

## Bahrain

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for work:	14 <sup>253</sup>
Age to which education is compulsory:	15 <sup>254</sup>
Free public education:	Yes <sup>255</sup>
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	104% <sup>256</sup>
Net primary enrollment rate in 2004:	97% <sup>257</sup>
Percent of children 5-14 attending school:	Unavailable
As of 2003, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	100% <sup>258</sup>
Ratified Convention 138:	No <sup>259</sup>
Ratified Convention 182:	3/23/2001 <sup>260</sup>
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No <sup>261</sup>

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Small numbers of children in Bahrain perform non-hazardous work in the Manama Central Market, and although not common, some children work in family businesses.<sup>262</sup>

### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law forbids the employment of children younger than 14 years.<sup>263</sup> Minors 14 to 16 years may work no more than 6 hours per day, with one hour of rest during daytime hours only; minors may not work overtime or be paid on a piece-rate basis.<sup>264</sup> The law also establishes a list of 25 occupations in which no person younger than 16 years may work. These occupations include

<sup>253</sup> Government of Bahrain, *Labour Law for the Private Sector, as amended*, No. 23, (June 16, 1976), Article 50; available from <http://www.bah-molsa.com/english/chap8.htm>.

<sup>254</sup> Government of Bahrain, *The Education Act* (2005), as cited in U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, August 27, 2005.

<sup>255</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Bahrain," 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/2006/78850.htm>.

<sup>256</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>257</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>258</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade 5. Total*, accessed December 18, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

<sup>259</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed October 20, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

<sup>260</sup> Ibid.

<sup>261</sup> ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour: Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006, 29; available from [http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipecc/prod/eng/20061013\\_implementationreport\\_eng.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipecc/prod/eng/20061013_implementationreport_eng.pdf).

<sup>262</sup> U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting, August 27, 2005*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Bahrain," Section 6d. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No. 182) Bahrain (ratification: 2001)*, [online] 2004 [cited November 2, 2006]; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/>.

<sup>263</sup> Government of Bahrain, *Labour Law for the Private Sector, as amended*, Article 50.

<sup>264</sup> Ibid., Articles 49, 51, 52, 53, and 54.

quarrying; oil refining; auto repair; butchering; construction; and any work that involves lifting heavy loads or contact with radiation, asbestos, furnaces, explosives, batteries, cranes, electricity, pressurized gas, or poisonous dust, vapors, or fumes.<sup>265</sup> Working minors 14 to 16 years must obtain authorization to work from the Ministry of Labor (MOL); must undergo a medical examination prior to being employed; and must be granted annual leave of not less than a full month.<sup>266</sup> However, these provisions do not apply to workers, including children, in the domestic service and agricultural sectors or in enterprises owned by their immediate family members.<sup>267</sup>

The MOL is responsible for enforcing child labor laws and regulations.<sup>268</sup> Violations of child labor laws are punishable by fines. In addition to levying punishment against employers and supervisors, the law holds responsible any person acting as a guardian who permits the employment of a child or minor in violation of the law's provisions.<sup>269</sup> The U.S. Department of State reports that MOL enforcement of child labor laws is adequate in the industrial sector, but not as effective outside that sector.<sup>270</sup>

The Constitution outlaws compulsory labor,<sup>271</sup> and employers found guilty of using forced labor can be liable to imprisonment of up to 10 years.<sup>272</sup> Prostitution is illegal; forcing or enticing a child under 18 years into prostitution is punishable by 3 to 10 years of imprisonment.<sup>273</sup> Child pornography is not explicitly outlawed, but it is illegal to print, possess, or display publications, pictures, and other media that violate public morals.<sup>274</sup> There is no law prohibiting trafficking in persons,<sup>275</sup> but trafficking-related crimes may be prosecuted under laws prohibiting forced labor, forced prostitution,<sup>276</sup> the abduction or kidnapping of children, or exposure of children to danger.<sup>277</sup> However, according to the U.S. Department of State, prosecutions for trafficking-related offenses are rare.<sup>278</sup> While there is no compulsory military service in Bahrain, juveniles can be recruited into the Bahraini Defense Force from the age of 17 years.<sup>279</sup>

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<sup>265</sup> Ibid., Article 51. See also Government of Bahrain, *Subsidiary Legislation Enacted Under the Provisions of the Labour Law for the Private Sector*, No. 23, (1976), Article 1; available from <http://www.bah-molsa.com/english/>.

<sup>266</sup> Government of Bahrain, *Labour Law for the Private Sector, as amended*, Articles 51 and 55.

<sup>267</sup> Ibid., Articles 2 and 58.

<sup>268</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Bahrain," Section 6d.

<sup>269</sup> Government of Bahrain, *Labour Law for the Private Sector, as amended*, Article 163.

<sup>270</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Bahrain," Section 6d.

<sup>271</sup> Government of Bahrain, *Constitution of the State of Bahrain*, (February 14, 2002), Article 13(c); available from [http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ba00000\\_.html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ba00000_.html).

<sup>272</sup> U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting, March 5, 2007*.

<sup>273</sup> *Penal Code*, Articles 324(1) and 325, as cited in ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request: Bahrain*. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Bahrain*, accessed October 10, 2006; available from <http://www.ecpat.net/>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Bahrain," Section 5.

<sup>274</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request: Bahrain*.

<sup>275</sup> U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting, March 5, 2007*.

<sup>276</sup> US Embassy- Manama official, E-mail communication USDOL official, July 29, 2007.

<sup>277</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Initial Reports of States Parties due in 1994*, July 23, 2001, 77; available from [http://www.bayefsky.com/reports/bahrain\\_crc\\_c\\_11\\_add.24\\_2000.pdf](http://www.bayefsky.com/reports/bahrain_crc_c_11_add.24_2000.pdf).

<sup>278</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Bahrain (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65988.htm>.

<sup>279</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Bahrain," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, November 17, 2004; available from [http://www.child-soldiers.org/document\\_get.php?id=845](http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=845).

The MOL grants permits to Bahraini companies to employ foreign workers, and immigration officials ensure that foreign workers entering Bahrain are 18 years of age or older.<sup>280</sup> There have been isolated incidents of the use of false documents to gain entry into the country for workers under age 18.<sup>281</sup>

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

The government has supported anti-trafficking training workshops for law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, NGOs, and employers.<sup>282</sup> In 2006, the government opened a shelter to provide medical care as well as psychosocial and legal services to female victims of trafficking.<sup>283</sup>

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<sup>280</sup> U.S. Embassy- Manama official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 19, 2007.

<sup>281</sup> U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, March 5, 2007.

<sup>282</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006: Bahrain."

<sup>283</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Bahrain," in *Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment*, Washington, DC, January 19, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/78948.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, March 5, 2007.