

## **Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom**

### **Turks and Caicos**

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) are a destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. The large population of migrants from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica continue to be vulnerable to sex trafficking and forced labor, and the estimated 2,000 stateless children and adolescents in TCI are especially at risk, according to local experts. Local stakeholders including law enforcement officials reported specific knowledge of sex trafficking occurring in bars and brothels and noted that trafficking-related complicity by some local government officials was a problem. During the reporting period, anti-trafficking legislation that included measures to improve identification of and assistance for trafficking victims remained in draft form. The absence of specific legislation prohibiting trafficking as defined by the 2000 UN TIP Protocol, the absence of trafficking victim identification and protection procedures and policies, and little public awareness of human trafficking continued to hinder TCI authorities' ability to address trafficking.

### **Bermuda**

Bermuda is a limited destination country for women subjected to domestic servitude. Stakeholders report that foreign migrant workers are vulnerable to conditions of forced labor. In a previous year, a Bermudan woman was subjected to sex trafficking in the United States. During the year, Bermudan authorities took some important positive steps to address domestic servitude involving victims from the Philippines and Ecuador. In one case, arbitration resulted in compensation for one victim who received back wages from her employers, though authorities did not prosecute or convict any trafficking offenders in 2012.

During the year, local stakeholders called on the government to introduce legislation to improve protections for, and prevent trafficking of, migrant workers in Bermuda, including domestic and hospitality workers. Stakeholders reported three cases of abuse of domestic workers from Latin America and Asia, including workers barred from leaving the home, forbidden from interacting with others, and receiving only a small portion of their promised wages. None of the cases resulted in an official complaint to Bermudan authorities. In previous years, there were some reported cases of employers confiscating passports and threatening migrant workers with having to repay the entire cost or the return portion of their airline tickets. Bermudan authorities and NGOs continued to report that victims rarely lodge formal complaints out of fear of retaliation. Migrant workers are employed in Bermuda under a strict system of government work permits obtained by employers on behalf of foreign workers. The Bermuda Industrial Union in 2009 began offering union protection to some migrant workers, and in 2012 several NGOs offered meetings for migrant workers to help explain their rights and legal protections.