

ON SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT BELARUSIAN MEDIA

Warsaw, Poland, 08-09.08.2026

We, the democratic forces of Belarus, affirm that independent Belarusian media are essential to ensuring access to reliable information, enabling free public debate, and ensuring accountability of authorities and political institutions.

After 2020, the Lukashenka regime has almost destroyed free journalism inside the country. Dozens of editorial offices have been liquidated, and hundreds of journalists have been imprisoned or forced into exile. Despite this, independent Belarusian media continue to inform Belarusians, document repression, human rights violations, corruption, and other abuses that are of public importance, preserve the Belarusian language and culture, maintain connections between Belarusians inside the country and abroad, and counter propaganda.

Following a reduction in international assistance, independent media are facing growing financial pressure, leaving many independent outlets at risk of reducing their operations, losing professional teams, or shutting down. Supporting them is both a defense of freedom of expression and an investment in a future democratic Belarus and in the resilience of the European information space against authoritarian propaganda and disinformation.

We call on international partners to:

- recognize the sustainability of independent Belarusian media as one of the essential elements of international policy in support of a democratic Belarus;
- ensure long-term institutional funding for independent Belarusian media outlets, providing financial sustainability while fully preserving editorial independence;
- increase investment in digital security, new technologies, and secure information distribution channels so that Belarusians continue to have access to independent sources of information;
- support investigative journalism and projects that expose corruption, repression, sanctions evasion, the regime's involvement in Russia's war, and other issues of significant public interest;
- develop cooperation between Belarusian and European media, including exchange programs and initiatives to train a new generation of journalists;
- ensure legal, social, psychological, and security support for journalists and their families, including emergency assistance, support with legal residency, and relocation programs;
- ensure that independent Belarusian media have access to European programs supporting information resilience, disinformation research, and professional cooperation, while preserving their editorial autonomy.

Sustainable and editorially independent Belarusian media are essential for ensuring society's access to verified information, preserving free public debate, safeguarding the Belarusian language and culture, countering propaganda, and building a democratic Belarus.

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