

Guyana

<i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i>	
Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working in 2000:	26.3% ¹⁹⁵⁷
Minimum age for admission to work:	15 ¹⁹⁵⁸
Age to which education is compulsory:	15 ¹⁹⁵⁹
Free public education:	Yes ¹⁹⁶⁰
Gross primary enrollment rate in 2004:	129% ¹⁹⁶¹
Net primary enrollment rate in 2002:	93% ¹⁹⁶²
Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2000:	95.8% ¹⁹⁶³
As of 2001, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5:	64% ¹⁹⁶⁴
Ratified Convention 138:	4/15/1998 ¹⁹⁶⁵
Ratified Convention 182:	1/15/2001 ¹⁹⁶⁶
ILO-IPEC Member:	Yes, associated ¹⁹⁶⁷

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In 2000 in Guyana, approximately 28.7 percent of boys 5 to 14 years were estimated to be working compared to 23.9 percent of girls in the same age group.¹⁹⁶⁸ Children work as porters, domestic servants, street vendors, and wait staff in bars and restaurants.¹⁹⁶⁹ Some are found working in sawmills, markets, mining, and the illicit drug trade.¹⁹⁷⁰ Guyanese girls are reported to be trafficked for sexual exploitation within Guyana and to neighboring countries.¹⁹⁷¹ There are reports of child prostitution.¹⁹⁷²

¹⁹⁵⁷ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*, March 1, 2007.

¹⁹⁵⁸ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana - a Guide to Legislative Reform*, ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, June 2005, Section 4.2.1.

¹⁹⁵⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Guyana," in *Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2005*, Washington, D.C., March 8, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61730htm>.

¹⁹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, Section 5.

¹⁹⁶¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, March 8, 2007; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>.

¹⁹⁶² UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, March 8, 2007; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

¹⁹⁶³ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

¹⁹⁶⁴ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Survival Rate to Grade Five. Total*, March 8, 2007; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

¹⁹⁶⁵ ILO, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed October 19, 2006; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/ratifice.pl?Guyana>.

¹⁹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁶⁷ ILO, *Alphabetical list of ILO member countries*, [online] October 5, 2006 [cited October 19, 2006]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/country.htm>.

¹⁹⁶⁸ UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates*.

¹⁹⁶⁹ George K. Danna, *Guyana The Situation of Children in the Worst Forms of Child Labor: A Rapid Assessment*, International Labour Office, Port of Spain, October 2002, 34.

¹⁹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷¹ U.S. Department of State, "Guyana (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>. See also U.S. Department of

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, with some exceptions.¹⁹⁷³ Children less than 15 years of age may be employed in technical schools provided such work is approved and supervised by the public authority.¹⁹⁷⁴ Children younger than 16 years are prohibited from night work and employment in industrial undertakings.¹⁹⁷⁵ There are penalties of fines for employers and parents who are guilty of direct involvement with child labor.¹⁹⁷⁶

All forms of trafficking are prohibited by law, and penalties include life imprisonment, forfeiture of property, and payment of full restitution to the trafficked person.¹⁹⁷⁷ Special provision is made for the evidence of victims who are children, defined as persons under 18 years.¹⁹⁷⁸ Although child pornography or prostitution is not specifically mentioned in Guyanese law, the laws prohibit the selling, publishing, or exhibiting of any obscene matter¹⁹⁷⁹ and the abduction of a girl under 18 years for "unlawful carnal knowledge."¹⁹⁸⁰ Also, the law sets the age of sexual consent at 16, thus prohibiting sex with children younger than 16, regardless of profession of consent.¹⁹⁸¹ Forced labor, including by children, is prohibited by the constitution.¹⁹⁸² The law sets the minimum age for voluntary enlistment in the armed forces at 18 years.¹⁹⁸³

The Ministry of Labor, Human Services and Social Security has principal responsibility for enforcing legislation relating to child labor.¹⁹⁸⁴ The Ministry of Labor has 20 labor officers who have authority to enter all workplaces to conduct inspections, including inspections concerning child labor.¹⁹⁸⁵ Within the Ministry, an anti-trafficking in persons unit has been established to

State, "Guyana," in *Country Report on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, March 6, 2007, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78894.htm>.

