

Turks and Caicos Islands

In 2011, the Turks and Caicos Islands made no advancement in efforts to prevent the worst forms of child labor. While there is no evidence of a problem, the Government lacks a complete preventive legal framework. The Turks and Caicos Islands have not established a minimum age to protect children from performing hazardous work.

Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

There is no evidence that children in the Turks and Caicos Islands are engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The minimum age for employment in the Turks and Caicos Islands is 16. Children younger than age 16 may be employed with the written consent of a parent or guardian.⁽¹⁾ Research found no evidence of a minimum age for hazardous work or a comprehensive list prohibiting children from hazardous work.

Slavery and forced labor are prohibited by the Constitution.⁽²⁾ No information was found on whether laws exist regarding the

use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.

Education is compulsory to age 16.⁽³⁾ Research did not find complete information on the question of whether education is free.

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for a coordinating mechanism to address the worst forms of child labor.

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for policies to address the worst forms of child labor.

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

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands participates in Safeguarding Children in the Overseas Territories (SCOT) Program, which is sponsored by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development. Through the SCOT Program, participating governments receive capacity building and advisory support to implement policies, procedures and best practices to ensure children's health and safety.⁽⁴⁾

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the prevention of the worst forms of child labor in the Turks and Caicos Islands:

Area	Suggested Actions	Year(s) Action Recommended
Laws and Regulations	Establish a minimum age for hazardous work and a comprehensive list prohibiting children from hazardous work.	2011
	Clarify whether laws exist regarding the use of children for drug trafficking or other illicit activities.	2011

REFERENCES

1. *Turks and Caicos Islands Employment Ordinance 2004*, enacted October 26, 2004. <http://www.misickstanbrook.tc/articles/ordinances/Employment%20Ordinance/Employment%20Ordinance%202004.pdf>.
2. *The Turks and Caicos Constitution Order 2006*, enacted August 9, 2006. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/1913/pdfs/ukxi_20061913_en.pdf.

3. Charts Bin. *Ending Age of Compulsory Education Around the World -- Turks and Caicos*, [online] [cited February 22, 2011]; <http://chartsbin.com/view/qpp>.
4. U.S. Embassy- London. *reporting, January 19, 2012*.

NON-INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES – LAWS AND RATIFICATIONS

		Niue	Norfolk Island	St. Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha	Tokelau	Turks and Caicos	Wallis and Futuna	West Bank	Western Sahara
	C138, Minimum Age	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	X	N/A	X	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Minimum Age for Work	Unclear	None	Unclear	Unclear	16	16	15	15
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Unclear	None	Unclear	Unclear	None	18	18	18
	Compulsory Education Age	16	15	15, 16, 15	16	16	16	15	15
	Free Public Education	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes