**Position Paper**

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Model United Nations (MUN)

Delegation: Belgium

Committee: (UNWomen)

Agenda Item: Women rights

Position Paper: Belgium’s perspective

Honorable chair and esteemed delegates

Belgium is honored to present significant progress in increasing the representation of women in its political institutions since the introduction of the gender parity law. This law requires political parties to nominate at least 33 percent women. The parties that do not meet the target face sanctions. Private and public healthcare is available in Belgium, both of which are of high quality. Anyone living in Belgium may access healthcare services. Once you have registered for [Belgian social security,](https://www.expatica.com/be/living/gov-law-admin/social-security-in-belgium-100070/) you can receive insurance for subsidized healthcare. Otherwise, you will need to obtain private [health](https://www.expatica.com/be/healthcare/healthcare-basics/health-insurance-in-belgium-445867/) [insurance in Belgium.](https://www.expatica.com/be/healthcare/healthcare-basics/health-insurance-in-belgium-445867/)

To address the information gap pertaining to the health of girls and women, a women's health report for Belgium was developed. The goal of this report is to identify and highlight health issues specific to women or affecting them differently and possible knowledge and data gaps.

The report highlighted several data gaps, e.g. prevalence of endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome, and several opportunities to fill them. The process also uncovered available but underused data on women-specific issues, including fertility treatments, abortions, and contraception. Among the main results, an analysis on girls (11-18 years old) showed an alarming difference in health status compared to boys, starting from a young age and increasing throughout adolescence. For example, girls reported experiencing more psychosomatic symptoms more often than boys with the difference increasing with age. Girls reported more often a negative perception of their health (22%) compared to boys (15%) and more often depressive symptoms (47%) than boys (31%). Conversely, boys were twice as likely to meet WHO recommendations on physical activity.

This first report on women's health in Belgium highlighted the need to collect better information on women-specific issues and the need to promote the use of existing data. Results showed that gender differences in health emerge and increase during adolescence. We strived to put results into context to produce knowledge and recommendations for policymakers.