

Cuba removed from US human trafficking list

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The United States has removed Cuba from its list of countries that fail to combat human trafficking.

The [annual State Department report](#) comes a week after Cuba and the US formally restored diplomatic relations.

The United States previously accused Cuba's communist authorities of forcing people to travel abroad to work on government-backed projects.

The US also removed Malaysia from the list of countries failing to address human trafficking.

Cuba was first included on the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons list in 2003.

'Significant efforts'

US Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Sarah Sewall said Cuba had made progress in combating sex trafficking.

But concerns remained over the country's failures to address forced labour, she said.

"The Government of Cuba does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so," reads the report.

On 20 July, Cuba reopened its embassy in Washington after more than five decades of strained relations.

The American embassy in Havana will be reopened next week.

Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro surprised the world in December with the announcement that the two countries had decided to cease hostilities.

Several measures have been taken over the past seven months to mend relations, including removing Cuba from the list of countries that the US consider to sponsor terrorism.
