

# Seychelles

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

On September 28, 1999, Seychelles became the first country to ratify ILO Convention 182 on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor.<sup>3207</sup> The Government of the Seychelles implemented major education reform programs in 1990 and 1999, which were aimed in part at improving access to and quality of primary education through enhanced teacher training standards, improved physical facilities, and guaranteed free education for all.<sup>3208</sup> The Division of Social Affairs in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Manpower Development works to protect children's rights.<sup>3209</sup> The National Commission for Child Protection, established in 1996, is responsible for overall child protection policies, and the National Council for Children is the organization responsible for overall policy-making on child rights.<sup>3210</sup>

## Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Seychelles are unavailable, and information is not available on the incidence and nature of child labor. Education is compulsory for 10 years and free through secondary school.<sup>3211</sup> In 1999, the gross primary enrollment rate was 100.8 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 99.9 percent.<sup>3212</sup> Attendance rates are not available for Seychelles. While enrollment rates indicate a level of commitment to education, they do not always reflect children's participation in school.<sup>3213</sup>

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<sup>3207</sup> ILO, *Child Labor Convention Becomes International Law*, 2001 [cited October 23, 2002]; available from <http://www.us.ilo.org/news/focus/0012/FOCUS-5.html>.

<sup>3208</sup> UNESCO, *Education for All 2000 Assessment: Country Reports- Seychelles*, prepared by Education Planning Division of Resource Planning and Project Development, pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 52/84, 2000, [cited September 2, 2002]; available from <http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/seychelles/contents.html>.

<sup>3209</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2001: Seychelles*, Washington, D.C., March 4, 2002, 570-71, Section 5 [cited September 1, 2002]; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8401.htm>.

<sup>3210</sup> Government of Seychelles Ministry of Social Affairs and Manpower Development, "Seychelles- Putting Children First," *African Newsletter on Occupational Health and Safety*, August 2000, [cited October 3, 2002]; available from <http://www.occuphealth.fi/e/info/anl/200/seychelles06.htm>. See also ATLAS Seychelles Ltd., *The Historical Perspective of NCC*, [online] [cited October 3, 2002]; available from <http://www.seychelles.net/ncc/about.htm>.

<sup>3211</sup> Right to Education, *Legal Status/Constitutional Guarantees: Seychelles*, in Right to Education Project, [database online] 2002 [cited December 5, 2002]; available from [http://www.right-to-education.org/content/index\\_4.html](http://www.right-to-education.org/content/index_4.html). See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Seychelles*, 570-71, Section 5.

<sup>3212</sup> UNESCO, *Education for All: Year 2000 Assessment* [CD-ROM], Paris, 2000.

<sup>3213</sup> For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see the preface to this report.

## Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Constitution sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, with exceptions for children employed part time in light work that is not harmful to their health, morals or education. Violations of the minimum age regulation are punishable by a fine of SCR 6,000 (USD 1,119).<sup>3214</sup> An amendment to the Employment of Young Persons and Children Act of 1981 specifically prohibits children under 18 from working in hotels, restaurants and shops.<sup>3215</sup> Forced or bonded labor is prohibited by law.<sup>3216</sup> Article 138(b) of the Penal Code prohibits the procuring of any woman or girl for purposes of prostitution.<sup>3217</sup> The Ministry of Employment and Social Services is responsible for enforcing child labor laws and investigating child labor abuses.<sup>3218</sup>

In 2001, there were no reported cases of child labor requiring investigation by the Ministry of Employment and Social Services, no known cases of forced or bonded labor by children, and no reports of trafficking in persons to, from, or within the country.<sup>3219</sup> A Family Tribunal composed of 18 members hears and decides all cases relating to the care and custody of children, save paternity cases.<sup>3220</sup> Only 42 cases of child sex abuse were reported in 2001, and there are concerns that the police fails to vigorously investigate charges of child abuse.<sup>3221</sup>

The Government of Seychelles ratified ILO Convention 138 on March 7, 2000, and ILO Convention 182 on September 28, 1999.<sup>3222</sup>

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<sup>3214</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Seychelles*, 571-72, Section 6d. For currency conversion see FX Converter, [online] [cited October 23, 2002]; available from <http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm>.

<sup>3215</sup> ILO, *Seychelles: Children and Young Persons*, [cited September 1, 2002]; available from <http://natlex.ilo.org/Scripts/natlexcgi.exe?lang=E&doc=query&ctry=SYC&llx=12.01>.

<sup>3216</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Seychelles*, 571-72, Section 6c.

<sup>3217</sup> Government of Seychelles, *Penal Code*, [cited September 2, 2002]; available from <http://209.190.246.239/ver2/cr/Seychelles.pdf>.

<sup>3218</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Seychelles*, 571-72, Section 6d.

<sup>3219</sup> *Ibid.*, 571-72, Sections 6c, 6d, 6f.

<sup>3220</sup> *Ibid.*, 570-71, Section 5.

<sup>3221</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3222</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, in ILOLEX, [database online] [cited September 1, 2002]; available from <http://ilolex.ilo.ch?1567/cgi-lex/ratifce.pl?Seychelles>.