



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Thirty-eighth session
3–14 May 2021

Compilation on Belgium

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies^{1, 2}

2. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children's rights, Belgium consider ratifying the core human rights instruments to which it was not yet a party, namely, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.³

3. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism recommended that the Government ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment without delay and set up an effective national preventive mechanism in compliance with the standards set up by the Protocol.⁴

4. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended that Belgium ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a national preventive mechanism.⁵

5. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent recommended that the Government consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.⁶

6. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism recommended that the Government ensure



that measures addressing advocacy of hate were compliant with articles 19 (3) and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.⁷

III. National human rights framework⁸

7. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent recommended that the Government adopt a comprehensive national action plan against racism, upholding the commitments it had made in 2002 following the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The action plan should be developed in partnership with people of African descent. The Working Group also recommended that the Government adopt a national strategy for the inclusion of people of African descent in Belgium, including migrants, and create a national platform for people of African descent.⁹

8. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism recommended that the Government establish a national human rights institution that was compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).¹⁰

9. The Human Rights Committee urged Belgium to speed up the establishment of the Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles, providing it with a comprehensive mandate and with all the necessary resources to carry it out in full, including the possibility to receive complaints. Belgium should furthermore encourage the federal authorities and the federated entities to negotiate cooperation agreements so as to increase collaboration between the Federal Institute and sectoral institutions in order to ensure effective protection.¹¹

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination¹²

10. While welcoming the measures Belgium had taken to combat all forms of discrimination, the Human Rights Committee expressed its concern about the persistence of discriminatory acts against persons belonging to ethnic, religious, linguistic or sexual minorities. It noted with concern the persistence of discriminatory acts such as ethnic profiling for identity checks by the police and obstacles to access to housing or the enjoyment of social benefits, owing to discrimination based on language, without the provision of effective remedies. It also noted that data disaggregated by ethnicity, sex and age were missing at various levels and that no national action plan against racism had yet been adopted.¹³

11. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism recommended that the Government assess and monitor discrimination based on racial, ethnic, national or religious stereotypes in the context of countering terrorism, including through systematic collection of relevant data.¹⁴

12. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent recommended that the Government collect, compile, analyse, disseminate and publish reliable statistical data, disaggregated by race and on the basis of voluntary self-identification, and take all necessary measures to assess regularly the situation of individuals and groups of individuals who were victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.¹⁵

13. The Working Group also recommended that the Government clarify and simplify the jurisdiction of the anti-discrimination authorities, creating one point of entry to make reporting easier for victims, allowing for more coordination and making perpetrators of racist

harassment and violence more accountable, including through accelerated judicial procedures.¹⁶

14. UNHCR recommended that Belgium provide structural responses to discriminatory practices, particularly in the areas of housing, education and employment.¹⁷

15. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent recommended that the Government require anti-racism training for all teachers, including training on implicit bias and specific manifestations of racism in the context of their work; that it take all necessary measures to combat racial discrimination and ensure full implementation of the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to adequate housing and access to affordable health care, employment and education for people of African descent; and that it invest in integrated trust-building measures between the police, judicial institutions, Unia (an independent equality body), social integration bodies, anti-racist associations and victims of racial discrimination and race- and gender-based violence to ensure that racist acts, violence and crimes were systematically reported, prosecuted and compensated for.¹⁸

16. The Working Group also recommended that the Government further implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Belgium, focusing on indicators relevant to people of African descent, in partnership with civil society. In view of the 2018 report on poverty issued by Statbel (the Belgian statistical office), the Working Group called on the Government to eradicate structural racism in order to attain the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.¹⁹

17. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned that children living in poverty and children with disabilities remained subjected to discrimination, in particular with regard to access to health care, education, housing and leisure. It was also concerned at the prejudice, stereotypes and hatred children with a migrant background witnessed, particularly since the terrorist attacks in 2014 and 2016. It called upon Belgium to adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy addressing all forms of discrimination and to strengthen its efforts to combat radicalization of children and hate speech, including with regard to children in vulnerable situations.²⁰

18. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Belgium be encouraged to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education of 1960 and to participate in the tenth consultation on the implementation of the Convention and the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education by submitting a national implementation report.²¹

2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

19. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights recommended that, in addition to its implementation of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, Belgium adopt a binding regulatory and normative framework that: (a) required business entities based in the State to exercise human rights due diligence in their operations and in their business relationships, both in the State and abroad; and (b) held business entities liable for violations of economic, social and cultural rights.²²

20. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the high level of air pollution in Belgium, particularly from road transport, and its negative impact on the climate and on children's health, contributing to an increase in asthma and respiratory diseases, while their exact prevalence remained unknown. Taking note of targets 3.9 and 13.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommended that Belgium conduct an assessment of the impact of air pollution on children's health and a study on the prevalence of asthma and respiratory diseases in children; and develop a comprehensive national plan for reducing the level of greenhouse emissions to prevent dangerous climate impact, while ensuring that the special vulnerabilities and needs of children, as well as their views, were taken into account.²³

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism²⁴

21. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism recommended that the Government establish an independent, adequately resourced, overarching expert oversight body to

undertake review of the overall operation of all counter-terrorism and national security powers, laws and policies; and ensure that terrorism-related offences were defined in line with the principle of legality and restricted to covering conduct that was terrorist in nature.²⁵

22. The same Special Rapporteur recommended that the offences of support to terrorist organizations and travel with terrorist intent be interpreted in line with human rights standards, limiting the resulting restrictions on human rights to what was necessary in a democratic society and proportionate to the social danger exposed by the conduct in question. She also recommended that the Government make victims of terrorism an absolute priority in addressing the consequences of terrorist attacks and continue working towards the elimination of persistent barriers to the realization of victims' human rights.²⁶

23. The Special Rapporteur further recommended that the Government set up a clear legal framework governing professional secrecy and other confidentiality obligations in the context of countering terrorism and radicalization towards violence; and design and implement specialized and individually tailored disengagement and reintegration programmes in prisons to serve persons convicted of terrorism-related offences, including persons subject to security regimes/measures or held in D-Rad:Ex wings.²⁷

24. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government ensure that intelligence-sharing practices were underpinned by a sufficiently foreseeable and accessible domestic legal basis that provided for adequate safeguards against abuse and that such practices were subject to full oversight by the Standing Intelligence Agencies Review Committee; and that the Government strengthen the independence of the Standing Police Monitoring Committee by ensuring that it was composed of independent experts recruited from outside the police who were trained in human rights and equality standards.²⁸

25. Furthermore, the Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government amend the Immigration Act to ensure its compliance with the principle of legality, limit the scope of legal discretion conferred on implementing authorities, and set up a meaningful and effective appeal process that automatically suspended the execution of decisions terminating residence rights pending appeal.²⁹

B. Civil and political rights

1. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law³⁰

26. The Human Rights Committee encouraged Belgium to: (a) continue its efforts to reduce overcrowding in prisons, including through the use of alternatives to detention, and improve living conditions at detention facilities, pursuant to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules); (b) provide for alternatives to the deprivation of liberty of persons with mental disorders in prisons; and (c) ensure implementation of Act No. 2019011569 of 23 March 2019 on the organization of the prison service and the status of prison staff, so as to ensure the minimum staffing levels at prisons, including during strikes.³¹

2. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

27. UNESCO recommended that Belgium decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that was in accordance with international standards. It also recommended that Belgium update its law on access to information in order to align it with international standards, particularly regarding the appeal mechanism and proactive disclosure clauses.³²

28. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent called on politicians at all levels of society to avoid instrumentalizing racism, xenophobia and hate speech in the pursuit of political office and to promote inclusion, solidarity, non-discrimination and meaningful commitments to equality. The media were also reminded of their important role in that regard.³³

29. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism recommended that the authorities be

guided by the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.³⁴

3. Right to privacy and family life

30. UNHCR recommended that Belgium facilitate family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection by: (a) simplifying the visa application process by allowing beneficiaries of international protection already in Belgium to submit applications on behalf of their family members, or failing that, by post, electronic mail or through a duly authorized third party; (b) extending family reunification to certain family members by taking into account the actual composition of the family unit and dependency relationships, and facilitating the process of providing evidence of family ties; and (c) exempting beneficiaries of international protection from the obligation to meet the requirements to have a stable, regular and sufficient means of subsistence, adequate housing and health insurance coverage, regardless of the date of submission of the family reunification application.³⁵

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

31. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Belgium ensure that domestic workers, who were mainly employed to provide personal care and support services, enjoyed the same conditions as other workers with regard to remuneration, rest and leisure, limitation of working hours and protection against unfair dismissal. It also recommended that Belgium provide them with protection from all forms of exploitation and abuse, including by improving complaint mechanisms so as to make them easily accessible to those workers and by ensuring that labour inspectorates were effective in monitoring their conditions of work.³⁶

2. Right to an adequate standard of living

32. The same Committee recommended that Belgium ensure that its fourth federal poverty reduction plan: (a) was focused on the most marginalized individuals and groups, especially children; (b) was developed with the participation of persons living in poverty and the associations that represented them; and (c) took into account the evaluation of the third federal poverty reduction plan. The Committee also recommended that Belgium raise statutory minimum income benefits above the at-risk-of-poverty threshold and that it ensure access to high-quality public services for children living in poverty.³⁷

33. While welcoming the adoption of a new model of family benefits, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was seriously concerned that the measures taken had not had the desired impact on the reduction of child poverty, as up to 18.6 per cent of children remained at risk of poverty. It was also concerned at the particularly high risk of poverty for families with two unemployed parents, single-parent families and families of origin outside the European Union.³⁸

34. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned at the shortage of social housing, despite the efforts of the regions, and at the lack of coordination on housing policy between the federal State and the regions. It recommended that Belgium make better-quality affordable housing more widely available, in particular by expanding the supply of social housing, addressing the problem of unoccupied private and public buildings and regulating rents on the private rental market.³⁹

35. The same Committee was concerned at the persistence of homelessness in the State and at the absence of national data on homeless persons. It was also concerned by the lack of implementation of the cooperation agreement on homelessness and housing exclusion signed in 2014 by the federated entities. The Committee recommended that Belgium ensure the effective coordination of the efforts of the federal State and the regions to ensure that follow-up was given to the cooperation agreement on homelessness and housing exclusion. It also recommended that Belgium gather data on homeless persons at the national level.⁴⁰

3. Right to education

36. UNESCO recommended that Belgium be encouraged to step up its efforts to promote equal opportunities in education and to address socioeconomic segregation and major inequalities in education by facilitating the access of underrepresented groups to educational establishments.⁴¹

37. UNESCO also recommended that Belgium be encouraged to strengthen its efforts to address inequalities in education and the proliferation of intolerance and hate speech among children, especially that directed at migrant and refugee children, and to ensure that the ban on wearing religious symbols in educational establishments did not negatively affect access to education.⁴²

38. UNESCO further recommended that Belgium be encouraged to ensure inclusive education for all children with disabilities, particularly by ensuring the accessibility of school facilities, premises and transport, and by training and assigning specialized teachers to provide individual support for children with disabilities.⁴³

39. Furthermore, UNESCO recommended that Belgium be encouraged to strengthen its policy to address school dropout, particularly with regard to socially disadvantaged and marginalized children, and to develop non-repressive measures to ensure that those children had access to education and remained in the education system.⁴⁴

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

40. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Belgium: (a) continue its efforts to raise awareness among the public, the police, the judicial authorities and social workers at support centres on all forms of violence against women and on the mechanisms available for victims in the event of violations; (b) improve the system for collection of disaggregated data on reports of and convictions for all forms of harmful practices and violence against women; and (c) continue its efforts to facilitate the filing of complaints by victims of violence.⁴⁵

41. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Belgium ensure the implementation of the recommendations from the evaluation of the National Action Plan to Combat All Forms of Gender-based Violence, maintain the financing of victim support centres and strengthen the prevention of new forms of gender-based violence, such as online harassment. It also recommended that Belgium establish mechanisms enabling migrant women in an irregular situation to report violence against them without fear of deportation.⁴⁶

42. The same Committee was concerned at discrimination against women in the economic and social spheres, especially the persistent wage gap between men and women and the obstacles faced by women in gaining access to decision-making positions in the public and private sectors. It was also concerned at the lack of recognition of the situations of intersectionality affecting women in the most marginalized segments of society.⁴⁷

43. The Committee recommended that Belgium intensify its efforts to achieve substantive equality between men and women and, in particular, that it: (a) effectively implement the Act of 22 April 2012 aimed at reducing the wage gap between men and women, and its amendment of 12 July 2013; and (b) continue to promote increased representation of women at all levels of the public administration, particularly in decision-making positions, and promote their participation in management roles in the private sector.⁴⁸

2. Children

44. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted with regret that child abuse, including domestic violence, was underreported and insufficiently documented.⁴⁹

45. The Committee recommended that Belgium strengthen coordination between administrations and institutions at the federal, regional and community levels, and train the

professionals concerned to identify and adequately respond to cases of child abuse and neglect, taking into account a gender perspective.⁵⁰

46. The same Committee recommended that Belgium ensure the development of programmes and policies for the prevention of child sexual exploitation and abuse, and the recovery and social reintegration of child victims.⁵¹

47. The Committee noted the decision of Belgium to provide assistance for the repatriation of Belgian children under the age of 10 years of foreign terrorist fighters located in other countries. The Committee recommended that Belgium develop and implement identification mechanisms for children who had been involved in or affected by armed conflict, including asylum-seeking and migrant children.⁵²

48. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism recommended that the Government work out the modalities of repatriating children as a matter of priority, including the applicable procedure for the determination of citizenship and adequate rehabilitation and reintegration programmes.⁵³

49. While welcoming the efforts of Belgium to introduce “child budgeting”, the Committee on the Rights of the Child regretted that that approach was not used systematically, and remained concerned that budgetary allocations to children remained inadequate, specifically with regard to children in vulnerable situations, and lacked transparency. It was also concerned at the persistently high level of child poverty, marked by regional disparities.⁵⁴

50. The same Committee urged Belgium to improve its centralized data-collection system, including by reviewing the national indicators on the rights of the child that should cover all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and be disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic and national origin, urban or rural area, geographic location, disability, migration and socioeconomic status, in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children. It also recommended that Belgium ensure that the data and indicators were shared among the ministries concerned and used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes for the effective implementation of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto.⁵⁵

51. UNHCR recommended that, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Belgium ensure that all unaccompanied or separated minors had access to youth welfare services, prioritizing care within families or in small centres where those children’s individual needs could be appropriately and continuously met, including with regard to reception, psychosocial support and education or training. It also recommended that Belgium strengthen identification measures for all unaccompanied minors by setting up identification interviews and resorting to an age test only in case of doubt and as a last resort, within the framework of a global assessment taking account not only of the child’s physiological characteristics, but also of his or her mental and psychological development.⁵⁶

52. UNHCR also recommended that Belgium strengthen the guardianship system by harmonizing quality across the system and appointing guardians immediately; and that it ensure that the best interests of the child were a primary consideration in all actions and decisions taken with regard to unaccompanied or separated minors, including in the identification of a durable solution.⁵⁷

53. Taking note of target 3.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Belgium conduct awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns to promote a positive image of mental health care, and encourage children to seek psychological support whenever needed; and that it ensure access to psychologists, psychiatrists and specialized therapists, as well as interpreters and intercultural mediators, for refugee and migrant children, including in shelter settings.⁵⁸

3. Persons with disabilities⁵⁹

54. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned at the lack of disaggregated statistical data on the employment of persons with disabilities. In addition, it was concerned at the very low employment rate for persons with disabilities and the low

employment rate for persons with disabilities in the public sector, which was well below the quotas and targets set by the public authorities.⁶⁰

