

The Department of Immigration, Ministry of Police, Crown Law Office, Tonga Defense Services, resident embassies, and high commissions share information related to criminal matters, including human trafficking.³⁷¹⁵ According to USDOS, the Government did not conduct any investigations related to trafficking in persons during the reporting period.³⁷¹⁶

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

Research has not identified any policies or programs by the Government of Tonga to address exploitive child labor.

³⁷⁰⁷ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting*, December 10, 2007. See also U.S. Department of State, "Tonga," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices-2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 5, 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100540.htm>.

³⁷⁰⁸ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting*, December 10, 2007.

³⁷⁰⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Tonga," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119060.htm>.

³⁷¹⁰ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting*, December 10, 2007.

³⁷¹¹ Government of Tonga, *Constitution of Tonga*, (1988), article 2; available from http://www.paclii.org/to/legis/consol_act/cot238/. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Tonga," section 6c.

³⁷¹² Government of Tonga, *Criminal Offenses Act*, (1988), articles 80-81.

³⁷¹³ *Ibid.*, 125-126, 129.

³⁷¹⁴ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Tonga," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf. See also U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook - Tonga*, [online] January 22, 2009 [cited February 3, 2009]; available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tn.html>.

³⁷¹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting*, February 2, 2009.

³⁷¹⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Tonga," section 5.

Trinidad and Tobago

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Although there is no significant evidence of children working in Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister of Labor acknowledges that street children work.³⁷¹⁷ Children are reported to be victims of commercial sexual exploitation.³⁷¹⁸ There are conflicting reports as to whether Trinidad and Tobago is a destination and transit country for the trafficking of children for the purpose of sexual exploitation.³⁷¹⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment in public or private industries at 16 years. However, children 14 to 16 years may work in activities in which only family members are employed or if they are enrolled in a vocational or technical

training school.³⁷²⁰ Children under 18 years are prohibited from working between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., except in a family business or with other exceptions. One such exception allows children 16 to 18 years old to work at night in sugar factories.³⁷²¹ Violators of these regulations are subject to sanctions.³⁷²²

There is no compulsory military service in Trinidad and Tobago; the minimum age for voluntary military service is 16 years with parental or guardian consent.³⁷²³ The ILO Committee of Experts has recommended that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago amend the Defense Act in order to establish the legal minimum age of enlistment at 18 or to allow enlisted children under 18 years of age to leave the service by their own choice upon reaching the age of 18.³⁷²⁴

Forced labor or exploitive labor under inhumane conditions is prohibited.³⁷²⁵ Trafficking may be prosecuted under laws that pertain to kidnapping, procurement of sex, prostitution, slavery, and indentured servitude.³⁷²⁶ The law prohibits the procurement of minors for prostitution or sexual offenses, with penalties up to imprisonment for life if the child is under 14 years of age, and up to 15 years if the child is under 16 years. Procurement is considered an offense, whether committed in Trinidad and Tobago or elsewhere.³⁷²⁷ The operation of a brothel is punishable by imprisonment for 5 years, and allowing minors under 16 years to be on the premises of the brothel for sexual purposes is subject to imprisonment of 10 years.³⁷²⁸ Any person responsible for causing or encouraging commercial sexual exploitation of a minor under 16 years of age is subject to 5 years of imprisonment.³⁷²⁹

The Children's Authority is responsible for the wellbeing of children. It oversees social services provided to children, enforces laws related to the rights of children, investigates complaints or reports, and makes sure that vulnerable children receive care and protection.³⁷³¹ The Ministry of Labor and Small and Micro-Enterprise Development (MLSMED) and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) enforce child labor provisions.³⁷³² Currently, Trinidad and Tobago has 19 labor inspectors who receive training to identify child labor.³⁷³³ Labor inspectors have the authority to enter, inspect, and examine any premises when there is reasonable cause to believe that violations are taking place.³⁷³⁴ While the Family Court enforces child legislation, including child labor laws, the Police Services handle cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children, trafficking in children, and involvement of children in drug trafficking, all of which are considered to be crimes.³⁷³⁵ According to USDOS, enforcement of child labor laws is weak due to the lack of a comprehensive Government policy on child labor and mechanisms for receiving and addressing child labor complaints.³⁷³⁶ In general, the Government's capacity to pursue its commitment to protect the rights and welfare of children is limited by lack of funds and expanding social needs.³⁷³⁷

