

Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

MINIMAL ADVANCEMENT

Although research found no evidence that child labor exists in the Falkland Islands, in 2019 the government made a minimal advancement in efforts to prevent the worst forms of child labor. During the reporting period, the Safeguarding Children's Board convened multiple times to discuss issues related to the safety and wellbeing of children. However, the minimum ages for work and for hazardous work do not meet international standards, and the law does not prohibit adults from using, procuring, and offering a child for the production and trafficking of drugs.




I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Research found no evidence that child labor exists in the Falkland Islands. (1-3) Data on key indicators on children's work and education in the Falkland Islands 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 are not constitutionally part of the UK. They are self-governing, except in the areas of foreign affairs and defense. (1) The Falkland Islands generally incorporate English Law Ordinances to the extent permitted by local circumstances and subject to modification by local laws. (1) 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. (1) The following Conventions have been extended to the Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands has accepted some of them (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 the Falkland Islands has established laws and regulations related to child labor (Table 2). However, gaps exist in the Falkland Islands' legal framework to adequately protect children from the worst forms of child labor, including the minimum age for work and the prohibition of using children in illicit activities.

Table 2. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	No	14	Section 3 of the Employment of Children Ordinance (4)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	No	16	Section 3 of the Employment of Children Ordinance; Sections 3 and 4A of the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act (4,5)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	No		Section 3 of the Employment of Children Ordinance; Section 3 of the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act (4,5)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	No		Chapter 1, Section 4 of the Constitution Order (6)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	No		Part 1, Sections 57–60 of the Sexual Offences Act (7)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Part 1 of the Sexual Offences Act (7)

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

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	17	
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	Education Amendment Ordinance; Chapter 1, Section 12 of the Constitution Order (6,8)
Free Public Education	Yes		Education Amendment Ordinance; Chapter 1, Section 12 of the Constitution Order (6,8)

* No conscription (9)

The minimum age of 14 for work and the minimum age of 16 for hazardous work are not in compliance with international standards. (3-5) The Government of the Falkland Islands has not determined by national law or regulation the types of hazardous work prohibited for children, other than industrial undertakings. (4,5) The law does not prohibit forced labor of children. (6)

The law also does not prohibit adults from using, procuring, and offering a child in the production and trafficking of drugs in the Falkland Islands. Although child trafficking has not been identified as a problem, the law does not criminalize trafficking children for labor exploitation. (6,7) Also, the law does not criminally prohibit the recruitment of children by non-state armed groups.

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. However, in the Falkland Islands, the UK has established an institutional mechanism for the enforcement of labor laws (Table 3).

Table 3. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Royal Falkland Islands Police	Enforce laws protecting children against abuses, including sexual abuses. (10)

IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR

As there is no evidence of a problem, there appears to be no need for mechanisms to coordinate efforts to address child labor. However, the Government of the Falkland Islands has established a mechanism to coordinate efforts to address child labor (Table 4).

Table 4. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Falkland Islands Safeguarding Children's Board	Ensures children's welfare, including protection from sexual abuse. Chaired by the Director of Health and Social Services, members include the Education Department, the Attorney General's Chambers, Social Services, Royal Falkland Islands Police, healthcare professionals, members of the Legislative Assembly, and a representative from the military community. (11) Held meetings in 2019 to discuss the safe recruitment of youth in employment, the country's child sexual exploitation strategy, and training for panel members. (12-14)

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.

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 the Falkland Islands (Table 5).

Table 5. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Raise the minimum age for work to at least 15 and up to the age to which education is compulsory in all sectors.	2017 – 2019
	Ensure that the minimum age for hazardous work is age 18 and that national law determines prohibited work activities for children.	2015 – 2019
	Ensure that the law prohibits the use of children in illicit activities, including in the production and trafficking of drugs.	2013 – 2019
	Ensure that the law protects all children under age 18 from being trafficked for any purpose, including labor exploitation.	2016 – 2019
	Ensure that the law criminally prohibits the recruitment of children under age 18 by non-state armed groups.	2012 – 2019
Social Programs	Collect and publish data on the extent and nature of child labor to inform policies and programs.	2017 – 2019

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