

Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Department of Labour

The GOSVG provides the following Information:

(A) Worst Forms of Child Labour

- The use of a child for illicit activities is strictly prohibited. The following legislative policy documents prohibits the sale and trafficking of children:
 - (a) The Adoption of Children Act, Cap 163;
 - (b) The Adoption of Children Act (Transfer Abroad) Rules, Cap 163;
 - (c) The Juvenile Act, Cap 168; and
 - (d) The Juvenile (Approved Schools) Rules, Cap 168.
- Section 15 (1) of the *Education Act 2006* provides for compulsory education, which eliminates any uncertainty about the compulsory status of education. Every child of school age is now required by law to attend school. The Government's policy of universal access to secondary education and its ongoing public awareness campaign over the last eight years have eliminated the gap between the percentage of children who leave primary school and those who enter secondary school as well as eliminated significantly the incidence of "street children". Every child of school age now has access to secondary education.
- As a follow up the submission of the report (CRC/C/28) on the Convention of the Rights of the Child to the United Nations, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association has held a number of stakeholders' consultation meetings. The Association made various presentations to schools and other learning institutions on the rights of the child. A number of radio and TV programmes were also held as part of the campaign to bring awareness to the general public.
- To assist families (parents) to meet the extra cost of school attendance, the Government has adopted a "Textbook" Loan Scheme where the students would pay a small yearly fee for the use of all textbooks at their respective levels; a number of school buses have been commissioned to provide transportation within the urban and rural areas and; every primary school within the State provides a school feeding programme at a very low cost to students. The Government's assistance has significantly reduced the obstacle to poor families of meeting these extra costs of education for their children.
- While the Common Entrance Exam, the primary assessment mechanism for entrance in secondary schools, is still in place, every child who was unsuccessful at these exams is guaranteed a place at one of the newer secondary schools that have been constructed in every constituency in the country.

(B) Forced Labour & the Abolition of Forced Labour

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines does not have a Military or Defence Force. Recruitment to the main security arm- the Police Force, is completely voluntary. Officers are also permitted to resign without condition.