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

During the reporting period, MSD continued to implement the Revised National Plan of Action for Children (2006-2010), which includes specific goals to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children, the trafficking of children, and exploitive child labor.³⁷³⁸ MLSMED designed educational materials to enforce labor standards among employers and employees, which include information on child labor laws.³⁷³⁹ The Government of Trinidad and Tobago participated in Phase II of a USD 750,000 regional project to combat the worst forms of child labor in the Caribbean, funded by the Government of Canada and implemented by ILO-IPEC.³⁷⁴⁰ In partnership with UNICEF, the Government published the results of the Multiple Indicator

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> ³⁷³⁰	
Population, children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	257,049
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	3.5
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	4.5
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2000:	2.6
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	16
Compulsory education age:	12
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	94.7
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	84.6
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2000:	97
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	91
ILO Convention 138:	9/3/2004
ILO Convention 182:	4/23/2003
CRC:	12/5/1991
CRCOPAC:	No
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	11/6/2007
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated

Cluster Survey conducted in 2006, which provides insights into the situation of children, including child labor, in Trinidad and Tobago.³⁷⁴¹

With the participation of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and funding from USDOS, IOM launched an initiative to raise awareness and provide technical assistance on human trafficking in 2008.³⁷⁴² The Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Colombia joined efforts to combat trafficking in persons.³⁷⁴³

³⁷¹⁷ Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF, and Central Statistical Office, "Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 3" (2008), 53; available from http://www.childinfo.org/files/MICS3_TrinidadTobago_FinalReport_2006_Eng.pdf. See also

³⁷¹⁸ UN Committee on the Rights of Children, *Considerations of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention*, CRC/C/TTO/CO/2, March 17, 2006, para 69; available from [http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/6542c7bc295172d0c125716c003958d8/\\$FILE/G0640943.pdf](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/6542c7bc295172d0c125716c003958d8/$FILE/G0640943.pdf). See also Suzanne Sheppard, "Sex Tourism Drives Illicit Trade, Experts Say," *Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday*, August 5, 2007; available from <http://www.newsday.co.tt/news/0,61837.html>.

³⁷¹⁹ U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2009*, June 16, 2009; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/123139.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Trinidad and Tobago," section 5c. See also Suzanne Sheppard, "Suzanne Sheppard, Sex Tourism Drives Illicit Trade, Experts Say.."

³⁷²⁰ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Miscellaneous Provisions (Minimum Age for Admission to Employment) Act, 2007*, article 4. See also Right to Education, *National Law and Policies on Minimum ages – Trinidad and Tobago*, [online] [cited January 16, 2009]; available from <http://www.right-to-education.org/country-node/533/country-minimum>. See also Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Trinidad and Tobago*, 25-26.

³⁷²¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Trinidad and Tobago," section 6d. See also Right to Education, *National law and policies on Minimum ages – Trinidad and Tobago*.

³⁷²² Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Trinidad and Tobago*, 35.

³⁷²³ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Trinidad and Tobago," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from

<http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/content/trinidad-and-tobago>.

³⁷²⁴ Ibid. See also, ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) Trinidad and Tobago (ratification: 1963)* [online] 2006 [cited July 8, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>. See also, Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Trinidad and Tobago - a Guide to Legislative Reform*, ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, June 2005, 32.

³⁷²⁵ Government of Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *The Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with Reforms through 2000* (August 1, 1976), introduction and article 4; available from <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Trinidad/trinidad76.html>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Trinidad and Tobago (ratification: 2003)* 2007 [cited March 27, 2009], para 2; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>.

³⁷²⁶ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 18, 2009.

³⁷²⁷ Government of Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Sexual Offences Act (with amendments)*, (November 11, 1986), Part I, sections 6-8, 17; available from <http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/Laws/Chs.%2010-13/11.28/11.28.htm#sec6>.

