

Study: 140,000 modern slaves in Malaysia

Dear Mission Partners,

Below is a report of the situation in Malaysia/Asia Pacific. Please note that the countries that received the 'CCC' ratings are countries where Good Shepherd is present.

Have we done enough as GS mission partners? What else can we do?

Gloria Bon



More than 140,000 people in Malaysia are slaves, a study found.

According to the Global Slavery Index 2014, 142,600 or 0.48 percent of Malaysia's population of 30 million are caught in modern slavery.

This places Malaysia at 56th place out of the 167 countries surveyed by the Walk Free Foundation.

Malaysia was graded as 'CCC', which generally means it has limited policy to curb slavery and provides little support for victims.

The best rating given by the index is 'AAA' while the lowest is 'D'.

In the Asia Pacific, this is only better than North Korea, which is graded as 'D' for failure to criminalise modern slavery.

North Korea is in fact, the only country in the world that has not explicitly criminalised any form of modern slavery.

Nevertheless - apart from Malaysia - Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan, Mongolia, Vietnam, Myanmar, China, India, South Korea and Cambodia also received the same 'CCC' rating.

Of the 25 countries measured in the Asia Pacific region, all countries apart from North Korea, have legislation that criminalises some form of modern slavery.

The survey also revealed that almost two-thirds (65.8 percent) of the estimated 35.8 million people in modern slavery are in the Asia Pacific region.

"Modern slavery exists in the Asia Pacific region in all its forms, including forced labour, trafficking for sexual exploitation, and forced marriage," said the foundation.

The survey also found that most countries in the Asia Pacific region exhibit a range of pre-conditions to modern slavery, including weak rule of law, corruption, high levels of poverty, and crippling unemployment.

However, countries like Australia and New Zealand, which have high levels of development and stability, have strong policies presenting fewer vulnerabilities to modern slavery.

Australia was the only country in the Asia Pacific region to receive the 'BBB' rating.

Have we done enough as GS mission partners? What else can we do?