



Représentation permanente du Royaume de Belgique  
à Genève

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La Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations-Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au Secrétariat du Service des procédures spéciales et a l'honneur de se référer à la communication conjointe émanant du Groupe de travail sur la question de l'utilisation des mercenaires comme moyen de violer les droits de l'homme et d'empêcher l'exercice du droit des peuples à disposer d'eux-mêmes, du Rapporteur spécial sur les questions relatives aux minorités, du Rapporteur spécial sur les formes contemporaines d'esclavage, y compris leurs causes et leurs conséquences et de la Rapporteuse spéciale sur la traite des êtres humains, en particulier des femmes et des enfants, datée du 22 juillet 2025 (ref AL BEL 1/2025).

La Représentation permanente de la Belgique prie le Secrétariat du Service des procédures spéciales de bien vouloir trouver en pièce jointe la réponse du Gouvernement de la Belgique à cette communication.

La Représentation permanente de la Belgique saurait gré au Secrétariat du Service des procédures spéciales de bien vouloir en accuser réception.

La Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations-Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève saisit cette opportunité pour renouveler au Secrétariat du Service des procédures spéciales les assurances de sa haute considération.

Fait à Genève, le 10 octobre 2025

Secrétariat du Service des procédures spéciales  
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**Communication from the Working Group on the question of the use of mercenaries, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in human beings, especially women and children**

**REF : AL BEL 1/2025 of 22 July 2025**

**Response of Belgium**

Belgium attaches great importance to the promotion and the protection of human rights and comprehends the concerns raised in the AL BEL Communication 1/2025 regarding three Sri Lankan nationals, who have allegedly fallen victim to human trafficking and forcibly recruited into the Russian armed forces.

The communication mentions that some of the victims are believed to have family in Belgium and that one of the recruitment agents is believed to have legal residence in Belgium. When the authorities become aware of indications or evidence of a potential trafficking situation, the competent authorities carry out the required investigative duties. Enquiries made after receiving the joint communication have not yielded any information about the persons mentioned.

**The fight against human trafficking in Belgium**

The prevention of trafficking in persons remains a priority for Belgium. In addition to the ratification by Belgium of the relevant Conventions and Protocols, mentioned in the annex of the communication, many initiatives have been taken or are being undertaken to enhance the fight against human trafficking.

A purely criminal justice response is insufficient to combat human trafficking effectively. From the outset, Belgium has adopted a multidisciplinary strategy in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. This comprehensive approach integrates prevention, prosecution, protection, and partnership to address the root causes and manifestations of trafficking.

**1. The Belgian National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (2021-2025)**

To ensure coherence across all efforts, Belgium adopted a fourth National Action Plan to combat human trafficking in 2021, which will run until the end of 2025. Within this framework, several legislative measures have been enacted and criminal justice policies have been reinforced.

Specific initiatives include specialized services and training. Belgium has launched a range of specialized services and training programs aimed at strengthening the capacity of key actors. Numerous training sessions have been organized by various departments and partners to raise awareness and enhance skills. The following entities continue to deliver targeted training: the National Social Security Service, the Federal Public Service of Employment, the

Federal Police, the Immigration Service and Asylum Sector, the Judiciary, the youth care sector, and the Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

The referral of victims is organized through an official national referral mechanism which constitutes a core element of the anti-trafficking policy.

A centralized contact point was also set up in 2022, consisting of both a telephone line and a website where victims' situations can be reported. The website also contains a section with information brochures and awareness-raising tools.

In addition, Belgium funds and works with three specialized reception centers for victims of human trafficking, whose expertise adds value to the collaboration between stakeholders and is essential for supporting victims.

Accurate data collection and analysis are central to coherent policy responses. Myria, the Federal Migration Centre and independent National Rapporteur, publishes an annual Trafficking in Human Beings report<sup>1</sup>. This consolidated report presents judicial statistics, victim profiles, and labor-sector trends, including agriculture, construction, domestic work, and hospitality.

## **2. Bridging Belgium's internal measures with external action**

Belgium's commitment extends beyond its borders. The National Action Plan emphasizes maintaining international attention on human trafficking through regular cooperation with: the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Benelux, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Through the Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Belgium donated €2 million to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking.

At the United Nations, Belgium systematically participates in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and contributes its expertise to the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons under this Convention.

Belgium thanks the Special Procedures in question for their communication and for drawing attention to the tragic reality of human trafficking. We acknowledge that, despite significant progress and continued efforts, Belgium remains both a transit and destination country for forced labor and sexual exploitation, and that combating trafficking continues to be a profound challenge demanding sustained effort. Belgium reaffirms its commitment to refining its anti-trafficking response and looks forward to ongoing dialogue with all relevant partners on measuring impact, closing implementation gaps and ensuring that every victim is identified, protected and empowered to rebuild their lives.

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<sup>1</sup> Previous annual reports can be found on their website: [Publications | Myria](#)