

ISRAEL (2016-2018)
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	<p>2018 AR: Yes, copies of the report were sent to the Manufacturer's Association of Israel (MAI) and the General Federation of Labour.</p> <p>2017 AR: Yes. The Manufacturer's Association of Israel (MAI) and the General Federation of Trade Unions (Histadrut) have been consulted by correspondence and sharing of documents.</p>	
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	Israel has not yet ratified the Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention.
		Ratification intention	
	Existence of a policy and / or plan of action for the suppression of forced or compulsory labour	<p>2017 AR: There are national policies and plans of action for preventing all forms of forced labour and combatting trafficking-in-persons for purposes of forced labour.</p> <p>2016 AR: The Anti-Trafficking Law (Legislation Amendments) 5767-2006 was enacted in 2006, and inter alia amended the Penal Law by creating five core offenses, which together encompass the main aspects of the trafficking in persons phenomenon.</p>	
	Measures taken or envisaged for systematic and coordinated action	<p>2017 AR: The Government of Israel (hereafter: "GOI") has amended the Israeli Penal Law 5737-1977 so it would encompass the trafficking in persons offense, it established the National AntiTrafficking Unit (NATU), it established a Directors Generals Committee on Trafficking in Persons and developed national plans to battle trafficking in persons for the purpose of prostitution, labor and slavery. Furthermore, the GOI has appointed anti-trafficking coordinators in the Police, The State Attorney's Office, the Population and immigration authority (PIBA), the Ministry of Labor and Social Services (MLSS) and in other Government Ministries. The GOI has developed two National Action Plans, for combatting trafficking for prostitution and for combatting modern slavery and forced labour. Development of a new National Plan is underway.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice (hereafter: "MOJ"): The national AntiTrafficking Unit (NATU): The NATU, headed by the National Coordinator, is the primary government agency to coordinate anti-trafficking efforts on a national scale. The NATU was established according to a 2006 Government Resolution and it operates independently, under the MOJ. The NATU serves both as a coordination body and as a leader in policy development. Its mission is to promote cooperation between all relevant government authorities and also to serve as a bridge between government authorities and non-governmental organizations, as well as with relevant international bodies. The State Attorney's Office: The State Attorney's Office is at the forefront of anti-trafficking prosecution and victim protection efforts. The State Attorney's Office (under the MOJ) is The State of Israel's principal civil and criminal prosecuting authority. In The State Attorney's Office and the Districts' Attorneys' Offices there are key coordinators who specialize in the topic of trafficking in persons. These coordinators are active participants in various seminars, training sessions and international forums</p>	

		<p>on the subject and they work closely with The State’s Attorney’s Office Coordinator of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and the NATU. The Legal Aid Administration: The Legal Aid Administration provides free legal aid to victims of trafficking in civil trials and in certain administrative appeals. While it is part of the GOI, it enjoys some independence and may also file suits or petition against the GOI on behalf of the victims when necessary, and has done so in the past.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labor and Social Services (hereafter: “MLSS”): MLSS Enforcement Division: The MLSS (formerly the MOE) Enforcement Division is responsible for monitoring, investigating and prosecuting violations of the labor laws that apply to all workers in Israel, including foreign workers, such as: Minimum Wage Law 5747-1987, Work and Rest Hours Law 5711-1951, Protection of Wages Law 5718-1958, etc. This division has moved from the Ministry of Economy to the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services (MLSS), along with the division of the Ministry of Economy responsible for labor policy and enforcement, but its roles and responsibilities remained unchanged. Furthermore, both the MLSS Enforcement Division and the PIBA Enforcement and Prosecution Units are responsible for the enforcement of the Foreign Workers Law, which includes provisions requiring that foreign workers be given proper labor and living conditions including, for example, health insurance. The enforcement is conducted either by means of criminal indictments or by imposing administrative fines. The MLSS Enforcement Division conducts routine training sessions for labor inspectors and operates according to the guiding principles provided by the NATU. It also collaborates with other enforcement authorities in investigations of trafficking in persons. The Ombudswoman for the Labor Rights of Foreign Workers: The Ombudswoman operates independently under the MLSS. The objective of the Ombudswoman is to further fight trafficking in persons by impeding unsafe work environments that could be grounds for exploitation, and in extreme cases, may in themselves amount to trafficking in persons. The Ombudswoman is responsible for receiving complaints and inquiries from foreign workers regarding violations of labor laws, monitoring employment conditions, providing foreign workers with information and advice on the application of various laws, providing information regarding their status as indicated in the records of the Ministry of Interior and providing general information on labor rights.