

- work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

The Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour calls for:

- international cooperation among states in eliminating the worst forms of child labour;
- effective measures to implement and enforce the provisions of the Convention;
- the recognition of the importance of education in eliminating child labour; and



- special measures to identify and reach out to **children at risk**, and to take account of the **special situation of girls**.

Need for Collective Action

Child labour is a scourge on society. It denies childhood which should be dedicated to education and development. It jeopardizes the children’s potential of becoming productive adults for community life, and put at risk a country’s long term productivity by denying education to the future workforce.

This presents a challenge to all countries to progressively reduce child labour wherever it exists and in whatever form. This can be achieved with national determination and political will, and with the support of labour and school inspectorates, social services, and the cooperation of employers and law enforcement agencies.

There is therefore the need for the national system to provide for strong, well trained and adequately staffed labour and school inspectorates with the financial and material means to enable them to discharge their advisory, technical, and promotional work effectively. Indeed, it is the individual and joint responsibility of the governments, and the social partners – employers’ and workers’ organizations, churches/religious organizations and civil society to address the problems of child labour to improve the situation in the national community.

CAGI will continue to be an active advocate against child labour and for children to be at school.



The Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry Limited (CAGI)

Combating CHILD LABOUR THROUGH EDUCATION



The Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry Limited (CAGI) in collaboration with ILO/IPEC’s TACKLE Project, Guyana, with support from the European Union & African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

Combating Child Labour

What is Child Labour?

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has defined **Child Labour** as children's work which is of a nature or intensity that is detrimental to their schooling or harmful to their health and development.

The concern is with children who:

- are denied their childhood and a future,
- work at too young an age,
- work for long hours for low wages,
- work under conditions harmful to their health and to their physical and mental development,
- are separated from their families, or
- are deprived of education.

Such child labour can create irreversible damage to the child and is in violation of international law and usually, national legislation.



International Labour Standards

The following two International Labour Conventions of the ILO, which are ratified by Guyana, place a binding obligation on Government and its agencies, and the social partners represented by the Employers and Trade Unions to bring the laws and practice in line with these Conventions:

1. Convention No. 138 – Minimum Age, 1973: This Convention calls:

- for the **effective abolition of child labour** and emphasizes that school is for children, not work (normally any child under 15 years of age);
- for the minimum age for employment to be not less than the age of completion of compulsory education (normally not under 15 years);
- on states to pursue a national policy designed to abolish child labour;
- on states to progressively raise the minimum age for employment consistent with the full physical and mental development of young persons;
- on states to ensure that the minimum age shall not be less than 18 years for any type of work which is likely to jeopardize the health, safety, or morals (or 16 years under certain conditions of protection of health, safety or morals, with adequate and specific instructions or vocational training) of young persons, the representative social partners having been consulted.



2. Convention No. 182 – The Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999:

This Convention is applicable to all persons under 18 years of age, and requires ratifying states to take immediate and effective measures to prohibit and eliminate as a matter of urgency the worst forms of child labour defined as:

- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom;
- forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflicts;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs; and