

Barbados

The Government of Barbados has strengthened its legal framework by setting the minimum age for employment at 16. Although Barbados does not appear to have a significant child labor problem, children are found to be victims of commercial sexual exploitation and social programs targeting these children appear to be insufficient.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Percent
Working	Unavailable
Attending School	Unavailable
Combining Work and School	Unavailable



Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor






There have been some reports in Barbados that children are found in the worst forms of child labor,³⁹³ namely as victims of commercial sexual exploitation.³⁹⁴

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act sets the minimum age for employment at 16 for certain sectors including mines, quarries, manufacturing, maintenance, construction, and demolition work.³⁹⁵ Other sectors, particularly agriculture, are not listed among the sectors where the minimum age regulations apply.³⁹⁶

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, there is no reference to the types of work considered to be hazardous and likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of children.³⁹⁷ No information was identified to indicate such types of work were listed in other laws or regulations.

The Constitution prohibits forced and compulsory labor.³⁹⁸ Several other laws may be used protect c

	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

children from trafficking and sexual exploitation.³⁹⁹ The Offenses Against the Persons Act protects children under age 16 from being trafficked from Barbados to other places for employment.⁴⁰⁰ The same Act penalizes slavery including importing and exporting a person as a slave; however, it is not clear that this provision actually covers trafficking.⁴⁰¹ The

Sexual Offences Act makes it a crime to take a person away or detain a person for sexual relations.⁴⁰² The Protection of Children Act provides protection against pornography and makes it a crime to take or allow others to take indecent photographs of a child under 18.⁴⁰³

In Barbados, volunteers for the Defense Force have to be at least age 18 to enlist, but may enlist earlier with parental consent.⁴⁰⁴

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security established a National Committee on Child Labor in February 2004.⁴⁰⁵ The Committee has been coordinating resources and gathering expertise to facilitate an integrated approach to abolish child labor in the country.⁴⁰⁶

Child labor sub-committees were also created to strengthen interagency co-operation in the harmonization of legislation, the development of a survey instrument, and to implement educational and mass media program on child labor.⁴⁰⁷

The Child Care Board and the Ministry of Labor (MOL) are responsible for monitoring and investigating child labor cases.⁴⁰⁸ The MOL has 11 inspectors to enforce possible violations of the Employment Act, including cases of child labor.⁴⁰⁹ During recent years, there were no cases of child labor violations reported.⁴¹⁰

The Royal Barbados Police Force has the responsibility for taking the lead in investigating trafficking complaints.⁴¹¹ During the reporting period, there were no investigations conducted or trafficking cases prosecuted.⁴¹²

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 comprehensive policy framework to combat the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The Government has recognized the need to conduct research and statistical analysis to obtain more detailed information on the worst forms of child labor.⁴¹³ Moreover, the Government acknowledged specifically that commercial sexual exploitation of children is a concern although the full extent of the problem is unknown.⁴¹⁴

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

During the reporting period, the Government worked with the International Office of Migration to conduct training programs to sensitize the police force on the issue of trafficking.⁴¹⁵ However, there is no evidence of programs to provide services to child victims.

In June 2008, the Government launched a child labor media campaign involving print, radio and television ads to sensitize the public about child labor and its worst forms.⁴¹⁶

The Government of Barbados participated in a regional child labor program through the ILO sub regional Office for the Caribbean. From 2001 to 2002, the project, funded by the Government of Canada, initiated a rapid assessment study on the worst forms of child labor to facilitate the identification of vulnerable groups and to collect general information on child labor, particularly the worst forms.⁴¹⁷

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

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Amend minimum age provisions of the Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act to include 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.
- Ensure that all children under age 18 are protected from trafficking.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Develop mechanisms to improve the number of investigation and prosecution of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation offenders.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Conduct a comprehensive study to update and assess the nature and extent of the worst forms of child labor nationwide, especially trafficking and 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, particularly child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Develop programs to provide services to victims of child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

³⁹³ 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.

³⁹⁴ U.S. Department of State, “Barbados,” in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010, 77; 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 November 1, 2010]; available from <http://labour.caribyte.com/child-labour-faqs>.

³⁹⁵ Government of Barbados, *Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act*, March 24, 1977 1977; available from [http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Employment%20\(Miscellaneous%20Provisions\).pdf](http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Employment%20(Miscellaneous%20Provisions).pdf).

³⁹⁶ Ibid.

³⁹⁷ Ibid. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labor*

Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Barbados (ratification: 2000) Submitted 2009, [on line] 2009 [cited March 9, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=23486&chapter=9&query=Barbados%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>.

³⁹⁸ U.S. Department of State, “Barbados,” in *2009 Human Rights Report: Barbados* Washington, DC March 11, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/wha/136100.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting*, February 8, 2010.

³⁹⁹ U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report 2010: Barbados.” See also

⁴⁰⁰ Government of Barbados, *Offences Against the Persons*, (1994), section 53(3); available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Offences%20Against%20the%20Person.pdf>.

⁴⁰¹ Ibid.

⁴⁰² Government of Barbados, *Offences Against the Person*, 1995, section 13, 17. See also Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Barbados - A Guide to Legislative Reform*, ILO, June 2005; available from http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Barbados/Other/review-child-labour-laws-barbados_ILO_2005.pdf.

⁴⁰³ Government of Barbados, *Protection of Children* 1991. See also Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Barbados*, 34.

⁴⁰⁴ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, “Barbados,” in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf.

⁴⁰⁵ Ministry of Labour Government of Barbados, “Child Labour,” available from <http://labour.caribyte.com/child-labour>. See also Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Barbados*.

⁴⁰⁶ Government of Barbados, “Child Labour.” See also Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Barbados*.

⁴⁰⁷ Government of Barbados, “Child Labour.”

⁴⁰⁸ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, February 8, 2010*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Barbados (ratification: 2000) 2009*.

⁴⁰⁹ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, February 8, 2010*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) Barbados (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2009*, [online] 2009 [cited March 9, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=23231&chapter=9&query=Barbados%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>

⁴¹⁰ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, February 8, 2010*.

⁴¹¹ U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report 2010: Barbados.” See also U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, February 8, 2010*.

⁴¹² U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report 2010: Barbados.” See also U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, February 8, 2010*.

⁴¹³ Government of Barbados, *Child Labour Media Campaign Launched this Morning*, [online] June 13, 2008 [cited March 9, 2010]; 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, “Child Labour in Barbados - A Hidden Problem,” available from <http://labour.caribyte.com/news/7>.

⁴¹⁴ Government of Barbados, *Child Labour Media Campaign Launched this Morning*. See also Government of Barbados Ministry of Labour, *FAQs About Child Labour*.

⁴¹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, February 8, 2010*.

⁴¹⁶ Government of Barbados, *Child Labour Media Campaign Launched this Morning*.

⁴¹⁷ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Barbados (ratification: 2000) 2009*. See also ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, *Project Overview - ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean Child Labour Project*, [Online] [cited October 18, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/projects/childlabour/project-overview.html>.