

# Saint Lucia

*The Government of Saint Lucia has strengthened its legal framework by enacting a new anti-trafficking law. However, gaps remain in its efforts to protect children from the worst forms of child labor, in particular regarding the minimum age for work law, and in data collection and research. Although there is limited information on the prevalence of hazardous child labor, there are reports that children work in the banana harvest and the informal sector. It is not clear whether the lack of evidence of the worst forms of child labor is indicative of a small problem, or a hidden one.*

## 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

Although there is limited information on the prevalence of the worst forms of child labor in Saint Lucia,<sup>4963</sup> children helped harvest bananas in rural areas, where they may have been exposed to harmful pesticides. However, Hurricane Tomas wiped out the banana sector in November 2010, ending the year's harvest.<sup>4964</sup>

The Government has indicated that child labor appears to be an issue in the informal sector, although additional details on the specific types of work are unavailable.<sup>4965</sup>

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor



The Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Law Revised Ordinances of 1957 sets the minimum age for employment at 14.<sup>4966</sup> In 2006, the Government proposed Labor Code No.

37 to increase the minimum age for employment to 15.<sup>4967</sup> The legislation has not been enacted by Parliament.<sup>4968</sup>

The Education Act No. 41 of 1999 provides for compulsory education from age 5 to 15.<sup>4969</sup> The Occupational Health and Safety Act prohibits the employment of persons under age 18 in industrial undertakings.<sup>4970</sup> It also lists certain types of work that are prohibited.<sup>4971</sup> Research has not revealed whether there are prohibitions on hazardous work in other sectors of the economy.

The Constitution prohibits slavery, servitude, and forced labor for children of all ages.<sup>4972</sup> The Criminal Code bans prostitution, the procurement of, or engaging in sexual relations with any male or female under age 18.<sup>4973</sup> In 2010, the Government enacted the Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7, which criminalizes the trafficking of children for labor or commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>4974</sup> The Government passed the Counter-Trafficking Act in order to implement its

commitments under the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons.<sup>4975</sup>

	C138, Minimum Age	No
	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	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	15
	Free Public Education	No

Saint Lucia does not have a military force as the police force is responsible for the security of the country. The minimum age for recruitment to the police force is 18.<sup>4976</sup>

**Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement**

The Government of Saint Lucia has established a National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons, which consists of representatives from the Gender Relations Divisions, the Human Services Division, the Police, and the Immigration Service. The National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons coordinates efforts to detect and investigate trafficking cases and protect victims.<sup>4977</sup> Although this mechanism exists to combat trafficking in persons, research found no evidence of coordinating mechanisms to combat other worst forms of child labor.

The Director of Gender Relations has developed sensitization trainings in order to educate police officers and social workers about child labor

issues, including trainings on how to react to and identify possible victims, referral protocols, and victim protection.<sup>4978</sup>

The Department of Labor of the Ministry of Labor, Information, and Broadcasting is responsible for enforcing child labor statutes.<sup>4979</sup> The Government has seven labor inspectors to cover all aspects of labor violations, including child labor.<sup>4980</sup> These inspectors conduct spot investigations, check records to verify compliance with the law, and are empowered to take legal action against employers found to have employed underage workers. There have been no cases filed to date.<sup>4981</sup>

Anti-trafficking enforcement is among the responsibilities of the Police Department. The Police Department refers suspected cases of child trafficking to the Child Welfare Board, which oversees child abuse cases.<sup>4982</sup>

**Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

Research found no evidence that the Government of Saint Lucia has any policies to specifically address the worst forms of child labor.<sup>4983</sup> However, the Government has recognized the need to conduct solid research and statistical analysis to obtain more information on the prevalence of the worst forms of child labor. Such research has not been undertaken to date.<sup>4984</sup>

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

In 2010, the Government of Saint Lucia participated in an OAS training to increase awareness of trafficking among enforcement agencies. The program trained 40 Saint Lucian law enforcement officials in areas such as distinguishing between trafficking and smuggling as well as victim identification, assistance, and protection.<sup>4985</sup> Although the Government of Saint Lucia has implemented programs to address the trafficking of children, research found no evidence that it has carried out programs to assist children involved in agriculture.

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

### IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Increase the minimum age for employment to 15.
- Ensure prohibitions on hazardous work in sectors other than industrial undertakings.

### IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat all worst forms of child labor.

### IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Adopt policies to combat child labor in agriculture and the informal sector.
- Conduct a comprehensive study to assess the nature and extent of the worst forms of child labor in the country.

### IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS:

- Use the results of the study on the worst forms of child labor to assess the need for social programs to assist children working in agriculture.

<sup>4963</sup> Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are not available from the data sources that are used by USDOL. 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.

<sup>4964</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Saint Lucia,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2010*, Washington, DC, April 8, 2011, section 7d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154518.htm>. See also UNICEF, *A Study of Child Vulnerability in Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines*, November 2006; available from [http://www.unicef.org/barbados/cao\\_resources\\_vulnerability.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/barbados/cao_resources_vulnerability.pdf). See also U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*.

<sup>4965</sup> ILO, *Country Baseline Under the ILO Declaration Annual Review (2000-2008): Saint Lucia*, 2010; available from [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_decl\\_cl\\_lca.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_decl_cl_lca.pdf).

<sup>4966</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4967</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Saint Lucia (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2010*, April 18, 2011; available from <http://bravo.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi->

[lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=25301&chapter=9&query=Saint+Lucia%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0](http://bravo.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=25301&chapter=9&query=Saint+Lucia%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0). See also ILO Declaration Experts and ILO Governing Body, *The Effective Abolition of Child Labour: Country Baseline Under the ILO Declaration Annual Review (2000-2010): Saint Lucia*, April 18, 2010; available from [http://natlex.ilo.ch/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_091263.pdf](http://natlex.ilo.ch/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_091263.pdf).

<sup>4968</sup> ILO Declaration Experts and ILO Governing Body, *ILO Declaration Experts and Governing Body, Country Baseline Under the ILO Declaration Annual Review: Saint Lucia (2010)*.

<sup>4969</sup> ILO, *Country Baseline Under the ILO Declaration Annual Review (2000-2008): Saint Lucia*. See also Government of Saint Lucia, *Education Act No. 41 of 1999*; available from <http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Saint%20Lucia/Saint%20Lucia%20Education%20Act%201999.pdf>

<sup>4970</sup> ILO Declaration Experts and ILO Governing Body, *ILO Declaration Experts and Governing Body, Country Baseline Under the ILO Declaration Annual Review: Saint Lucia (2010)*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C182: Saint Lucia (2010)*.

<sup>4971</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C182: Saint Lucia (2010)*.

<sup>4972</sup> Government of Saint Lucia, *Saint Lucia Constitutional Order of 1978*, (December 20, 2978); available from <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Lucia/Luc78.html>.

<sup>4973</sup> Government of Saint Lucia, *Criminal Code*, (2004).

<sup>4974</sup> Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, *Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism*, May 27, 2010; available from [http://www.cfatf-gafic.org/downloadables/Follow-Up\\_reports/Saint\\_Lucia\\_1st\\_Follow-up\\_Report\\_\(Final\)\\_English.pdf](http://www.cfatf-gafic.org/downloadables/Follow-Up_reports/Saint_Lucia_1st_Follow-up_Report_(Final)_English.pdf). See also Government of Saint Lucia, *Report to the 11th Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*, June 2010; available from <http://www.eclac.org/mujer/noticias/paginas/6/38906/SaintLucia.pdf>. See also Government of Saint Lucia, *Counter-Trafficking Act of 2010*, (February 1, 2010); available from (hard copy on file). See also U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, May 23, 2011*.

<sup>4975</sup> Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, *Mutual Evaluation of Saint Lucia: First Follow-up Report*.

<sup>4976</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Saint Lucia," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from [http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country\\_pdfs/FINAL\\_2008\\_Global\\_Report.pdf](http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf).

<sup>4977</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Saint Lucia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/wha/136125.htm>.

<sup>4978</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*.

<sup>4979</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4980</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4981</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4982</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, February 5, 2010*.

<sup>4983</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*.

<sup>4984</sup> ILO, *Country Baseline Under the ILO Declaration Annual Review (2000-2008): Saint Lucia*.

<sup>4985</sup> Caribbean Net News, "OAS to train officials in St. Lucia and St. Vincent to combat trafficking in persons," (May 12, 2010); available from <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/news-23106--38-38--.html> (hard copy on file).