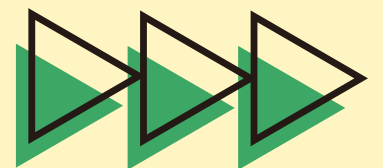




Belgium non-discrimination country report

Key highlights

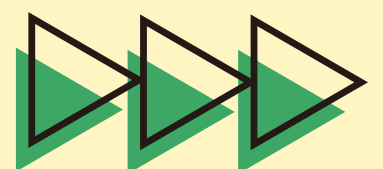


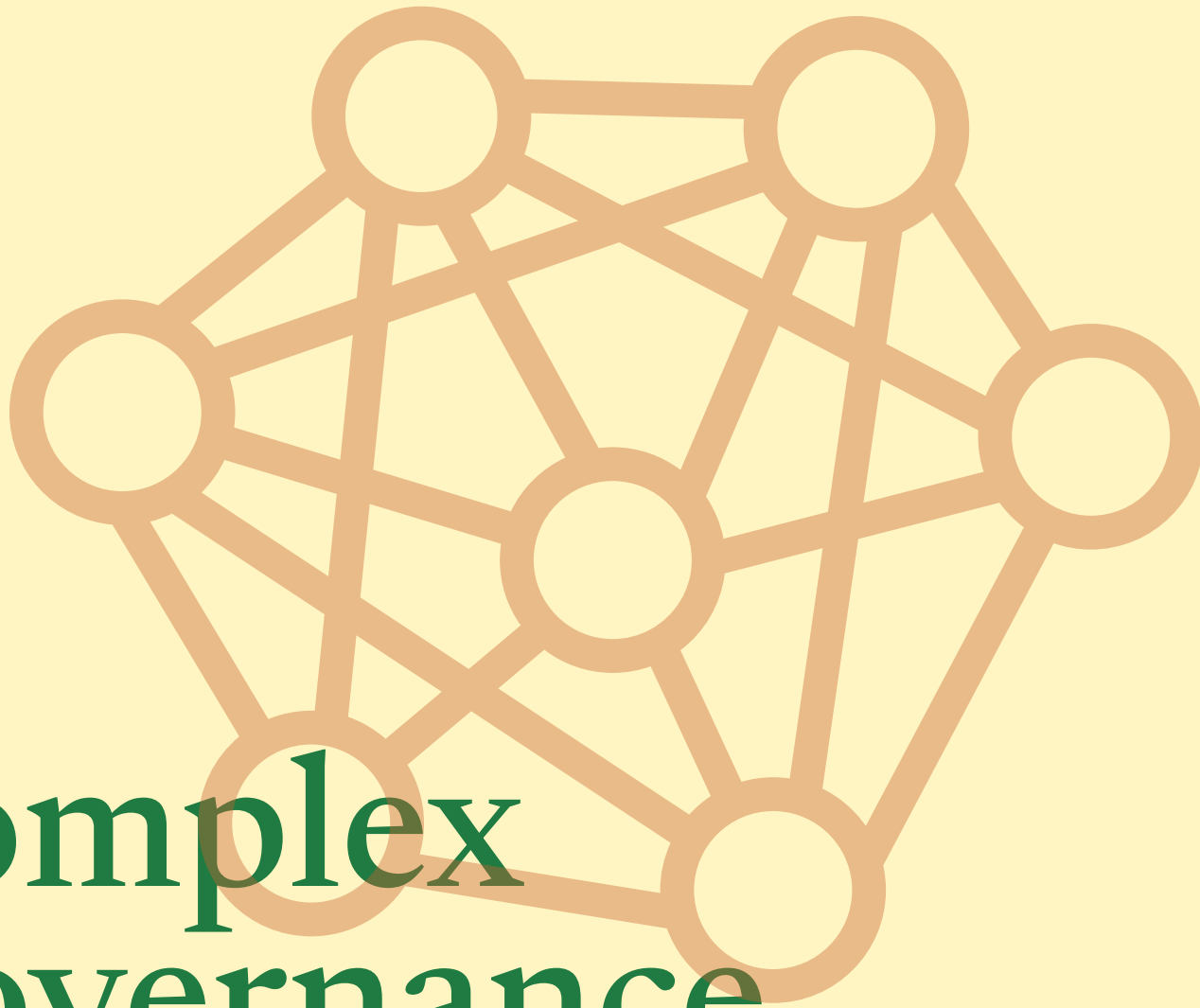
European network of legal experts
in gender equality and non-discrimination



