

Tonga

Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Ministry of Education has set goals to further improve upon the educational system by providing universal access to quality basic education up to form 6, restructuring the Ministry of Education, expanding and developing vocational education, establishing formal pre-school programs, and establishing a national university by the year 2010.²⁵⁰⁴

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children in Tonga under age 15 are unavailable. There is also no information available on the incidence of child labor.²⁵⁰⁵

Education is compulsory for children through the end of high school.²⁵⁰⁶ In 1995, the gross primary enrollment rate was 122.2 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 95.3 percent.²⁵⁰⁷ Primary school attendance rates are unavailable for Tonga. While enrollment rates indicate a level of commitment to education, they do not always reflect children's participation in school.²⁵⁰⁸

²⁵⁰⁴ Pacific Human Development, "Broadening Opportunities for Education," 1999, 40.

²⁵⁰⁵ *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2000—Tonga* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of State, 2001) [hereinafter *Country Reports 2000*], Section 6d, at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2000/eap/index/.cfm?docid=808>.

²⁵⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁰⁷ UNESCO, *Education for All: Year 2000 Assessment* (Paris, 2000) [CD-ROM]. See also *World Development Indicators 2001* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2001) [CD-ROM].

²⁵⁰⁸ For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see *Introduction* to this report.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Legislation prohibits forced or bonded labor of children; violations of these regulations are not known.²⁵⁰⁹ Although there is no specific law regarding trafficking or child prostitution, the Criminal Code of Tonga prohibits any person from procuring or attempting to procure any girl under the age of 21 for the purposes of unlawful sexual exploitation.²⁵¹⁰ The punishment for this offense is to be any term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.²⁵¹¹ The Government of Tonga is not a member of the ILO and has not ratified ILO Conventions on child labor.²⁵¹²

²⁵⁰⁹ *Country Reports 2000* at Section 6d.

²⁵¹⁰ The Criminal Code of Tonga, Article 126, at http://www.vanuatu.usp.as.fj/Paclawmat/Tonga_legislation/Consolidation_1988/Tonga_Criminal_Offences.html.

²⁵¹¹ *Ibid.*

²⁵¹² ILO, ILOLEX database, Ratifications of the ILO Fundamental Conventions, at <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/stqandards/normes/appl/appl-ratif8conv.cfm?lang'EN>.

NOTE: Hard copies of all Web citations are on file