



Youth Rights in Belarus

**Delivered by Belarusian National Youth Council
RADA**

Presentation of the organization

- **RADA is a voluntary union of 44 youth organizations in Belarus.**
- **RADA works to represent, promote, and defend the interests and freedoms of youth organizations and young people.**
- **This is RADA's second contribution to the UPR process.**

Overview of the situation since last UPR

- **RADA, in exile, was labeled an “extremist formation” and excluded from UPR consultations.**
- **No progress on youth rights since last UPR; key issues remain unaddressed.**
- **Repression intensified after 2020 election: dismissals, expulsions, arrests, targeting youth groups.**
- **The violations and recommendations are equally relevant to youth, as highlighted in colleagues’ statements.**

Right to education

2.1 Freedom of association and freedom of assembly

- **Obstacles to education are linked to broader human rights violations.**
- **Young people face forced pressure to join pro-government student and youth groups; an unresolved concern from the previous UPR.**
- **Freedom of association is severely restricted; independent student groups face surveillance and pressure.**
- **Campus demonstrations are effectively banned; participants face arrests and expulsions.**

Right to education

2.2 Right to equality and non-discrimination

- **Persistent inequality in higher education remains a key concern.**
- **Gender discrimination continues through quotas favoring male students in military, internal affairs, emergency institutions, and medical sub-internships.**
- **Students with disabilities face limited access due to poor infrastructure, lack of communication support, and restrictive admissions.**
- **Male students in foreign universities no longer receive military deferments.**

Recommendations

- **Guarantee students' rights to peaceful assembly and association by lifting restrictions on campus demonstrations, ending political persecution of students, and ceasing the forced involvement in pro-governmental organizations.**
- **Ensure full accessibility in higher education for students with disabilities through improved infrastructure, enhanced communication support, and modern assistive technologies.**

Recommendations

- **Abolish discriminatory quotas in admissions and medical training to secure equal, merit-based access for all students regardless of gender.**
- **Reinstate educational deferments for students studying abroad and explore non-military public service options to uphold the right to education.**

Thank you for your attention!



Full
report