Antigua and Barbuda’s Efforts to Prevent Child Labour

- Eltonia Anthony-Rojas
  Labour Commissioner/Focal Point, Regional Initiative

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Labour Department

- **Mission**
  To foster a stable industrial climate through the promotion of social productivity, economic growth, good governance and equity in the labour market of Antigua and Barbuda, the region and the International community.

- **Vision**
  To be a professional, efficient, customer service oriented, security conscious department which is geared towards serving the needs of both the public and private sector.
Overview

By the end of this presentation, you should know:

• General facts about Antigua and Barbuda
• The Government’s legislation and initiatives that pertain to child labour
• The Government’s future actions in preventing child labour
Facts

- **Location**: Caribbean Sea  
  **Area**: 440 km²  
  **Population Size**: 102,012*

- **Main Economy**: Tourism, Construction, Government Services

- **Literacy Rate**: 99% literacy in the population aged 15 years and older**

- **Incidence of Child Labour**: None***

Sources:  
*World Bank  
**World Atlas  
***UNHCR
The Government’s Actions in Preventing Child Labour (Legislation and Initiatives)
Ministry of Education (Legislation and Initiatives)

**Education Act:**
- Mandatory school age: 5 to 15 years
- Mandatory school hours: 8:00 am - 1:30 pm and 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Truancy Officers:**
- Regular visits to schools
- Compulsory reporting of unjustified absences
- Community reporting
Ministry of Labour (Legislation and Initiatives)

Antigua and Barbuda Labour Code

• Prohibition of child labour in factories, industrial enterprises and ships; except in family enterprises, when scheduled on identical shifts as family members or for fund raising in recognized youth projects.
• Prohibition of child labour during mandatory school hours; except in connection with classes.
• Prohibition of child labour in excess of eight (8) hours per day.
• Prohibition of child labour for more than thirty (30) hours per week.
• Prohibition of child labour between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am (i.e. night work).
• Young persons are allowed to work only under Governmental supervision.
• Young persons under sixteen (16) years of age cannot perform night work.
• Young persons over sixteen (16) years of age can perform night work under Governmental guidance.
Ministry of Social Transformation
(Legislation and Initiatives)

Child Protection Services
This agency:
• Protects children from abuse and neglect
• Offers counselling services to both parents and children
• Initiates Court proceedings to have children removed from households in cases of proven child abuse and neglect

(Other support mechanisms such as the Board of Guardians would provide financial assistance to affected children)
Future Actions

• Labour Code amendments to prohibit all types of child labour.

• Tripartite consultations to determine the way forward on whether store and supermarket jobs should also be eliminated for employment by secondary school students.

• Continued educational campaigns to sensitize the populace on the national stance against child labour.

• Continued collaboration with social partners to ensure that children are safe and educated; and that families that are in dire need of social protection receive it.
Thank you!

Contact:
Eltonia.Anthony-rojas@ab.gov.ag
Deplabour@ab.gov.ag