**Patterns, policies, and processes leading to incidents of racial discrimination and on advancing racial justice and equality (with focus on ‘systemic’, ‘structural’ and ‘institutional’ racism) in Belarus**

 **SUBMISSION
for the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee
prepared by the Belarusian Helsinki Committee in cooperation with Human Constanta and Center of Equal Rights Expertise**

**Introduction**

This submission is prepared by the Belarusian Helsinki Committee in cooperation with **Human Constanta and Center of Equal Rights Expertise** in the framework of the call issued by the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the topic “Patterns, policies, and processes leading to incidents of racial discrimination and on advancing racial justice and equality (‘systemic’, ‘structural’ and ‘institutional’ racism)”.

It consists of two parts: the first part contains information about the Belarusian context for a better understanding of the situation in Belarus, in particular after 2020, the second part provides answers to some questions from the questionnaire.

Founded in 1995, **the Belarusian Helsinki Committee (BHC)** is one of the oldest human rights defenders’ organization in Belarus. The list of its founders includes the nation’s most prominent leaders such as Vasil' Bykau, and Sviatlana Alexievich (Nobel prize in literature 2015).

BHC works mainly on six major human rights topics, such as discrimination (BHC carries out research and promotes the introduction of special anti-discrimination legislation), human rights-based approach (BHC promotes the incorporation of human rights instruments in project development at various levels), international human rights mechanisms (BHC promotes the use of the mechanisms by non-human rights organizations and develops electronic resources for assisting these organizations), national human rights mechanisms (BHC examines the legislation and addresses its gaps in order to provide as many protective measures as possible), business and human rights (the topic has never been widely discussed in Belarus, and BHC, in fact, is a pioneer in business and human rights), death penalty (BHC carries out research and opens new aspects of death penalty such as overall brutalization of societies in which death penalty is practiced, for those interested).

BHC has a huge experience in expertise in the topic of human rights. The organization has prepared hundreds of proposals to state bodies on improving legislation and practice in the field of human rights. Dozens of reports and communications to the UN Special Procedures and treaty bodies were sent in order to strengthen the rule of law and good governance. For many years, BHC reinforces the ability of CSOs to effectively work further on reporting to UN mechanisms and on advocacy in dialogue with the government. Among other things, BHC also helps NGOs to use UN mechanisms through training, support, and creating special web resources for NGOs.

**Human Constanta** is a human rights organization, working in three main areas: protection of the rights of foreign citizens and stateless persons, promotion anti-discrimination and human rights education, digital freedoms and rights. The mission of the organisation is the promotion of public interests and joint actions in response to modern challenges in the field of human rights. Human Constanta is helping others to protect their rights; comparing Belarusian laws and practices with the best foreign examples and human rights standards; spreading this knowledge through educational activities.

**Center of Equal Rights Expertise** is a non-profit public organization. Main field of the Center is analytical work for international advocacy, human rights education, protection of minority rights, monitoring the rights of ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural minorities, promotion of equality and projects for the social integration of vulnerable minorities.

1. **Belarusian context after the presidential elections 2020 and the law: the policy of the State using “racial discrimination” criminal crimes under the law as a cover-up for repression of a particular group of people who did not support current *de facto* president A. Lukashenko**

Even though Belarus voted in favour of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in 2001[[1]](#footnote-1) it could hardly be said that since then Belarus has done major progress in terms of combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Hate speech, hate crimes, stigmatization of particular groups of people, for instance, migrants, LGBTQ+ people, citizens with particular political opinion became the asset for the state and state bodies during and after the presidential elections in August 2020. Moreover, racial discrimination against Roma, migrants, particular ethnic minorities such as Polish, Lithuanians, Jewish people continued.

Belarus ratified International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 8 Apr 1969[[2]](#footnote-2). Since the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has presented concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-third periodic reports of Belarus in 2017[[3]](#footnote-3), Belarus has not included comprehensive legal provisions defining and prohibiting racial discrimination in accordance with article 1 of the Convention. There is a lack of extensive anti-discrimination law[[4]](#footnote-4).

Since the presidential elections 2020 judicial system has not been effective, in fact, there is no right to fair trial[[5]](#footnote-5). Non-effectiveness of the judicial system has impacted the number of resolved and unresolved cases and the number of “fabricated” cases. The situation got even worse after August 2020, when Belarus faced legal default and human rights crisis[[6]](#footnote-6), which have affected legislative, executive and more importantly judicial branch unprecedentedly. Belarusian people lost trust in the system and its authorities, in legislators and judges and their impartiality. There has been degradation of the judiciary system, no effective remedies left.

Despite the concluding observations of the UN Committees and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus[[7]](#footnote-7), there have been **no national human rights institutions, in general, nor in particular, on racial discrimination introduced**. The rise of authoritarian regime in Belarus after 2020 has made it impossible in the near future. There has not been implemented a separate national action plan against racism or discrimination in general.

There is **state monopoly on statistics,** research and its publication, there is no independent statistics centers, that could work independently from the state and publish its results freely, without prosecution for administrative offences which was included in the Code of Administrative Offenses in 2020 during the presidential campaign[[8]](#footnote-8). Therefore, there is no trust in statistics provided by the state. Moreover, when it comes to the statistics on the number of complaints related to racial discrimination or any type of discrimination in general, there is a lack of comprehensive statistics and information on the outcome of their review; the system is not transparent. The state does not gather disaggregated data on any type of discrimination and, in particular, on systemic, structural or institutional racism. During almost 30 years of existence of Belarus, there was no case law on discrimination, if there was - the data would not be provided to the public[[9]](#footnote-9).

After August 2020 there has been a rise of hate speech and propaganda on state TV channels and newspapers, where state officials or a worker of a newspaper (Andrey Mukovozchik, Grigory Azarenok) incited people, who are against the regime, who took part in peaceful protests, urged them to die, harass them, etc.[[10]](#footnote-10), however, these multiple cases have not been investigated by the state.

**The humanitarian crisis in 2021**, which was provoked by the current authorities[[11]](#footnote-11), showed the inhuman attitude of the authorities towards **migrants**, where a person and his life have no value, but serve as a way to achieve the goals of the regime. So, four corpses were immediately discovered by border guards on August 19, 2021 in various places along the Polish-Belarusian border. The authorities are not properly investigating the deaths of migrants at the border. The migrants had namely the lack of access to food and water, medical care, they were forced to stay in unacceptable living conditions in the forests on the border, they were intimidated and beaten by government officials[[12]](#footnote-12).