Comprehensive Legislation

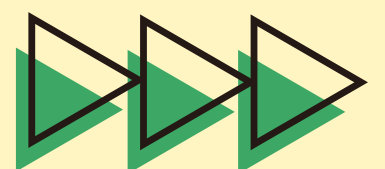
Belgium has broad federal and regional anti-discrimination laws covering numerous protected grounds and most areas of public life. The new Brussels Equality Code replaces previously fragmented rules.

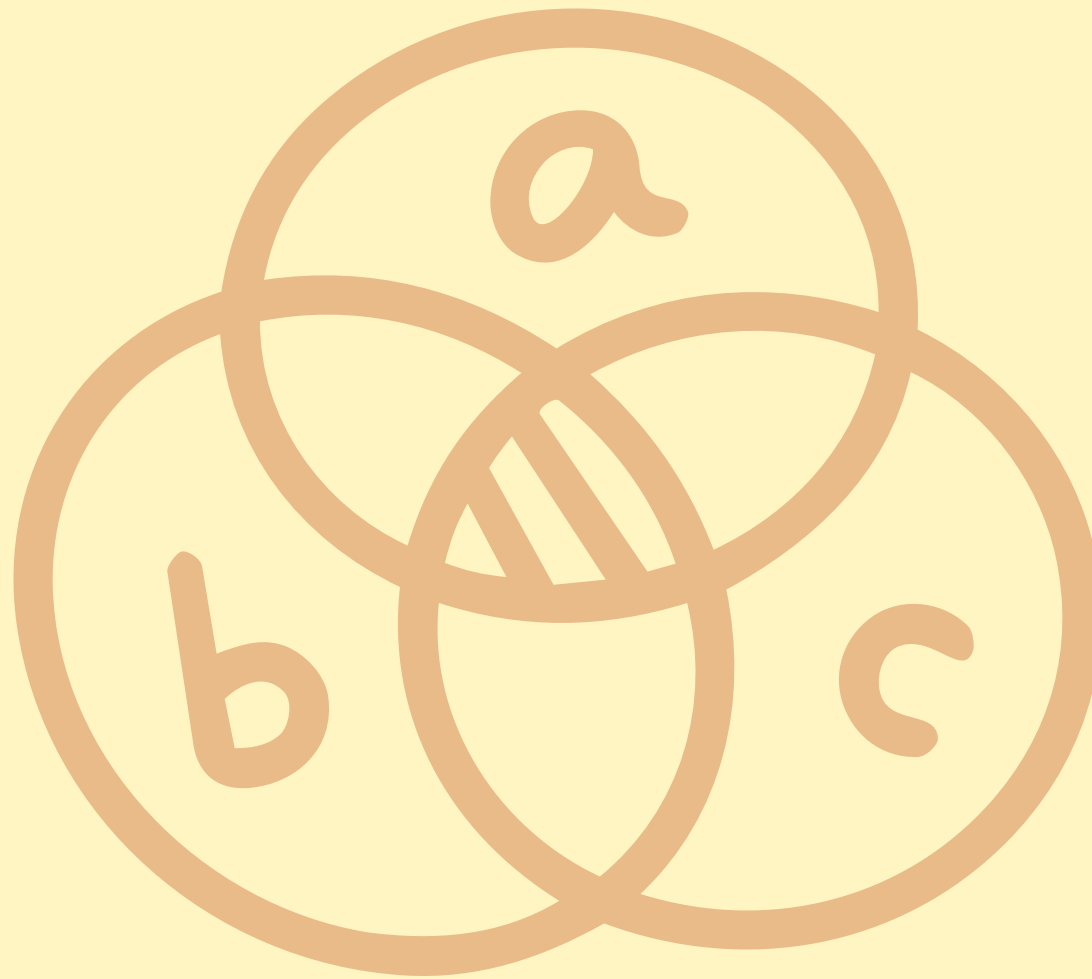




Complex Governance

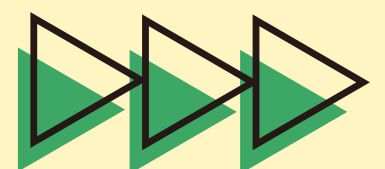
The federal structure enables tailored regional action, but overlapping competences still make the legal framework difficult to navigate.





Intersectional Protection

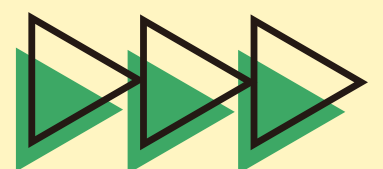
Federal law now expressly covers cumulative and intersectional discrimination, allowing courts to recognise the combined impact of multiple grounds.





Disability Rights

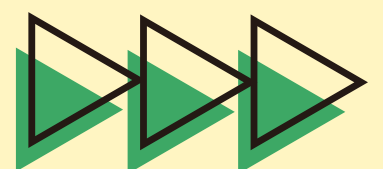
Constitutional protection for inclusion and reasonable accommodation has been strengthened, although a new federal disability action plan remains pending.





Persistent Accessibility Gaps

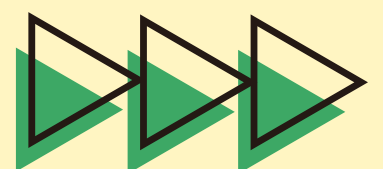
Despite stronger constitutional and legal protections, people with disabilities continue to face systemic barriers in transport, education and access to services. No new disability action plan, has been adopted by the report's cut-off date although required by federal legislation.





Improved Enforcement

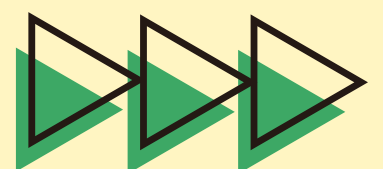
Courts increasingly apply anti-discrimination rules effectively and victims can seek compensation, injunctions and other remedies, while recent reforms have increased lump-sum damages and strengthened sanctions.

