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²⁵⁰ ILO-IPEC, *Preventing and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Selected Formal and Informal Sectors in Bangladesh*, final technical progress report, Geneva, May 15, 2006, 2.

²⁵¹ Government of Bangladesh, *Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper*, Dhaka, October 16, 2005, 323; available from <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr05410.pdf>.

²⁵² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Bangladesh," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting*, March 2, 2006.

²⁵³ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting*, March 4, 2008.

²⁵⁴ Government of Bangladesh, *Written communication*, submitted in response to U.S. Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (July 29, 2005) "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor", Washington, DC, September 12, 2005.

²⁵⁵ United Nations Population Fund, *UNFPA Global Population Policy Update*, [online] March 16, 2004 [cited December 18, 2007]; available from <http://www.unfpa.org/parliamentarians/news/newsletters/issue17.htm>, UNFPA, *UNFPA Global Population Policy Update*, [online] March 16, 2004 [cited December

18, 2007]; available from <http://www.unfpa.org/parliamentarians/news/newsletters/issue17.htm>.

²⁵⁶ U.S. Embassy - Dhaka, *reporting*, March 1, 2007. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Bangladesh," section 5.

²⁵⁷ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 12(1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Children on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography: Initial Reports of States Parties*, Geneva, December 23, 2005; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.OPSC.BGD.1.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.OPSC.BGD.1.En?OpenDocument).

²⁵⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Bangladesh," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy - Dhaka, *reporting*, December 19, 2007.

²⁵⁹ U.S. Embassy - Dhaka, *reporting*, December 19, 2007.

²⁶⁰ Government of Bangladesh, *Written Communication*, submitted in response to U.S. Department of Labor Federal Register Notice.

²⁶¹ UNICEF, *Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children*.

²⁶² ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 6, 2007.

Barbados

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

The ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean conducted a survey of child work in Barbados in 2002 and found that children were involved in work in the services industry, vending, trades, and family-related businesses.²⁶³ Boys were mostly involved in construction, electrical repairs/installations, fruit vending, horse grooming, and assisting at supermarkets. Girls worked as shop assistants. The working conditions for these children were characterized by long hours, and irregular pay and low remuneration.²⁶⁴

There have been reports of children involved in commercial sexual exploitation, including reports of boys and girls being involved in sex tourism.²⁶⁵ In some instances parents have compelled their children to become prostitutes in Bridgetown's red light district.²⁶⁶ There are unsubstantiated reports of women and girls being trafficked to Barbados for sexual exploitation in brothels and strips clubs, and also for forced domestic service.²⁶⁷

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Barbados is 16 years.²⁶⁸ Children under 16, however, are allowed to work under certain restrictions.²⁶⁹

***Selected Statistics and Indicators
on Child Labor²⁷⁰***

| | |
|---|------------|
| Working children, 5-14 years (%): | - |
| Working boys, 5-14 years (%): | - |
| Working girls, 5-14 years (%): | - |
| Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%): | |
| - Agriculture | - |
| - Manufacturing | - |
| - Services | - |
| - Other | - |
| Minimum age for work: | 16 |
| Compulsory education age: | 16 |
| Free public education: | Yes |
| Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005: | 100 |
| Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005: | 94 |
| School attendance, children 5-14 years (%): | - |
| Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004: | 98 |
| ILO-IPEC participating country: | Associated |

The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor.²⁷⁹ The minimum age for voluntary military services is 18 years old, or earlier with parental consent.²⁸⁰ The Young Persons Protection Act of 1918 prohibits the removal of persons under 17 from the island for the purpose of forced labor in foreign countries.²⁸¹ Anyone who attempts to do so may be arrested.²⁸² Prostitution is illegal.²⁸³ In addition, the exploitation of children for use in indecent photographs is prohibited. Any person who is convicted of this offense is liable to imprisonment for two to five years.²⁸⁴ In March of 2007, security forces intercepted a human trafficking ring that was headed for Barbados, with trafficking victims as young as 13 and 14 years old.²⁸⁵ In addition, the government has investigated some allegations and began prosecutions against a small number of possible traffickers, but as of June 2007 there had not been any convictions.²⁸⁶

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

The Government of Barbados has created restrictions on the import of products produced by child labor.²⁸⁷