</p> <p>The Population and Immigration Authority (hereafter: “PIBA”): The Border Control Administration is responsible for monitoring exits and entrances to Israel and includes PIBA’s Coordinator for Trafficking in Persons who is a senior member of the above Administration. The Coordinator is responsible for deciding upon the issuance of special visas for victims of trafficking, as well as arranging and carrying out training for PIBA officials on recognizing and fighting trafficking in persons. The Employer and Foreign Worker Service Administration (hereinafter: the “Permits Unit”) is in charge of issuing, denying and suspending permits for the employment or recruitment of foreign workers. The Permits Unit is also in charge of revoking or limiting such permits where there have been violations of labor regulations or other irregularities. The PIBA Enforcement Unit is responsible for detaining illegal foreigners and conducting hearings consequent to which they are released or placed in a detention facility prior to removal from Israel. It is also in charge of supervising compliance with the legal requirements relating to the labor conditions of foreign workers investigating violations. The PIBA enforcement unit includes the Refugee Status Determination Unit (RSD) which reviews applications for refugee status. The Prosecution Unit is in charge of the prosecution of criminal offenses that involve labor violations and, in certain cases, the living conditions of foreign workers. The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Bilateral Foreign Worker Recruitment Agreements, headed by the Director General of PIBA, leads the negotiation of such agreements, signed between Israel and the countries of origin of low-skilled foreign workers, with the intention of ensuring well informed, supervised recruitment practices. Such agreements are a central and effective tool for preventing trafficking in persons since they include many mechanisms intended to protect low-skilled foreign workers prior to and upon their arrival in Israel.</p>
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	<p>Measures taken or envisaged to protect victims of forced labour</p>	<p>2017 AR: The following measures have been taken or envisaged:</p> <p>a) <i>Training of relevant actors for identification of forced labour practices</i>: In the field of prevention, we find that one of the crucial ways of maintaining full awareness of the phenomena of trafficking in persons is to conduct training sessions for different officials who might come in contact with victims or situations as such. Accordingly, the NATU – and other relevant officials conduct training sessions, for a variety of government officials, including prosecutors, social workers, judges, and many more professionals: 1) border control officers from Israel’s southern entry points (Eilat) were given training in this field, for the first time, due to the increase in international commercial flights to Eilat, and the unique challenges that characterize this multinational junction. 2) Training initiatives have also been taken by the anti-trafficking coordinators in the Police, The State Attorney’s Office, the PIBA and the Ombudswomen for Foreign Workers Rights at the MLSS. In this regard, the Police Anti-trafficking Coordinating Officer gave eleven (11) lectures to other bodies on the fight against trafficking, and 200 PIBA employees have undergone training this year. 3) Furthermore, lectures, seminars and interviews for the wider public were conducted on a regular basis throughout the year in different forums, such as higher education institutes and the media. Information leaflets on trafficking were distributed in different arenas, such as the “Take note”-information leaflet on identifying victims of trafficking in persons. 4) Special focus has been directed, this year, to vulnerable groups in society, aimed at preventing abuse and exploitation that could lead to trafficking and slavery, and identifying those who have already been victimized within Israel. These groups include, amongst others, victim of the Sinai Camps, and in particular women and men who are in prostitution, and physically impaired persons who are brought to Israel in order to work in begging.</p>

