



2.1.2. Freedom of peaceful assembly and association

Freedom of assembly and association in Belarus are nearly non-existent.^{[151](#)} Legislation such as the Law on Mass Events imposes strict requirements on public gatherings, including their prior authorisation and eligibility criteria for organisers, which significantly suppress public assemblies.^{[152](#)}

The legal environment for civil society organisations is characterised by highly restrictive regulations that grant authorities broad discretion to deny their registration, restrict foreign funding, and dissolve or suspend entities for minor infractions.^{[153](#)} After the 2020 protests, the authorities initiated a systematic purge on organisations,^{[154](#)} such as trade unions, associations, and NGOs.^{[155](#)}

In June 2021,^{[156](#)} the authorities started a large-scale campaign to revoke official registrations of civil society organisations,^{[157](#)} a process that accelerated in the following years^{[158](#)} and resulted in widespread liquidation of various organisations and associations,^{[159](#)} including human rights groups,^{[160](#)} NGOs, trade unions and religious communities.^{[161](#)} This state-led crackdown led to a sharp decrease in the number of registered public organisations, declining – according to the data of the Ministry of Justice – from 3 025 in 2020 to 1 973 in January 2024 (comprising 177 international, 572 national, and 1 224 local entities).^{[162](#)} As of December 2025, according to the monitoring group Lawtrend, 1 220 non-profit organisations had been forcibly liquidated^{[163](#)} and another 769 had self-dissolved,^{[164](#)} while the number of registered NGOs stood at 1 943.^{[165](#)}

Repression against civil society actors also involves arbitrary detention, torture, and ill-treatment of activists, peaceful protesters, journalists, human rights defenders, and lawyers.^{[166](#)} Civil society organisations and cultural associations, as well as their members, have been added to the list of extremist organisations, which enables their prosecution.^{[167](#)} For example, in 2024, after an organisation providing online training on women rights was designated as extremist formation, the KGB and the district police departments' members arrested and interrogated some of its participants, many of whom were subsequently charged with petty hooliganism and detained for up to 30 days.^{[168](#)}

- ^{[151](#)}

UN Human Rights Council, Report of Human Rights in Belarus, 22 April 2025, [url](#), para. 67

- ^{[152](#)}

ICNL, Belarus, 4 October 2025, [url](#)

- [153](#)

ICNL, Belarus, 4 October 2025, [url](#)

- [154](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Group of Independent Experts on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus, 7 February 2025, [url](#), para. 26

- [155](#)

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- [156](#)

CSO meter, Belarus: New wave of liquidation of CSOs that fail to amend their charters, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

- [157](#)

Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2026 Country Report – Belarus, 2026, [url](#), p. 11

- [158](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Group of Independent Experts on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus, 7 February 2025, [url](#), para. 26

- [159](#)

AI, Belarus 2024, 28 April 2025, [url](#); CIVICUS, Belarus: Ongoing Crackdown on civil society demands stronger international response, 19 March 2025, [url](#); Belsat, Belarus moves to confiscate property of liquidated parties and NGOs, 14 November 2025, [url](#); UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Belarus, Report of the Group of Independent Experts on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus, 6 February 2026, [url](#), para. 43

- [160](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Group of Independent Experts on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus, 7 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 26, 59

- [161](#)

AI, Belarus 2024, 28 April 2025, [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2026 Country Report – Belarus, 2026, [url](#), p. 11

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CSO meter, Belarus: New wave of liquidation of CSOs that fail to amend their charters, 5 July 2024, [url](#)

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- [164](#)

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- [166](#)

CIVICUS, Belarus: Ongoing Crackdown on civil society demands stronger international response, 19 March 2025, [url](#)

- [167](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Belarus, Report of the Group of Independent Experts on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus, 6 February 2026, [url](#), para. 79

- [168](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Belarus, Report of the Group of Independent Experts on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus, 6 February 2026, [url](#), para. 41