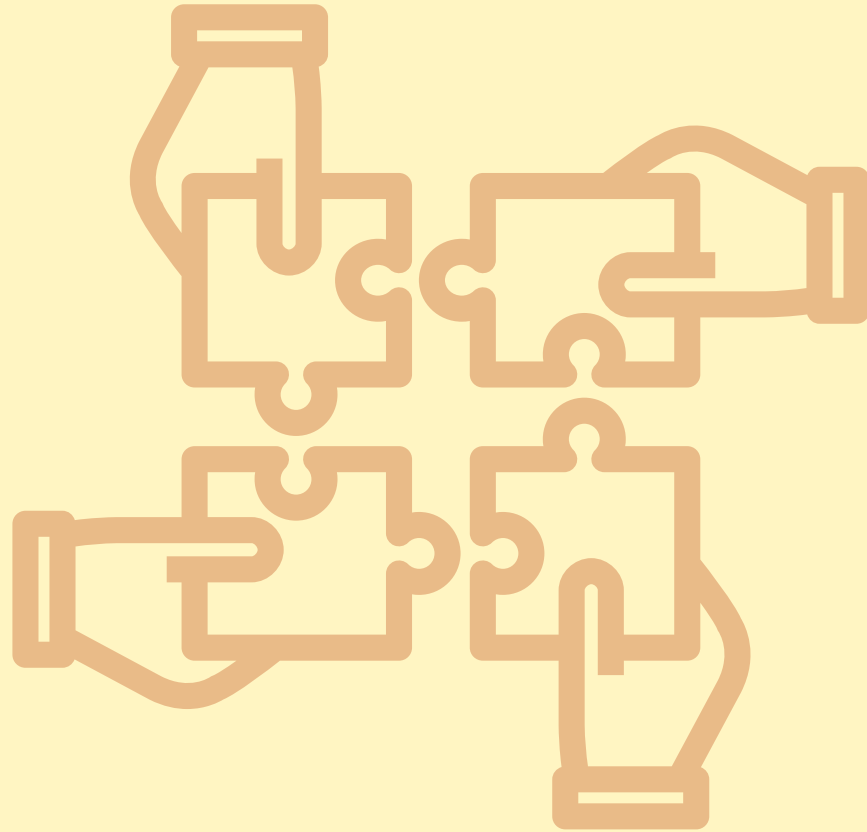




Accessible Evidence

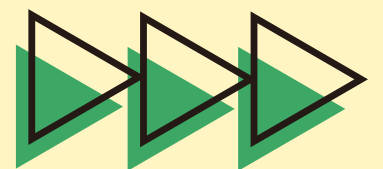
The shift in the burden of proof and the recognition of statistical evidence and recurrence testing can make discrimination easier to demonstrate.





Separated Equality Bodies

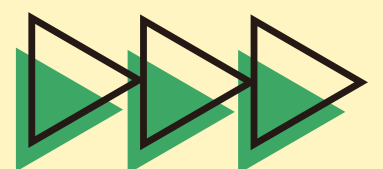