		<p>b) <i>Legal protection of victims</i>: Every victim of trafficking in Israel receives a rehabilitation year in a shelter supplemented by a stay and work visa, medical care, and legal aid. In addition, since September 2013, the GOI also provides work permits to victims of trafficking. The GOI offers a wide array of treatment possibilities that include two (2) shelters for women and for men, transitional apartments and a Day Center. This year, psychiatric care at the shelters began to be provided regularly by a psychiatrist from the “Gesher” Ministry of Health clinic – with special expertise in trauma care - who visits the shelter every other week. New and significant efforts were also made in handling new patterns of trafficking – ten (10) deaf-mute victims were recognized as victims of trafficking and were immediately transferred from the detention center to the shelter – and a thorough police investigation commenced. While the criminal investigation was ultimately terminated, this still represents an important step in the understanding and handling of this new pattern. In 2016 the forfeiture fund for TIP and slavery began its operations. The fund is managed by a committee which includes both government and public representatives, and has allocated funds to both victims of the offenses and bodies providing victim aid.</p> <p>c) <i>Material assistance for victims</i>: The Day Center: one of the goals of the Day Center is to support and mediate additional services and provide material aid and concrete solutions as needed.</p> <p>d) <i>Medical and psychological assistance for victims</i>: <i>Medical Assistance</i>: 1) Victims of trafficking who reside in a shelter receive complete medical care free of charge, including, inter alia, hospitalization, medical enquiries, free medicines, and counseling. The shelter's assigned physician arrives twice a week at fixed times. 2) The “Terem” clinic, located in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, is funded by the Ministry of Health and provides primary medical care, including a doctor's examination, laboratory services and imaging services (x-ray and ultrasound). A volunteer clinic also operates within “Terem”, with specialists in various areas.</p> <p><i>Psychological Assistance</i>: 1) Psychiatric treatment used to be provided on a per case basis, but as of 2016 is provided regularly by a psychiatrist, who visits the shelter every other week. This change has created a real turning point for mental health services provided in shelters for victims of trafficking, due to the availability of the psychiatrist and because of the frequency of her meetings with patients, in a manner enabling for the first time a continuing monitoring of patients. Moreover, this is a psychiatrist from the “Gesher” clinic, specializing in caring for the shelters’ populations, demonstrating cultural sensitivity and professionalism in the treatment given to the victims. In 2016, Psychiatric care was provided in the shelters and transitional apartments to thirty four (34) victims: fourteen (14) women and twenty (20) men. 2) The “Gesher” mental health clinic at the Community Center for Mental Health in Jaffa, funded by the Ministry of Health, provides mental health services, including psycho-social support and medication. Due to the large number of attendees at the clinic, it was decided to expand the service to several other clinics in 2017: two clinics in the center of the country, and one in the south.</p> <p>e) <i>Measures for the rehabilitation and social and professional reintegration of victims</i>: Rehabilitation measures for trafficking victims and detainees in compulsory conditions are provided in the shelter according to Permit B 1.</p> <p>f) <i>Protection of privacy and identity</i>: The privacy and identity of the victims are protected during the penal proceedings according to various laws. Special attention in this regard is given to minors.</p> <p>g) <i>Appropriate accommodation</i>: the PIBA Enforcement Unit is responsible for the investigation and enforcement of cases related to employment of foreign workers without a permit or contrary to the employers' obligations to provide foreign workers with adequate accommodations and medical insurance. The PIBA Enforcement Unit also investigates infringement of conditions set out in employment or recruitment permits for the purpose of administrative sanctions by the Permits Division. The Unit also investigates workers' complaints concerning the above, as received by the PIBA Hotline (anchored in the bilateral agreements), various NGOs, or directly from the workers themselves.</p> <p>h) <i>Specific measures for children</i>: 1) The MAOR program – a national program for the prevention of violence and crime against children and teenagers online. This system will include, among other things, the establishment of a dedicated police unit for crime</p>