55. The Committee recommended that Belgium take the measures necessary to facilitate access to employment for persons with disabilities by: (a) guaranteeing reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the labour market; (b) ensuring compliance with the quotas set by the public authorities; and (c) supporting private companies to promote the recruitment of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommended that Belgium collect disaggregated statistical data on persons with disabilities in the labour market.⁶¹

4. Minorities and indigenous peoples⁶²

56. The same Committee noted with concern the shortcomings in the implementation of the national strategy for the integration of Roma people and the absence of specific measures to combat discrimination against the Roma community, in particular Roma women and children. It recommended that Belgium ensure effective implementation of the national strategy for the integration of Roma people, through the adoption of an inter-federal action plan including specific measures for Roma women and children and receiving a specific and adequate budget.⁶³

5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons⁶⁴

57. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Belgium take all necessary measures to ensure that an individual assessment was carried out for each case of asylum, deportation or expulsion, with full respect for the principles of non-refoulement and safe third countries. It also recommended that Belgium ensure the effective and independent monitoring of deportation operations.⁶⁵

58. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Belgium strengthen its efforts to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child was consistently interpreted and applied in decisions concerning migrant and refugee children, and children in alternative care, and in education and health measures.⁶⁶

59. The same Committee welcomed the measures taken to respond to arrivals of unaccompanied children, particularly the procedure to determine a “lasting solution” in the best interests of the child for unaccompanied children, regardless of their application for asylum, and the extension of guardianship to unaccompanied children from the European Economic Area.⁶⁷

60. The Committee was, however, concerned that reportedly, a number of unaccompanied and separated children had been subjected to different forms of abuse, including physical violence by local police, unlawful detention for more than 24 hours and a lack of systematic referral to the guardianship service and other child protection authorities, while children were not aware of their rights and complaint mechanisms. The Committee was also concerned that reportedly the incidence of disappearances among unaccompanied children transiting Belgium was high.⁶⁸

61. The Committee reiterated its previous recommendation (CRC/C/BEL/CO/3-4, para. 77) and urged Belgium to put an end to the detention of children in closed centres and to use non-custodial solutions; to ensure that the best interests of the child were a primary consideration; and to develop and disseminate child-friendly tools to inform asylum-seeking children about their rights and the ways to seek justice.⁶⁹

62. UNHCR recommended that Belgium: (a) stop detaining families with children as part of the deportation procedure and establish in law the principle of non-detention of children for immigration-related purposes; and (b) resort to detaining applicants for international protection as a last resort only, once it had been established that it was necessary, reasonable and proportionate to a legitimate aim, particularly at the border and with regard to vulnerable applicants for international protection.⁷⁰

63. UNHCR also recommended that Belgium guarantee automatic, rapid and regular judicial review of the legality, necessity and proportionality of each detention decision.⁷¹

64. UNHCR further recommended that Belgium: (a) grant sufficient resources to international protection bodies and courts to facilitate a high-quality, swift and efficient procedure; (b) guarantee that complete and impartial information was provided on the international protection procedure and the possible solutions available to persons in need of international protection; (c) ensure that applicants for international protection, including for children, had rapid access to high quality legal assistance; and (d) simplify the law on foreigners, taking into account international protection standards.⁷²

6. Stateless persons

65. UNHCR recommended that Belgium: (a) grant persons recognized as stateless in Belgium a residence permit allowing them to enjoy the rights set out in the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; (b) grant applicants a temporary residence permit during the statelessness determination procedure; and (c) adopt a statelessness determination mechanism that included adequate procedural guarantees.⁷³

