
State, "Barbados," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, sections 5, 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100627.htm>.

²⁸⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Barbados," section 6c.

²⁸⁷ Central Intelligence Agency, "Barbados," in *CIA World Factbook*, Washington, DC, January 17, 2008; available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>.

²⁸⁸ Government of Barbados, *Young Persons Protection Act*, (May 17, 1918), articles 3, 4, 5, 7; available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Young%20Persons%20Protection.pdf>.

²⁸⁹ Government of Barbados, "Barbados," in *Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offences against Children*; available from <http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/CsaBarbados.pdf>.

²⁹⁰ Government of Barbados, *Protection of Children Act*, (December 20, 1990), articles 2, 3, 9; available from <http://www.caricomlaw.org/docs/Protection%20of%20Children.pdf>.

²⁹¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Barbados," sections 5, 6d.

²⁹² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Barbados," section 6d.

²⁹³ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Barbados."

²⁹⁴ Government of Barbados, *Child Labour Media Campaign Launched this Morning*, [online] June 13, 2008 [cited January 31, 2009]; available from <http://www.gov.bb/portal/page/portal/GISMEDIA%20CENTRENEWS%20MANAGEMENT/News%20Archive/Child%20Labour%20Media%20Campaign%20Launched%20this%20Morning>.

Belize

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Most working children in Belize are found in rural regions in the agricultural sector. Many of these children work in banana, sugar cane, and citrus production.²⁹⁵ Children also work in wholesale and retail trade, repair, tourism, providing diverse services, and to a lesser extent, in construction and manufacturing.²⁹⁶ According to a 2003 study by the ILO, half of the boys who work do so in hazardous forms of labor.²⁹⁷ Girls engage in prostitution with older men in exchange for clothing, jewelry, food, school fees, and books. The YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) reports that as many as 20 percent of its under-aged clients have been solicited for commercial sex activities.²⁹⁸

Belize is reported to be a source, transit, and destination country for the trafficking of children.²⁹⁹ Trafficking of girls within Belize and to and from other countries occurs for both sexual exploitation and for work as domestic servants.³⁰⁰

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Labor Act of Belize sets the minimum age for work as 14 years.³⁰¹ 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.³⁰² Article 169 establishes the minimum age for light work as 12 years of age. 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.³⁰³ Children of any age may work on family farms with authorization.³⁰⁴ The Labor Act sets penalties for non-compliance with minimum age standards that include fines and imprisonment of up to 2 months for a first offense and up to 4 months in the case of a second or subsequent offense.³⁰⁵

The law prohibits persons under 18 years from engaging in any form of harmful employment.³⁰⁶ Forced labor and slavery are prohibited.³⁰⁷

Although there is no law establishing a minimum age for conscription into the military, the minimum age for voluntary enrollment is 18 years.³⁰⁸ The law punishes child trafficking offenses with imprisonment of up to 5 years and fines.³⁰⁹ The law also prohibits sex with a female younger than 14 years and provides for a penalty of 12 years to life imprisonment. The sentence for the same act with a girl 14 to 16 years is 5 to 10 years.³¹⁰

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

The Government of Belize has a National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents, 2004-2015, which specifically seeks to protect children from trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and unacceptable forms of child labor. The plan seeks to amend the Labor Act to better address child labor issues, develop and implement regulations on exploitive child labor in the social service agencies, strengthen enforcement capacity of key ministries, and increase prevention and public awareness efforts.³¹⁴

The Government of Belize participated in a USDOL-funded 7-year USD 8.8 million regional project implemented by ILO-IPEC which concluded in April 2009 and sought to combat commercial sexual exploitation through a variety of activities, including capacity building and legal reform. In addition, the project targeted 713 children for withdrawal and 657 children for prevention from commercial sexual exploitation in Central America.³¹⁵ The Government of Belize also participated in a USD 1.4 million regional project funded by the Government of Canada and implemented by ILO-IPEC aimed at combating the worst forms of child labor that ended in September 2008.³¹⁶ The Government of Belize participated in a Phase III USD 3.3 million regional project to eradicate child labor in Latin America funded by the Government of Spain and implemented by ILO-IPEC.³¹⁷

