MIGRANT CHILDREN'S PERCEPTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
The main objective of the BRIDGE project is to **strengthen the response to Gender based violence (GBV) against children and youth on the move.**

One of the concrete objectives being to “enhance the availability of reliable data on GBV against migrant children”. To increase the availability of accurate data on the extent of GBV against children and youth on the move in Belgium, **children and young migrants have been voluntarily answering to a multiple-choice questionnaire** on a mobile device.

A report has been issued, highlighting the general tendencies on the level of conceptual knowledge about GBV in both of these groups; the perception and attitudes towards GBV; and the main practices towards GBV.

The following infographics summarise the results of this questionnaire for all phases of the data collection, conducted by the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020.

It is written in a child-friendly manner.

For more information and/or to get the full report, please contact Defence for Children International Belgium (contact info at the end).
BRIDGE

Fight against gender-based violence affecting migrant children and youth

**WHY?**

Understand migrant children’s needs

Adults working with migrant children often feel helpless when they have to help victims of gender-based violence

Support migrant children, inform and help them

**HOW?**

We meet with young migrants to talk about their experiences

We also ask adults to answer a few questions

We organize trainings for professionals working with migrant children about gender-based violence

**FOR WHAT PURPOSE?**

1. For the professionals to feel able to help children victims

2. For migrant children to know their rights and be able to protect their friends

WRITE TO
EMMANUELLE VACHER
@DEFENSE.DESENFANT.BE

QUESTIONS?
WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

What is gender?

Gender is the perception we have of what is being a boy, a girl, etc.

Society, family or religion (for example) expect different things from boys and girls. These expectations can create inequalities and, sometimes, violence.

Child and forced marriage

Sexual violence

Prostitution

Harassment

Physical violence

Genital mutiliation

Most girls and boys who migrated suffered at least one of these forms of violence.

Children who leave their countries to come to Europe are very affected by violence.

Violence can happen in their country of origin, on the migratory route and also in the country where they arrive.

Even if they are affected in different ways, both girls and boys can suffer gender-based violences.
We had a discussion with 41 young migrants to ask what were their thoughts on gender-based violence.

**WHO ARE THE MIGRANT CHILDREN WE TALKED TO?**

- **50 questions on a digital tablet**
- **Several choices of answers**

- **16 girls**
- **25 boys**
  - between 11 and 18 years old

- **59%** are with their parents
- **36%** are unaccompanied
- **9%** are with at least one member of their family

- **22%** have been separated from their family during the journey

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With their friends, they enjoy:

- **Sports**
- **Play and laugh**
- **Going out, spend time together**
- **Going to the cinema or other artistic activities**

More than **90%** go to school.
**HOW DO THEY REACT TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?**

**At home, your aunt shouts angrily at your uncle because he dropped a cup.**

- **45%** It is a form of violence
- **29%** It is just a private issue, it has nothing to do with me
- **22%** It is a harmless situation

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**Suppose you are in a relationship and your partner is very jealous and he/she beats you.**

- **47%** It is a form of violence
- **30%** It means that he/she loves me
- **24%** I am probably responsible

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**In the street, you see a husband beating his wife.**

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- **20%** She probably deserves it
- **19%** It can happen sometimes

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**In the center, you witness a boy trying to touch a girl who says “No”.**

- **25%** I prefer to do nothing
- **37%** I would talk to a care professional about it
- **7%** I would talk to my friends about it

**In the center, you witness a boy trying to touch a girl who says “No”.**

- **25%** I prefer to do nothing
- **37%** I would talk to a care professional about it
- **7%** I would talk to my friends about it

**Defence for Children International Belgium**
If someone tries to touch or kiss you but you do not want to, what do you do?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Boy, 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9%</td>
<td>I would talk to my friends</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>I would talk to a professional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Boy, 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I leave the centre</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I talk to the person</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I defend myself</td>
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WHO CAN HELP?

Violence is never tolerable! If you need advice or support, there are several options:

- **In your center you can trust the workers.** Do not hesitate to talk to them, they can help you.

- **If you are unaccompanied, you must be assigned a tutor.** This person will advice and support you.

- **If you are not familiar with English or French, you have a right to a free interpreter.**

- **If you seek legal support, you have the right to a free lawyer** ([www.avocats.be/fr/bureaux-daide-baj](http://www.avocats.be/fr/bureaux-daide-baj)). You can also contact a justice house ([www.maisondejustice.be](http://www.maisondejustice.be) or 02/557.50.50).

- **The police are here to protect you if you are in danger or threatened, regardless of your nationality. You can call 101 or 112.**

- **If there is anything else you would like to talk about, many organisations may help you for free.** You can contact the [Plate-forme mineurs en exil](http://www.mineursenexil.be) (02/210.94.91), the [Service droit des jeunes](http://www.sdj.be) (02/223.36.45), the Ombudsman for children ([dgde@cfwb.be](mailto:dgde@cfwb.be) or 02/223.36.45), the Children's Listening Service ([www.103ecoute.be](http://www.103ecoute.be) or 103), the suicide prevention centre ([www.preventionsuicide.be](http://www.preventionsuicide.be) or 0800.32.123).

- **If you go to school, your school also probably has a psycho-socio-medical centre (PMS).** It is a place where you can discuss your concerns with specialists.
We asked children if they wished to tell us something more. This is what they had to say:

"I feel good here"
16 years old

"I AM SCARED OF THE FUTURE"
16 years old

"We always have to wait, we don't know"
16 years old

"I don't like being here, I would like to be in a house. Many things happen in the centre, I don't like being here and not getting help with my papers."
18 years old

"I feel good here but there are too many noises and fights"
17 years old

"MY MIND AND MY HEART ARE NOT HERE. I THINK OF MY FAMILY. MY DREAM IS THAT MY FAMILY COMES HERE"
17 years old

Thank you to all of these young people for sharing their experience and opinions with us!
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In partnership with

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