



# Harvard Model Congress

## Boston 2024

---

# Human Trafficking Update

*By Sam Libenson*

---

On February 6, 2024, the United States Department of State released its annual Report to Congress on 2024 Trafficking in Persons. This report is mandated annually by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). Part of the act “requires the Secretary of State submit a list of countries that require special scrutiny to Congress and to provide an Interim Assessment of the progress made in combating trafficking in persons by the countries on that list” (U.S. Department of State, 2024).

The TVPA classifies each country in one of four tiers, the tier 1 indicating full compliance “with the TVPA’s minimum standards” and tier 3 indicating a lack of full compliance “with the minimum standards,” and a lack of significant effort to do so (U.S. Department of State, 2024). In the middle are two designations — tier 2 and the tier 2 watchlist. Tier 2 designates “countries and territories whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA’s minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.” The tier 2 watch list designates countries who meet the above criteria, and “the estimated number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing and the country is not taking proportional concrete actions; or there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of [trafficking] from the previous year” (U.S. Department of State, 2024).

The 2024 Interim report reported on countries that either increased from tier 2 to tier 1 in the previous year or that are currently on the tier 2 watch list. As such, the 2024 report included 28 countries total, two of which increased to tier 1 status, and 26 of which are on the tier 2 watch list. The plurality of countries included in the report are in Africa, who had nine countries in the report. The next highest region was East Asia and the Pacific, who had six countries included, followed by the Western Hemisphere (five countries), Europe and Eurasia (four countries), and the Near East (four countries).

Included in the report is both a description of what, precisely, each country has been doing to successfully combat human trafficking, as well as why they have fallen short. For example, the report details that “The Government of Malaysia identified more victims, investigated, and prosecuted more traffickers, and updated and trained officials on the National Guidelines on Human Trafficking Indicators; however, the government did not expand victims’ access to communications and unchaperoned freedom of movement from trafficking shelters and did not expand labor protections for domestic workers” (U.S. Department of State, 2024).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

“Report to Congress on 2024 Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment Pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act - United States Department of State.” *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 6 Feb. 2024, [www.state.gov/report-to-congress-on-2024-trafficking-in-persons-interim-assessment-pursuant-to-the-trafficking-victims-protection-act/](https://www.state.gov/report-to-congress-on-2024-trafficking-in-persons-interim-assessment-pursuant-to-the-trafficking-victims-protection-act/).