

Barbados

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for admission to work:	16 ³⁵⁰
Age to which education is compulsory:	16 ³⁵¹
Free public education:	Yes ³⁵²
Gross primary enrollment rate:	107% ³⁵³
Net primary enrollment rate:	97% ³⁵⁴
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2001:	Unavailable
In 2003, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	97% ³⁵⁵
Ratified Convention 138:	1/4/2000 ³⁵⁶
Ratified Convention 182:	10/23/2000 ³⁵⁷
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes, associated ³⁵⁸

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

The ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean conducted a rapid assessment survey of child work in Barbados in 2002 and found that children were involved in work in the services industry, vending, trades, and family-related businesses.³⁵⁹ Boys were mostly involved in construction, electrical repairs/installations, fruit vending, horse grooming, and assisting at supermarkets.³⁶⁰ Girls worked as shop assistants and in hair styling.³⁶¹ The working conditions for these children were characterized by long hours, irregular pay, and low remuneration.³⁶²

Additionally, there were reports of children involved in commercial sexual exploitation.³⁶³ There have been reports of boys and girls both being involved in sex tourism.³⁶⁴ In some

³⁵⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Barbados," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78879.htm>.

³⁵¹ *Ibid.*, Section 5.

³⁵² *Ibid.*, Section 5.

³⁵³ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

³⁵⁴ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

³⁵⁵ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

³⁵⁶ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed November 13, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/ratific.pl?Barbados>.

³⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁸ ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour Highlights 2006*. Geneva, October 2006; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20061019_Implementationreport_eng_Web.pdf.

³⁵⁹ ILO, *Regional Fact Sheets on Child Labour: Barbados*, Subregional Office for the Caribbean 2002; available from http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/childlabour/library/fact_sheets/BarbdosFS.pdf.

³⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁶¹ *Ibid.*

³⁶² *Ibid.*

³⁶³ *Ibid.*

³⁶⁴ EPCAT International CSEC Database, *Child Prostitution - Barbados*, November 16, 2006; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/Countries.asp?arrCountryID=15&CountryProfile=facts,affiliation,humanrights&CSEC=Overview,Prostitution,Pornography,trafficking&Implement=Coordin

instances parents have compelled their children to become prostitutes in Bridgetown's red light district.³⁶⁵

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Barbados is 16 years.³⁶⁶ Children under 16, however, are allowed to work under certain restrictions.³⁶⁷ Such children may not work between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. as well as during school hours.³⁶⁸ The work of a young person between 16 and 18 is also subject to certain restrictions.³⁶⁹ Young persons may not work in industrial undertakings during the night – from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. – or participate in work that is likely to cause injury to their health, safety, or morals.³⁷⁰ For the purposes of apprenticeship or vocational training, authorization may be granted to allow young persons to work during the night.³⁷¹ Young persons participating in an apprenticeship or vocational training must first obtain a medical certificate them as fit to be employed.³⁷²

The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor.³⁷³ There are no laws that specifically address trafficking in persons, although the Young Persons Protection Act of 1918 prohibits the removal of persons under 17 from the island for the purpose of forced labor in foreign countries.³⁷⁴ Prostitution is illegal,³⁷⁵ as is the exploitation of children to use them in indecent photographs.³⁷⁶

The Child Care Board and the Labor Department are responsible for monitoring and investigating cases of child labor.³⁷⁷ The Labor Department has a small staff of labor inspectors who conduct spot investigations and verify records to ensure compliance with the law.³⁷⁸ These inspectors are authorized to take legal action against employers who are found to use underage workers.³⁷⁹

ation_cooperation,Prevention,Protection,Recovery,ChildParticipation&Nationalplans=National_plans_of_action&or
gWorkCSEC=orgWorkCSEC&DisplayBy=optDisplayCategory&GetcategoryName=Prostitution.

³⁶⁵ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting*, March 7, 2007.

³⁶⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Barbados." Section 6d.

³⁶⁷ Government of Barbados, *Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act*, (March 24, 1977); available from [http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Employment%20\(Miscellaneous%20Provisions\).pdf](http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Employment%20(Miscellaneous%20Provisions).pdf).

³⁶⁸ Ibid.

³⁶⁹ Ibid.

³⁷⁰ Ibid.

³⁷¹ Ibid.

³⁷² Government of Barbados, *Occupational Training Act*, (October 1, 1979); available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Occupational%20Training.pdf>.

³⁷³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Barbados." Section 6c.

³⁷⁴ Government of Barbados, *Young Persons Protection Act*, (May 17, 1918); available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Young%20Persons%20Protection.pdf>.

³⁷⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Barbados." Section 5.

³⁷⁶ Government of Barbados, *Protection of Children Act*, (December 20, 1990); available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Protection%20of%20Children.pdf>.

³⁷⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Barbados." Section 5.

³⁷⁸ Ibid., Section 6d.

³⁷⁹ Ibid., Section 6d.

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

In October 2001, the ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean launched the Regional Child Labor Project.³⁸⁰ This project seeks the progressive elimination of child labor, beginning with the worst forms of child labor, in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean.³⁸¹ The project receives USD1.3 million³⁸² in funding from the Government of Canada, and promotes national policies to eradicate poverty and increase educational opportunities for children.³⁸³ The government has also created restrictions on the import of products produced by child labor.³⁸⁴

³⁸⁰ ILO, *Combating Child Labour in the Caribbean*, accessed November 17, 2006; available from <http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/childlabour/project-overview.html>.

³⁸¹ *Ibid.*

³⁸² ILO official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 16, 2006.

³⁸³ ILO, *Combating Child Labour in the Caribbean*.

³⁸⁴ ILO, *Child Labour in Barbados*.