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		<p>against minors on the internet, including pedophilia and prostitution, a national center for child protection, that will coordinate inquiries 24/7 on bullying and cybercrimes, a prevention and advocacy division, to promote and work to raise public awareness and an immediate support providing toll-free calls from all over the country and from any phone.</p> <p>2) Children of victims of trafficking receive free and full medical care through the health insurance provided to them by the "Meuhedet" health fund. Furthermore, family health centers provide child development screening tests; follow-up examinations during pregnancy, and all the required vaccinations.</p> <p>3) In 2016, the "Ma'agan" Shelter continued to provide psycho-social assistance to women victims of trafficking for prostitution and slavery and their children. The services are provided both at the individual level and at the inter-community level at the shelter, to help women acquire skills that will enable them to return to live in the community, whether the women will return to their country of origin or remain in Israel.</p> <p>i) <i>Specific measures for migrants:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Bilateral Agreements. 2) The PIBA Hotline. 3) PIBA and MLSS Enforcement Divisions. 4) Kav LaOved – Worker's Hotline: a non-profit organization which aims to protect the rights of the most disadvantaged workers in Israel, addressing violations through individual assistance, advocacy, outreach and more. The worker's hotline work in collaboration with the Labor Standards Enforcement Division of the Ministry of Economy, in order to eliminate all forms of forced labour. <p>2016 AR: The Government specified various measures: <i>a) Shelters, Transitional Apartments and Day Center:</i> The GOI treatment program for victims of trafficking includes varied frameworks that are not all identical in their nature, but rather constitute a diverse set of solutions, intended for victims of different needs and in different rehabilitative stages. It includes the following: Ma'agan - a shelter for women victims (35 places); Atlas - a center for men victims (35 places); Transitional Apartment Complex for women victims (18 places); A transitional Apartment for men victims (6 places); The Day Center. The Tesfa-Hope shelter, which was opened in 2014 in order to house up to eighteen women victims of trafficking for the purpose of labor and slavery, was closed during 2015, due to the absence of new referrals. <i>b) "Voluntary Return and Reintegration" Project:</i> based on a solid cooperation with the Center for International Migration and Integration, in cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee Israel, the "Voluntary Return and Reintegration" Project continued to operate. The project offers extremely wide aid package that includes (through representatives of IOM in the country of origin): travel and accompanying arrangements at the airport (in Israel and in the country of origin); medical aid; financial grant for preliminary expenses in the amount of 80 Euros; aid and long term guidance at the country of origin in order to find accommodation; and the establishment of a business or participation in a professional training.</p>
	<p>Measures taken or envisaged to facilitate access to remedies</p>	<p>2017 AR: The following measures have been taken or envisaged:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Information and counselling for victims regarding their rights:</i> through the Ombudswoman for the Labor Rights of Foreign Workers and the PIBA Hotline. b) <i>Free legal assistance</i> (through the Legal Aid Administration (LAA)). c) <i>Cost-free proceedings:</i> legal aid is granted free of charges to victims of trafficking and detainees in conditions of forced labour. d) <i>Development of forced labour indicators:</i> In 2008, an inter-ministerial committee was established in order to facilitate identification of cases of human trafficking, which submitted its recommendations. e) <i>Access to remedies and compensation:</i> through the Legal Aid Administration (LAA), and Dedicated Forfeiture Fund - The AntiTrafficking Law (Legislation Amendments) 5767-2006 established a special forfeiture fund, where forfeited property and fines from trafficking and slavery offenses are deposited and are dedicated to various causes in combating TIP – with a special emphasis on victim protection and compensation. Institutions, government bodies and NGOs may apply for funds, as well as – uniquely – victims of the offences, who may ask for funds for the purposes

		<p>of rehabilitation, as well as to request court ordered compensation which they have been unable to collect from the offenders. The Law gives precedence to victim protection and rehabilitation, ordering that at least half of the funds each year be allocated to that purpose. In 2016, the fund began its operations – having finally accumulated enough funds. In 2016, NATU hosted two dedicated study visits – one of a delegation from Albania which concerned Israel's mechanisms for victim compensation.