The Ministry of Human Development is participating in a project funded by USDOS that aims to build capacity of the Ministry's trafficking assistance program, focusing on victim rehabilitation, shelter, training, and prevention. USDOS is also funding a regional project with the Government of Belize that protects children from commercial sexual exploitation in tourism and promotes codes of conduct in the tourism industries in Belize and Mexico.³¹⁸

²⁹⁵ SIMPOC and the Central Statistical Office of the Government of Belize, *Child Labour in Belize: A Statistical Report*, ILO, 2003, 31; available from <http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/childlabour/library/Natio>

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor³¹¹

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2001:	63,350
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2001:	6.3
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2001:	8.1
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2001:	4.6
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%), 2001:	
- Agriculture	55.3
- Manufacturing	3.6
- Services	38.8
- Other	2.4
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	14
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	123.1
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	97.0
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2001:	93.2
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2006:	87.3
ILO Convention 138:	3/6/2000
ILO Convention 182:	3/6/2000
CRC:	5/2/1990
CRCOPAC:	12/1/2003
CRCOPSC:	12/1/2003
Palermo:	9/26/2003**
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Associated

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

**Accession

Inspectors from the Departments of Labor and Education are responsible for enforcing child labor regulations.³¹² The Family Services Division of the Ministry of Human Development, Women, Child, and Civil Society is responsible for investigating child trafficking cases.³¹³

nalReportBelizeCSO.pdf. See also U.S. Embassy-Belmopan, *reporting*, January 30, 2009.

²⁹⁶ SIMPOC and the Central Statistical Office of the Government of Belize, *Child Labour in Belize: A Statistical Report*, 32.

²⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 39.

²⁹⁸ ILO, *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Belize*, San José, 2006, 38-39; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipecoinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=7186>.

²⁹⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Belize (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/>.

³⁰⁰ *Ibid.* See also U.S. Department of State, "Belize," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/wha/119148.htm>.

³⁰¹ Government of Belize, *Labour Act (Revised)*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (no. 138) Belize (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2008 [cited February 8, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newcountryframeE.htm>.

³⁰² Government of Belize, *Labour Act (Revised)*, articles 2 and 164.

³⁰³ *Ibid.*, article 169.

³⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, article 170.

³⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, article 172.

³⁰⁶ Government of Belize, *Families and Children Act, Revised Edition*, (December 31, 2000), articles 2, 7; available from <http://www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/index2.html>.

³⁰⁷ Government of Belize, *Constitution of Belize, Revised Edition*, (December 31, 2000), article 8; available from <http://www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/index2.html>.

³⁰⁸ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Belize," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=22>.

³⁰⁹ Government of Belize, *Criminal Code*, (May 31, 2003), article 49; available from <http://www.belizelaw.org/lawadmin/index2.html>.

³¹⁰ *Ibid.*, articles 47, 48.

³¹¹ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For

minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Belize, *Labour Act (Revised)*, (December 31, 2000), chapter 297, sections 1, 2, 164, 169; available from http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/projects/cariblex/belize_ct5.shtml. See also SIMPOC and the Central Statistical Office of the Government of Belize, *Child Labour in Belize: A Qualitative Study*, ILO, February 2003; available from http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/childlabour/library/rapid_assessment/RABelize.pdf.

For age to which education is compulsory, see Government of Belize, *Education Act*, (December 31, 2000), article 2; available from <http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/projects/cariblex/>. For free public education, see Government of Belize, *Education Act*, article 45. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by State Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: Belize*, March 31, 2005, para 60; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/15d955c522246114c125702100421174/\\$FILE/G0540865.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/15d955c522246114c125702100421174/$FILE/G0540865.pdf).

³¹² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Belize," section 6d.

³¹³ *Ibid.*, section 5.

³¹⁴ Government of Belize, *The National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents in Belize 2004-2015*, Belize City, September 4, 2004, 15-16; available from <http://www.mohd.gov.bz/NPA.pdf>.

³¹⁵ ILO-IPEC, *Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic*, Project Document, RLA/05/P52/USA, San José, 2005, 22. See also ILO-IPEC, *Contribution to the Prevention and Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic*, Project Document, RLA/02/P51/USA, San José, 2002, 16.

³¹⁶ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008.

³¹⁷ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, February 4, 2008.

³¹⁸ U.S. Department of State, *U.S. Government Funds Obligated for Anti-Trafficking in Persons Projects, Fiscal Year 2007*, [online] February 2008 [cited February 7, 2009]; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/101295.htm>.