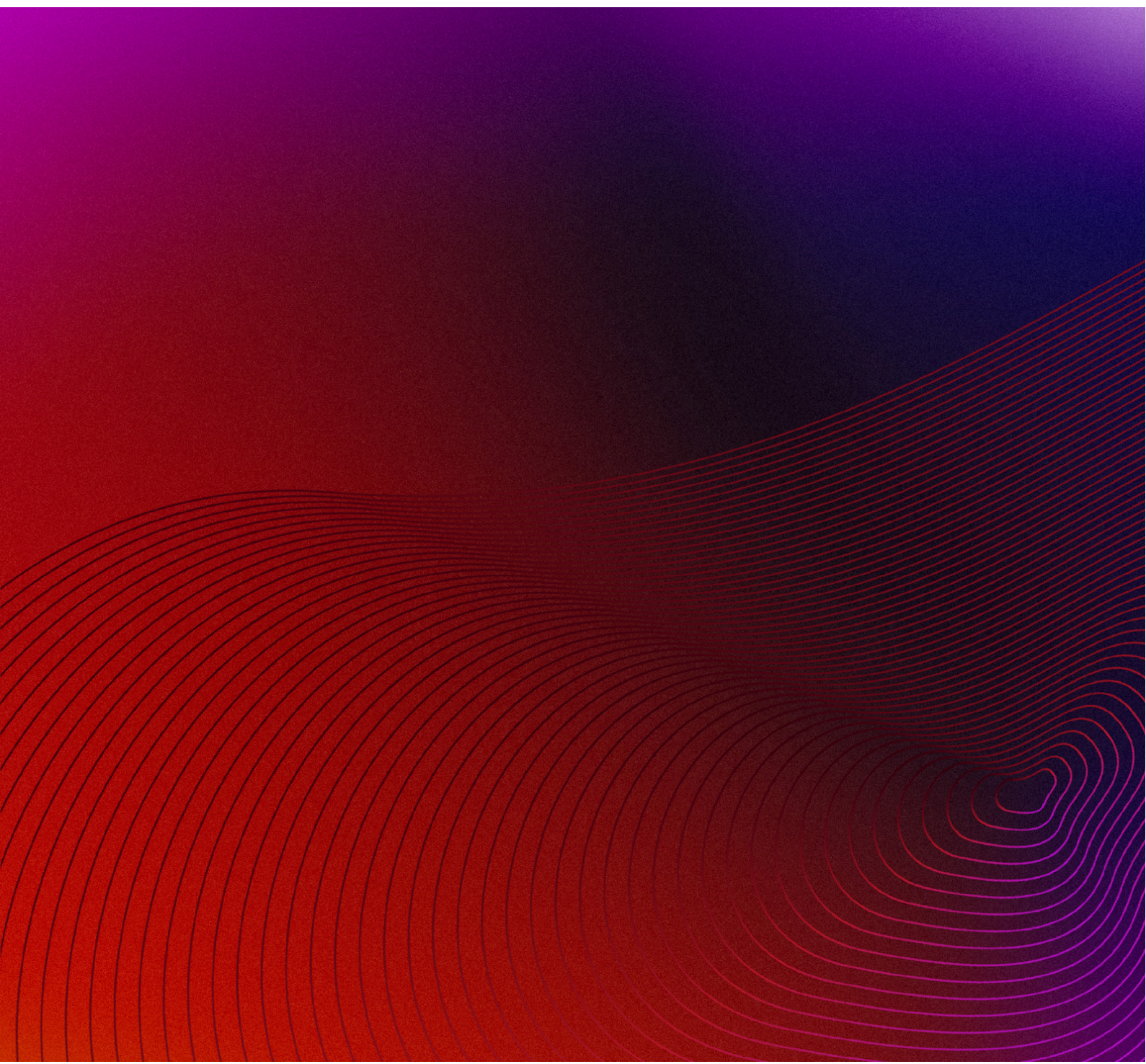


КАНФЕРЭНЦЫЯ
НОВАЯ
БЕЛАРУСЬ ²⁰²⁵

In Support of the National Identity and Agency of Belarusian Culture

Declaration by the Democratic Forces of Belarus
for the New Belarus Conference 2025
Dedicated to the Fifth Anniversary of the Peaceful Protests of 2020