**2021 year became the year when civil society organizations were destroyed by the authorities.** According to Belarusian NGO “Lawtrend”, since July 2021, the Belarusian authorities have liquidated more than 600 non-profit organizations, regardless of the nature of their activities (cultural, educational, human rights, social, charitable, etc.). The official grounds were extra-statutory activities, receiving two warnings from the Ministry of Justice during the year, or failure to carry out business activities for 24 months. Forced liquidation did not affect pro-government public organizations. About 300 more civil society organizations have decided to self-liquidate[[13]](#footnote-13). The erosion of civil society, NGO sector has made impossible for people to protect their rights.

**When it comes to linguistic discrimination,** even though there are 2 official state languages (Russian and Belarusian), there continues discrimination against **speakers of the Belarusian language**, particularly in higher and secondary education. As the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus stated: “the same holds true for speakers of Polish: they represent a sizeable minority in Belarus, but are left with little opportunity to educate their children in their mother tongue”[[14]](#footnote-14).

In 2021 there were massive negative amendments in Belarusian legislation. The law became the means for repression of individuals, NGOs, human rights organizations and legal persons. The changes in the law became the means of manipulation for judicial branch and as a consequence Belarusian courts started to produce fabricated decisions on political cases. The design of such legislation is the state’s answer to the peaceful protests after the presidential elections 2020 and the means of terrorization of people, in particular, who speak up against the regime and took part in peaceful protests or supported and continue to support the opposition of the regime of A. Lukashenko.

**Examples of the amendments to the legislation directly related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, which has been used againt people:**

***Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus[[15]](#footnote-15)***

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus was amended in 2021 by the Law No. 112-Z “On Amending Codes on Criminal Liability” on May 26, 2021[[16]](#footnote-16). Amendments to the code had political reasons behind it: the practice of the application of such norms by the prosecution and the court has showed that such norms has been used in majority of political cases against people who supported the opposite views from the regime and its supporters or who are nonconformist, but not as an instrument for the protection of linguistic, religious or ethnic national minorities.

**Article 130.** “Incitement of racial, national, religious or another social hatred or discord” proclaims that *“Intentional actions aimed at the incitement of racial, national, religious or other social hatred or discord on the basis of racial, national, religious, linguistic or other social status, – shall be punishable by a fine, or arrest, or restraint of liberty for a term up to five years, or imprisonment for the same term…* ***other social status*** *is understood as the belonging of a person to a certain social group on the basis of gender, age, profession, occupation, place of residence and other social group identification”.*

However, the article has been used in order to protect state bodies, for example SWAT, but not the people. The case of the application of the article is the Andrei Zeltser case[[17]](#footnote-17) in 2021, when around 200 commentators were arrested and were attributed art. 130 as they incited social hatred against the KGB officer who was killed. However, only those who left comments about KGB officer and law enforcement agencies were detained and imputed art. 130, those who wrote hatred comments about Andrei Zeltser on social media or in pro-government telegram channels, state media or representatives of government agencies, were not detained and prosecuted[[18]](#footnote-18). Moreover, a criminal case was initiated against the employees of TUT.BY MEDIA, the largest non-state media, for “incitement of hatred” (Part 3 of art. 130)[[19]](#footnote-19). As lawyer of the human rights center "Viasna" Pavel Sapelko said that "People who are prosecuted for it (art. 130) often do not make any direct calls for certain actions, but talk about something, express their opinion, nevertheless, they are deprived of their freedom". **Therefore, even though the norm is more focused on race and nationality, the wording “other social status” give the state and its bodies legal basis to prosecute and repress those, who are against the regime and its supporters[[20]](#footnote-20)**. The norm and its application violate the right to freedom of expression.

Moreover, Belarus in its combined twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth periodic reports submitted in 2020 to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in paras. 49, 50, 52[[21]](#footnote-21) **illustrates** this amended law and, in particular, the **article 130, as a protective norm**, which would serve “*as a powerful deterrent to and curb on potential acts of racial discrimination or incitement to such acts*”. In addition, it stated that in the period between 2016–2020, 36 people were convicted under article 130 of the Criminal Code. However, they did not include any statistics on 2021-2022, when the amended art. 130 started to be used in almost every fabricated “extremist” case, where state officials, SWAT were victims. According to human rights organization “Human Constanta”, from June 2021 to July 2021 - 12 cases[[22]](#footnote-22), from August 2021 to September 2021 - min. 10 new cases, 2 trials[[23]](#footnote-23), from October 2021 to December 2021 - 200 people detained (Zeltser case), 6 trials[[24]](#footnote-24), from January 2022 to March 2022 - 17 detained, 15 trials[[25]](#footnote-25), from April 2022 to June 2022 - 24 new cases, 18 trials[[26]](#footnote-26). **Therefore, this statistic illustrates the practice of State to use this article as a cover up for repressive mechanism.**

Another new norm was added to the Criminal code dealing with **“rehabilitation of Nazism” (Art. 1301).**

The main legislative change in 2022 was the introduction of a new article in Criminal Code 1302 “Denial of the genocide of the Belarusian people” – this article appeared in the Law of January 5, 2022 No. 146-З “On the genocide of the Belarusian people”. In fact, this law imposes a monopoly on the interpretation of the historical events of 1941-1951 with liability up to 10 years in prison, which violates the standards of the right to freedom of expression[[27]](#footnote-27).

Other norms connected to the xenophobia and rehabilitation of Nazism are the norms dealing with extremism. For example, art. 3611. “Establishment of an extremist formation or participation in it”, which proclaims that “establishment of an extremist group, as well as a formation whose activities *are aimed at the rehabilitation of Nazism*, or leadership of such a formation or its structural subdivision, - shall be punishable by restraint of liberty for a term of up to five years, or imprisonment for a term of three to seven years… An extremist crime in this article means a crime involving the commission of intentional actions related to extremism in accordance with legislative acts, as well as another crime provided for by this Code, *committed on the grounds of racial, national, religious hatred or discord, political or ideological hatred or based on hatred or discord in relation to any social group.*

After the amendments this article has been used dramatically[[28]](#footnote-28) in order to punish those people who are ideologically “on the other side” rather than supporters of the regime. Therefore, such norm became the norm for political cases, the mechanism and reasons for the application of the norm is identical to the art. 130 as was mentioned above.

***Law “On the prevention of the rehabilitation of Nazism”***

This law contains vague and inaccurate definitions regarding the rehabilitation of Nazism. Also, as well as in the current legislation on countering extremism, in the law contains a definition of the term "Nazi symbols and paraphernalia" that has been significantly expanded[[29]](#footnote-29).

Examples of amendments in the legislation indirectly related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia (by applying such laws the courts abuse human rights as design of such laws are against international human rights standards; applications of such laws in conjunction with amended criminal code mentioned above results in fabricated cases and decisions on politically motivated cases):

***Law “On changing laws on issues countering extremism”[[30]](#footnote-30)***

The most problematic issue from the point of view of human rights is the presence in the law of inaccurate, non-specific formulations of a subjective nature, in particular the definitions of “extremist activity”, “extremist organization”, “extremist materials” and in the future the possibility of bringing to criminal liability for extremist activities. These terms can refer to a very wide range of activities, which can have a very negative impact on the enjoyment of such human rights as freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, freedom to participate in political life and freedom of self-determination[[31]](#footnote-31). In conjunction with legal default and human rights crisis in Belarus, this law could be used (and already used by the prosecution) in order to hold accountable those who express views, opinions different from the rhetoric of the regime and its supporters. Moreover, as was said above, this law goes in conjunction with art. 130 of the criminal code “Incitement of racial, national, religious or other social hatred or discord”.

***Law “On the use of resources on the dissemination of information”[[32]](#footnote-32)***

A media journalist is prohibited from using his rights and position to conceal or falsify information, disseminate information in order to discredit one of the citizens based *on gender, age, race or nationality, language, attitude to religion, profession, place of residence or work, in connection with political opinions, as well as to discredit government agencies and other organizations*. The law is widely used in order to protect state officials, for example SWAT, but not the civilians.

To conclude, Belarus during the last 3 years has not done any positive change in the light of implementation of and follow-up to The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In contrary, after the presidential elections in 2020 the state and its organs massively amended the Criminal code, in particular, the norm on “Incitement of racial, national, religious or other social hatred or discord” and related norms in order to use it against the people, who are express the opinions against the regime, but to protect state officials. The legal default and human rights crisis in Belarus enhanced a sense of insecurity in the society when it comes to protection from human rights abuses caused by the state’s actions or inactions. There has been no progress in terms of realization of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination’ recommendations provided in 2017.

Thus, Belarusian reality shows that the State is focused on repression rather than on combating racial discrimination, the State ignores existing continuous challenges of structural and institutional racism in the society by shifting the focus.

Hereafter we would like to highlight certain issues while answering to the questions listed below.

1. **Answers to the questionnaire on patterns, policies, and processes leading to incidents of racial discrimination and on advancing racial justice and equality**
2. ***Is there a working definition or understanding of systemic, structural or institutional racism in your country/by your government/your organisation?***

In Belarusian legislation there is no definition on “systematic”, “structural” or “institutional” racism. As was stated above, since the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has presented concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-third periodic reports of Belarus in 2017[[33]](#footnote-33), Belarus has not included comprehensive legal provisions defining and prohibiting racial discrimination in accordance with article 1 of the Convention. There is no and has never been any national plan on combating racism in Belarus. Moreover, in general, there is no anti-discriminatory legislation and clear comprehensive definition of what is discrimination.

Oppositely, the state in its national reports to the Committee always reiterates that principle of non-discrimination is stated in the Constitution, Labour Code, etc., therefore there is no need to include definition of racial discrimination separately, plus, under article 36 (2) of the International Agreements Act of 23 July 2008, the legal standards contained in international treaties to which Belarus is a party are directly applicable[[34]](#footnote-34). From our point of view, definitions stated in the legislation are not relevant and clear as there is no understanding by the state and its officials what is direct and indirect discrimination, as well as there is no understanding that equality before the law stated in the Constitution is not the same as prohibition of discrimination on any ground. Moreover, the argument on direct application of the definition of “racial discrimination” from the Convention is not relevant in this debate as historically during 30 years Belarus has not used such direct application, there is no established practice by the courts referring and applying international standards. Neither judges, nor legislators, nor prosecutors, nor law enforcement officers are informed about the provisions of the Convention, as well as other international treaties. Our legal system does not have a tradition of taking international norms into account in judicial and other legal decisions. Therefore, the State cover up existing “grey zones” in the legislation and present itself to the UN Committee as responsible human rights oriented state, which in practice is not true.

Overall, there is no effective anti-discriminatory legislation in place, the State does not take into account any Committees’ and Special rapporteur’s recommendations concerning this issue[[35]](#footnote-35).

1. ***Is systemic, structural or institutional racism a prominent issue in your country? Is there any official acknowledgement that systemic/structural/institutional racism exists; and that it is a problem? In what sectors does systemic/structural/institutional racism occur?***

Generally, there is no state policy on combating racism, hatred and any intolerance in the society, moreover, a number of actions of the Belarusian authorities are related to racism. From one to another periodic reports to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Belarusian authorities reiterates that ethnic, cultural minorities are protected by the law, that they do not face any discrimination, however the practice illustrates the following issues that the State choose not to mention in its reports.

**Ethnic minorities and systemic racism**

a) More than **30 organizations of national minorities** were subjected to repression and were liquidated in the period 2021-2022, 50% of them were organizations of the Polish minority (15 organizations), 8 organizations of the Jewish minority, 6 organizations of the Lithuanian minority[[36]](#footnote-36). Massive repressions of ethnic minorities started after presidential elections in August 2020 and following peaceful protests. In 2020-2021 rhetoric of state officials and A. Lukashenko was the following: “The situation in Belarus is largely influenced by external interference in the country's internal affairs and the management of protest actions from abroad…It comes from Poland, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Ukraine, which worries us the most.[[37]](#footnote-37)”

b) According to the draft amendments to the Law on Citizenship, the state plans to restrict the rights and freedoms of **Belarusian citizens with other citizenship, in particular, persons with a “Polish card”**, whose number exceeds 160 thousands of people. The draft law[[38]](#footnote-38) provides that Belarusians who have the citizenship of another state, or a residence permit or other document of a foreign state, giving the right to benefits and other advantages, are obliged to inform the internal affairs bodies or diplomatic service bodies about it within three months from the date this law enters into force. According to Polish activists in Belarus, cases of pressure by employers on employees who have a “Polish card” or a residence permit in another country have become more frequent, there is also information that the Ministry of Internal Affairs is working on creating a database of people who have a “Polish card”, citizenship of another country or a residence permit.

c) 4 schools with the education in national **minority languages** (2 schools with the Polish language and 2 schools with the Lithuanian language) were forced to stop teaching in the Polish and Lithuanian languages, by decision of the Belarusian authorities in 2022, teaching in schools was transferred to Russian or Belarussian[[39]](#footnote-39). These schools met the needs of children in mother tongue education, who lived in regions with an overwhelming majority of the Polish and Lithuanian minorities. The total number of children who studied in these 4 schools is about 1200 people.

d) **The Polish minority** has been the object of systemic racism since 2020:

Before and after the 2020 presidential elections, A. Lukashenko claimed that “puppeteers” from Poland were behind his opponents, Poland wanted to take away the Grodno region from the Belarusians, and “destructive-minded Poles are “agents of these plans.” Representatives of the authorities and state media have repeatedly made hostile remarks against the Polish minority.

Moreover, the activists of the Polish minority have become victims of criminal prosecution by the Belarusian authorities - the so-called **“Poles' case”**. In March 2021, the Prosecutor General's Office of Belarus launched a criminal case against the chairperson of the Union of Poles in Belarus, Anzhelika Boris, and other persons under the article on "“Incitement of racial, national, religious or another social hatred or discord”" and "Rehabilitating Nazism" (Part 3, Article 130 of the Criminal Code). Five representatives of the organization were detained. In addition to Anzhelika Boris, these are: Maria Tishkovskaya, Irena Bernatskaya, Anna Panisheva, Andrzej Poczobut. As a result of the actions of the Polish diplomatic and consular services, Bernatskaya, Tishkovskaya and Panisheva were released and they were able to leave for Poland. Anzhelika Borys has been under house arrest since March 25, 2022. Andrzej Poczobut is accused of inciting hatred (Article 130 of the Criminal Code) and calling for actions aimed at causing harm to national security (Article 361 of the Criminal Code)[[40]](#footnote-40). Journalists were also repressed: Irina Bantser, editor-in-chief of the Polish Journal in Exile, A. Frolov, TVP Polonia cameraman, A. Pisalnik, editor-in-chief of the online news portal of the Polish minority in Belarus (https://znadniemna.pl), and others. Polish organizations were accused of inciting ethnic hatred; rehabilitation of Nazism; conducting activities contrary to the charter; economic violations; dissemination of information discrediting Belarus. As was mentioned above, 15 Polish organizations were liquidated by the authorities.

**Case of the liquidation of the Minsk city cultural and educational public association of Poles "Poloniczka" (Minsk, Belarus)**

On the day before the trial, the head of the association, Svetlana Zamotina received an SMS about the need to appear at the hearing on July 30, 2021 at the Minsk City Court. The decision of the court was made on the basis of the claim of the Main Department of Registration and Licensing of the Main Department of the Minsk City Executive Committee, which reported that “according to the information provided by the Department for Combating Economic Crimes of the Criminal Police of the Minsk City Executive Committee, it was established (during the audit) that “Poloniczka” carried out activities, which did not correspond to the goals and subject specified in the charter, and the officials of the association disseminated deliberately false information that discredited the Republic of Belarus. “Poloniczka” was subjected to liquidation in accordance with the established procedure. No information or facts confirming the “guilt” of the organization were presented in court. However, this was enough for the court to reach a decision. A copy of the court decision was not provided to the head of the organization.

During 2021 **all educational and cultural institutions that taught the Polish language were subjected to** the inspections by the prosecutor's office and other controlling structures. Employees, who checked organizations, collected personal data of teachers and students, ordered teachers to save and show participants’ list, also officers checked students' notes, they called parents for “conversations”. The approximate number of students who studied their native language is more than 8 thousand people. *Thus,* Polish activist and journalist Andrei Pisalnik reported that he had a document provided by the head of the Polish language school in Smorgon, where the prosecutor's office requested the data of teachers, lists of students (including children) who studied the Polish language, as well as financial documents and educational programs: “The authorities collect information about people learning Polish in Belarus. The goal may be to conduct "educational work" with them. Perhaps they want to make these Poles loyal to the authorities. However, this sounds like a broad campaign of intimidation against the Polish minority in Belarus. This is especially true for those Poles who want to preserve and popularize their traditions, language and culture,” he said[[41]](#footnote-41).

In 7 Belarusian cities and villages, local authorities **destroyed military graves of Polish soldiers** of the Home Army, which the Polish minority considered as acts of state-organized vandalism and an infringement on cultural rights and historical memory.

There are signs of structural racism in the practice of **ethnic profiling of the Roma population** by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Belarus. Ethnic profiling is expressed in arbitrary detentions, multiple fingerprinting, multiple checks by employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and preventive registration in the regional bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The practice of ethnic profiling of Roma is enshrined in official documents of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is subject to mandatory implementation and special reporting to higher bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The practice of ethnic profiling of Roma violates the right to free movement, the right to personal integrity, to family and private life and the right to work. The practice of ethnic profiling of the Roma has been recorded by human rights organizations and reflected in reports since 2016. UN Committees, Special Rapporteur on the situation in Belarus recommended multiple time to draw attention to the problem of racial discrimination of Roma, but the State has not implemented any recommendations so far but offered excuses[[42]](#footnote-42).

**Foreigners**

There are some examples of structural discrimination of some foreigners. For example, before arriving in Belarus, foreigners who need Belarusian entry visa may encounter some difficulties. In order to receive a guest visa to Belarus by a foreigner, a special invitation must be issued by the Belarusian authorities. In practice, there is a problem of refusals by migration officers to issue invitations for citizens of the states included in the list of disadvantaged countries in terms of migration. The existence of such a list is not established by law, the criteria for assigning certain countries to the list are not clear, and it is not a public one. Thus, situations of misuse on the part of employees of migration services may arise. For example, a citizen of Belarus wanted to issue an invitation for her friend from Algeria. The migration officer directly told her that it is better not to apply for an invitation, as there is a high probability of refusal. The reasons for the refusal were not formally announced but made clear that citizens of Algeria are not best guests in Belarus.

**Another example is more repressive attitude towards political protests of citizens of countries that supporting current authorities of Belarus.**

As of December 2020, we know about more than 170 detentions and administrative prosecutions of foreigners from more than 17 countries due to their actual or alleged participation in peaceful demonstrations in Belarus. The majority of detainees are Russian nationals. Citizens of more remote countries, such as Turkey, Vietnam, Israel, and Cuba, were also repressed[[43]](#footnote-43). There are cases when the fact of foreign citizenship became the basis for more cruel treatment at all stages — from the moment of detention of foreigners to serving their arrest in places of restriction of freedom. We are aware of several cases of detention of Russian citizens and targeted particularly cruel treatment of them by law enforcement officers, “because they are Russians”. In one of the district departments of internal affairs of the city of Minsk, officers directly asked the detainees whether there were citizens of Russia or Ukraine among them. When the Russian was found, he was separated from other detainees and they started to beat him very severely because of his citizenship. In another case, an employee of Hrodna Prison No. 1, has learned about the Russian citizenship of the detainee and directly gave the order: “beat him because he is Russian”. Thus, in some cases, foreigners were subjected to additional psychological and physical violence because of their citizenship.

1. ***What do you consider to be the root causes for systemic patterns of racial inequality?***

The root causes for such actions, in our opinion, are general intolerance to the “other”, internalized racism, the lack of human rights education on any level at school or university. There is no proper understanding on equality as a value in the society. Moreover, from the historical point of view, Belarus is homogeneous society, where it is hard to meet a person with other skin colour, speaking different language in everyday life. On the institutional level, we see the root causes in the lack of national anti-discrimination legislation and appropriate policy at the state level, which would signal to all groups and government agencies about the importance of respect for representatives of any race; lack of appropriate educational programs for officials, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers; the absence of a policy of informing the public about the importance of non-discriminatory behaviour. Underestimated role of the state media and propaganda, hatred towards particular groups of people, hate speech, for example, against Polish minority, Roma people, migrants.

1. ***What legal measures, if any, has your country put in place to address systemic, structural or institutional racism?***

As was stated above in the section on Belarusian context, there is a lack of the anti-discrimination legislation, existing legal norms do not cover all types of discrimination. The existing definition of “discrimination” under Labour Code, art. 14, is not comprehensive enough and cover only labour relationships. There is no national action plan on discrimination in general, nor on combating racism in particular. There is no national human rights institute even though it was recommended to establish multiple times by the UN bodies and special procedures[[44]](#footnote-44). Moreover, the State was always reluctant to cooperate with NGO sector to work on human rights issues, from 2020 any dialog between the state and civil organisations was stopped. In July 2021 the repression against NGO sector was launched.

1. ***More specifically, has your government/country taken any special/positive (‘affirmative action’) measures to ensure that past hindrances and obstacles to racial equality are overcome?***

There is no norm of “positive/affirmative measures” in the Belarusian legislation. This institution has not developed in the Belarusian legislation and law enforcement practice.

1. ***What extra-legal measures, if any, has your country put in place to address systemic, structural or institutional racism?***

There is no established and visible practice, when the State puts in place any extra-legal measures to combat systemic, structural or institutional racism. On the other side, there is positive process in the activities of sports federations. For example, the Association “Belarusian Football Federation” included in its Disciplinary Code (Regulations) an article dedicated to the prohibition of racism and discrimination and established certain types of liability for racial discrimination[[45]](#footnote-45).

1. ***How has the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic brought to the surface and exacerbated systemic, structural or institutional racism in your country?***

The spread of the coronavirus infection COVID-19 had **a great impact on the status of foreigners** in Belarus and created bigger possibilities for discrimination, the COVID-19 highlighted existing in the society intolerance and institutional racism towards foreigners. With the introduction of restrictive measures when crossing the border and the suspension of transportation, many foreigners “got stuck” on the territory of Belarus. A big number of foreigners requested help from human rights organizations in Belarus. There are people, who could not leave Belarus because of the cancellation of flights to their country of citizenship or permanent residence, because of the closure of borders by a number of countries, and because of being infected with the coronavirus. Many foreigners who arrived in Belarus under the visa-free regime conditions through the Minsk airport were forced to leave Belarus through ground border checkpoints. At the same time, foreigners had to apply for exit visas at the Citizenship and Migration Department, which led to additional costs and required more time. The government of Belarus refused to introduce any additional measures to resolve the situation. At the official level, no normative legal documents have been adopted, governing the procedure for extending the temporary stay (registration) of foreigners in Belarus, expulsion (deportation / extradition) of foreigners from the territory of Belarus in the situation with closed state borders of other countries.

At the end of March 2020, the head of the Department of Citizenship and Migration of Belarus announced the introduction of the practice of extending the periods of temporary stay (registration) of foreign citizens in Belarus, who were unable to leave the territory of Belarus before other countries introduced restrictive measures. Despite the declaration of such positive measures, the absence of a special normative legal act led to the fact that, in practice, some Departments of Citizenship and Migration refused to extend the period of temporary stay in Belarus for foreigners who were unable to leave the country amid the pandemic.

**There was the case of a citizen of Azerbaijan**, who was refused to extend the period of stay in Belarus by one of the Departments of Citizenship and Migration in Minsk. The situation was resolved only after an appeal was sent to the Department of Citizenship and Migration with a request to convey the announcement of the head of the Department about the extension of the period of stay to the attention of employees of lower state bodies. In another case, **an Indian citizen** got infected with coronavirus in Belarus and was placed in self-isolation until full recovery. During this time, the period of his temporary stay in Belarus expired, and he applied to the Department of Citizenship and Migration for the extension of his registration. The Department employees refused to extend the registration and demanded his personal presence at the Department of Citizenship and Migration, which was impossible to do without violating the rules of self-isolation and creating a risk of infecting other people.

On May 19, the President of Belarus signed a decree according to which a number of documents and certificates issued by Belarusian state bodies, which expire from April 30 to July 31, automatically continued being valid for another three months. This also applies to the registration of foreigners permanently residing in Belarus or those who work in diplomatic missions or international organizations. Thus, the rest of the foreigners, including those who came to Belarus obtaining a visa, or under the visa- free regime conditions, or those temporarily residing in the country, had to still apply directly to the Departments of Citizenship and Migration.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and closed borders, not only foreigners in Belarus, but also **foreigners who were unable to return to Belarus** appeared in a difficult situation. According to the Belarusian legislation, a permanent residence permit can be cancelled if a foreigner holding such a permit has spent more than 183 days outside Belarus during a calendar year. Thus, a citizen of Ethiopia with a Belarusian residence permit had been in the country of his citizenship for a long time and could not return to Belarus because of the closed borders before the expiration of the specified 183 days. In relation to him, the Department of Citizenship and Migration started the procedure for cancelling the Belarusian residence permit. A citizen of Russia and a citizen of Kazakhstan experienced the same issue.

COVID-19 raised the problem with **obtaining of official documents** from abroad by foreigners in cases when such documents cannot be obtained through the diplomatic missions of the countries of citizenship. As a result, some foreigners could not carry out administrative procedures (for example, marriage registration, obtaining a permanent residence permit) in Belarus and are still forced to be in uncertainty until the epidemiological situation improves. Citizens of Moldova, Canada, Russia, Norway, who wanted to register a marriage on the territory of Belarus, experienced such issue. At the moment, not all of them can obtain documents from the country of their citizenship, since consular departments on the territory of Belarus do not carry out such procedures.

The procedure for obtaining a Belarusian permanent residence permit is also complicated, since, according to the law, a foreigner is required to provide a certificate of no criminal record obtained in the country of citizenship. According to the procedure, the Department of Citizenship and Migration can request the information on the absence of a criminal record if the foreigner cannot provide them on his own. However, there were cases when employees of the Department of Citizenship and Migration refused such an option, despite the fact that foreigners could not freely leave for the country of their citizenship and get this specified record.

The state authorities also did not take any additional measures in order to simplify the situation of **foreigners who got infected with COVID-19 in Belarus.** Foreign citizens living and staying in Belarus on a visa basis or under visa-free regime condition could receive medical care in the usual way on a paid basis. Since the coronavirus infection was included in the list of diseases that pose a threat to public health, foreigners who refuse treatment may be deported from Belarus. With the introduction of restrictive measures because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there suddenly appeared a problem with timely expulsion (deportation/expulsion/ extradition) of foreigners from the territory of Belarus in conditions of closed borders. At the official level, no attempts were made to resolve this problem — there wasn’t anything announced either about the special agreements with other countries, or about the organization of separate flights, etc. Such inaction created the risk of delaying the expulsion date and prolonged detention of foreigners in unacceptable conditions. For instance, there was the case of a citizen of Bangladesh, who has been in the center of isolation of offenders for almost a year, waiting for the execution of the decision on his expulsion to the country of his citizenship. The state authorities explained that the delay in expulsion is connected precisely with the lack of agreements with other countries and the impossibility to organize the transfer of a Bangladesh citizen to the country of his citizenship.

1. ***To what extent is disaggregated data gathered by state and non-state actors in your country to identify systemic, structural or institutional racism, and to track progress in the measures adopted to address systemic/structural or institutional racism? Is any other data gathering tool used specifically to capture date related to systemic/structural or institutional racism?***

Please, look at the section on Belarusian context, there you could find information on the situation with statistics and data collection.

In Belarus there is no practice of gathering disaggregated data on systemic, structural or institutional racism by state. When it comes to work with the Roma, Belarusian NGOs conduct regular surveys of the Roma population, compare the information, received from Roma activists, with the data from human rights lawyers, who provide legal support to the Roma.

1. ***In your country, what are the main human rights challenges arising from systemic, structural or institutional racism?***

The root causes for systemic patterns of racial inequality stated above are intersect with existing systemic, structural or institutional racism and create new forms of discrimination or reinforce the level of discrimination in the society. The logic is the following: if we oppress the oppressed group (minority), one day this oppression will be used against the majority. The practice of profiling of Roma population by the police was integrated at the institutional level many years ago, in 2020 after the presidential elections the profiling methodology for Roma was widely used for peaceful protestors.

1. ***Are specific resources allocated to address structural or institutional racism in your country?***

No.

1. ***In your country, which government agency has the mandate of combating and preventing racial discrimination? To what extent does the agency take issues into account related to systemic, structural or institutional racism in its mandate?***

In Belarus, there is no national human rights institute even though it was recommended to establish multiple times by the UN bodies and special procedures.[[46]](#footnote-46) There is no state organ which is responsible for such mandate.

1. ***Is the existing national legal and human rights framework, if any, sufficient to deal with systemic, structural or institutional racism? If not, what more can be done?***

There is no existing national legal and human rights framework, the first and the last national human rights plan was realized between 2016 - 2019[[47]](#footnote-47), existing legal norms on discrimination are far away of full picture. (as was described above) Therefore, it is essential to develop and adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and effective measures for its implementation, including positive actions to protect certain vulnerable groups, in particular, ethnic minorities. However, in the present situation in Belarus (human rights crisis, the rise of authoritarian regime, dysfunctional judicial system, repression against individuals, repressed NGO sector, participation in the War between Russia and Ukraine) it is far from realisation.

1. ***What are the responsibilities of key stakeholders (UN agencies, states, NHRIs, civil society organisations, technical community and academia, private sector) in addressing systemic, structural or institutional racism and racial discrimination?***

There is no national human rights institution in Belarus. It would be beneficial if we could have one. However, the main problem is the reluctance of state to work on the issue of discrimination and, in particular, on systemic, structural or institutional racism and racial discrimination. Moreover, as was stated above, right now it is not the time for changes as the state paralysed all the process and inner development by deploying repression against individuals and NGOs. No NGO (except from state supported NGOs) would cooperate with the regime, which violates human rights. In Belarus, it is NGOs that constantly promoted human rights values, including equality and non-discrimination, but the government has always ignored their voice, and starting from 2021, many NGOs were liquidated or forced to do it. UN agencies do not pay enough attention to this problem, as they are bound by their narrow mandate, which is agreed with the government. They are like “state bodies” as there is no independence in decision making, in particular, when it comes to “sensitive topics” such as human rights, discrimination. Academia is under censorship by the state or under self-censorship after the 2020. Many university professors, lecturers were repressed as well due to their political opinions. Many of them were forced to leave the country as well as majority of human rights defenders, activists and NGOs workers. Business could play a role in perspective. We could say that business community was formed due to COVID-19 times, when it was united to combat the virus by helping medical personnel, different vulnerable groups: with the growth of infected cases, more and more business initiatives appeared. It was the rise of corporate social responsibility. Those businesses that could not help with their products or services, they helped financially. According to the research on corporate social responsibility in Belarus during Covid-19 by SATIO, in total, during 2020 more than 220 Belarusian companies were involved in at least 264 projects.[[48]](#footnote-48)

To conclude, there is no impulse, environment and the will of the state to work on the issue.

1. ***What role do you consider new emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence based on algorithms, play in eradicating or sustaining systemic patterns of racial inequality?***

The digital inequality between the urban and rural population in Belarus[[49]](#footnote-49), the lack of skills in using electronic devices, the inaccessibility of the devices (computers, laptops, mobile phones) itselves in conjunction with economic inequality, leads to the increase of inequality for the Roma population.

1. ***Recommendations to the Government and UN agencies operating in the State to address systemic, structural or institutional racism either at the national level***

**Government:**

* to stop repression, release all political prisoners,
* to start the dialog with NGO sector,
* to stop attacks and repression on civil society, amend Criminal Code in terms of criminal liability for activities of unregistered NGO and working for such NGO,
* to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and effective measures to protect against discrimination in cooperation with NGO sector,
* to amend Criminal Code art.130 on “Incitement of racial, national, religious or another social hatred or discord”, stop use it as repressive mechanism against individuals who share different political views, and art. 1301 “rehabilitation of Nazism”.
* to forbid hate speech on TV and by state’s officials rhetoric,
* develop national human rights plan and mechanisms for realisation, plus monitoring,
* to raise legal awareness in the society through human rights education in schools.

**UN agencies** while working in Belarus:

* to promote anti-discrimination messages within the framework of the dialogue with the government,
* to draw the attention of the government to this problem,
* to monitor racism in Belarus in cooperation with NGOs.
1. Following Recorded Vote, General Assembly Adopts Declaration, Programme of Action of Durban World Conference Against Racism,<https://www.un.org/press/en/2002/GA10012.doc.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ratification status, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 8 Apr 1969,<https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-2&chapter=4&clang=_en> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-third periodic reports of Belarus, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 December 2017,<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fBLR%2fCO%2f20-23&Lang=en> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. National human rights index, Belarusian Helsinki Committee, General measures on human rights, 2020,<https://clc.to/ihrobshmer20>: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, 8 April 2020, A/HRC/44/55, para.20,<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G20/089/03/PDF/G2008903.pdf?OpenElement> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. National human rights index, Belarusian Helsinki Committee, Right to fair trial, 2020,<https://clc.to/ihrsud20>: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, 8 April 2020, A/HRC/44/55. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. For details look at the National human rights index produced by the Belarusian Helsinki Committee on each human right and its realization in Belarus in accordance with human rights law standards,<https://index.belhelcom.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-third periodic reports of Belarus, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21.12.2017, п.13,<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsjw6QT861uQaWWPVKFdkVLGvmoUhZouEgBRWi%2bkkqLipRKwr9p7oy7olD4pF8%2bZUtdGPgWD8kUhhkw99rTuREHaGzUGtEns0mZKS5cXvLBkXKLXog2VnD8hsnxP56OuvGw%3d%3d>; Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Belarus, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 18.11.2016, п.15,<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/402/64/PDF/N1640264.pdf?OpenElement>; Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Belarus, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 24.03.2022, paras.7-8,<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=4slQ6QSmlBEDzFEovLCuWzoufcs4rD6HOGEQguDH73fIRAsopPpCjLWHcw29upADJBjloiVOngLIMNCDdrdygrPHTYCwd7Nk5ckDjgN9clrsXcv6bPUbQRc1OVwNg%2bX2>: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, 8 April 2020, A/HRC/44/55, para.19. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Belarus, art. 9.28,<https://kodeksy.by/koap/statya-9.28> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Report on Implementation of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by the Republic of Belarus prepared by Civil Society Organizations, 2017, para.5,<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CERD_NGO_BLR_29418_E.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://mediaiq.by/article/ne-azaryonkom-edinym-kak-gazetnye-prop>;<https://mediaiq.by/article/te-kto-podderzhivayut-deystvuyushchuyu-vlast-inogda-pokazyvayutsya-kak-lyudi-nedal> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/ru/kak-i-zachem-belarus-sprovotsirovala-migratsionnyy-krizis/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Report of the human rights organization “Human Constanta”, The humanitarian crisis in Belarus, 2022, p.5,<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1coSSY3SlQ24m-WzWA-2APD7KYWefaM_4/view> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://www.lawtrend.org/liquidation-nko> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, 8 April 2020, A/HRC/44/55, para.13. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus, <https://etalonline.by/document/?regnum=hk9900275> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Law No. 112-Z “On Amending Codes on Criminal Liability”, May 26, 2021,<https://etalonline.by/document/?regnum=H12100112> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. On September 28, 2021, during a security raid in Minsk, Andrei Zeltser picked up a hunting weapon when “people in civilian clothes” broke into his apartment. Shooting started. The owner of the apartment and an employee of the KGB Dmitry Fedosyuk were killed. On the same day, state media published a heavily edited video of the incident, which caused a lot of questions from the public, and broadcast it on the state television channel ONT. From the video it was clear that the state officials had a mindset not to detain the tenants of the apartment, Andrei Zeltser and his wife, but to cause harm, to kill. It is not clear from the video who fired first and who actually killed the KGB officer. The KGB reported that the security forces were "working out addresses that could contain persons involved in terrorist activities" when a tenant of one of the apartments fired at them and mortally wounded a KGB officer,<https://www.bbc.com/russian/news-58730869>:<https://t.me/belta_telegramm/71215> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. <https://news.zerkalo.io/economics/3863.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. <https://news.zerkalo.io/economics/3969.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. <https://news.zerkalo.io/economics/3969.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Belarus combined twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth periodic reports submitted in 2020 to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3973368/files/CERD_C_BLR_24-25-EN.