</p> <p>f) <i>Capacity building and enhanced resources for the competent authorities, such as labour inspection, law enforcement, prosecution services and judges:</i></p> <p><u>Judges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tribunal's judges and administrative employees take part in a designated training day and also in seminars on trafficking in persons. • MASHAV conducts a bi-annual international conference for judges and justices entitled “The Critical Role of the Judiciary in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings”. The conference was held on November 6-10, 2016 and hosted 36 participants (15 women, 21 men) from several countries. Conference participants included Supreme Court justices and judges who encounter cases of trafficking in their respective countries, as well as heads of Institutes of Judicial studies. The conference aims to establish a worldwide network of judges to nurture cross-border collaboration and the exchange of information in the common fight against human trafficking and to understand culture as an impediment to combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Every year a training course is held on the topic of sex offenses and trafficking in persons, with the participation of the Institute of Advanced Judicial Studies. The goal is to gradually have all of the justices in the judicial system dealing in criminal matters undergo the training at least once. <p><u>Israel Prisons Service:</u> On three separate dates, training was given to the Israel Prisons Service staff at the Giv'on facility on the subject of TIP and victim identification – held at the Hadarim training facility.</p> <p><u>Law Enforcement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIBA: A particular effort has been made this year to hold training sessions for a wide-range of officials who have not yet received training on this subject. For example, border control officers from Israel's southern entry points (Eilat) were given training in this field, for the first time, due to the increase in international commercial flights to Eilat, and the unique challenges that characterize this multinational junction. • MLSS: The MLSS Enforcement Division conducts routine training sessions for labor inspectors and operates according to the guiding principles provided by the NATU • The Police: Training initiatives have also been taken by the anti-trafficking coordinators in the Police, The State Attorney's Office, the PIBA and the Ombudswomen for Foreign Workers Rights at the MLSS. In this regard, the PTC gave eleven (11) lectures to other bodies on the fight against trafficking, and 200 PIBA employees have undergone training this year. <p><u>Prosecution:</u> In The State Attorney's Office and the Districts' Attorneys' Offices there are key coordinators who specialize in the topic of trafficking in persons. These coordinators are active participants in various seminars, training sessions and international forums on the subject and they work closely with The State's Attorney's Office Coordinator of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and the NATU.</p> <p>g) <i>Provisions for authorities not to prosecute victims for acts which they have been compelled to commit:</i> This is regulated in the framework of the Attorney General provision to 2.32. The provision applies to the non-criminalization principle of the victims of trafficking (par. 2 of the provision). The law also allows confiscation of assets and asset forfeiture.</p> <p>2016 AR: The Legal Aid Administration is a unit under the Ministry of Justice. It provides free legal aid to victims of trafficking in civil trials and in certain administrative appeals. While it is part of the government of Israel, it enjoys some independence and has the ability to file suits against the government of Israel on behalf of the victims when necessary.</p> <p>The Population and Immigration Authority hotline for foreign workers: Upon their arrival to Israel, every foreign worker receives a card which</p>
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		<p>includes the details of the hotline and the various officials they may contact whenever necessary.</p> <p>The hotline receives complaints in foreign languages on working hours and an option to leave a recorded message 24 hours a day, registers the complaints and transfers them to the relevant bodies for further inquiry. The hotline employs translators to Thai (2), Bulgarian (1), Russian (2) and Romanian (2). The hotline is managed in such a way that the caller chooses the required language and each language receives a different number.</p> <p>ASSAF: Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel. Unlike previous years, most of the victims in 2015 23 of 27 were referred to the shelter by organizations such as the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants, ASSAF and the Mesila Day Center, after being recognized as victims by the Police. Only 4 arrived after being released from a custody facility following their identification as victims.</p> <p>The Hotline for Refugees and Migrants: Regarding legal questions, the Day Center's social workers are in constant contact with the Legal Aid Administration. Where the need arises, they also contact lawyers from the various aid organizations (The Hotline for Refugees and Migrants, the Legal Clinic for Refugees at Tel Aviv University).</p> <p>Kav LaOved – Worker’s Hotline: a non-profit organization which aims to protect the rights of the most disadvantaged workers in Israel, addressing violations through individual assistance, advocacy, outreach and more. The worker's hotline work in collaboration with the Labor Standards Enforcement Division of the Ministry of Economy, in order to eliminate all forms of forced labour.