

Seychelles

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Seychelles are unavailable,³⁵⁹² and there have been no reports of child labor in the country.³⁵⁹³ Education is compulsory up to the age of 16 and free through secondary school up to the age of 18.³⁵⁹⁴ Students must cover the costs for uniforms, but not for tuition and books.³⁵⁹⁵ Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Seychelles. In 2001, the gross primary enrollment rate was 116.5 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 99.4 percent.³⁵⁹⁶ Gross and net enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Attendance rates are not available for Seychelles.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Article 31 of the Constitution protects children under the age of 15 from economic exploitation and hazardous employment, but allows children under the age of 15 to be employed part-time in light work that is not harmful to their health, morals or education.³⁵⁹⁷ However, there appears to some discrepancy between the Constitution and the Employment Act, which stipulates that any child under the age of 15 is prohibited from working. The Employment Act also considers children ages 16 to 18 as adults in the labor market, with no special protections for this age group.³⁵⁹⁸ The Employment of Young Persons and Children Act of 1981, however, amended the Persons and Children Act by specifically prohibiting children under 18 from working in hotels, restaurants and shops.³⁵⁹⁹ Violations of the minimum age regulation are punishable by a fine of SCR 6,000 (USD 1,090).³⁶⁰⁰ The Constitution provides for freedom from slavery, servitude, or forced or obligatory labor.³⁶⁰¹ The Penal Code prohibits the procuring of “any girl or woman

³⁵⁹² LABORSTAT, *Seychelles: 1A-Total and economically active population by age group (Thousands)*, Geneva, [database online] 2004 [cited September 29, 2004]; available from <http://laborsta.ilo.org>.

³⁵⁹³ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2003: Seychelles*, Washington, D.C., February 25, 2004; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2003/27749.htm>.

³⁵⁹⁴ 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, para. 359; available from [http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.3.Add.64.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.3.Add.64.En?OpenDocument). See also U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2003: Seychelles*, Section 5.

³⁵⁹⁵ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2003: Seychelles*. Section 5.

³⁵⁹⁶ World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2004* [CD-ROM], Washington D.C., 2004. For an explanation of gross primary enrollment and/or attendance rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definitions of gross primary enrollment rate and gross primary attendance rate in the glossary of this report.

³⁵⁹⁷ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports: Initial Reports: Seychelles*, para 482-83.

³⁵⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 484.

³⁵⁹⁹ ILO, *Natlex: Seychelles*, [cited May 20, 2004]; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=SYC.

³⁶⁰⁰ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2003: Seychelles*, Section 6d.

³⁶⁰¹ Droit Francophone, *Seychelles: Constitution des Seychelles*, 2004 [cited December 2, 2004], Article 17; available from <http://droit.francophonie.org/doc/html/sc/con/fr/1993/1993dfsc01.html>.

under the age of 21 years, not being a common prostitute or of known immoral character, to have unlawful carnal connection, either in the Seychelles or elsewhere, with any other person or persons.” The Penal Code also prohibits procuring any woman or girl for the purpose of becoming a prostitute or inducing her to leave the country to work in a brothel.³⁶⁰² The Ministry of Employment and Social Services enforces child labor laws and investigates claims of child labor abuses.³⁶⁰³

In 2003, 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.³⁶⁰⁴

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

The Government of Seychelles, through the Division of Social Affairs in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Manpower Development, works to protect children’s rights.³⁶⁰⁵ The National Commission for Child Protection is responsible for overall child protection policies.³⁶⁰⁶

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments		
Ratified Convention 138	(3/07/2000)	✓
Ratified Convention 182	(9/28/1999)	✓
ILO-IPEC Member		
National Plan for Children		
National Child Labor Action Plan		
Sector Action Plan		

³⁶⁰² Article 138 (a), (b), and (c) of the Penal Code. 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>.

³⁶⁰³ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2003: Seychelles.*, Section 6d.

³⁶⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, Section 5.

³⁶⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶⁰⁶ The National Commission for Child Protection was established in 1996. Government of Seychelles Ministry of Social Affairs and Manpower Development, "Seychelles- Putting Children First," *African Newsletter, Finish Institute of 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 May 20, 2004]; available from <http://www.seychelles.net/ncc/about.htm>.