

ON PROTECTING EDUCATION FROM POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION, MILITARIZATION, AND RUSSIFICATION

Warsaw, Poland, 08–09.08.2026

Recognizing our responsibility for the future of the Belarusian people and future generations, as well as for Belarus's linguistic and cultural heritage and national identity;

Acknowledging that the Belarusian education system is increasingly being used for political indoctrination, militarization, the cultivation of Aliaksandr Lukashenka's personality cult, political repression, Russification, and the suppression of academic freedom;

Drawing attention to the particularly alarming involvement of children in kindergartens and primary schools in the imposition of political loyalty, militaristic rhetoric, military-style activities, the glorification of war, the promotion of a cult of armed violence, and the justification of Russia's aggression against Ukraine;

Recognizing that the education system plays a vital role in shaping national and civic identity, and that its subordination to Russian imperial policy and the ideology of the "Russian World" (Russkiy Mir) poses a threat to Belarus's state sovereignty and to the very existence of the Belarusian nation in the medium term;

We, the democratic forces of Belarus,

Declare that education must not become a space of coercion, fear, and propaganda, subordinated to the interests of an authoritarian regime and external political influence.

Strongly condemn the use of the education system for political indoctrination, the cultivation of a personality cult, coercion to demonstrate political loyalty, and participation in propaganda activities.

We call on the Lukashenka regime and the leadership of educational institutions to:

- end the militarization of kindergartens, schools and universities, including military-style activities, military training camps for minors, the display of weapons to children, and the preparation of students for roles within the defense industry;

- end political repression against teachers, university students, school pupils, and educational communities; review politically motivated dismissals; restore violated labour rights with appropriate compensation; and abolish formal and informal restrictions on professional activity imposed on political grounds;
- end the Russification of the education system, including the reduction in the number of Belarusian-language schools, the closure of schools for national minorities, and the deliberate distortion of historical memory and national identity;
- restore comprehensive foreign language education in line with international educational standards;
- end politically motivated intimidation and restrictions that prevent Belarusian graduates from enrolling in foreign educational institutions, and ensure free and non-discriminatory access to the documents required to continue their education abroad;
- terminate the activities of organizations, programs, and institutions used by the Russian Federation to promote the ideology of the “Russian World” (Russkiy Mir), expand political influence, promote militarism, justify aggression against Ukraine, and interfere in Belarus’s education policy, including Rossotrudnichestvo, the Russkiy Mir Foundation, the Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund, the Moscow House in Minsk, and other similar entities, based on a transparent legal assessment of their activities.

We believe that:

- restoring the autonomy of educational institutions; freeing them from state propaganda, political coercion and mandatory ideology; demilitarizing education; and fully reintegrating Belarusian education and research into the international academic community are essential conditions for the country’s democratic development;
- education should foster personal development, critical thinking, and civic responsibility; promote respect for human rights; ensure the continuity of the Belarusian language and culture; and strengthen society’s ability to determine the country’s future independently.

We call on political partners, democratic governments, international organizations, educational institutions, and professional associations to support:

- independent Belarusian educational institutions and initiatives that preserve Belarusian national identity, language and culture, and counter the ideology of the “Russian World” (Russkiy Mir);
- assistance programs for persecuted teachers, academics, and school and university students, enabling them to remain in their profession and continue or complete their education;
- academic mobility programs for Belarusian young people that provide access to high-quality education in an environment of academic freedom and free from ideological pressure, as well as visa facilitation or the introduction of a dedicated visa-free mobility programme for Belarusians up to the age of 25;
- support programs for Belarusian families with children who have been forced into exile, aimed at preserving and developing the Belarusian language and national identity, taking

into account the unique and long-term nature of the forced emigration of hundreds of thousands of Belarusians.

We express our solidarity with Belarusian teachers, students, and academic communities who continue to uphold their dignity, professional standards, and commitment to the principles of free education.

*Resolution by the Democratic Forces of Belarus
for the New Belarus Conference 2026
(Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya,
United Transitional Cabinet,
Coordination Council,
Platform of Political Parties)*