</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 has strengthened collaboration on an international level. Meetings were held with international officials for the purpose of mutual learning and professional discourse and Israeli officials participated in seminars abroad. In these sessions, Israel was often privileged to share the vast experience it has accumulated in this field. Highlights in this field include an international conference for judges and justices entitled “The Critical Role of the Judiciary in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings”, organized by MASHAV – Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation in the MFA – in cooperation with the Institute of Advanced Judicial Studies and NATU, as well as several international organizations: the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and the United States’ Embassy in Israel. Conference participants included Supreme Court justices and judges who encounter cases of trafficking in their respective countries, as well as heads of Institutes of Judicial studies from a wide array of countries, both developing and developed. Participants were able to learn about both challenges and best practices in this area. Highlights also include two study visits of delegations from countries interested in learning from Israel’s experience – a study visit from Albania (coordinated by IOM) on compensation for trafficking victims, and a visit from Moldova (coordinated by the OSCE) on organ trafficking. The delegations met with GOI officials and learned about Israel’s legislation, practice and experience in those fields. NATU was also involved this year in assisting the OSCE in cooperation with the Italian carabinieri, in the launching of a new and unique training through simulation course for multidisciplinary practitioners on the topic of trafficking along migration routes. The first course commenced in November, and two Israeli experts from the Police and the Tel Aviv District Attorney’s Office, were elected to participate in the course.</p> <p>Pilot Program: On August 7th, 2015, a Joint Pilot Program for the Recruitment of Caregivers from Nepal to Treat Disabled Elderly Employers in Israel was signed between Israel and Nepal. A similar Pilot Program was also signed with the Government of Sri Lanka on May 25th, 2016. These Pilot Programs, signed between relevant competent governmental authorities, aim to recruit a limited number of qualified caregivers through a</p>

		<p>transparent process. Such programs include mechanisms intended to eliminate the payment of illegal recruitment fees by workers. To this end, the program involves, among other things: widespread publicity about the program and detailed information about its components, an anonymous hiring process which renders payment of illegal fees futile, an Addendum specifying all possible expenses to be borne by the workers participating in this program, a hotline for worker complaints etc. In the framework of such programs, applicants undergo a sixty-hour professional course prepared by Israel and a pre-departure orientation in which they receive information regarding their legal rights and obligations. The workers from Nepal underwent a training course in March 2016, and entered Israel in April-July of 2016. Their arrival represents the first instance of recruitment through bilateral agreements in the caregiving sector, where recruitment is more complicated because of the need to match employees to employers and their particular needs. Significant efforts were made by NATU this year, to establish an inter-ministerial mechanism that would be authorized to grant appropriate aid in humanitarian cases of Sinai victims, who were not recognized as slavery victims. NATU led this process throughout the year, in close cooperation and direct involvement of relevant NGOs (ASSAF, the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants, Physicians for Human Rights).</p>
	<p>Promotional activities</p>	<p>2016 AR: The National Anti-Trafficking Unit conducts more than fifty training sessions annually, for a variety of government officials, including prosecutors, social workers, judges, and many more professionals. Each training session is tailored for its specific audience. All the training sessions are funded by the Government, unless otherwise specified. This year, a special effort was made to hold training sessions for bodies that had not been exposed to the subject of trafficking previously. This is in addition to the training sessions held regularly for all the relevant bodies. The Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator’s Website circulated knowledge to various bodies on the subject of trafficking in persons, including by means of its website which contains a great deal of information that was previously not available to the public. The website is updated regularly and has recently been fully translated and is now also available in English:http://www.justice.gov.il/En/Units/Trafficking/Pages/Default.aspx The National Coordinator of the National Anti-Trafficking Unit has written a pocket pamphlet which is distributed to field workers of both the Government and of NGO’s, named: “Tool to Aid in the Identification of Victims of Trafficking”. The Authority for the Advancement of Women continues to distribute an information booklet entitled “No One Has the Right to Hurt You”, which consolidates the telephone numbers and details of organizations that assist women in distress. The booklet also contains information specifically intended to aid women victims of trafficking.</p>
