

Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha

MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

Although research found no evidence that child labor exists in Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha (formerly Saint Helena), the government made a moderate advancement in efforts to prevent the worst forms of child labor in 2018. The government passed a bill to restrict child labor and improved services for vulnerable children. However, the government has yet to define by law or regulation the types of work prohibited to children, other than work on vessels engaged in maritime navigation. Gaps also remain in legislation related to forced child labor and the trafficking of children for labor exploitation.




I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Research found no evidence that child labor exists in Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha (STATC). (1-7) Data on key indicators on children's work and education are not available from the sources used in this report.

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR

British Overseas Territories (BOTs) recognize the jurisdiction and sovereignty of the United Kingdom (UK), but they are not constitutionally part of the UK. They are self-governing, except in the areas of foreign affairs and defense. (8) Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha generally incorporate English Law Ordinances to the extent permitted by local circumstances and subject to modification by local laws. (2) Under Article 35(4) of the ILO Constitution, when the UK ratifies a Convention, the Territory must consider if it will accept the Convention. If the Convention is accepted, it is considered applicable to that territory. (2,8) The following Conventions have been extended to Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha (Table 1).

Table 1. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor

Convention	Ratification
 ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	
ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
 UN CRC	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	
UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	
 Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	

The Government of Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha has established laws and regulations related to child labor (Table 2). However, gaps exist in Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha's legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including prohibition of child trafficking and using children in illicit activities.

Table 2. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	16	Section 157B of the Welfare of Children Ordinance (9)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Sections 157B and 158 of the Welfare of Children Ordinance (9)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	No		Sections 157A and 158 of the Welfare of Children Ordinance (9)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	No		Sections 8 (Saint Helena), 125 (Ascension), and 190 (Tristan da Cunha) of the Constitution Order (10)

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Table 2. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor (Cont.)

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	No		Articles 57–60 of the Sexual Offences Act (11)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 47–51 of the Sexual Offences Act; Sections 145–147 of the Welfare of Children Ordinance (9,11)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	N/A†		
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	N/A*†		
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	No		
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	16	Section 34 of the Education Ordinance (Saint Helena and Tristán da Cunha); Ascensión Island Education Policy (Ascensión) (12,13)
Free Public Education	Yes		Section 16 (Saint Helena), Section 132 (Ascensión), and Section 198 (Tristán da Cunha) of the Constitution Order; Section 43 (Saint Helena) of the Education Ordinance; and Education Policy (Ascensión) (10,12,13)

* No conscription (14)

† No standing military (14)

STATC have not determined by national law or regulation the types of work prohibited to children, other than work on vessels engaged in maritime navigation. (9) The laws prohibiting forced labor in STATC are not sufficient as debt bondage and slavery are prohibited constitutionally, but not criminally. (10) While the UK Sexual Offences Act, which is applicable to this territory, prohibits trafficking for sexual exploitation, there are no laws prohibiting the trafficking of children for labor exploitation. (15) The law also does not criminally prohibit the recruitment of children by non-state armed groups.

In 2018, the Government of STATC passed a bill which restricts child labor and extends child welfare protection. (5,16)

III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for enforcement actions to address child labor, including its worst forms.

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears no need for mechanisms to coordinate efforts to address child labor.

V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for policies to address child labor.

VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for programs to address child labor.

During the reporting period, the Government of STATC improved social services for vulnerable children, specifically child protection. (17)

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VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the continued prevention of child labor in Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha (Table 3).

Table 3. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Determine the types of hazardous work prohibited for children, in consultation with employers' and workers' organizations.	2013 – 2018
	Ensure that forced labor, debt bondage, and slavery are criminally prohibited.	2017 – 2018
	Establish laws to prohibit the use of children in illicit activities.	2015 – 2018
	Ensure that the law criminally prohibits the recruitment of children under age 18 by non-state armed groups.	2016 – 2018
	Establish laws to criminally prohibit trafficking of children for labor exploitation.	2014 – 2018

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