Notes

- ¹ Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Belgium will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BEIndex.aspx.
- ² For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/32/8, paras. 138.1–138.20.
- ³ CRC/C/BEL/CO/5-6, para. 51.
- ⁴ A/HRC/40/52/Add.5, para. 86 (i).
- ⁵ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Belgium, p. 3.
- ⁶ A/HRC/42/59/Add.1, para. 75 (d).
- ⁷ A/HRC/40/52/Add.5, para. 86 (l).
- ⁸ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/32/8, paras. 138.21–138.52.
- ⁹ A/HRC/42/59/Add.1, para. 75 (a)–(b).
- ¹⁰ A/HRC/40/52/Add.5, para. 86 (a).
- ¹¹ CCPR/C/BEL/CO/6, para. 10.
- ¹² For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/32/8, paras. 138.57–138.70.
- ¹³ CCPR/C/BEL/CO/6, para. 15.
- ¹⁴ A/HRC/40/52/Add.5, para. 86 (q).
- ¹⁵ A/HRC/42/59/Add.1, para. 75 (r).
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 75 (v).
- ¹⁷ UNHCR submission, p. 5.
- ¹⁸ A/HRC/42/59/Add.1, para. 75 (y) and (aa)–(bb).
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 75 (hh).
- ²⁰ CRC/C/BEL/CO/5-6, para. 16.
- ²¹ UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Belgium, p. 5.
- ²² E/C.12/BEL/CO/5, para. 12 (a)–(b).
- ²³ CRC/C/BEL/CO/5-6, para. 35.
- ²⁴ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/32/8, paras. 138.71–138.72.
- ²⁵ A/HRC/40/52/Add.5, para. 86 (b)–(c).
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 86 (c)–(d).
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 86 (f) and (h).
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 86 (o)–(p).
- ²⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 86 (k).
- ³⁰ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/32/8, paras. 138.57–138.70 and 139.7–139.16.
- ³¹ CCPR/C/BEL/CO/6, para. 34.
- ³² UNESCO submission, p. 4.
- ³³ A/HRC/42/59/Add.1, para. 76.
- ³⁴ A/HRC/40/52/Add.5, para. 86 (l).
- ³⁵ UNHCR submission, p. 4.
- ³⁶ E/C.12/BEL/CO/5, para. 31.
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 37.
- ³⁸ CRC/C/BEL/CO/5-6, para. 36.
- ³⁹ E/C.12/BEL/CO/5, paras. 38–39.
- ⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 46–47.
- ⁴¹ UNESCO submission, p. 5.

- ⁴² Ibid.
- ⁴³ Ibid.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid.
- ⁴⁵ CCPR/C/BEL/CO/6, para. 24.
- ⁴⁶ E/C.12/BEL/CO/5, para. 35.
- ⁴⁷ Ibid., para. 26.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid., para. 27 (a)–(b).
- ⁴⁹ CRC/C/BEL/CO/5-6, para. 23.
- ⁵⁰ Ibid.
- ⁵¹ Ibid., para. 24.
- ⁵² Ibid., para. 50.
- ⁵³ A/HRC/40/52/Add.5, para. 86 (t).
- ⁵⁴ CRC/C/BEL/CO/5-6, para. 10.
- ⁵⁵ Ibid., para. 11.
- ⁵⁶ UNHCR submission, p. 3.
- ⁵⁷ Ibid., pp. 3–4.
- ⁵⁸ CRC/C/BEL/CO/5-6, para. 33.
- ⁵⁹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/32/8, paras. 138.115, 138.120–138.125, 139.18–139.19 and 140.33.
- ⁶⁰ E/C.12/BEL/CO/5, para. 24.
- ⁶¹ Ibid., para. 25.
- ⁶² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/32/8, paras. 138.126–138.129.
- ⁶³ E/C.12/BEL/CO/5, paras. 20–21.
- ⁶⁴ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/32/8, paras. 138.115, 138.132–138.134, 139.14, 139.21–139.22, 140.34 and 141.33.
- ⁶⁵ CCPR/C/BEL/CO/6, para. 32.
- ⁶⁶ CRC/C/BEL/CO/5-6, para. 17 (a).
- ⁶⁷ Ibid., para. 41.
- ⁶⁸ Ibid.
- ⁶⁹ Ibid., para. 44.
- ⁷⁰ UNHCR submission, p. 3.
- ⁷¹ Ibid., p. 3.
- ⁷² Ibid., p. 2.
- ⁷³ Ibid., p. 6.
-