	<p>Special initiatives/Progress</p>	<p>2016 AR: The Government of Israel continues to encourage fruitful cooperation between NGOs and enforcement authorities. For example, there has been significant progress in the formulation of a joint work protocol between the NGO ELEM, the Police and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, with the aim of tackling the subject of prostitution of minors. The work on this protocol is near completion. Implementation of the Bilateral Agreement has had a strong impact on both the worker recruitment process and the sums migrant workers pay to reach Israel. Before the BA, private agencies were in charge of the recruitment of foreign workers for agriculture and construction, and illegally charged exorbitant fees from prospective migrants. The State of Israel had given these private agencies a central role by creating the very conditions which made them “essential,” that is, by making them the only organizations authorized to recruit labor migrants. Since the implementation of the BA with Thailand, Bulgaria and Moldova, the entire process has been monitored through report rights violations and cases of fraud. Its various stages by national ministries (Ministry of Labor in Thailand, Bulgaria and Moldova) and international agencies (IOM in Thailand), and the fees have been greatly reduced, lowering the debts migrants incur to finance their move. This new situation allows to workers to feel free to move among employers, complain in case of rights violations, or even return to their countries of origin before the end of the contract.</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: The main challenges are: a) <i>lack of awareness:</i> The PIBA Passport Control's Staff, as well as other officials are specifically trained in order to ensure that even these cases are identified despite inherent difficulties, and are not removed from Israel before their status as victims of trafficking is evaluated. Therefore, updated forms of trafficking and methods are routinely relayed to the Police and The State Attorney's office Anti-Trafficking coordinators. Heightened awareness is also noticeable in other areas of trafficking. For example, the authorities identified cases concerning persons with physical disability (deafness and speech impediment) that may have fallen victim to trafficking in persons for the purpose of labor. b) <i>Social values, cultural traditions:</i> There is difficulty in detecting and investigating cases of holding a person under conditions of slavery, given the cultural differences, the remote locations, and the victims' reluctance to complain. As is known, investigations into crimes involving the limitation of the liberty of foreign workers have a number of characteristics, that are particularly challenging, including a substantial cultural difference, many times leading to the victims themselves not seeing themselves as such, and they do not always know how to identify their living and employment conditions as inappropriate and harmful. Because of these difficulties, the work of gathering evidence towards substantiating the offenses of trafficking for the purpose of slavery and forced labor, holding a person in conditions of slavery and forced labor, is a particularly challenging one. c) <i>Social and economic circumstances:</i> There is reluctance on the part of victims to cooperate with the authorities, especially when the victims are interested in continuing to work to "repay debts" and provide for their families in their home country and they believe that cooperation with the authorities in this regard will impair this. d) <i>Challenges linked to migration policies:</i> NATU is closely monitoring over the past year a new phenomenon wherein a mass wave of allegedly asylum seekers are brought to Israel as tourists from Ukraine and Georgia, in order to work in construction or domestic caregiving while awaiting the decision in their request for asylum, thus bypassing the bilateral agreement and safeguards for preventing exploitation of the workers. The concern is that this is a new vulnerable group of workers who are highly susceptible to exploitation, and are at risk for labor trafficking. Currently, the state of Israel does not have a bilateral agreement in the caregiving sector. The arrival of workers from Nepal at April-July of 2016 (as elaborated on the response to Question #7.2), represents the first instance of recruitment through bilateral agreements in the caregiving sector.</p>	
<p>TECHNICAL COOPERATION NEEDS</p>	<p>Request</p>	<p>2017 AR: The Government does not require ILO technical assistance.</p>	
	<p>Offer</p>		