



**Convention on the
Rights of the Child**

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Forty-second session

15 May – 2 June 2006

**Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict: List
of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the initial
report of BELGIUM (CRC/C/OPAC/BEL/1)**

1. Regarding the exercise of universal jurisdiction over anyone suspected or accused of grave crimes under international law, please provide information on the amendments to the Belgian Anti-Atrocity Law (1993) adopted in 2003. Please also clarify how these amendments restrict the exercise of universal jurisdiction over war crimes, such as conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen into the national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities. Please provide information on cases in which the Anti-Atrocity Law has been implemented to atrocities committed against children.

2. Please provide information on whether the provisions of the Optional Protocol have been fully incorporated into domestic legislation and if not, please provide information on the measures required to do so.

3. Please provide information on the recruitment of children into military activities abroad by non-nationals in Belgium. In addition, please provide information on whether the State party can exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction to prosecute such offenders.

4. Please provide information on physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration programmes for asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children in Belgium who may have been involved in or affected by armed conflicts.

5. Please provide information on education, including the presence in the school curricula of courses about human rights and humanitarian law, and training on the provisions of the Optional Protocol. Please also describe other measures taken to disseminate information on the Optional Protocol.

6. Please provide information on the contracts concluded (for example, a requirement to sign a military oath) between the non-commissioned officer candidates and the officer candidates under the age of 18 and the State party. Please also clarify whether the candidates have a civil or military status.

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