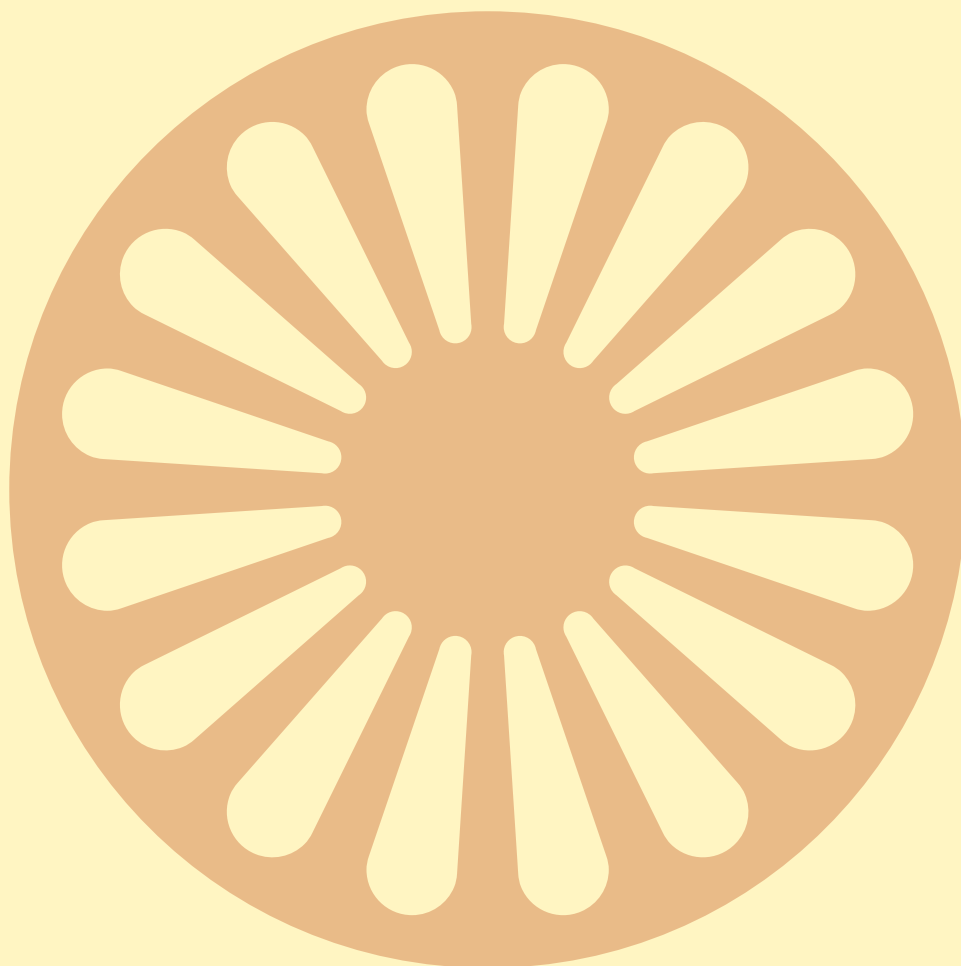
Despite institutional fragmentation increasing complexity, both the independent public agency Unia and the Flemish Human Rights Institute provide advice and legal support to victims, initiate litigation and conduct awareness-raising activities.

