

Barbados

The Government of Barbados has a National Committee on Child Labor that is responsible for coordinating efforts to combat child labor. Although Barbados does not appear to have a significant child labor problem, some children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor


Children in Barbados may be engaged in the worst forms of child labor,⁴⁵⁰ namely as victims of commercial sexual exploitation.⁴⁵¹

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act sets the minimum employment age at 16 for certain sectors including mines, quarries, manufacturing, construction and demolition work. Other sectors, particularly agriculture, are not covered.⁴⁵²

The Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act also prohibits children under age 18 from engaging in any work likely to harm their safety, health or morals. However, the Act does not specify the types of work this prohibition refers to and research found no indication of such a list elsewhere in the country's laws or regulations.⁴⁵³

The Constitution prohibits forced and compulsory labor.⁴⁵⁴ No specific prohibition on the trafficking of children exists, but several other laws may be used protect children from trafficking and sexual

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	No
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	No
	Minimum Age for Work	16
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	16
	Free Public Education	Yes

exploitation.⁴⁵⁵ The Offenses Against the Person Act protects children under age 16 from being trafficked from Barbados to other places for employment but does not cover children from age 16 to age 18. The same act penalizes slavery, including importing and exporting a person as a slave.⁴⁵⁶ The Sexual Offences Act makes it a

crime to take a person away or detain a person for sexual relations.⁴⁵⁷ The Protection of Children Act makes it a crime to take or allow others to take indecent photographs of a child under 18.⁴⁵⁸ In 2010 Parliament passed the Transnational Crime (Prevention and Control) Act to enforce protocols such as the 2000 UN protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, including children.⁴⁵⁹

Education is free and compulsory to age 16.⁴⁶⁰

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The National Committee on Child Labor is responsible for coordinating efforts to abolish child labor in the country.⁴⁶¹

Child labor subcommittees exist to support interagency cooperation to harmonize legislation, develop a child-labor survey instrument and implement educational and mass media program on child labor.⁴⁶²

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws.⁴⁶³ It has 22 inspectors to investigate possible violations of the Employment Act. During the reporting period, no child labor inspections were conducted and no cases of child labor violations were reported.⁴⁶⁴

The Royal Barbados Police Force has taken the lead in investigating trafficking complaints.⁴⁶⁵

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

While the worst forms of child labor do not appear to be a significant problem in Barbados, the Government does not have a policy framework to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children.⁴⁶⁶

The Government has recognized the need to conduct research and analysis to obtain more detailed information on the worst forms of child labor.⁴⁶⁷ Moreover, the Government has acknowledged specifically that commercial sexual exploitation of children is a concern although the full extent of the problem is unknown.⁴⁶⁸ However, the Government does not appear to have undertaken such research.

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development announced a new poverty-reduction program designed to address seven aspects of family life, including employment and education.⁴⁶⁹ The Government also has a school meal program.⁴⁷⁰ The question of whether these programs have an impact on child labor does not appear to have been addressed.

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Barbados:

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Amend minimum age provisions to apply to all sectors of economic activity, including agriculture.
- Develop and adopt a list of occupations and activities considered hazardous and likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons.
- Amend the Offences Against the Person Act to protect children to age 18 from being trafficked.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Conducting inspections to prevent worst forms of child labor, especially commercial sexual exploitation of children

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Conduct a comprehensive study to update and assess the nature and extent of the worst forms of child labor, especially the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Use the results of the study to develop a national plan of action to address the worst forms of child labor, especially the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Assess the impact that existing programs may have on addressing the worst forms of child labor, especially commercial sexual exploitation of children.

⁴⁵⁰ Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. For more information on sources used for these statistics, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the “Children’s Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions” section.

⁴⁵¹ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, section 1. See also U.S. Department of State, “Barbados,” in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142979.pdf>. See also Government of Barbados- Ministry of Labour, *FAQs About Child Labour*, [online] 2009 [cited February 1, 2011]; available from <http://labour.caribyte.com/child-labour-faqs>.