³⁷²⁸ Ibid., sections 21-22.

³⁷²⁹ Government of Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Children Act Chapter 46:01 (with amendments)*, (March 17, 1925), section 8; available from <http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws/Chs.%2044-46/46.01/46.01%20aos.htm>.

³⁷³⁰ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Miscellaneous Provisions (Minimum Age for Admission to Employment) Act, 2007*, No.3 of 2007, Fifth session, Eighth Parliament (February 26, 2007), article 4; available from <http://www.tparliament.org/legislations/a2007-03.pdf>. For age to which education is compulsory, see U.S. Department of State, "Trinidad and Tobago," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/index.htm>. For free public education, see U.S. Department of State, *U.S. Government Funds Obligated in Fiscal Year 2007 for Anti-Trafficking in Persons Projects*, February 26, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/101295.htm>.

See also Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Trinidad and Tobago- A Guide to Legislative Reform*, ILO

Subregional Office for the Caribbean, June 2005; available from <http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/childlabour/library.htm>.

³⁷³¹ Government of Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Act No. 14 of 2008 (modified the Children's Authority Act of 2000)*, (September 26,), articles 6, 7, 9, 23; available from <http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2008-14.pdf>.

³⁷³² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Trinidad and Tobago," section 6d.

³⁷³³ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, January 23, 2009.

³⁷³⁴ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Trinidad and Tobago*, 37.

³⁷³⁵ *Ibid.*, 40. See also U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, February 18, 2009.

³⁷³⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Trinidad and Tobago."

³⁷³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁷³⁸ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Revised National Plan of Action for Children*, Ministry of Social Development, Port of Spain, August 2006, 15, 88-94. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Trinidad and Tobago."

³⁷³⁹ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, January 23, 2009.

³⁷⁴⁰ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008. See also ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour 2008: Highlights*, 2009, 56; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipeinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=9471>.

³⁷⁴¹ Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF, and Central Statistical Office, "Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 3".

³⁷⁴² IOM, *Trinidad and Tobago*, [[cited January 21, 2009]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/activities/pid/485>. See also U.S. Department of State, *U.S. Department of State, U.S. Government Funds Obligated in Fiscal Year 2007 for Anti-Trafficking in Persons Projects*. See also Camille Bethel, "Group Holds Human Trafficking Awareness Workshops," *Trinidad and Tobago Express*, June 3, 2008; available from http://www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article_news?id=161332536. See also Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday, "Government Combating Human Trafficking," January 4, 2009; available from <http://www.caribdaily.com/article/117816/govt-combating-human-trafficking/>.

³⁷⁴³ U.S. Embassy- Port of Spain, *reporting*, January 27, 2009.

Tunisia

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Tunisia, children work in the informal sector, especially in the production of handicrafts. Older girls work as domestic servants.³⁷⁴⁴ Children also work in small shops, as mechanics, and selling jasmine to tourists.³⁷⁴⁵ There have been reports of children being trafficked internally for commercial sexual exploitation and labor.³⁷⁴⁶

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment is 16 years, with some exceptions. Children 13 years and above may perform light work.³⁷⁴⁷ They may also begin working as apprentices or through vocational training programs at 14 years.³⁷⁴⁸ Children younger than 16 years may work in family businesses, as long as their work does not negatively affect their mental or physical health or interfere with school. This exception does not

apply to hazardous work and legislation does not provide a minimum age for this exception.³⁷⁴⁹ The minimum age for hazardous work is 18 years, and the Ministry of Social Affairs has the authority to determine which jobs fall under this category.³⁷⁵⁰ The law restricts nonagricultural night work by prohibiting children under 14 years from working between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. and children between 14 and 18 years from working between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Children working in the agriculture industry must have fixed rest periods and cannot work between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.³⁷⁵¹ Children working in the nonagricultural sector may not be paid less than 85 percent of the salary paid to adults.³⁷⁵²

Labor inspectors from the Ministry of Social Affairs are responsible for enforcing labor laws.³⁷⁵³ The Ministry of Women's Affairs, Family, Children, and Senior Citizens, and the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Physical Training are