



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

BELARUS - GENDER EQUALITY INDICATORS 2007

Population¹

Total: 9 824 568
Female: 53.2%
Male: 46.8%

1. STATE MACHINERY AND HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

1.1	Ratification and reporting under the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Yes ²	Year of ratification: 1981 Ratification of the Optional Protocol: 2004 ³ Initial report (04/10/1982), Combined Fourth, Fifth and Sixth report (19/12/2002), Seventh report was due on 03/09/2006
1.2	Human rights problems as specified in Conclusions of the CEDAW Committee	CEDAW Concluding Observations in response to the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth periodic reports of Belarus (2004) ⁴ Main concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Constitution does not contain a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex;• No law on gender equality has been adopted;• There is no holistic approach to policies and programmes aimed at achieving gender equality, including mainstreaming a gender perspective in all areas;• The persistence of stereotypes relating to the roles and responsibilities of women and men in society;• Insufficient awareness of the Convention and the procedures for its application and enforcement, as well as of women's human rights in general;• Insufficient co-operation of the authorities with NGOs and women's associations in the implementation of the Convention;• The national machinery for the advancement of women does not have sufficient visibility, decision-making power or resources;• Increasing incidences of violence against women in Belarus, including domestic violence;• The problem of trafficking in women in Belarus;• The situation of women in the labour market;• Feminization of poverty, particularly among vulnerable groups of women, such as those heading households, older women and rural women• Decline in the status of women's health, as well as the decline in women's access to health services;• Under-representation of women in elected and appointed bodies, particularly at high levels and in decision-making positions.• Lack of information in the report on minority women	

		and the scarce data on migrants and on older women.	
1.3	Reports made by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women	No	
1.4	National government body on gender or women	Yes	National Council on Gender Policy ⁵
1.5	Constitutional protection from discrimination on the basis of sex	No ⁶	Article 22 [Equality] “All shall be equal before the law and entitled, without discrimination, to equal protection of their rights and legitimate interests.”
1.6	Gender equality law	No	
1.7	National gender mainstreaming measures (e.g.: National plan of action on gender equality or gender mainstreaming or other similar commitments)	Yes	National Plan of Action to Ensure Gender Equality for 2001 to 2005 ⁷
2. POLITICAL SECTOR			
2.1	Per cent of women in parliament (is there a quota for women)?	Bi-cameral No quota ⁸	Lower House elected in 2004 Total number of seats: 110 Total number of seats won by women: 32 Percentage of women: 29.1% Upper House elected in 2004 Total number of seats: 58 Total number of seats won by women: 18 Percentage of women: 31.0% ⁹
2.2	Is there a fixed quota for electoral lists?	No ¹⁰	
3. ECONOMIC SECTOR			
3.1	Per cent of women in the paid labour force	53.1% ¹¹	
3.2	Adult unemployment rate: Total Female Male	1.2% 1.5% 0.8% ¹²	
3.3	Estimated earned income (PPP US\$) Female Male	5 510 8 632 ¹³	
3.4	Ratio of estimated female to male earned income	0.64 ¹⁴	
3.5	Right of women to own property	Yes. The laws regarding equal treatment for women's property ownership and inheritance are generally respected.	
3.6	Women as percentage of international migrants	57.8% ¹⁵	
4. SOCIAL AND EDUCATION SECTOR ¹⁶			
4.1	Life expectancy at birth: Female (years) Male (years)	74.1 62.5	

4.2	Maternal mortality ratio, adjusted (deaths of mothers per 100,000 live births), year 2000	18
4.3	Adult literacy rate (ages 15 and older) Female Male	99.4% 99.8%
4.4	Net primary school enrolment Female Ratio of female to male	88% 0.97
4.5	Net secondary school enrolment Female Ratio of female to male	88% 1.01
4.6	Gross tertiary education enrolment Female Ratio of female to male	71% 1.39
5. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS		
5.1	Ratification of Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	June 2003 ¹⁷
5.2	Relevant criminalization legislation	In March 2005, a presidential decree was issued allowing the Government to confiscate the property of convicted traffickers and to increase their prison sentences.
5.3	Availability of shelters for victims of trafficking	Presidential decrees provide victims with protection, medical care and social rehabilitation.
6. MAJOR GENDER EQUALITY ORGANIZATIONS IN BELARUS		
<p>Movement of Working Women Contact: Irina Zhihar Address: Patizansky Ave., 14-504 Minsk 220070, Belarus E-mail: boww96@tut.by Telephone: 248 88 04, 248 76 16</p> <p>Women's Independent Democratic Movement Contact: Lyudmila Petina Address: Minsk, Belarus Tel: 621 07 10</p> <p>Young Women Christian Association of Belarus Contact: Irina Alkhovka Address: Minsk, Belarus E-mail: ywcabelarus@telecom.by Telephone: 296 37 45 Mobile: 6801808</p> <p>Belarusian Union of Women</p>		

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Belarusian Women's League

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7. PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR GENDER ISSUES AT THE MISSION OFFICE (focal point, part-time, full-time)

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- ¹ <http://www.unece.org/stats/profiles2007/belarus.pdf>
 - ² <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm>
 - ³ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/sigop.htm>
 - ⁴ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/reports.htm>
 - ⁵ http://www.bayefsky.com/.pdf/belarus_t4_cedaw_30.pdf
 - ⁶ http://www.bayefsky.com/.pdf/belarus_t4_cedaw_30.pdf
 - ⁷ <http://tandis.odihr.pl/index.php?p=country,blr,nap>
 - ⁸ <http://www.quotaproject.org/noquotas.cfm>
 - ⁹ <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>
 - ¹⁰ <http://www.quotaproject.org/noquotas.cfm>
 - ¹¹ <http://www.unece.org/stats/profiles2007/belarus.pdf>
 - ¹² <http://laborsta.ilo.org/>
 - ¹³ http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_BLR.html
 - ¹⁴ http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_BLR.html
 - ¹⁵ <http://esa.un.org/migration/index.asp?panel=2>
 - ¹⁶ http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_BLR.html
 - ¹⁷ http://www.unodc.org/unodc/crime_cicp_signatures_trafficking.html