier 2

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period; therefore Antigua and Barbuda remained on Tier 2. These efforts included increasing investigations and prosecutions, stronger international cooperation on trafficking case investigations, dedicating funding to victim protection, and increasing anti-trafficking law enforcement training and awareness raising. However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in key areas. The government identified and protected fewer victims, and the government has never convicted a trafficker.

## PRIORITIZED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Vigorously investigate, prosecute, convict, and punish traffickers, including complicit officials. • Increase efforts to identify victims through proactive screening of vulnerable populations, such as migrants and individuals in commercial sex. • Implement standard operating procedures government-wide on proactive identification and referral of victims and train front-line agencies in indicators of forced labor and sex trafficking. • Increase trauma-informed training on trafficking for NGO, shelter, and social services staff to improve their ability to care for potential trafficking victims. • Target police, prosecutor, and judicial training on improved trafficking case evidence collection that is acceptable in court and police hearings. • Provide adequate funding to implement the national action plan across all agencies. • Develop formal agreements with international organizations and countries for cooperation and information sharing, including on evidence and data collection, as well as victim assistance. • Conduct and publish analysis of government anti-trafficking efforts and accomplishments.

## PROSECUTION

The government increased prosecution efforts. The 2010 Trafficking In Persons (Prevention) Act criminalized sex trafficking and labor trafficking and prescribed penalties of up to 20 years' imprisonment and a fine of up to 400,000 Eastern Caribbean dollars (\$148,150) for offenses involving an adult victim and up to 25 years' imprisonment and a fine of up to 600,000 Eastern Caribbean dollars (\$222,220) for those involving a child victim. These penalties were sufficiently stringent and, with respect to sex trafficking, commensurate with those for other serious crimes, such as rape.

Authorities investigated 10 cases of potential trafficking during the reporting period, compared with seven cases in