¹⁹⁷² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Guyana," Section 5.

¹⁹⁷³ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, Section 4.2.1.

¹⁹⁷⁴ Government of Guyana, *Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act (Chapter 99:01) [consolidated up to 1973]*, No. 14 of 1933; available from <http://natlex.ilo.org>.

¹⁹⁷⁵ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, Section 4.2.1 and 4.2.4. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Guyana," Section 6d.

¹⁹⁷⁶ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, Section 4.2.1.

¹⁹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, Section 4.3.2. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2005: Guyana," Section 5.

¹⁹⁷⁸ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, Section 4.3.2.

¹⁹⁷⁹ Interpol, *Legislation on Sexual Offences Against Children*, [database online] [cited October 21, 2006]; available from <http://www.interpol.int/public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaGuyana.asp>.

¹⁹⁸⁰ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, Section 4.3.5. See also Interpol, *Legislation on Sexual Offences Against Children*.

¹⁹⁸¹ Interpol, *Legislation on Sexual Offences Against Children*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Guyana," Section 5.

¹⁹⁸² *Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana*; available from <http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/Constitutions/Guyana/guyana96.html>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Guyana," Section 6c.

¹⁹⁸³ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Guyana," in *Global Report 2004*; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=828.

¹⁹⁸⁴ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, 31. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Guyana," Section 5.

¹⁹⁸⁵ U.S. Embassy- Georgetown, *reporting*, December 20, 2006.

enforce anti-trafficking laws.¹⁹⁸⁶ In the areas of worst forms of child labor, including trafficking, the Ministry's enforcement efforts are supported by the Guyanese police force.¹⁹⁸⁷ In addition, the Ministry of Education has responsibility for enforcing provisions of the Education Act relating to the employment of children.¹⁹⁸⁸ As such, the Ministry of Education's attendance officers are authorized to enter any premise or place between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. on any day except Sunday and enquire whether any child resides or is employed there.¹⁹⁸⁹ However, the Ministry was unable to provide information regarding the number of violations of child labor laws in 2006.¹⁹⁹⁰

Although there are laws that restrict child labor, according to the U.S. Department of State, the Ministry of Labor lacks sufficient inspectors to enforce child labor laws effectively, particularly in the country's interior.¹⁹⁹¹

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

The Guyanese Government continues to participate in a USDOL-funded USD 2 million project implemented by an NGO (Partners of the Americas) to combat exploitive child labor through education, which aims to withdraw 1,267 and prevent 1,777 children from exploitive labor.¹⁹⁹² The project aims to build the capacity of the Guyanese Government to combat child labor by advocating for the establishment of a permanent coordinating institution within the government to lead efforts to combat child labor, and the development of a National Strategy on Child Labor.¹⁹⁹³

¹⁹⁸⁶ Guyana Government Information Agency, *TIP seminar opens at GWLI*, [online] April 20, 2005 2005 [cited October 21, 2006]; available from <http://www.gina.gov/gy/archive/daily/b050420.html>.

¹⁹⁸⁷ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, 31. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Guyana," Section 5.

¹⁹⁸⁸ Clive Pegus, *A Review of Child Labour Laws of Guyana*, 31.

¹⁹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, 32.

¹⁹⁹⁰ U.S. Embassy- Georgetown, *reporting, December 20, 2006*.

¹⁹⁹¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Guyana," Section 6d.

¹⁹⁹² Partners of the Americas, *Educare-Guyana: Combating Child Labor through Education in Guyana*, technical progress report, September 30, 2006, 9, 38.

¹⁹⁹³ *Ibid.*, Annex F: Performance Monitoring Plan, Indicators 2.1 and 2.2.