

Pan African Union for Science and Technology

UPR - Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia is a multiparty, parliamentary democracy. The constitution of the country guarantees basic freedom such as life, liberty, security of the person, equality before the law and the protection of the law and freedom of conscience, of expression and of assembly and association. The constitution provides for freedom of religion and prohibits discrimination based on religious belief. Individuals have the right to change their religion. The government generally respected religious freedom in law and in practice. There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice, and prominent societal leaders took positive steps to promote religious freedom. The government is secular and does not interfere with an individual's right to worship. The constitution grants religious groups the right to establish and maintain schools and provide religious instruction. There are private schools sponsored by the Catholic, Seventh-day Adventist, and Anglican churches

Civic groups are well organized and politically active, as are labour unions, which represent the majority of wage earners. The judicial system is independent and includes a high court under the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC).

Saint Lucia has one of the lowest levels of corruption in the West Indies. Access to information is legally guaranteed, and government officials are required by law to present their financial assets annually to the Integrity Commission

The country has also taken a number of measures directed at improving the utilisation of natural resources. In this direction, a major policy is the launch of 'Good Food' Revolution. Entitled "Simply Organic from Table to Farm," the national "Good Food Revolution" promotes the conservation of local biological resources and combines modern agricultural science with

indigenous knowledge. It also hopes to fight problems such as climate change, unemployment, food scarcity and increasing lifestyle diseases such as hypertension and obesity.

Agriculture is the main economic activity on St. Lucia, which is the leading producer of bananas in the Windward Islands group. Tourism, with direct flights from Europe and North America, has recently become an equally important economic activity. St. Lucia's manufacturing sector has grown steadily, with the construction of many light manufacturing and assembly plants that produce for local or export markets. Foreign investment in manufacturing and information processing in recent years has increased St. Lucia's industrial base.

The country has put in an effective mechanism of women and child rights reform. Since its independence (in 1979) the participation of women in key sectors in society has been significant; according to a January 2015 ILO report, 52.3% of managerial positions in Saint Lucia were held by women; In 2012, a National Action Child Protection Committee (NACPC) was established, with the goal of coordinating and reporting on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; In terms of corporal punishment, the government introduced the Saint Lucia's Child Friendly Schools Programme, which resulted in many education institutions embracing alternative methods of disciplining students as opposed to the use of corporal punishment.

The government has continued to address poverty reduction and sustainable development through the introduction and revamping of specific policies and programmes and has made progress in ensuring that adequate basic human rights including water, food and housing was its priority.