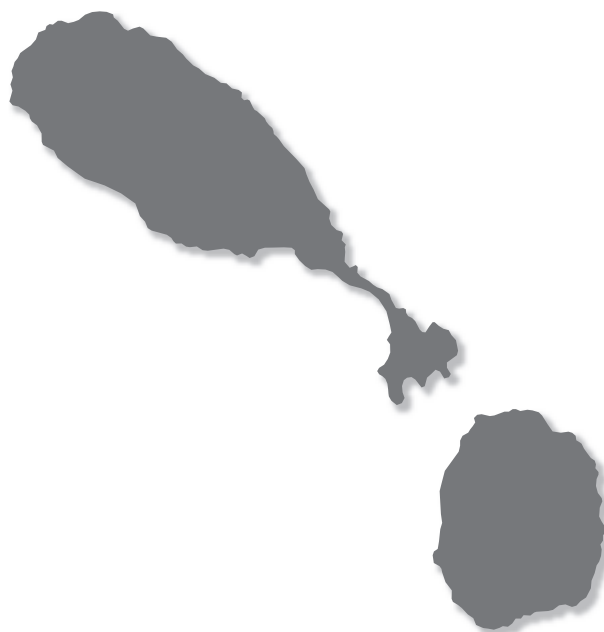


St. Kitts and Nevis

Saint Kitts and Nevis does not appear to have a significant child labor problem; however, children work in agriculture and as domestic servants may be vulnerable to worst forms abuses. Gaps in legislation do not adequately protect some children from being employed in hazardous conditions.

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 Labor⁴⁶⁷⁶






Children in Saint Kitts and Nevis may be vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor, particularly in agriculture where they assist with livestock farming and vegetable production.⁴⁶⁷⁷ Children's work in agriculture commonly involves the use of potentially dangerous machinery and tools, carrying of heavy loads, and the application of harmful pesticides.

Children are also found working as domestic servants in other households, which is an acceptable practice in the Saint Kitts and Nevis society.⁴⁶⁷⁸ Child domestic labor commonly involves long hours of work and exposes children to risks of physical and sexual exploitation by their employer.

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act, and the Employment of Children (Restriction) Ordinance, as amended by Act. No 19 of 2002 set the minimum age for employment at 16, including for admission to employment that is likely to harm their health, safety, or morals.⁴⁶⁷⁹ Children

ages 16 and 17 appear to lack legal protection from employment in hazardous conditions.

	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	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	16
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	16
	Compulsory Education Age	16
	Free Public Education	Yes

The Constitution explicitly prohibits forced or slave labor.⁴⁶⁸⁰ Trafficking is also prohibited and

criminalized by a comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation enacted in August 2008.⁴⁶⁸¹ The penalties for any elements of trafficking offenses, including controlling and restricting movement of a person, range from 20 years to life in prison.⁴⁶⁸²

Violators procuring children for prostitution may also be prosecuted under the Probation and Child Welfare Board Act, 1994 which prohibits non-accidental injury to be inflicted on a child by a caretaker, including sexual abuse or activities of a sexual nature.⁴⁶⁸³

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Although the worst forms of child labor do not appear to be significant, research found no evidence that the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis has established a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.

The Ministry of Labor is the lead agency responsible for the enforcement of laws regarding the worst forms of child labor. It has 11 labor inspectors responsible for investigating all labor violations, including those related to children.⁴⁶⁸⁴ During recent years, there have been no reported complaints, inspections, prosecutions or violations related to the worst forms of child labor in Saint Kitts and Nevis.⁴⁶⁸⁵

The police force takes the lead in any trafficking investigation and refers suspected cases of child trafficking to the Ministry of Social Development which oversees child abuse cases.⁴⁶⁸⁶ There have been no investigations conducted or cases prosecuted.⁴⁶⁸⁷

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 Saint Kitts and Nevis, research found no evidence that the Government has established a policy framework to combat the existing worst forms of child labor, including children working as domestic servants and children assisting in agriculture.⁴⁶⁸⁸

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

Research found no evidence of any programs to address child labor. However, the Government has participated in two IOM seminars on human trafficking, including a seminar for Caribbean law enforcement officials and a seminar on Mixed Migratory Flows in the Caribbean.⁴⁶⁸⁹ Topics covered included identification of victims, interview techniques, direct assistance, child trafficking, and a review of national responses.⁴⁶⁹⁰

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Saint Kitts and Nevis:

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Amend current laws to increase the minimum age for hazardous employment to 18 and to define work that is hazardous for children.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

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

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Adopt policies to address the worst forms of child labor.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Implement programs to address the worst forms of child labor.

⁴⁶⁷⁶ 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.

⁴⁶⁷⁷ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting*, February 5, 2010, section 1.

⁴⁶⁷⁸ Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, “Saint Kitts and Nevis,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2009*, Washington, D.C., March 11, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/wha/136124.htm>.

⁴⁶⁷⁹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Saint Kitts and Nevis (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2009*, [on line] [cited July 1, 2010]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=statu s01&textbase=iloeng&document=23539&chapter=9&query=Saint+Kitts%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&contex t=0>.

⁴⁶⁸⁰ Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, *The Saint Christopher and Nevis Constitution Order 1983*, 1983;

available from <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/constitutions/kitts/kitts83.html>.

⁴⁶⁸¹ U.S. Department of State, “Saint Kitts and Nevis,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2008*, Washington, D.C., February 25, 2009; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/rls/hrrpt/2009/wha/136124.htm>. See also IOM, “Counter-Trafficking Activities in St. Kitts and Nevis An Overview of 2008,” (2009); available from <http://www.iom.int/unitedstates/ct/PDFs/Building%20Capacity/2008/St.%20Kitts%20and%20Nevis-%20Activities%20Summary%202008.pdf>.

⁴⁶⁸² U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2009: Saint Kitts and Nevis.”

⁴⁶⁸³ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Saint Kitts and Nevis (ratification: 2000) 2009*.

⁴⁶⁸⁴ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting*, February 5, 2010.

⁴⁶⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁸⁹ IOM, “Counter-Trafficking Activities in St. Kitts and Nevis An Overview of 2008.”

⁴⁶⁹⁰ Ibid.