

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (2017)

THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR
Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention

REPORTING	Fulfillment of Government’s reporting obligations	YES.	
	Involvement of Employers’ and Workers’ organizations in the reporting process	YES, The Government has communicated the report to the Antigua & Barbuda Employers' Federation and the Antigua & Barbuda Trade Union Congress.	
OBSERVATIONS BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS	Employers’ organizations	No.	
	Workers’ organizations	No.	
EFFORTS AND PROGRESS MADE IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL	Ratification	Ratification status	Antigua and Barbuda has not yet ratified the Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention.
		Ratification intention	2017 AR: The Government indicated that the ratification of the 2014 Protocol is likely.
	Existence of a policy and / or plan of action for the suppression of forced or compulsory labour	2017 AR: The Government reported that there is no national policy and plan of action for effective and sustained suppression of all forms as well as for setting out measures and specific action for combatting trafficking in persons.	
	Measures taken or envisaged for systematic and coordinated action	2017 AR: The Government reported that members of the Police Force, Immigration and Customs Officers and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Public Safety and Labour are directly responsible for the implementation, coordination and assessment of the measures. The primary objective is to prevent and suppress all forms of forced or compulsory labour.	
	Measures taken or envisaged to prevent all forms of forced labour	2017 AR: According to the Government, the measures taken or envisaged include: a) awareness campaigns: the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee is constantly involved in the distribution of pamphlets and promotional tokens, offering interviews on National radio and television, creating a Facebook page to disseminate information, and undertaking spontaneous interaction with the public. b) school children, churches, social groups and the public are educated on the detection and prevention practices on trafficking persons; c) the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee make recommendations on ways to prevent and suppress human trafficking by advising the Minister of Labour; d) labour inspectors are charged with responsibilities to enter and examine any premises, to question persons and to report suspected cases of violation to the Labour Commissioner; e) continuous education of the public on human trafficking and encouraging the use of the hotline intervention for suspected cases; f) the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee will collect and document information to be used by the relevant Government Officials to strengthen laws and to be proactive in the detection of victims; g) creation of a point of contact at all ports of entry geared towards displaying information to migrants on human trafficking; h) all relevant officials involved (Police, Customs Officers, Immigration Officers, members of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDPC)) are provided with training; and i) workers are encouraged to become unionized.	

	<p>Measures taken or envisaged to protect victims of forced labour</p>	<p>2017 AR: The Government reported that the measures take or envisaged include: a) Continuous training is provided for Police, ONDCP, Immigration, Customs, Labour and the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee; b) the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Act of 2010 establishes the scope of legal protection to victims and establish the penalties and prosecution of perpetrators; c) NGO'S and Businesses provide food, clothing and shelter to victims; d) the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee working in collaboration with the Directorate of Gender provide free medical assistance through the local clinics, family planning and counselling services are available; e) all parties involved in caring for victims are made aware on a 'need to know' basis. All parties involve are required to maintain the confidentiality of the victims.</p>
	<p>Measures taken or envisaged to facilitate access to remedies</p>	<p>2017 AR: According to the Government: a) the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee working in conjunction with the Directorate of Gender Affairs informs victims of their rights as trafficked persons and will assist in providing victims with access to counselling services, free of cost; b) the Trafficking in Persons Committee will make contact with the Legal Affairs department to provide victims with legal aid at no cost; c) the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Act of 2010 indicates that a Police Officer may rescue a trafficked person, take that person into temporary custody and produce him/her before a Magistrate within 24 hours to obtain a protection order. The Magistrate may make an interim protection order for that person to be housed in a place of refuge for 14 days until investigation is completed. If further protection is required based on findings, the protection order may be extended to 3 months; d) the Attorney General may apply to the court for an order for a person convicted to pay the Crown an amount in compensation for expenses incurred in connect with the care, medical treatment, accommodation, transportation and repatriation of a trafficked person. Additionally, any property owned by convicted persons will be forfeited to the Crown.</p>
	<p>Non-prosecution of victims for unlawful acts that they would have been forced to carry out</p>	
	<p>Cooperation with other Member States, international / regional organizations or NGOs</p>	<p>2017 AR: The Government indicated that the International Organization for Migration assists with education, training, and funding of the activities of the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee. NGO's such as Red Cross and Lions Club provide material assistance to the Trafficking In Persons Prevention Committee. The IOM has provided some platform for the collaboration with other regional countries in providing information to Antigua upon request and assistance to victims who are repatriated. However, there must be some other means to strengthen dialogue between countries to assist in/provide advice in developing sound structures to combat human trafficking.</p>
	<p>Promotional activities</p>	
	<p>Special initiatives/Progress</p>	<p>2017 AR: According to the Government: the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee has created a Secretariat that is now responsible for capturing and storing data of reported cases of Trafficking through agencies such as Immigration, Customs and the Police. Although there are known cases, documentation is lacking due to lack of resources to put an information system in place. The Trafficking in Persons Prevention Secretariat will develop programs and policies through the collection of data from the education and investigative task forces of the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee.</p>

<p>CHALLENGES IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL</p>	<p>According to the social partners</p>	<p>Employers' organizations</p>	
		<p>Workers' organizations</p>	
	<p>According to the Government</p>	<p>2017 AR: According to the Government, some of the main challenges include a) lack of information and data; b) social values and cultural traditions; and c) social and economic circumstances: Migrants come to the country on the premise of a better life for themselves and support to their family back home as a cultural practice in the region. They are entrusted to the care of a close friend or a family member in the country, who may exploit them. Some cases are easily detected but others are yet to be discovered especially in the area of domestic work. The government is yet to include in its budgetary preparations, finances dedicated to the care of victims rather than great reliance on NGO's and other businesses to assist.</p>	
<p>TECHNICAL COOPERATION NEEDS</p>	<p>Request</p>	<p>2017 AR: The Government indicated the need for technical cooperation with the ILO in the following areas:</p> <p><i>Most important:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection and analysis of data and information - Guidance on the development of the national policy and plan of action - Exchange of experiences between countries or regions; international cooperation <p><i>Important:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment, in cooperation with the ILO, of the obstacles identified and their impact on the realization of the principle - Awareness-raising and mobilization activities - Strengthening the legal framework - Capacity building for the competent authorities - Inter-institutional coordination - Promotion of fair recruitment and placement practices - Promotion of fair migration policies - Guidance on supporting due diligence - Capacity building for employers' and workers' organizations - Promotion of freedom of association and collective bargaining to enable at-risk workers to join workers' organizations <p><i>Less important:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocational training, job-creation and income-generation programmes for at-risk populations - Basic social security guarantees 	
	<p>Offer</p>	<p>NIL.</p>	