



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

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**Committee on the Rights of the Child**

**Fifty-sixth session**

17 January–4 February 2011

**Written replies to the list of issues  
(CRC/C/OPAC/BLR/Q/1) related to the  
consideration of the initial report of the Republic  
of Belarus under article 8, paragraph 1, of the  
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights  
of the Child on the involvement of children in  
armed conflict (CRC/C/OPAC/BLR/1)\***

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\* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not formally edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

**Reply to questions raised in paragraph 1, subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the list of issues (CRC/C/OPAC/BLR/Q/1)**

1. Young male citizens aged 12 to 13 years during the year of admission who have completed the sixth grade of a general school may enter the Minsk Suvorov Military School for a five-year period of education.
2. After a medical examination, psychological testing (to assess intellectual development and the candidate's ability to live in a residential institution) and a physical fitness test, the candidates sit entrance examinations, at the level of the general school sixth grade curriculum, in mathematics (written) and Russian (Belarusian) language (dictation).
3. Certain categories of children have the right to enter the school without sitting the entrance examination and without taking part in a competition, provided they pass the medical examination and the psychological test.
4. Students who graduate from the school receive a certificate of general secondary education.
5. The school provides general secondary education. The curriculum for students in the tenth and eleventh grades includes one lesson per week, or 0.3 per cent of the whole curriculum for those grades, on "Preparation for military service". Theoretical and practical training in the use of weapons is given in the context of "military basics", which makes up 60 per cent of that subject course, and includes the study of: chemical, biological and radiological protection; military medical training; military physical training; and drill practice. In June, the school's students attend a specialized military sports recreation camp that includes physical training, drill practice and weapons practice sessions.
6. The students do not have military status. Regardless of the circumstances, the students have the right, on a request from their parents or legal representatives, to withdraw from the school and to continue their studies at any general school. The school currently has 500 students.

**Reply to questions raised in paragraph 2 of the list of issues**

7. The education departments of local authorities and administrative bodies work with military units to organize patriotic sports recreation camps for general school students during the summer period. Over the summer of 2010, 216 such camps were organized for 12,677 general school students, 2,341 of whom attended 52 camps on the premises of military units.
8. The programmes of the camps include patriotic civic education and cultural activities. The young people are introduced to the equipment and weapons used by units under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and sports festivals and competitions, meetings and relay races, contests and quizzes are held. Inspectors from the juvenile affairs departments of the internal affairs agencies attend the events.
9. The Ministry of Emergencies, together with local education departments, holds rallies for young firefighter rescuers, as well as the Spasatel [rescuer] national camp. The Belorussian Youth Rescue and Firefighters' Organization is one of the country's biggest associations, with more than 542,000 young members. Each year national and international rallies for young firefighters are organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education at the Zubrenok national children's educational recreation centre. The programme includes rescue and firefighter competitions and contests in lifeguarding, first-aid and health and safety skills.

### **Reply to questions raised in paragraph 3 of the list of issues**

10. Under the national legislation, citizens and stateless persons permanently resident in Belarus who commit crimes outside the country are subject to prosecution under the Criminal Code if their acts are crimes in the State where they are committed and if they have not faced criminal prosecution in that State. In the case of an offence under article 181 of the Criminal Code (Human trafficking), the Criminal Code of Belarus is applicable regardless of the criminal law in force in the State where the acts are committed.

### **Reply to questions raised in paragraph 4 of the list of issues**

11. The new Act on the granting of subsidiary and temporary protection to aliens and stateless persons in Belarus came into force on 3 July 2009. Under the Act, foreign nationals may be granted refugee status, or subsidiary or temporary protection, and be given guarantees of non-refoulement to their State of citizenship or former habitual residence, in accordance with the international obligations of Belarus.

12. By law, when foreign nationals under the age of 18 who are unmarried and in Belarus without an accompanying legal representative express the wish to apply for refugee status or subsidiary protection, they are referred to the agencies of tutorship or guardianship. The agencies exercise tutorship or guardianship over the unaccompanied minors, apply on their behalf to the competent bodies for protection and take other measures to safeguard their rights and legal interests.

13. Under article 32 of the Act, the identities of foreign nationals who apply for refugee status or subsidiary protection but who do not have the necessary documents to leave the country, or who produce false or counterfeit documents to leave the country, are verified by the citizenship and migration section of Minsk Municipal Executive Committee's Internal Affairs Department or of a provincial executive committee's internal affairs department within one month of the date on which they apply for protection to the relevant State agency.

14. Identification of an unaccompanied foreign minor who applies for protection must take place in the presence of a representative of the tutorship or guardianship agency. Foreign nationals, including unaccompanied minors, who are granted refugee status in Belarus have the same socio-economic rights and rights to education and health care as foreign nationals who are permanently resident in the country. Moreover, they have the same right to family reunification, financial assistance, residence in specially appointed facilities and the same privileges in registering their place of residence and in securing judicial protection as citizens of Belarus.

15. Foreign nationals, including minors, who are granted refugee status in Belarus are also entitled to travel documents giving them the right to leave and enter the country. Foreign minors who have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection in Belarus have the right to education and medical care on the same basis as Belarusian minors. Foreign nationals who, under the country's international obligations, cannot be subject to expulsion have the right to remain in the country temporarily and accordingly to enjoy the rights granted to that category of foreigners. Assistance with housing, employment, language learning and education are priorities in the successful integration of refugees and are addressed, inter alia, by international technical assistance projects (such as the project implemented since 2009 on the integration of refugees in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (phase 1), which includes a pilot programme on secondary employment and the provision of supplementary educational services for minors who have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection in Belarus).

**Reply to questions raised in paragraph 5 of the list of issues**

16. Under article 17 of the Weapons Act of 13 November 2001, the transportation of weapons and ammunition across the State border is regulated as stipulated by the President. Under article 21 of the Act, legal persons holding special permits or licences either to manufacture or to trade in service and civilian weapons and their ammunition are entitled to trade in such weapons and ammunition in Belarus.

17. Under Presidential Decree No. 473 of 30 August 2002 on measures to better regulate the movement of military, service and civilian weapons and ammunition in Belarus, the State military units and related organizations, customs agencies and the procuratorial authorities have the right to sell or provide weapons or ammunition to other State military units and related organizations, the State Customs Committee and legal persons who are specially licensed to manufacture or trade in weapons.

**Reply to questions in paragraph 6 of the list of issues**

18. Belarus is not currently planning to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

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