

## Tonga

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for admission to work:	Unavailable
Age to which education is compulsory:	14 <sup>4162</sup>
Free public education:	Yes <sup>4163*</sup>
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	115% <sup>4164</sup>
Net primary enrollment rate in 2001:	96% <sup>4165</sup>
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2001:	Unavailable
As of 2000, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	92% <sup>4166</sup>
Ratified Convention 138:	Non-ILO member
Ratified Convention 182:	Non-ILO member
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No <sup>4167</sup>
*Must pay school fees at the secondary level.	

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

There are no reports of child labor existing in the formal or informal economy. During 2006, there were increased reports of workers on foreign fishing vessels soliciting underage girls for prostitution.<sup>4168</sup>

### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Tonga does not have legislation setting the minimum age for work.<sup>4169</sup> The law prohibits slavery, which can be interpreted to include forced or bonded labor.<sup>4170</sup> The owning and/or operating of a brothel, pimping, and soliciting in a public place are all prohibited by the law. Penalties for offenses range from imprisonment from 6 months to 2 years.<sup>4171</sup> The law also prohibits any person from assaulting a child in an indecent manner, abducting girls, and procuring or attempting to procure any girl under the age of 21 for trafficking for prostitution.

<sup>4162</sup> Paula Bloomfield, *Kingdom of Tonga on the Occasion of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children*, New York, May 8-10, 2002; available from [www.un.org/ga/children/tongaE.htm](http://www.un.org/ga/children/tongaE.htm).

<sup>4163</sup> Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, "Tonga," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78793.htm>.

<sup>4164</sup> UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

<sup>4165</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4167</sup> ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour: Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006, 29; available from [http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20061018\\_Implementationreport\\_eng.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipcc/prod/eng/20061018_Implementationreport_eng.pdf).

<sup>4168</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Tonga," Sections 5, 6d. See also Ministry of Finance Statistics Department, *Report on the Tonga Labour Force Survey 2003*, Nuku'alofa, April 2004, 36. See also End Child Labor, *Child Labor Information Bank: Tonga*, [online] n.d. [cited October 16, 2006]; available from [http://www.endchildlabor.org/db\\_infoBank.cfm](http://www.endchildlabor.org/db_infoBank.cfm). See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Tonga*, accessed October 16, 2006; available from

[http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat\\_inter/projects/monitoring/online\\_database/index.asp](http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp).

<sup>4169</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Tonga," Section 6d.

<sup>4170</sup> Government of Tonga, *Constitution of Tonga*, (1988), Article 2.

<sup>4171</sup> Government of Tonga, *Criminal Offenses Act*, (1988), Articles 80-81.

The maximum punishment for these offenses is imprisonment for up to 5 years.<sup>4172</sup> There is no military conscription in Tonga.<sup>4173</sup>

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

Development policy in Tonga is currently being guided by the Strategic Development Plan Eight (2006-2009). Among other goals, the plan targets vulnerable groups for assistance, including children and youth, and focuses on improving educational standards.<sup>4174</sup>

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<sup>4172</sup> Ibid., 125-126, 129.

<sup>4173</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Tonga," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from [http://www.child-soldiers.org/resources/global-reports?root\\_id=159&category\\_id=165](http://www.child-soldiers.org/resources/global-reports?root_id=159&category_id=165).

<sup>4174</sup> Kingdom of Tonga, *Strategic Development Plan Eight 2006-2009: Looking to the Future, Building on the Past*, 5, 46, 100, 106; available from <http://www.tonga-now.to/Resource.aspx?ID=1754>.