

## Russia

### *Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*

Percent of children ages 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for admission to work:	16 <sup>3554</sup>
Age to which education is compulsory:	15 or 16 <sup>3555</sup>
Free public education:	Yes <sup>3556</sup>
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2005:	129% <sup>3557</sup>
Net primary enrollment rate in 2005:	92% <sup>3558</sup>
Percent of children 5-14 attending school:	Unavailable
Percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	Unavailable
Ratified Convention 138:	5/3/1979 <sup>3559</sup>
Ratified Convention 182:	3/25/2003 <sup>3560</sup>
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes <sup>3561</sup>

### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In Russian urban areas, children can be found working primarily in the informal sector in retail services, selling goods on the street, washing cars, repairing automobiles, making deliveries, collecting trash, and begging.<sup>3562</sup> In rural areas, it is more common to see children working in agriculture.<sup>3563</sup> Child work in Russia encompasses not only Russian children, but often children from neighboring countries.<sup>3564</sup> Among street children, boys are usually involved in hard physical labor, while girls are more likely to work in trade and prostitution.<sup>3565</sup> However, child prostitution involving boys does exist, particularly among homeless and orphaned children.<sup>3566</sup>

<sup>3554</sup> Government of the Russia, *Labor Code of the Russian Federation*, (February 1, 2002), Article 63; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/60535/65252/E01RUS01.htm>.

<sup>3555</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Russia," 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/2006/78835>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Russian Federation (ratification: 1979)*, [online] 2006 [cited October 24, 2006]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=18528&chapter=9&query=%28C029%2C+C105%2C+C138%2C+C182%29+%40ref+%2B+%28Russian+Federation%29+%40ref+%2B+%23YEAR%3E2000&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>.

<sup>3556</sup> U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting* October 22, 2002. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Russia," Section 5.

<sup>3557</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>3558</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>3559</sup> ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed October 24, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/ratific.pl?Russian+Federation>.

<sup>3560</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3561</sup> ILO, *IPEC Action Against Child Labour- Highlights 2006*, Geneva, October 2006, 29; available from [http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipecc/prod/eng/20061018\\_Implementationreport\\_eng.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/docstore/ipecc/prod/eng/20061018_Implementationreport_eng.pdf).

<sup>3562</sup> ILO-IPEC, *In-depth Analysis of the Situation of Working Street Children in Moscow 2001*, Moscow, 2002, 36; available from [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/simpoc/russia/ra/street\\_m.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/simpoc/russia/ra/street_m.pdf).

<sup>3563</sup> U.S. Embassy- Moscow, Email communication to USDOL official, August 3, 2007.

<sup>3564</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3565</sup> ILO-IPEC, *In-depth Analysis of the Situation of Working Street children in St. Petersburg 2000*, St. Petersburg, 2001, 32; available from [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/simpoc/russia/ra/street\\_s.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/simpoc/russia/ra/street_s.pdf).

<sup>3566</sup> U.S. Embassy- Moscow, Email communication, August 3, 2007.

Boys start working at an earlier age than girls do.<sup>3567</sup> Homeless and orphaned children on the streets are engaged in prostitution as a means to survive.<sup>3568</sup> Some children involved in prostitution are also engaged in day work in some other sector.<sup>3569</sup> Child sex tourism remains a concern.<sup>3570</sup> Some children are brought to Russia for the purpose of exploitation.<sup>3571</sup> The northwestern border areas of Russia are popular destinations for tourists from wealthier Western European nations, particularly Finland.<sup>3572</sup> While St. Petersburg and Moscow are both destination sites for child sex tourism,<sup>3573</sup> St. Petersburg appears to be much more significant of a destination than Moscow.<sup>3574</sup> Russian children, primarily girls, are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>3575</sup> Domestic trafficking of children from rural areas to urban centers and from one region to another also occurs.<sup>3576</sup> Russia is a major producer and distributor of internet pornography.<sup>3577</sup> There has been a ten fold increase in prosecutions for child pornography in the past five years, but it remains a significant problem.<sup>3578</sup>

### **Child Labor Laws and Enforcement**

The law sets the minimum age of employment at 16 years, with some exceptions.<sup>3579</sup> Children who have either completed their basic general education or have left the general educational system may work at 15. Children at least 14 years may, with parental consent, perform light work that is not harmful to their health or education. Children younger than 14 may, with parental consent, participate in the creation and/or performance of art works that are not harmful to their health and moral development.<sup>3580</sup> The normal working time for employees younger than 16 is 24 hours per week, and 36 hours per week for employees between 16 and 18.<sup>3581</sup> Workers younger than 16 may work longer than 5 hours per shift, and for workers between 16 and 18, a shift may not exceed 7 hours.<sup>3582</sup> Children under 18 are prohibited from engaging in night work, unhealthy or dangerous work, underground work, or work that may be injurious to

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<sup>3567</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Analysis of the situation of working children in St. Petersburg*.