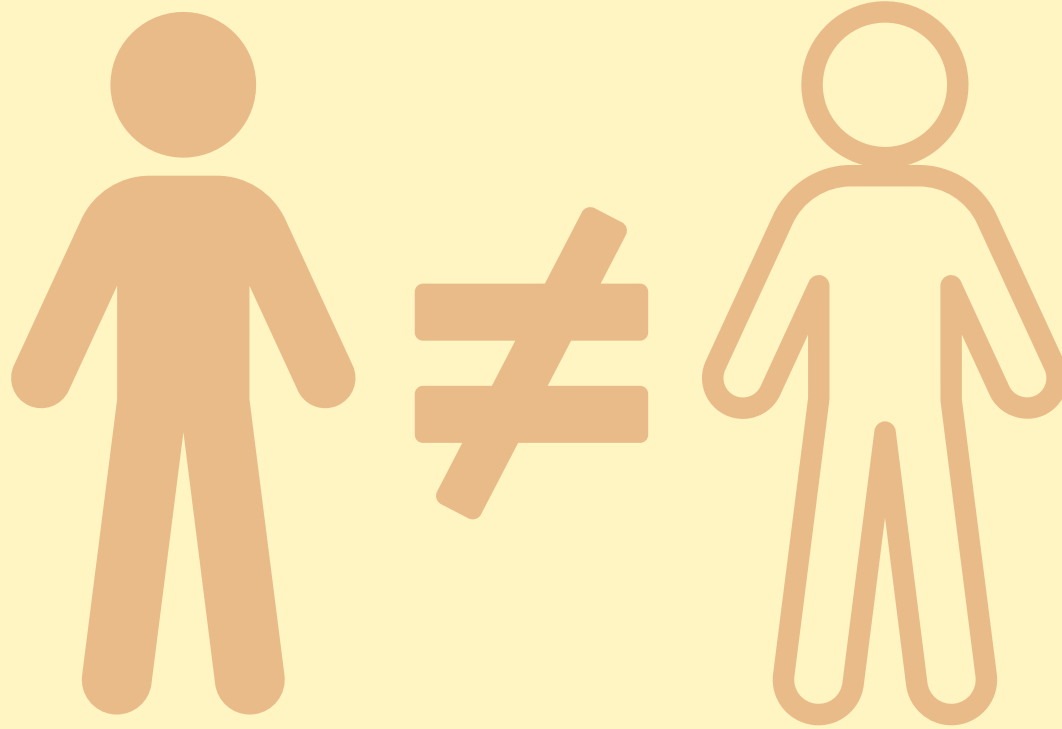




Roma Inclusion

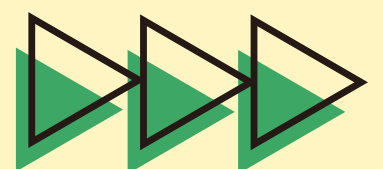
Belgium's Roma strategy addresses health, education, employment and housing, although sustained implementation is needed to tackle anti-Gypsyism and exclusion.