Such children may not work between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. or during school hours.²⁷¹ The work of a young person, defined as between 16 and 18 years old, is also subject to certain restrictions.²⁷² Young persons may not work in industrial undertakings during the night – from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. – or participate in work that is likely to cause injury to their health, safety, or morals.²⁷³ For the purposes of apprenticeship or vocational training, authorization may be granted to allow young persons to work during the night.²⁷⁴ Young persons participating in an apprenticeship or vocational training must first obtain a medical certificate from a medical practitioner confirming that they are fit to be employed.²⁷⁵

The Child Care Board and the Labor Department are responsible for monitoring and investigating cases of child labor.²⁷⁶ The Labor Department has a small staff of labor inspectors who conduct spot investigations and verify records to ensure compliance with the law.²⁷⁷ These inspectors are authorized to take legal action against employers who are found to use underage workers.²⁷⁸

²⁶³ ILO, *Regional Fact Sheets on Child Labour: Barbados*, Subregional Office for the Caribbean 2002; available from http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/childlabour/library/fact_sheets/BarbdosFS.pdf.

²⁶⁴ Ibid.

²⁶⁵ EPCAT International CSEC Database, *Child Prostitution - Barbados*, accessed January 24, 2008; available from <http://www.ecpat.net/>. ILO, *Child Labour in Barbados*.

²⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting*, March 7, 2007.

²⁶⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Barbados," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf>.

²⁶⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2007: Barbados."section 6d.

²⁶⁹ Government of Barbados, *Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act*, (March 24, 1977); available from [http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Employment%20\(Miscellaneous%20Provisions\).pdf](http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Employment%20(Miscellaneous%20Provisions).pdf).

²⁷⁰ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Executive Summary. For

minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see U.S. Department of State, "Barbados," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, 2008, section 5, 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100627.htm>.

²⁷¹ Ibid., chapter 346, part V.

²⁷² Ibid., chapter 346, part III.

²⁷³ Ibid.

²⁷⁴ Ibid.

²⁷⁵ Government of Barbados, *Occupational Training Act*, (October 1, 1979); available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Occupational%20Training.pdf>.

²⁷⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2007: Barbados."

²⁷⁷ Ibid. section 6d.

²⁷⁸ Ibid. section 6d.

²⁷⁹ Ibid. U.S. Department of State, "Barbados," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, 2007, section 6c; available from

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78879.htm>.

²⁸⁰ CIA World Factbook, "Barbados," in *CIA World Factbook*, Washington, DC, January 17, 2008; available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>.

²⁸¹ Government of Barbados, *Young Persons Protection Act*, (May 17, 1918); available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Young%20Persons%20Protection.pdf>.

²⁸² Ibid.

²⁸³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2007: Barbados."

²⁸⁴ Government of Barbados, *Protection of Children Act*, (December 20, 1990); available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Protection%20of%20Children.pdf>.

²⁸⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2007: Barbados."

²⁸⁶ State, "Trafficking in Persons Report 2007: Barbados."

²⁸⁷ ILO, *Child Labour in Barbados*.

Belize

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Most working children in Belize are found in rural regions in the agricultural sector. Many children work in banana, sugar cane and citrus production.²⁸⁸ Children also work in wholesale and retail trade, repair, tourism, providing diverse services, and to a lesser extent, in construction and manufacturing.²⁸⁹ Half of the boys who work do so in hazardous forms of labor.²⁹⁰ Girls engage in prostitution with older men in exchange for clothing, jewelry, food, school fees, and books. The YWCA reports that as many as 20 percent of its under-aged clients have been solicited for commercial sex activities.²⁹¹

Belize is reported to be a source, transit, and destination country for the trafficking of children.²⁹² Trafficking of girls within Belize and to and from other countries occurs for both sexual exploitation and to work as domestic servants. This trafficking is sometimes arranged by family members.²⁹³ Some trafficked children are forced to shine shoes or sell newspapers.²⁹⁴

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Act of Belize sets the minimum age for work as 12 and 14 years in different sections of the text; thus, it has been criticized as being unclear. Article 169 states that no child shall be employed who is under age 12. Article 164 states that no person shall employ a child in a public or private undertaking, and child is defined as being under 14 years in the interpretation section of the Labor Act.²⁹⁵ According to the Labor Act, children over 12 years may work after school hours, for no more than 2 hours on a school day or a Sunday, only between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., and in work that is not likely to cause injury.²⁹⁶ The Labor Act sets penalties for non-compliance with minimum age standards that include fines and imprisonment up to 2 months, and up to 4 months in the case of a second or subsequent offense.²⁹⁷