

Saint Lucia

The Government of Saint Lucia has strengthened its legal framework by enacting a new anti-trafficking law. However, gaps remain in its efforts to protect children from the worst forms of child labor, in particular regarding the minimum age for work law, and in data collection and research. Although there is limited information on the prevalence of hazardous child labor, there are reports that children work in the banana harvest and the informal sector. It is not clear whether the lack of evidence of the worst forms of child labor is indicative of a small problem, or a hidden one.

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 Labor

Although there is limited information on the prevalence of the worst forms of child labor in Saint Lucia,⁴²⁸³ there are reports that children in rural areas help harvest bananas where they may be at risk of carrying heavy loads and exposure to harmful pesticides.⁴²⁸⁴

The Government has indicated that child labor appears to be an issue in the informal sector, although additional details on the specific types of work are unavailable.⁴²⁸⁵

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Law, Saint Lucia Revised Ordinances of 1957 sets the minimum age for employment at 14.⁴²⁸⁶ In 2006, the Government proposed Labour Code No. 37, to increase the minimum age for employment to age 15 years.⁴²⁸⁷ The legislation has not been enacted by Parliament.⁴²⁸⁸

The Education Act No. 41 of 1999 makes it an offense to employ a child between the ages of 5 and 15 during the school year.⁴²⁸⁹ The Occupational Health and Safety Act prohibits the employment of persons under age 18 in industrial undertakings.⁴²⁹⁰ It also lists certain types of work that are prohibited.⁴²⁹¹ However, it is unclear whether or not there are prohibitions in hazardous work in other sectors of the economy.

The Constitution prohibits slavery, servitude, or forced labor.⁴²⁹²

The Criminal Code bans the procurement of any male or female under age 18 for prostitution or for the purpose of sexual relations.⁴²⁹³ In 2010, the Government enacted the Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7 to define hostage taking, migrant smuggling, participation in organized criminal group and sexual exploitation of children as offenses.⁴²⁹⁴ The Counter-Trafficking Act is intended to give effect to implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish trafficking in persons.⁴²⁹⁵

Saint Lucia does not have a military force. Instead, the police force is responsible for the security of the country. The minimum age for recruitment to the police force is 18.⁴²⁹⁶

	C138, Minimum Age	No
	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	No
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	18
	Compulsory Education Age	15
	Free Public Education	No

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

Research found no evidence that the Government of Saint Lucia has established a coordinating mechanism to address child labor in agriculture or the informal sector. The Government of Saint Lucia has established a National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons consisting of the Gender Relations Divisions, the Human Services Division, the Police, and the Immigration Service.⁴²⁹⁷

The Department of Labor of the Ministry of Labor Relations, Public Service, and Cooperatives is responsible for enforcing child labor statutes.⁴²⁹⁸ The Government has seven labor inspectors to cover all aspects of labor violations including child labor.⁴²⁹⁹

These inspectors conduct spot investigations and check records to verify compliance with the law. Inspectors are empowered to take legal action against employers found to have employed underage workers. There have been no cases filed to date.⁴³⁰⁰

Anti-trafficking enforcement is among the responsibilities of the Police Department. It refers suspected cases of child trafficking to the Child Welfare Board, which oversees child abuse cases.⁴³⁰¹

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Research found no evidence that the Government of Saint Lucia has any policies to specifically address the worst forms of child labor.⁴³⁰² However, the Government has recognized the need to conduct solid research and statistical analysis to obtain more information on the prevalence of the worst forms of child labor; such research has not been undertaken to date.⁴³⁰³

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

Although the Government of Saint Lucia has implemented programs to address trafficking of children, research found no evidence that it has carried out programs to assist children involved in agriculture or the informal sector. The Government works with organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission of Women, and IOM to address, prevent, and combat the issue of trafficking in persons.⁴³⁰⁴ In 2010, the Government of Saint Lucia participated in an OAS training to increase awareness of trafficking among enforcement agencies.⁴³⁰⁵ The program trained 40 Saint Lucian law enforcement officials in areas such as distinction between trafficking and smuggling as well as victim identification and assistance and protection.⁴³⁰⁶

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

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Increase the minimum age for work to 15.
- Ensure prohibitions on hazardous work in sectors other than industrial undertakings.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat all worst forms of child labor, including hazardous child labor in agriculture and the informal sector.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Conduct a comprehensive study to assess the nature and extent of worst forms of child labor in the country.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Use the results of the study on the worst forms of child labor to assess the need for social programs to assist children working in agriculture and the informal sector.

