

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

The Government of the Seychelles implemented education reform programs in 1990 and 1999, which were aimed in part at improving access to and quality of primary education through enhanced teacher training standards, improved physical facilities, and guaranteed free education for all.³⁹¹¹ The Division of Social Affairs in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Manpower Development works to protect children's rights.³⁹¹² The National Commission for Child Protection, established in 1996, is responsible for overall child protection policies.³⁹¹³

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Seychelles are unavailable, as there have been no reports of child labor in the country.³⁹¹⁴ Education is compulsory up to the age of 16 and free through secondary school up to the age of 18.³⁹¹⁵ In 1999, the gross primary enrollment rate was 100.8 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 99.9 percent.³⁹¹⁶ Attendance rates are not available for Seychelles. While enrollment rates indicate a level of commitment to education, they do not always reflect children's participation in school.³⁹¹⁷

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Article 31 of the Constitution sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, with exceptions for children employed part time in light work that is not harmful to their health, morals or education.³⁹¹⁸ However, the Employment Act stipulates that any child under the age of 15 is prohibited from working. Children ages 16 to 18 are considered as adults in the labor market and there are no special protections for this age group.³⁹¹⁹ Violations of the minimum age regulation are punishable by a fine of SCR 6,000 (USD 1,169.59).³⁹²⁰ An amendment to the Employment of Young Persons and Children Act of 1981 specifically prohibits children under 18 from working in hotels, restaurants and shops.³⁹²¹ Forced or bonded labor is prohibited by law.³⁹²² Article 138(b) of the Penal

³⁹¹¹ UNESCO, *Education for All 2000 Assessment: Country Reports- Seychelles*, prepared by Education Planning Division of Resource Planning and Project Development, pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 52/84, 2000; available from <http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/seychelles/contents.html>.

³⁹¹² U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2002: Seychelles*, Washington, D.C., March 31, 2003, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2002/18224.htm>.

³⁹¹³ Government of Seychelles Ministry of Social Affairs and Manpower Development, "Seychelles- Putting Children First," *African Newsletter on Occupational Health and Safety*, August 2000; available from <http://www.ttl.fi/Internet/English/Information/Electronic+journals/African+Newsletter/2000-02/06.htm>. See also ATLAS Seychelles Ltd., *The Historical Perspective of NCC*, [online] [cited July 3, 2003]; available from <http://www.seychelles.net/ncc/about.htm>.

³⁹¹⁴ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2002: Seychelles*, Sections 6c and 6d.

³⁹¹⁵ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Initial Reports of States Parties due in 1995: Seychelles*, CRC/C/3/Add.64, United Nations, January 2002, 83; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.3.Add.64.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.3.Add.64.En?OpenDocument). See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2002: Seychelles*, Section 5.

³⁹¹⁶ UNESCO, *Education for All: Year 2000 Assessment [CD-ROM]*, Paris, 2000.

³⁹¹⁷ For a more detailed discussion on the relationship between education statistics and work, see the preface to this report.

³⁹¹⁸ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports: Initial Reports: Seychelles*, 12, 108.

³⁹¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 108.

³⁹²⁰ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2002: Seychelles*, Section 6d. See also FXConverter, [online] [cited September 2, 2003]; available from <http://www.carosta.de/frames/convert.htm>.

³⁹²¹ ILO, *Seychelles: Children and Young Persons*, [cited July 31, 2003]; available from <http://natlex.ilo.org/Scripts/natlexcgi.exe?lang=E&doc=query&ctry=SYC&lx=12.01>.

³⁹²² U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2002: Seychelles*, Section 6c.

Code prohibits the procuring of any woman or girl for purposes of prostitution.³⁹²³ The Ministry of Employment and Social Services enforces child labor laws and investigates claims of child labor abuses.³⁹²⁴

In 2002, there were no reported cases of child labor requiring investigation by the Ministry of Employment and Social Services, no known cases of forced or bonded labor by children, and no reports of trafficking in persons to, from, or within the country.³⁹²⁵ A Family Tribunal composed of 18 members hears and decides all cases relating to the care and custody of children, save paternity cases.³⁹²⁶ Only 41 cases of child sex abuse were reported in 2002, and there are concerns that police investigations into charges of abuse are inadequate.³⁹²⁷

The Government of Seychelles ratified ILO Convention 138 on March 7, 2000, and ILO Convention 182 on September 28, 1999.³⁹²⁸

³⁹²³ The Protection Project, "Seychelles," in *Human Rights Report on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children: A Country-by-Country Report on a Contemporary Form of Slavery*, 2002; available from <http://209.190.246.239/ver2/cr/Seychelles.pdf>.

³⁹²⁴ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2002: Seychelles*, Section 6d.

³⁹²⁵ *Ibid.*, Sections 6c, 6d, and 6f.

³⁹²⁶ *Ibid.*, Section 5.

³⁹²⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁹²⁸ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, in ILOLEX, [database online] [cited July 31, 2003]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.