

Fiji

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working:	Unavailable
Minimum age for admission to work:	15 ¹⁶⁴⁶
Age to which education is compulsory:	15 ¹⁶⁴⁷
Free public education:	Yes ^{1648*}
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	106% ¹⁶⁴⁹
Net primary enrollment rate in 2004:	96% ¹⁶⁵⁰
Percent of children 5-14 attending school:	Unavailable
As of 2003, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	99% ¹⁶⁵¹
Ratified Convention 138:	1/3/2003 ¹⁶⁵²
Ratified Convention 182:	4/17/2002 ¹⁶⁵³
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No ¹⁶⁵⁴
*Must pay for school supplies and related items.	

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children work in agriculture in Fiji, including in the tobacco sector.¹⁶⁵⁵ Children also work in the informal sector, in family businesses, and on the streets. Children shine shoes, repair cars, and work as domestics in homes.¹⁶⁵⁶ Children are sexually exploited through prostitution, pornography, and child sex tourism.¹⁶⁵⁷

¹⁶⁴⁶ Government of Fiji, *Employment Ordinance*, (1978).

¹⁶⁴⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Fiji," 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/2006/78773.htm>.

¹⁶⁴⁸ UN Commission on Human Rights, *Rights of the Child: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; Addendum, Report on the Mission of the Special Rapporteur to the Republic of Fiji on the Issue of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (October 11-16, 1999)*, E/CN.4/2000/73/Add.3, Geneva, December 27, 1999, 10; available from <http://www.hri.ca/fortherecord2000/documentation/commission/e-cn4-2000-73-add3.htm>. See also U.S.

Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Fiji," Section 5.

¹⁶⁴⁹ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

¹⁶⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵² APPLIS, *List of Ratifications of International Labour Conventions: Fiji*, accessed October 16, 2006; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-byCtry.cfm?CTYCHOICE=2080&hdroff=1&lang=EN>.

¹⁶⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵⁴ 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.

¹⁶⁵⁵ Farm Consultancy Services, *Child Labour in the Fiji Tobacco Industry*, Geneva, September 21, 2004, 2, 17-19; available from <http://www.eclt.org/filestore/BAT-%20Fiji.pdf>. See also End Child Labor, *Child Labor Information Bank: Fiji*, [online] n.d. [cited October 16, 2006]; available from http://www.endchildlabor.org/db_infoBank.cfm.

¹⁶⁵⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Fiji," Section 6d. See also End Child Labor, *Child Labor Information Bank*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Fiji," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004*, Washington, DC, February 28, 2005, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41642.htm>.

¹⁶⁵⁷ Save the Children Fiji, *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children in Fiji: A Situational Analysis*, 2006, 15-20. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Fiji* accessed October 16, 2006; available from www.ecpat.net. See also U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting*, March 2, 2007.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for work at 15 years.¹⁶⁵⁸ The law states that no child under 12 years shall be employed in any capacity whatsoever and sets guidelines for the employment of “children”, defined as 12 to 15, and “young persons”, defined as 15 to 18. Children may not work more than 6 hours a day, and young persons more than 8 hours a day. Children may not work in any industrial undertaking, and neither children nor young persons may be employed in dangerous working conditions or during the night.¹⁶⁵⁹

The Constitution prohibits forced labor.¹⁶⁶⁰ The law also prohibits the forcible procurement of women and girls into prostitution within and outside the borders of Fiji, as well as the sale, purchase, or hiring of minors less than 16 years for prostitution, illicit sexual intercourse or any unlawful immoral purpose. It also prohibits the production and possession of obscene materials depicting both adults and children. Penalties for those violating these statutes range from 2 to 5 years of imprisonment, with the possibility of corporal punishment.¹⁶⁶¹ Currently, there is no law on the minimum age of conscription into the military. The minimum age for voluntary military service is 18 years.¹⁶⁶² The law criminalizes trafficking in persons, and violators can be punished with a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, as well as fines.¹⁶⁶³ The U.S. Department of State has reported that the country’s child labor laws and enforcement mechanisms are insufficient because of the lack of a comprehensive child labor policy and of resources to investigate reports of child labor.¹⁶⁶⁴

¹⁶⁵⁸ Government of Fiji, *Employment Ordinance*, Article 2. See also APPLIS, *List of Ratifications of International Labour Conventions: Fiji*.

¹⁶⁵⁹ Government of Fiji, *Employment Ordinance*, Articles 59-71. See also Government of Fiji, *Employment Amendment Act*, No. 6, (June 1996), Article 65.

¹⁶⁶⁰ Government of Fiji, *Fiji Constitution*, (1988), Section 24.

¹⁶⁶¹ Government of Fiji, *Penal Code*, (1978), Sections 157-163, 188.

¹⁶⁶² Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Fiji," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, 2004.

¹⁶⁶³ ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Immigration Act 2003*, No. 17 accessed October 17, 2006; available from

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.details?p_lang=en&p_country=FJI&p_classification=17&p_origin=S SUBJECT. See also U.S. Embassy- Suva, *reporting, March 2, 2007*.

¹⁶⁶⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Fiji," Section 6d.

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

Fiji has a committee with a broad range of members, including the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, the Fiji Police Force, employers' and workers' organizations, the ILO, and UNICEF to focus on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. The committee aims to develop awareness-raising programs to address child labor issues; it carried out an awareness-raising campaign leading up to the June 2006 World Day Against Child Labor.¹⁶⁶⁵

¹⁶⁶⁵ Global March Against Child Labour, *Plans to Stamp Out Child Labour*, [online] May 4, 2006 [cited January 7, 2007]; available from <http://www.globalmarch.org/clns/clns-may-2006-details.php3#4-3>. See also ILO, *Commemoration of the World Day Against Child Labour*, June 12, 2004; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/themes/domestic/download/wdac1_fiji_090704.pdf. See also Government of Fiji *Committee Set Up to See Eradication of Child Labour*, [Press Release] June 30, 2005 [cited October 17, 2006]; available from <http://www.fiji.gov.fj/cgi-bin/cms/exec/view.cgi/64/4884>.