⁴⁵² Government of Barbados, *Employment (miscellaneous Provisions) Act*, (March 24, 1977), articles 2 and 10; available from [http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Employment%20\(Miscellaneous%20Provisions\).pdf](http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Employment%20(Miscellaneous%20Provisions).pdf).

⁴⁵³ *Ibid.*, article 8. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Barbados (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2010*, [online] [cited February 1, 2011],

para 3; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Comoros (ratification: 2004) Submitted: 2010*, February 16, 2011, para 5; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>.

⁴⁵⁴ Government of Barbados, *Constitution*, No. 1455, (1966), article 14; available from <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Barbados/barbados66.html#ch3>.

⁴⁵⁵ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C182: Barbados (2010)*, para 1. See also U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Barbados.”

⁴⁵⁶ Government of Barbados, *Offences Against the Person*, (1994), article 35-3; available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Offences%20Against%20the%20Person.pdf>.

⁴⁵⁷ Government of Barbados, *Sexual Offences*, (1992), articles 13, 17; available from <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/ngos/lgbti2.pdf>. See also Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Barbados - A Guide to Legislative Reform*, June 2005, 34; available from http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Barbados/Other/review-child-labour-laws-barbados_ILO_2005.pdf.

⁴⁵⁸ Government of Barbados- Ministry of Labour, *FAQs About Child Labour*, article 3. See also Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Barbados - A Guide to Legislative Reform*, 34-35.

⁴⁵⁹ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 22, 2011. See also Government of Barbados, *Transnational Organized Crime (Prevention and Control) Act*, (2010), articles 2 and 13; available from [http://www.barbadosfiu.gov.bb/pdf/Transnational%20Organized%20Crime%20\(Prevention%20and%20Control\)%20Act.pdf](http://www.barbadosfiu.gov.bb/pdf/Transnational%20Organized%20Crime%20(Prevention%20and%20Control)%20Act.pdf).

⁴⁶⁰ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, sections 1 and 2e.

⁴⁶¹ Ministry of Labor-Government of Barbados, *Child Labour*, [online] n.d. [cited February 2, 2011]; available from <http://labour.caribyte.com/child-labour>. See also Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Barbados - A Guide to Legislative Reform*, 22, 24.

⁴⁶² Ministry of Labor-Government of Barbados, *Child Labour*.

⁴⁶³ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, section 3-d(1). See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Barbados (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2009*, [online] [cited February 1, 2011], para 5; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>.

⁴⁶⁴ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, sections 3-d(3) and 3-d(6).

⁴⁶⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report-2010: Barbados." See also U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting*, February 8, 2010, section 2D-I.

⁴⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, section 3-f(1).

⁴⁶⁷ Government of Barbados, *Child Labour Media Campaign Launched This Morning*, Press Release, June 13, 2008; available from <http://www.gov.bb/portal/page/portal/GISMEDIA%20CENTRENEWS%20MANAGEMENT/News%20Archive/Child%20Labour%20Media%20Campaign%20Launched%20this%20Morning>. See also Government of Barbados- Ministry of Labour, "Child Labour in Barbados - A Hidden Problem", labour.caribyte.com, [online], May 14, 2006 [cited February 1, 2011]; available from <http://labour.caribyte.com/news/7>.

⁴⁶⁸ Government of Barbados, *Child Labour Media Campaign (Press Release)*. See also Government of Barbados- Ministry of Labour, *FAQs About Child Labour*.

⁴⁶⁹ Tanya Lightbourne, "Poverty alleviation through ISEE Bridge Programme", *The Barbados Advocate*, [online], July 27, 2010 [cited April 6, 2011]; available from <http://www.barbadosadvocate.com/newsitem.asp?more=local&NewsID=11648>. See also Tanya Lightbourne, "I.S.E.E. Bridge Programme Coming", *The Barbados Advocate*, [online], March 30, 2011 [cited April 6, 2011]; available from <http://www.barbadosadvocate.com/newsitem.asp?more=All%20Stories&NewsID=16694>.

⁴⁷⁰ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, section 3-g(2).