

**Committee:** United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

**Topic:** Elimination of child labor

**Delegation:** Bulgaria

**Delegate:** Beren Kutlu

Child labor refers to working children, although they are under a certain age in terms of laws or traditions. In particular, the change in working conditions during the industrialization period, the growth of the gap between rich and poor, led to the fact that children worked in jobs where they were decimated and prevented from going to school. In the following years, an increasing number of children found themselves in difficult working conditions without ever having the opportunity to go to school.

In Bulgaria, The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 16 years, but children ages 13 to 16 years may engage in light work and perform certain jobs with government approval.

Children under 18 are permitted to work only reduced hours and are prohibited from hazardous, overtime, and night work.

The government and various NGOs conduct awareness programs and crisis centers for trafficked victims. With participation from the government, USAID supports a Rule of Law program to advance judicial reform, anti-corruption, and anti-trafficking efforts.

Moreover, among its Millennium Development Goals, Bulgaria has pledged to achieve universal primary education and to eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education by 2015.