<sup>3568</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Russia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2005*, Washington, DC, March 8, 2006, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61671.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Moscow, Email communication, August 3, 2007.

<sup>3569</sup> ILO-IPEC, *Analysis of the Situation of Working Street Children in Moscow*, 37.

<sup>3570</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Russia," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, June 5, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65990.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2005: Russia," Section 5.

<sup>3571</sup> U.S. Embassy- Moscow, Email communication, August 3, 2007.

<sup>3572</sup> Donna M. Hughes, *Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation: The Case of the Russian Federation*, No. 7, IOM, Geneva, June 2002, 17; available from [http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/published\\_docs/serial\\_publications/mrs7.pdf](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/serial_publications/mrs7.pdf). See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Russia accessed October 27, 2006*; available from <http://www.ecpat.net>.

<sup>3573</sup> Hughes, *Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation*, 24.

<sup>3574</sup> U.S. Embassy- Moscow, Email communication, August 3, 2007.

<sup>3575</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Russia," Section 5.

<sup>3576</sup> Hughes, *Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation*, 17. See also U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting*, March 1, 2005.

<sup>3577</sup> Hughes, *Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation*, 23. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Russia," section 5.

<sup>3578</sup> U.S. Embassy- Moscow, Email communication, August 3, 2007.

<sup>3579</sup> Government of the Russia, *Labor Code of the Russian Federation*, Article 63.

<sup>3580</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3581</sup> *Ibid.*, Article 92.

<sup>3582</sup> *Ibid.*, Article 94.

their moral development.<sup>3583</sup> Employers must medically screen any prospective employees younger than 18; once hired, these employees must also pass annual medical surveys provided at the expense of the employer.<sup>3584</sup>

Forced child labor is punishable by imprisonment from 3 to 10 years, rape of a minor is punishable by up to 4 to 10 years' imprisonment, soliciting a minor for prostitution is punishable by up to 4 years' imprisonment, and recruiting a minor into prostitution by up to 3 to 8 years' imprisonment.<sup>3585</sup> Operating a prostitution business with known minors under 16 is punishable by up to 6 years of imprisonment. If the child is under 14, the sentence may be from 3 to 10 years of imprisonment.<sup>3586</sup> Sexual relations with a person under 16 is forbidden and punishable by up to 4 years of imprisonment.<sup>3587</sup> Also prohibited is the making and circulating of pornography depicting known minors; it is punishable by imprisonment for up to 8 years, depending on the age of the child.<sup>3588</sup> Trafficking of a known minor is punishable by a sentence of 3 to 10 years of imprisonment if committed by an individual, and 8 to 15 years if committed by an organized group.<sup>3589</sup> The minimum age for military conscription is 18 years.<sup>3590</sup>

The Federal Labor Inspectorate is responsible for state supervision and control over the observance of the labor code.<sup>3591</sup> According to the U.S. Department of State, however, the government failed to enforce child labor laws effectively; there were approximately 8,300 cases of child labor violations reported in 2004, the most recent date for which such information is available.<sup>3592</sup> There have been reports of trafficking-related complicity among Russian officials.<sup>3593</sup>

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

The Ministry of the Interior and anti-trafficking NGOs completed a trafficking manual that has been used by several police units to assist officers with investigations.<sup>3594</sup>

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<sup>3583</sup> Ibid., Articles 96 and 265.

<sup>3584</sup> Ibid., Article 266.

<sup>3585</sup> Government of Russia, *The Criminal Code of the Russian Federation*, (January 1, 1997), Articles 127, 131, 151, 240; available from <http://www.legislationline.org/upload/legislations/d1/a1/0cc1acff8241216090943e97d5b4.htm>. See also Government of Russia, *Constitution of the Russian Federation*, (December 25, 1993), Article 37; available from <http://www.legislationline.org/upload/legislations/68/7c/40e7c5194d7db79b900b350d2a20.htm>.

<sup>3586</sup> Government of Russia, *Criminal Code*, Article 241.

<sup>3587</sup> Ibid., Article 134.

<sup>3588</sup> Ibid., Article 242.1.

<sup>3589</sup> Ibid., Article 127.1.

<sup>3590</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Russian Federation," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from [http://www.child-soldiers.org/document\\_get.php?id=924](http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=924).

<sup>3591</sup> Government of the Russia, *Labor Code of the Russian Federation*, Article 353.

<sup>3592</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Russia," Section 6d.

<sup>3593</sup> Ibid., section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Moscow, *reporting* June 9, 2004.

<sup>3594</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Person Report- 2006: Russia."