We, representatives of the democratic forces of Belarus,

- **guided** by the Declaration of State Sovereignty (1990), the Act of Independence (1991), and the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (1994);
- **in accordance with** international norms on human rights and the rights of peoples to self-determination;
- **noting** that Belarus has been recognized as independent by all countries of the world;
- **taking into account** the deterioration of the position of the Belarusian language, culture, and civil society under authoritarian pressure over the past five years;
- **acknowledging** the information and political expansion of Russia, which undermines Belarus's national agency;

Declare:

- Belarus is an independent nation with its own unique language, history, culture, and legal status as a sovereign state;
- Systematic repression, the banning of independent media, total state control of education, suppression of the Belarusian language, and persecution of citizens for manifestations of Belarusian identity pose a threat to the nation's very existence;
- Russian information aggression and political interference lead to the assimilation of Belarusians and the destruction of national consciousness;
- The Belarusian diaspora, as well as Belarusians inside the country, are at risk of losing their language and cultural identification with their homeland due to the authorities' repressive policies toward Belarusian language and culture, and the labeling of democratic information resources, projects, and initiatives as "extremist";
- Belarusians are a free nation and remain free even behind bars because identity is a choice, not a permit. The Belarusian national idea, founded on harmony, mutual respect, and democratic values, is stronger than violence and the ideology of intimidation;
- The informational isolation of Belarusians, along with violence and mass repression against citizens, strengthens the dictatorship, which deprives the people of the right to make decisions, concentrating the fate of the entire nation in the hands of criminals and usurpers of power;
- The regime's use of force contradicts the universal and democratic values that Belarusians rely on in everyday life: the striving for freedom and independence, peacefulness and dignity, mutual assistance and community spirit, and justice;
- Belarusian identity rests on a deep moral code that forms the foundation of our society through openness and compassion, sincerity and respect for others, tolerance, patience as a sign of inner strength, and a willingness to help even in difficult circumstances;
- The Belarusian language is the foundation of national consciousness and the key to preserving identity. It is the language of freedom, democracy, and resistance to authoritarianism, a language we have preserved since the 16th century, which continues to live despite decades of repression, denigration, and assimilation pressure;

Identify the following as the main principles of the agency of Belarusian culture:

- We support the free use of the Belarusian language in all forms and call for the creation of spaces for it in the family, education, business, the arts, and public life;
- We welcome every step toward Belarusian identity, even an attempt, because language is not about correctness but about belonging. Everyone who strives to speak Belarusian is already a bearer of this belonging;
- In today's circumstances, culture is a key component of national security. Culture helps preserve and build a strong national identity, enabling a nation to endure under any circumstances. Culture is what maintains, transmits, and strengthens this identity through language, meaning, worldview, memory, and moral orientation;
- Today, *work for the benefit of culture and national identity is the main tool of resisting the regime*;
- A nation is a community of shared memory. We respect every period of Belarusian history, which has endured many trials, from the Principality of Polotsk, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, and the Belarusian Democratic Republic, to anti-Soviet and anti-imperial resistance, the traditions of Uniatism, multiculturalism, and peaceful coexistence with neighboring European peoples;
- We will not accept any regime that seeks to “strangle” Belarusians, subjugate them, and destroy our language, culture, and memory;

Call for:

We, the democratic forces of Belarus, declare our commitment to the Belarusian language, culture, history, and European path. We call on the international community to recognize and support Belarusian identity as part of Europe's common heritage. We also call on both Belarusians themselves and all those who see Belarus as part of the civilized world to make efforts to:

- support cultural diplomacy to create spaces for intercultural dialogue and to welcome Belarus into the global family of nations;
- assist in creating and expanding opportunities for education in the Belarusian language, and in increasing public demand for Belarusian-language learning;
- promote Belarusian culture both inside the country and abroad as a valuable part of global cultural heritage and as the foundation of the identity of the Belarusian people, one of Europe's ancient nations;
- support Belarusian diaspora communities and centers, as well as People's Embassies, as those representing democratic values and the European choice of the Belarusian people in conditions of occupation and repression against civil society and national culture;
- foster familiarity with Belarusian literature and its authors, and facilitate translations from and into Belarusian as a source of mutual understanding and recognition of national uniqueness;
- support translations of works of popular culture into Belarusian to popularize the language and expand its use;

- increase the involvement of Belarusian NGOs and communities in working with European institutions, and contribute to mobilizing resources for the development of Belarusian culture as the foundation of identity.

*Adopted
Warsaw, August 2025*