**Israel (Tier 2)**

Israel is a destination country for trafficked women. Women from Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, and Brazil are trafficked to Israel for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The Government of Israel does not yet fully comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The law criminalizes trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Other statutes including rape, false imprisonment, seizing a passport, exploitation, and kidnapping for prostitution may also be used in prosecuting trafficking cases. The government actively investigates trafficking cases and has successfully prosecuted traffickers. The State Attorney General has published and distributed guidelines on the "Investigation and Prosecution of Prostitution and Trafficking in Persons for the Purposes of Prostitution" to police investigators and prosecutors. The government has provided specialized training sessions on trafficking in persons for investigation units. While there has never been evidence that police officers have been directly involved with trafficking, there have been several cases in which policemen were suspected of taking bribes or receiving sexual favors in return for alerting brothel owners in advance of police inspections. An independent department within the Ministry of Justice, charged with investigating any complaint of involvement of police personnel in crimes, has successfully investigated allegations and taken legal action against those involved. The government has undertaken some initiatives to protect victims, including working with NGOs and international organizations to improve services that they provide to victims. The government does not provide temporary or permanent residency status to victims. Unless the victims are willing to testify against the trafficker or brothel owner, they are detained and deported. Victims who are willing to testify are released from detention and are housed in police-funded hostels. In February 2002, the government invited an international organization to discuss modalities for cooperation on a shelter that would provide psychological, social, medical, and legal services to victims of trafficking. The government does not sponsor prevention efforts, such as anti-trafficking education campaigns. The government has established an inter-ministerial committee on trafficking in persons. In July 2001, the Minister of Public Security initiated a seminar on trafficking that included participants from numerous ministries, law enforcement, NGOs and the Knesset.