⁴²⁸³ 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.

⁴²⁸⁴ U.S. Department of State, “Saint Lucia,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/wha/136125.htm>. See also UNICEF, *A Study of Child Vulnerability in Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines*, November 2006; available from http://www.unicef.org/barbados/cao_resources_vulnerability.pdf.

⁴²⁸⁵ ILO Programme for the Promotion of the Declaration, *Country Baseline Under the ILO Declaration Annual Review (2000-2010): Saint Lucia*, 2010; available from http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_decl_cl_lca.pdf.

⁴²⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴²⁸⁷ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Saint Lucia (ratification: 2000)*, [online] 2010 [cited July 13, 2010]; available from <http://bravo.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=25301&chapter=9&query=Saint+Lucia%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>. See also ILO Declaration Experts and ILO Governing Body, *The Effective Abolition of Child Labor: Country Baseline Under the ILO Declaration Annual Review (2000 - 2010) Saint Lucia*, 2010; available from http://natlex.ilo.ch/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_091263.pdf.

⁴²⁸⁸ ILO Declaration Experts and ILO Governing Body, *Saint Lucia*. See also M. G. George, “Labour Code to be implemented,” *The voice*, April 20th, 2010; available from http://www.thevoiceslu.com/local_news/2010/april/20_04_10/Labour_Code_to_be_implemented.htm.

⁴²⁸⁹ ILO Programme for the Promotion of the Declaration, *Country Baseline: Saint Lucia*. See also Government of Saint Lucia, *Education Act No. 41 of 1999*; available from <http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Saint%20Lucia/Saint%20Lucia%20Education%20Act%201999.pdf>.

⁴²⁹⁰ ILO Declaration Experts and ILO Governing Body, *Saint Lucia*. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Saint Lucia (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2010*, [online] [cited July 13, 2010]; available from <http://bravo.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=25301&chapter=9&query=Saint+Lucia%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>

⁴²⁹¹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Saint Lucia (ratification: 2000) 2010*.

⁴²⁹² Government of Saint Lucia, *The Saint Lucia Constitution Order of 1978*; available from <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Lucia/Luc78.html>.

⁴²⁹³ Government of Saint Lucia, *Criminal Code*, 2004.

⁴²⁹⁴ Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, *Mutual Evaluation of Saint Lucia: First Follow-up Report*, May 27, 2010; available from [http://www.cfatf-gafic.org/downloadables/Follow-Up_reports/Saint_Lucia_1st_Follow-up_Report_\(Final\)_English.pdf](http://www.cfatf-gafic.org/downloadables/Follow-Up_reports/Saint_Lucia_1st_Follow-up_Report_(Final)_English.pdf). See also Government of Saint Lucia, *Report to the 11th Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*, June 2010; available from <http://www.eclac.org/mujer/noticias/paginas/6/38906/SaintLucia.pdf>.

⁴²⁹⁵ Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, *Mutual Evaluation of Saint Lucia*.

⁴²⁹⁶ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, “Saint Lucia,” in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C182: Saint Lucia (2010)*.

⁴²⁹⁷ U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2009: Saint Lucia.”

⁴²⁹⁸ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting*, February 5, 2010.

⁴²⁹⁹ Ibid.

⁴³⁰⁰ Ibid.

⁴³⁰¹ Ibid.

⁴³⁰² U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2009: Saint Lucia.”

⁴³⁰³ ILO Programme for the Promotion of the Declaration, *Country Baseline: Saint Lucia*.

⁴³⁰⁴ Government of Saint Lucia, *Report to the 11th Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

⁴³⁰⁵ Caribbean Net News, “OAS to train officials in St. Lucia and St. Vincent to combat trafficking in persons,” (2010); available from <http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/news-23106--38-38--.html>.

⁴³⁰⁶ Ibid.