



**PRESS RELEASE
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM UPGRADED TO TIER 2 IN THE UNITED STATES
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2026**

Bandar Seri Begawan, Negara Brunei Darussalam

Saturday, 10 October 2026

Brunei Darussalam has been elevated to Tier 2 in the 2026 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the United States Department of State, advancing from its previous position on the Tier 2 Watch List. The upgrade marks a second consecutive year of improvement in the nation's standing and places Brunei Darussalam as the only ASEAN Member State to have been upgraded in this year's Report.

The improved ranking reflects international recognition of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's firm and sustained commitment to combating trafficking in persons. Among the efforts acknowledged in the Report are the successful conviction of traffickers under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, stronger investigation and screening efforts to detect cases of trafficking, enhanced identification and protection of victims, and closer coordination among security agencies. The continued implementation of the National Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons (2025–2029) was also recognised as an important element of the nation's preventive efforts.

This achievement is the outcome of close collaboration among the security, enforcement and prosecution agencies under the National Committee on Trafficking in Persons (NCTIP) at the Prime Minister's Office. Guided by the principle of the preservation of life (*Hifz al-Nafs*) under the Maqasid Syariah, Brunei Darussalam continues to adopt a Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Nation approach to ensure that all individuals in the country are protected from this crime.

Building on this progress, the NCTIP will continue to strengthen prevention, victim protection and law enforcement, while deepening partnerships with stakeholders at the national, regional and international level as Brunei Darussalam works towards attaining Tier 1 status.



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