

BELGIUM



Total Population: 10,152,000

CRC

138

182

Child Population: 2,114,000

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TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

No confirmed data.

CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data.

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Nearly 2,000 unaccompanied minors requested asylum in 1999, most of them from the former Yugoslavia and central Africa. Because of the difficulties involved in travelling to Belgium from those areas, the International Organisation for Migration believes that many of these unaccompanied minors were brought in by traffickers or assisted by professional smugglers.

45 children from 26 countries were trafficked during 1998. The highest number of children, i.e. 8, were from Macedonia.

Belgium is both a transit point and a destination for trafficking in children.

CHILD PROSTITUTION

A Dutch study by Terre des Hommes indicates that many children are trafficked into the Netherlands for purposes of abuse through prostitution. Many of these children, mostly girls, come from Africa. They are sold again to Belgium and other European countries where they are forced to provide sex.

In addition to child prostitution, in 1996 a murderous paedophile/child pornography group was uncovered.

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data.

CHILD SOLDIERS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently confirmed that voluntary recruitment is possible from the age of 16.

There are indications of under-18s in government armed forces as certain ranks may enlist voluntarily from the age of 16.

On 22 November 1998, the criminal police of Hanover reported that 3 children had been trained by the PKK for guerrilla warfare in camps in the Netherlands and Belgium.

CHILD SERVANTS

No confirmed data.

OTHER HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

No confirmed data.

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US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2000, February 2001 citing statistics compiled by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

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ECPAT International, A Step Forward, Commercial sexual exploitation of children, 1999

EI, EI Barometer on Human and Trade Union Rights in the Education Sector, 1998

CSUCS, Europe Report, October 1999, citing a telephone conversation, dated 8 September 1999

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001, 12 June 2001

CSUCS, Europe Report, October 1999, citing GfbV, "GfbV appelliert an Bundesregierung: Sorgen Sie für die Rückkehr der von der PKK in Deutschland entführten kurdischen Minderjährigen in ihren Familien!", 23 November 1998