

## JAMAICA

### MEET A CHILD

**Neher** is 15 years. She was violated by her father from she was 6 years old, and received beatings for crying out. Her mother left home because of cruelty. She got pregnant by her father at 14. He beat her for this and accused her of 'keeping man'. She suffered internal injuries, contracted STDs 3 times from him, last time with syphilis, and says this is what she wanted to do as she hoped to get AIDS and die. She is suicidal, angry, promiscuous, withdrawn socially, showed deterioration in school performance and grieves for her child, which was given up for adoption...

**TOTAL POPULATION 2,643,000**  
**CHILD POPULATION 819,330**

Population Reference Bureau

### TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

Recent statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Jamaica are unavailable. Child labor is largely urban based, the result of high levels of poverty, and the lack of family income. While child labor is not reported to be a significant problem in Jamaica's formal industrial sector, children are found working in informal activities, notably those in the fishing, agriculture, and tourism sectors.

The US Dept. of Labor's 2003 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

### ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

An estimated 1,497,000 people would be economically active population in 2010 with no children between 10-14 years being economically active

ILO, Bureau of Statistics, Economically Active Population

### GENDER RATIO

1000 females for 1000 males

CIA, factbook-2005 (Fig is an estimate for 2005)

### CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, there were 15,800 out of school children in the primary school age group of 6-11

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

### PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

Jamaica's EDI of 0.923 suggests that the level of progress towards achieving education for all by 2015 is medium

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

### CHILD SLAVERY

Jamaicans are trafficked into forced labor in the United States

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

### **CHILD TRAFFICKING**

Jamaica is a source country for children trafficked internally for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Precise numbers of trafficking victims are difficult to establish due to the underground and under-acknowledged nature of trafficking in the country.

### **CHILD PROSTITUTION**

A 2001 study funded by ILO-IPEC found that children as young as 10 years old work as prostitutes, catering to tourists in areas, while other young girls are hired by "go-go" clubs or massage parlors

A 2001 ILO report cited that more than 100 minors, both boys and girls, are involved in Jamaica's sex trade.

Victims often travel from rural areas to urban and tourist centers where they are trafficked into prostitution sometimes with the encouragement or complicity of their families

### **CHILDREN USED IN CRIME**

No confirmed data

### **CHILD SOLDIERS**

The minimum age for voluntary recruitment was 18 years. Younger recruits could enter training at 17 years and six months with parental consent, but had to have reached the age of 18 before graduation.

Under-18s were reportedly members of armed groups responsible for gang and community violence, some of it politically motivated.

### **CHILDREN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR**

Children live and work on the streets and are involved in such activities as newspaper delivery, street vending, cart pushing, and work on cargo and tourist shipping wharves. Children also work as shop assistants in carpentry and mechanic shops and domestic servants

In tourist towns, children are reported to work in kitchens, hotels, and recreational and cultural activities. In some villages, children catch, scale, and gut fish. In agriculture, children work on family farms and in the cultivation and harvesting of marijuana.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

The US Dept. of Labor's 2003 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CSUCS Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004.

The US Dept. of Labor's 2003 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor