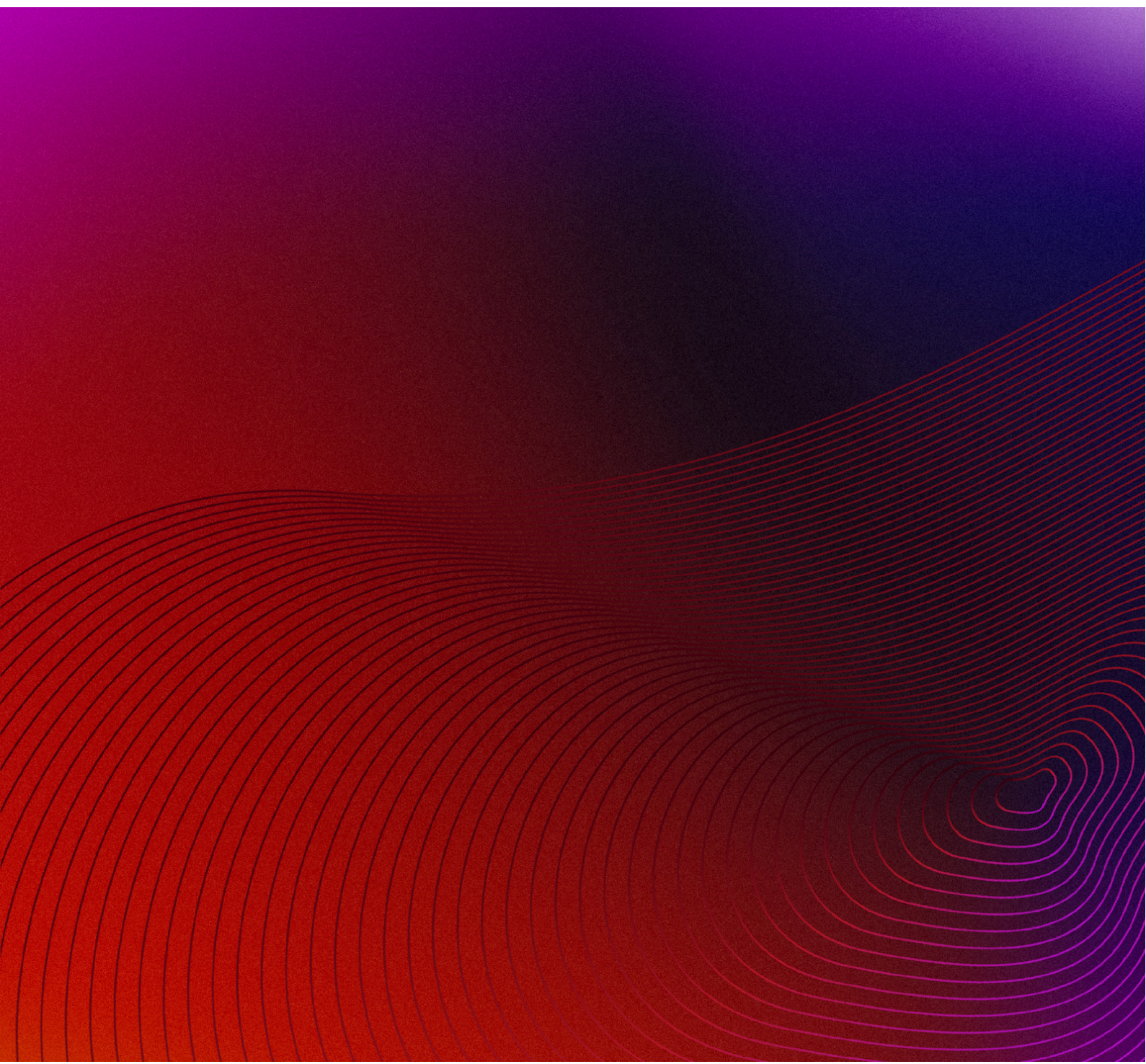


КАНФЕРЭНЦЫЯ
НОВАЯ
БЕЛАРУСЬ ²⁰²⁵

On Countering Russia's Hybrid Aggression and the Ideological Expansion of the “Russian World”

Resolution by the Democratic Forces of Belarus
for the New Belarus Conference 2025



