

Grenada

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

From 1999 to 2000, the Government of Grenada collaborated with the Canadian International Development Agency on the Eastern Caribbean Education Reform Project to produce a film about education reform and a brochure to give practical advice to parents who want to assist their children with their school work and literacy skills.¹⁵⁵⁷ The Parliament of Grenada is currently considering legislation that would impose a 2,000 East Caribbean Dollar (USD 749) fine on any person who employs a child of school age during school hours.¹⁵⁵⁸ The government has also prepared its first comprehensive educational development plan, entitled “Strategic Plan for Educational Enhancement and Development,” to be implemented from 2002-2010.¹⁵⁵⁹

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Grenada are unavailable. Child labor is reportedly not a significant problem in Grenada, although some children work informally in the agricultural sector.¹⁵⁶⁰

Education is compulsory in Grenada until the age of 16.¹⁵⁶¹ In 1998, the gross primary enrollment rate was 125.5 percent, while the net primary enrollment rate was 97.5 percent.¹⁵⁶² Despite high enrollment rates, factors such as poverty, poor school facilities, and the periodic need to help with family farm harvests have resulted in approximately a 7 percent absenteeism rate among primary school children.¹⁵⁶³

¹⁵⁵⁷ Government of Canada, *Canadian Cooperation in the Caribbean 2000 Edition: Grenada*, CIDA.gc.com, [online] [cited August 13, 2002]; available from http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca_ind.nsf.

¹⁵⁵⁸ Reginald Lord, Grenada Ministry of Labour, facsimile communication to USDOL official, August 22, 2002. For currency conversion see FX Converter, [online] [cited November 11, 2002]; available from <http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm>.

¹⁵⁵⁹ Grenadian Voice, *Ten Year Education Plan Finalized*, Grenadianvoice.com, [online] [cited August 14, 2002]; available from <http://www.grenadianvoice.com/archives/040502/local3.htm>.

¹⁵⁶⁰ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2001: Grenada*, Washington, D.C., March 4, 2002, 2815, Section 5 [cited August 9, 2002]; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/wha/8348.htm>.

¹⁵⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶² UNESCO: Institute for Statistics, *Education for All: Year 2000 Assessment - A Decade of Education* [CD-ROM], Paris, 2000.

¹⁵⁶³ U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *unclassified telegram no. 1126*, June 23, 2000.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act of 1999 sets the minimum age for employment in Grenada at 16 years, with the exception of holiday employment.¹⁵⁶⁴ A person convicted of violating the Act can be subject to a fine of up to USD 10,000, up to three years imprisonment, or both.¹⁵⁶⁵ The Constitution prohibits forced labor and slavery.¹⁵⁶⁶ There are no laws that specifically address trafficking in persons and there were no reports that children were trafficked to, from, within, or through the country.¹⁵⁶⁷ The Ministry of Labor enforces child labor laws in the formal sector through periodic checks; however, enforcement in the informal sector is not stringent.¹⁵⁶⁸ The Government of Grenada has not ratified ILO Convention 138 or ILO Convention 182.¹⁵⁶⁹

¹⁵⁶⁴ Government of Grenada, *Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, 1999*, Article 32, 132 as cited in Adrian Hayes, Grenada Ministry of Legal Affairs, facsimile communication to USDOL official, May 12, 2001.

¹⁵⁶⁵ *Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, 1999*, Article 35 as cited in Hayes, facsimile communication, May 12, 2001.

¹⁵⁶⁶ *Grenada Constitution Order 1973*, No. 2155, (February 7, 1974), Chapter 1, Section 4, 1-2 [cited October 7, 2002]; available from <http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/Constitutions/Grenada/gren73eng.html>.

¹⁵⁶⁷ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2001: Grenada*, 2815-16, Section 6f.

¹⁵⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 2815-16, Section 6d.

¹⁵⁶⁹ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, in ILOLEX, [database online] [cited August 8, 2002]; available from <http://ilolex.ilo.ch:1567/english/newratframeE.htm>.