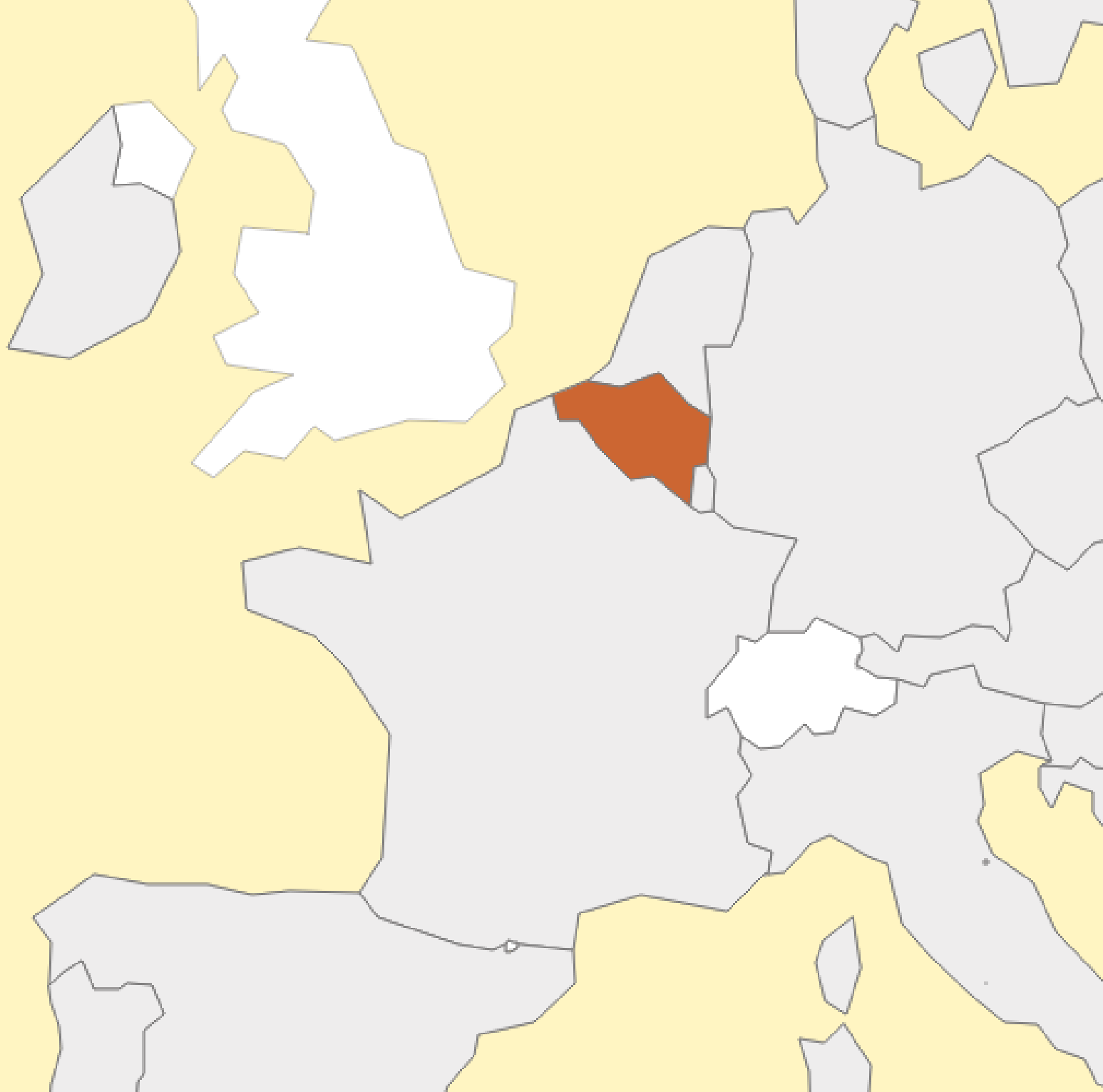




Persistent discrimination

Racial criteria remain among the most frequently reported grounds. Anti-Muslim rhetoric and religious discrimination remain significant concerns, alongside reported increases in homophobic violence and anti-semitism.





See the full report on
non-discrimination
in Belgium on our website.



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