We, representatives of the democratic forces of Belarus, having considered the current challenges and threats to the sovereignty and national-cultural identity of the Belarusian people in the context of Belarus' deepening dependence on the Russian Federation;

State that the Russian Federation is deliberately pursuing a policy of hybrid aggression against Belarus, aimed at undermining the fundamental spheres of public life, including information, education, politics, culture, and religion. The foundation of this policy is the ideological concept of the so-called "Russian World" (*Russkiy Mir*), used as an instrument for cultural and linguistic assimilation, militarization of the educational space, promotion of imperial historical narratives, and restoration of Soviet ideological constructs in the mass consciousness;

Express deep concern over the institutional expansion of the "Russian World" bodies on the territory of Belarus. The Kremlin's main ideological instrument abroad, *Rossotrudnichestvo*, has four official centers in Belarus (in Minsk, Brest, Homiel, and Hrodna), as well as an additional center with an undefined status in Mahiliou, opened in 2023. This is more than in any other country. In addition, the *Russkiy Mir Foundation* and the *Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund* operate in Belarus, organizing educational, cultural, and propaganda events aimed at spreading the ideology of the "Russian World" and undermining Belarusians' national self-awareness. They support networks of pro-Russian bloggers and activists in Belarus who conduct information attacks against Belarusian cultural initiatives, independent media, and civil society;

Note that, under the conditions of Belarus' isolation from Europe, Russian influence in culture, education, religion, and regional cooperation is becoming almost without alternative;

Regard the hybrid aggression of the Russian Federation and its accompanying ideological expansion as one of the most serious threats to the independence of Belarus, the preservation of its national identity, and its cultural sovereignty. This threat is strategic in nature and requires the consolidation of Belarus' democratic forces to coordinate efforts to neutralize it, defend the existence of the Belarusian nation, and ensure the country's future as a European democracy;

Declare that European integration of Belarus is the most effective and realistic alternative to the ideological expansion of the "Russian World." Under conditions of growing external pressure, it remains the only viable tool to strengthen the agency of Belarusian society and reduce dependence on Russia. Expanding cooperation with European countries in the fields of education, culture, media, and regional development lays the foundation for long-term stability and contributes to the democratic transformation of the country.

In this regard, we call on the international community, including the European Union, the United States, and other democratic states, to:

- expand opportunities for the mobility of Belarusians and channels of communication with Belarusian society, in order to restore disrupted interregional, educational, cultural, and civic ties;
- support projects for integrating Belarus into the European information, educational, and cultural space, including through exchanges, internships, and joint programs;
- increase support for pro-European information initiatives, and create new platforms for covering the situation regarding freedom of conscience and religion in Belarus.

We call on all the democratic forces of Belarus to unite efforts to:

- develop a comprehensive strategy to counter the ideological expansion of the “Russian World” in education, culture, media, religion, and regional development, with the participation of the democratic forces of Belarus, civil society, and the expert and academic communities;
- develop and implement programs to strengthen Belarusian national identity and systematically counter the ideology of the “Russian World” at both the individual and institutional levels, inside the country and in exile;
- promote increased mobility for Belarusian citizens, including through expanding quotas for visa, educational, and professional programs, particularly in the fields of academic mobility, vocational training, retraining, and internships;
- seek a strategic and effective approach to countering Russian hybrid aggression through developing cooperation with Ukrainian political and civic structures that support Belarus’s independence and European future.

We demand that the current regime:

- end the facilitation of the “Russian World” ideological expansion through political, informational, cultural, and religious dependence on the Kremlin, which leads to the destruction of Belarusian identity and the imposition of a pro-Russian worldview;
- end the policy of isolating Belarus from the European community, manifested in obstructing the reopening of land border crossings through an orchestrated migrant crisis, restricting cross-border cooperation, persecuting projects involving European partners, and creating barriers to communication between Belarusians and the peoples of neighboring democratic countries.

We emphasize that a democratic Belarus is only possible with conscious and organized resistance to cultural, political, and ideological incorporation by Russia, with the preservation of the Belarusian language, historical memory, and national identity, as well as the support of those individuals and initiatives that continue the struggle for the country’s free and European future.

*Adopted at the New Belarus Conference
Warsaw, August 2025*