

Solomon Islands

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age of work:	12 ³⁸⁰³
Age to which education is compulsory:	Not compulsory ³⁸⁰⁴
Free public education:	Yes ³⁸⁰⁵
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2002:	107% ³⁸⁰⁶
Net primary enrollment rate in 2002:	72% ³⁸⁰⁷
Percent of children 5-14 attending school:	Unavailable
As of 2001, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	80% ³⁸⁰⁸
Ratified Convention 138:	No ³⁸⁰⁹
Ratified Convention 182:	No ³⁸¹⁰
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No ³⁸¹¹

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Anecdotal evidence suggests that children, both boys and girls, are exploited through prostitution in the logging, tourism and fishing industries near logging camps and fishing ports and in Honiara, the capital city.³⁸¹² Anecdotal evidence also suggests that children work in logging camps as cooks and in other tasks and are involved in the sale and production of kwaso (homebrewed alcohol).³⁸¹³

³⁸⁰³ Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute, *Laws of Solomon Islands, Labour Act, Chapter 73*, [online] [cited November 9, 2006], Section 5; available from http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/la84. See also U.S. Department of State, "Solomon Islands," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2005*, Washington, DC, March 8, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61627.htm>.

³⁸⁰⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2005: Solomon Islands," Section 5.

³⁸⁰⁵ Ibid.

³⁸⁰⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary*, accessed December 2005; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51>.

³⁸⁰⁷ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary*; accessed December 2005; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51>.

³⁸⁰⁸ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *School life expectancy, % of repeaters, survival rates; accessed December 2005*; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=55>.

³⁸⁰⁹ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed November 9, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

³⁸¹⁰ Ibid.

³⁸¹¹ ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour: Highlights 2006*, [online] [cited October 29, 2006]; available from http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipec/prod/eng/20061019_Implementationreport_eng_Web.pdf.

³⁸¹² Rory Callinan, "Sold and Abused," *Time*, March 27, 2006. See also Department of Home Affairs official, Interview with USDOL, June 20, 2006. See also Solomon Islands National Council of Women official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 23, 2006. See also Solomon Islands Port Authority official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 28, 2006. See also UNICEF official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 26, 2006. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Solomon Islands*, accessed November 9, 2006; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/Countries.asp?arrCountryID=158&CountryProfile=facts,affiliation,humanrights&CSEC=Overview,Prostitution,Pronography,trafficking&Implement=Coordination_cooperation,Prevention,Protection,Recovery,ChildParticipation&Nationalplans=National_plans_of_action&orgWorkCSEC=orgWorkCSEC&DisplayBy=optDisplayCategory&GetcategoryName=Overview.

³⁸¹³ Police official, Interview with USDOL consultant, September 3, 2006. See also Central Magistrate's Court official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 23, 2006. See also Labor Department official, Interview with USDOL consultant, June 12, 2006. See also Department of Home Affairs official, Interview, June 20, 2006.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law prohibits the employment of children under 12.³⁸¹⁴ Children under 12 may participate in light agricultural or domestic labor if they are employed by or in the company of their parents.³⁸¹⁵ Children under 15 are prohibited from working in industry or on ships, except on approved training ships.³⁸¹⁶ Children under 16 are completely prohibited from working in mines.³⁸¹⁷ Male children between 16 and 17 years are allowed to work in mines, but must first obtain a medical certificate to do so.³⁸¹⁸ Children between 16 and 18 are prohibited from working on ships, with some exceptions. Male children between 16 and 18 may be employed on ships that are mainly propelled by means other than steam, provided that the male child is first certified by a medical practitioner.³⁸¹⁹ Male children between 16 and 18 may begin work on a ship without medical clearance, provided that the male child is examined and certified at the first place of call where a medical practitioner is available.³⁸²⁰ Male children between 16 and 18 are prohibited to work during the night in any industrial undertaking.³⁸²¹

Forced or compulsory labor is prohibited,³⁸²² as is the procurement of girls less than 18 years for the purpose of prostitution.³⁸²³ There are no armed forces in the Solomon Islands; however, the minimum age for recruitment into the border police force is 18.³⁸²⁴ There are no laws that specifically ban trafficking, but there are several general provisions in the penal code that may be used to prosecute acts of trafficking.³⁸²⁵

The Commissioner of Labor is responsible for enforcing child labor laws;³⁸²⁶ however, the Labor Department, over which the Commissioner of Labor presides, does not have labor officers to investigate reports of child labor violations or to enforce the law.³⁸²⁷ According to the U.S. Department of State, the government devotes few resources to investigating child labor cases.³⁸²⁸

³⁸¹⁴ Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute, *Labor Act*, Article 46.

³⁸¹⁵ Ibid.

³⁸¹⁶ Ibid., Article 47.

³⁸¹⁷ Ibid., Article 48.

³⁸¹⁸ Ibid., Article 49.

³⁸¹⁹ Ibid.

³⁸²⁰ Ibid.

³⁸²¹ Ibid.

³⁸²² U.S. Department of State, "Solomon Islands," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78791.htm>.

³⁸²³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2005: Solomon Islands," Section 5. See also, *Constitution of the Solomon Islands, 1978*, Article 6; available from http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/paclawmat/Solomon_Islands_legislation/Solomons_Constitution.html [hard copy on file].

³⁸²⁴ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report, Solomon Islands*, London 2004; available from www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=877.

³⁸²⁵ ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Solomon Islands*.

³⁸²⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2005: Solomon Islands," Section 5.

³⁸²⁷ Labor Department official, Interview, June 12, 2006.

³⁸²⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2005: Solomon Islands," Section 6d.

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In coordination with the Government of the Solomon Islands, UNICEF is planning activities to address the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children.³⁸²⁹

³⁸²⁹ UNICEF official, Interview, June 26, 2006.