

You are considered a child if you are under the age of 18



UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN IN BELGIUM

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?

A large, stylized illustration of four hands reaching out towards the center, set against a background that transitions from green on the left to orange on the right. The hands are rendered in a light, semi-transparent style. A dashed white line arches over the top of the hands.

**SOME
USEFUL
ADVICE AND
CONTACTS TO
HELP YOU**



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YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OUT

A **guardian** or **social worker** will help to make decisions with you and for you

Professionals (police officers, lawyers, guardians, social workers, judges, doctors, etc.) are people you can **trust**

You have the right to a **free lawyer**

You have the right to a **free interpreter**

Organisations will help you to get access to **free support** (food, accommodation, shower, doctors, school...) and will ensure that your rights are respected

You **cannot be punished** for something illegal that you were forced to do

WITHOUT BEING SCARED

If you need urgent help, call the police

on **101**
or **112**

**DO NOT
HESITATE
TO CLAIM
YOUR
RIGHTS!**





The police are there to listen to you and to protect you if you feel threatened or if you are a victim, whatever your nationality. They will not cause you any harm or try to take advantage of you.

POLICE

101 OR **112**

OFFICE DES ÉTRANGERS VREEMDELINGEN ZAKEN

(Immigration Office)

Chaussée d'Anvers, 59B
1000 Brussels

02/793.80.00
infodesk@ibz.fgov.be

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

You or one of your friends may be a victim of trafficking, without realising it.

Have you been in a situation in which you had to:

- **have sex or perform sexual acts?**
- **work** (for example, in someone's house doing housework or childcare, a factory or a restaurant)?
- **beg, steal or commit crime?**
- **grow, carry or deal drugs?**
- **remove your organs to sell?**
- Repay a **'debt'** by working or providing some other service?

Have you/your family been threatened? If you answer "yes" to one of these questions, you may be victim of trafficking.

Human trafficking is a serious crime and an abuse of your rights. Talk to a professional you trust or to PAG-ASA, Sürya or Payoke if you are concerned so they can help stop the abuse, and protect other young people.

FEDASIL
(Federal Agency for the reception of asylum seekers)

Chaussée d'Anvers, 57
1000 Brussels

02/793.82.40
or **02/213.44.11**
info@fedasil.be



SÜRYA
Liège
Rue Rouveroy, 2
4000 Liège
04/232.40.30
<http://asblsurya.org>

PAG-ASA
Brussels
Rue des Alexiens, 16B
1000 Brussels
02/511.64.64
<http://pag-asa.be>

PAYOKE
Antwerp
Leguit, 4
2000 Antwerpen
03/201.16.90
<http://payoke.be>

- If you are from another country, you need a residence permit to stay in Belgium.
- In order to ask for a residence permit, you might need to go to the Immigration Office and tell them your story. If you have no legal caregiver in Belgium, the Immigration Office will contact the Guardianship Service so that you can be appointed a guardian.
- With your guardian you can discuss the best procedure to get a residence permit.

But remember, you do not need official documents to benefit from the child protection system.





In Belgium, all children without a legal caregiver are appointed a guardian until they turn 18.

Your guardian will help you apply for a residence permit and ensure that you get access to school, to medical/psychological care, and to appropriate accommodation. He/she is someone you can trust and who will act with and for you.

If you don't feel at ease with your guardian, you can talk to the Guardianship Service. If you experience conflict with your guardian you can go, alone or accompanied, to the **Judge of Peace** to be assigned a new guardian.

**SERVICE
DES TUTELLES
DIENST VOOGDIJ
(GUARDIANSHIP
SERVICE)**

Boulevard de Waterloo, 115
1000 Brussels

078/15.43.24

tutelles@just.fgov.be

**JUGE DE PAIX
VREDERECHTER
(JUDGE OF PEACE)**

<http://tribunaux-rechtbanken.be>

At the organisations below, you will meet social workers and other children. Social workers will ensure that you are safe and get access to food, accommodation, showers, and school, as well as to trusted professionals (e.g. guardians, lawyers).



In Belgium, every child has the right to a **free lawyer** and a **free interpreter**. The information you share with them is confidential (they cannot repeat it) unless it is needed in order to protect you.

IF YOU NEED LEGAL ADVICE

**MAISONS DE
JUSTICE
JUSTITIEHUIZEN
(JUSTICE HOUSES)**

www.maisonsdejustice.be
www.justitiehuisen.be

**BUREAU D'AIDE
JURIDIQUE**

Brussels/Wallonia
<http://avocats.be/fr/bureaux-daide-juridique-baj>

**SERVICES D'AIDE EN
MILIEU OUVERT
(AMO)**

Brussels

<http://amobxl.be>

Wallonia

<http://pro.guidesocial.be/associations/services-d-aide-milieu-ouvert-amo-1580.html>

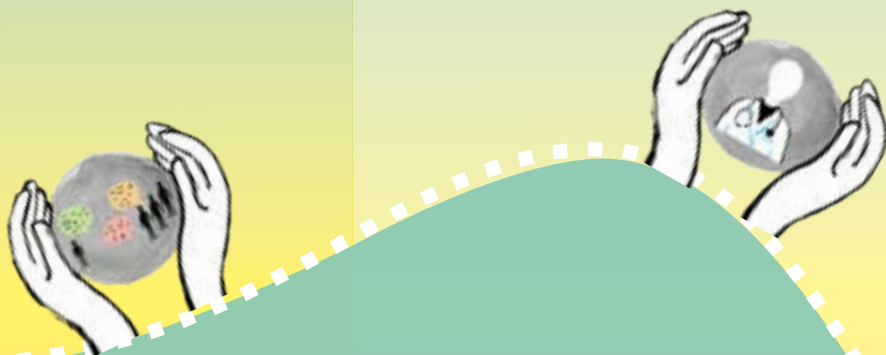
**CENTRA ALGEMEEN
WELZIJNSWERK
(CAW)**

Flanders

<http://caw.be/zoek-je-hulp>



As a child, you have the right to **free medical care** and **free education**. School is mandatory for anyone below 18 in Belgium. Your guardian will make sure you have access to suitable medical care and education.



Being a child gives you access to specific protections. Authorities may want to check your age to make sure you are a child. Therefore, it is always better to tell the truth about your age.

You have the right to contest the result of the age assessment. Ask your guardian or someone you trust to help you.

You can refuse to do the age assessment but you might be considered as an adult.

IF YOU NEED ADVICE OR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Sometimes things happen in a different way than you expect. Many organisations can help you to solve these problems!



**PLATE-FORME
MINEURS EN EXIL
PLATFORM
KINDEREN OP
DE VLUCHT
(PLATFORM MINORS IN
EXILE)**

02/210.94.91
<http://mineursenexil.be>

A stylized black figure with two large eyes, one of which is a yellow eye with a black pupil. The figure is composed of black squares and rectangles.

**SERVICE DROIT
DES JEUNES
(SDJ)**
Brussels/Wallonia

<http://www.sdj.be>

A stylized red figure with two large eyes, one of which is a yellow eye with a black pupil. The figure is composed of red squares and rectangles.

**JONGEREN ADVIES
CENTRUM
(JAC)**
Brussels/Flanders

<http://jac.be>

A stylized yellow figure with two large eyes, one of which is a yellow eye with a black pupil. The figure is composed of yellow squares and rectangles.

IF YOU FEEL IN DANGER OR IF YOU NEED PROTECTION



SERVICE D'AIDE À LA JEUNESSE (SAJ)

Brussels/Wallonia

<http://www.aidealajeunesse.cfwb.be/index.php?id=359>

JONGEREN EN WELZIJN

Brussels/Flanders

<http://www.wvg.ulaanderen.be/jongerenwelzijn/jeugdhulp/intersectorale-toegangspoort/>





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