

BELARUS WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

A brief overview of activities
October 2020 – December 2021

Belarus Women's Foundation Legal Data

Registration No. 40008301647

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Social media

[Facebook:](#)

[Twitter:](#)

[Instagram:](#)

[YouTube:](#)

[LinkedIn:](#)

[Telegram Info Channel:](#)

[Telegram chat bot: @BWF_stories_bot](#)

Projects

Activities completed

1



ROAD TO THE HAGUE

BWF task is to prosecute Lukashenka and executors of his criminal orders as citizens who have committed numerous crimes against the Belarusian people.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/road-to-the-hague>

19.05.2021 - A claim filed with the International Criminal Court in The Hague against the citizen of the Republic of Belarus A.G. Lukashenko under the Article “Crimes against Humanity”.

Open letters sent to the leaders of European countries and UN Security Council member states urging to support our case against Lukashenka in ICC.

Addressing the members of EU Parliament to support our case in ICC.

2



FEMIDA - THEMIS

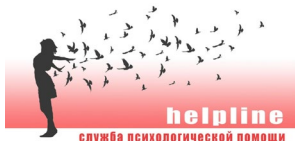
Legal assistance to every woman who has suffered as a result of political situation in Belarus.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/femida>

Professional online consulting (in Russian) provided to women anonymously & confidentially.

Informative posts in BWF website and social media about person's rights in order to be able to protect oneself, one's honour and dignity (9 posts from August to Dec.).

3



HELPLINE

Psychological assistance to every woman who has suffered from the political situation in Belarus.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/helpline>

Professional online consulting (in Russian) provided to women anonymously & confidentially in one-to-one and group meetings.

Informative posts in BWF website and social media advising how to survive in stress and violence situations, methods of relaxing and mind-healing etc. We hope that our advice will help to restore emotional wellbeing and tranquillity of repressed women and those in exile (17 posts from September to December).

4



MY STEP TO FREEDOM

The core of this work is a series of interviews with women from Belarus who have experienced the atrocity of the Lukashenko regime. The stories will serve as documented evidence of the regime's crimes.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/my-step-to-freedom>

By the end of 2021, >50 detailed interviews have been collected. Most of them cannot be published for the sake of interviewees' safety. They are, however, filed to initiate further legal proceedings (see our project "Road to The Hague").

All stories are treated very carefully, and data is stored in a secure data bank.

On BWF website 34 stories are published.



Projects

Activities completed

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Under our project "I'm a political prisoner" we tell, on our own behalf, the stories of our wonderful women who suffered for their civil position and are now illegally held in Belarusian prisons by Lukashenko regime. We want to tell a story about each of them.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/i-m-a-political-prisoner>

Two 40-minute films (in English and Russian) based on the interviews and stories of the women in Belarus who went through prison & torture, told on behalf of them by the volunteers of BWF, were launched on our website, YouTube channel and other social media to let the world know about the brave women who sacrificed their freedom for us.

67 short videos (1-3 minutes) in RU, EN, DE and IT were launched about each of women – prisoners.

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WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BELARUS

The most detailed information («a portfolio») about every woman detained, sentenced, also already released by the Lukashenka regime. Case description, Article for punishment, information in other media, Goodparenthood by #Libereco, videos, testimonies etc.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/women-political-prisoners-in-belarus>

By the end of December 2021, there are 170 complete files for women - actual and previous political prisoners on BWF website. They are updated accordingly to new information arriving.

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URGENT APPEALS

BWF is publishing and sending urgent appeals to international women's and human rights organisations, politicians, political and social activists with calls for action as a response to the critical humanitarian situation of thousands of Belarusian women created by the Lukashenka regime

Our main demands:

- immediately and unconditionally release of ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS; their complete and immediate acquittal and rehabilitation;
- Prosecution of all the affiliates of Lukashenka and his regime.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/urgent-appeal>

Until now, 8 Urgent Appeals have been released and published, among them:

- Appeal to the women of the world to stand with Belarusian women to stop the dictatorship pandemic (2/11/2020).
- Call for support to open a trial against Lukashenka at the ICC in The Hague under the article «Crimes against humanity» (26/06/2021).
- Marking the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (June 26) – video testimonies of tortures in Belarus.
- «SOS» project: video appeals by the relatives of victims of Lukashenka's repressive machine call for the release of their beloved ones (9/08/2021).
- Appeal #FreeBelarusWomen to the global women's movement, human rights groups, politicians, community activists and public figures. Already supported by several European MP's (25/11/2021).