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. <https://humanconstanta.org/obzor-borby-s-ekstremizmom-v-belarusi-za-iyun-i-iyul-2021/> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. <https://humanconstanta.org/borba-s-ekstremizmom-obzor-tendencij-avgust-i-sentyabr-2021-goda/> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. <https://humanconstanta.org/obzor-borby-s-ekstremizmom-v-belarusi-za-oktyabr-dekabr-2021/> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. <https://humanconstanta.org/ekstremizm-na-fone-vojny-obzor-borby-s-ekstremizmom-v-belarusi-za-yanvar-mart-2022/> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. <https://humanconstanta.org/ugrozy-smertnoj-kaznyu-obzor-borby-s-ekstremizmom-v-belarusi-za-aprel-iyun-2022/> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. <https://humanconstanta.org/ekstremizm-na-fone-vojny-obzor-borby-s-ekstremizmom-v-belarusi-za-yanvar-mart-2022/> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. <https://humanconstanta.org/ekstremizm-na-fone-vojny-obzor-borby-s-ekstremizmom-v-belarusi-za-yanvar-mart-2022/> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Law “On the prevention of the rehabilitation of Nazism”, May 14, 2021 No. 104-З,<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=H12100103&p1=1> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Law “On changing laws on issues countering extremism”, May 14, 2021 No. 104-З,<https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=H12100104&p1=1> [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. <https://belhelcom.org/sites/default/files/novoe_zakonodatelnoe_regulirovanie_belarus_2021_2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Law “On the use of resources on the dissemination of information” May 24, 2021 No. 110-З,<https://etalonline.by/document/?regnum=h12100110> [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-third periodic reports of Belarus, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 December 2017,<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fBLR%2fCO%2f20-23&Lang=en> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Belarus combined twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth periodic reports submitted in 2020 to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, paras, 147, 142, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3973368/files/CERD_C_BLR_24-25-EN.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-third periodic reports of Belarus, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 December 2017,<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fBLR%2fCO%2f20-23&Lang=en>; National human rights index, Belarusian Helsinki Committee, General measures on human rights, 2020,<https://clc.to/ihrobshmer20>: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, 8 April 2020, A/HRC/44/55, para.20,<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G20/089/03/PDF/G2008903.pdf?OpenElement>; Report on Implementation of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by the Republic of Belarus Prepared by Civil Society Organizations, 2017, <https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCERD%2fNGO%2fBLR%2f29418&Lang=ru> [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. <https://www.lawtrend.org/liquidation-nko> [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. <https://news.zerkalo.io/economics/3539.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. <https://neg.by/novosti/otkrytj/proekt-izmeneniy-v-zakon-o-grazhdanstve-respubliki-belarus/> [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. <https://www.the-village.me/village/culture/culture-news/292065-lit-pol-school-over> [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. <https://www.dw.com/ru/kak-bekjrusskije-vlasti-pressujut-polskoje-menshinstvo/a-61557393> [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Andrzej Pisalnik: działacze ZPB usłyszą zarzuty przed Wielkanocą, trwają kontrole w szkołach uczących polskiego, [https://www.polskieradio24.pl/5/1223/Artykul/2707491,Andrzej-Pisalnik-dzialacze-ZPB-uslysza-zarzuty-przed-Wielkanoca-trwaja-kontrole-w-szkolach-uczacych-polskiego](https://www.polskieradio24.pl/5/1223/Artykul/2707491%2CAndrzej-Pisalnik-dzialacze-ZPB-uslysza-zarzuty-przed-Wielkanoca-trwaja-kontrole-w-szkolach-uczacych-polskiego) [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Report on Implementation of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by the Republic of Belarus Prepared by Civil Society Organizations, 2017, <https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCERD%2fNGO%2fBLR%2f29418&Lang=ru>; for excuses from the State - see Belarus combined twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth periodic reports submitted in 2020 to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3973368/files/CERD_C_BLR_24-25-EN.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Non Grata: foreign citizens’ rights in Belarus after august 2020. available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zGyPXz9iLseYncvuOcjxiLZZOWFom3fL/view> [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-third periodic reports of Belarus, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21.12.2017, п.13,<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsjw6QT861uQaWWPVKFdkVLGvmoUhZouEgBRWi%2bkkqLipRKwr9p7oy7olD4pF8%2bZUtdGPgWD8kUhhkw99rTuREHaGzUGtEns0mZKS5cXvLBkXKLXog2VnD8hsnxP56OuvGw%3d%3d>; Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Belarus, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 18.11.2016, п.15,<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/402/64/PDF/N1640264.pdf?OpenElement>; Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Belarus, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 24.03.2022, paras.7-8,<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=4slQ6QSmlBEDzFEovLCuWzoufcs4rD6HOGEQguDH73fIRAsopPpCjLWHcw29upADJBjloiVOngLIMNCDdrdygrPHTYCwd7Nk5ckDjgN9clrsXcv6bPUbQRc1OVwNg%2bX2>: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, 8 April 2020, A/HRC/44/55, para.19. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. DISCIPLINARY CODE (REGULATIONS) OF THE ASSOCIATION "BELARUSIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION", Article 73: <https://abff.by/uploads/images/files/5cb729370aecb.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-third periodic reports of Belarus, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21.12.2017, п.13,<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsjw6QT861uQaWWPVKFdkVLGvmoUhZouEgBRWi%2bkkqLipRKwr9p7oy7olD4pF8%2bZUtdGPgWD8kUhhkw99rTuREHaGzUGtEns0mZKS5cXvLBkXKLXog2VnD8hsnxP56OuvGw%3d%3d>; Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Belarus, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 18.11.2016, п.15,<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/402/64/PDF/N1640264.pdf?OpenElement>; Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Belarus, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 24.03.2022, paras.7-8,<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=4slQ6QSmlBEDzFEovLCuWzoufcs4rD6HOGEQguDH73fIRAsopPpCjLWHcw29upADJBjloiVOngLIMNCDdrdygrPHTYCwd7Nk5ckDjgN9clrsXcv6bPUbQRc1OVwNg%2bX2>: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, 8 April 2020, A/HRC/44/55, para.19. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. <https://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/ea16e832826ae926.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Research on corporate social responsibility in Belarus during Covid-19, SATIO, 2020,<https://satio.by/case/csr-in-belarus/> [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. A Roadmap for SDG Implementation in the Republic of Belarus. p.35, <http://sdgs.by/kcfinder/upload/files/FINAL_SDG_Roadmap_ENG_27_06.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-49)