Projects

Activities completed

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FUNDRAISING PROJECTS – ASSISTANCE TO REPRESSED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

Assistance and help to women - political prisoners and their children. Money raising for short-term and long-term assistance projects.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/donate>

By the end of 2021, 6 fundraising projects have been launched, whereof:

- 3 long-term projects: «Assistance to politically persecuted women in Belarus»; «Help for displaced women fleeing political persecution in Belarus» and «Support for children of women political prisoners in Belarus»;
- 3 short-term projects: "Start of the school year 2021" (successfully completed, gift certificates delivered to 37 schoolchildren of detained women); «Let's keep them warm!» - money raised for 94 women political prisoners to buy thermal underwear, project closed on 12/11/2021; «Christmas/ New year gifts for children of political prisoners in Belarus» - still open, by the end of 2021 money for 42 children has been transferred.

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Online photo exhibition “**SCREAM**” gives a chronological account of events in Belarus and the crimes perpetrated by the Lukashenka dictatorship against his people.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/exhibition-the-scream>

The virtual exhibition was open on August 18, 2021 and is still running. Several photographers gave their art photos and reportage photos (ca. 40 pictures) from the peaceful demonstrations and how they were detained and treated by Lukashenko’s repressive forces.

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FASHION FOR FREEDOM

The BWF team **call on world-renowned designers** and budding designers to dedicate one piece from their current collection or new collection to Belarusian women who face violence and repression for wearing colours of their choice.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/fashion-for-freedom>

By the end of 2021, seven Belarusian designers living abroad or forced to flee the country, as well as one Scottish artist, have joined the project. Several collections of clothes have been launched, promoting not only the right to wear traditional belarusian colours, but also – sustainable living and mind therapy. The Belarus girls’ band Kriwi performed in a concert in Berlin in the dresses of Alena Steinke, one of the designers. The money gained from sales of her collection was used for 1st September gifts to the children of political prisoners.



Projects

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TIME OUT

Online conversations with Veronica Tsepka. Her guests are women who pursue their dreams. They discuss their paths, what they believe in, and about subjects that worry us today.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/girls-talking>

By the end of 2021, 6 conversations with inspiring women were recorded by Veronica Tsepka and posted on our website and in social media. Among them – singer, actress and model Angelica Agurbash, as well as several strong women – wives of political prisoners Marina Adamovich, Daria Losik, Volha Sieviaryniec and others.

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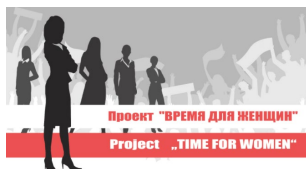
WOMEN IN BRIEF

The goal of this project is to create a gallery of video portraits of Belarusian women who took an active part in the Belarusian revolution. Their answers to five easy questions open up the secret of power and fragility of Belarusian women.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/women-in-brief>

By the end of 2021, 9 conversations with inspiring women were recorded by Veronica Tsepka and posted on our website and in social media. Among them – Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Maria Moroz and others.

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TIME FOR WOMEN

Veronica Tsepka speaks with women who succeeded in politics, social activism, and business about their path to success and personal victories, as well as their support and solidarity shown to the Belarusian women. We believe that these stories will become a guiding light for Belarusian women who embarked on the path to democracy and fight for women's rights.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/project/time-for-women>

By the end of 2021, there are interviews published on our website and in social media with:

- Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the chosen leader of the democratic Belarus (26/02/2021);
- Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, President of Latvia from 1999 to 2007, a professor, author of several books and articles (17/04/2021);
- Wai Wai Nu, human rights activist from Myanmar (01/10/2021);
- Manizha Wafeq, Afghan entrepreneur and campaigner for women's rights (22/10/2021).

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*Happy New Year postcards
for every woman political
prisoner in Belarus*

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR POSTCARDS

Personalized greeting cards to all women – political prisoners printed out and sent to detention places.

<https://belaruswomen.org/en/news/bwf-sent-postcards-to-all-of-women-political-prisoners>

100 personalized Christmas cards written to women in detention places and sent by help of vkletochku.org. A video compilation featuring all greeting cards was taken and published on BWF website and in social media.

Projects

Activities completed

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ONLINE SHOP – «BWF-SHOP.COM»

In our online shop you can buy stylish and useful quality items for yourselves and your beloved ones, at the same time supporting female political prisoners and their families.

All proceeds will go towards supporting Belarusian women who are repressed by Lukashenko and his criminal regime.

<https://bwf-shop.com/en>

In order to raise more money to achieve the goals of BWF, at the end of 2021, a new great project has been launched – BWF online shop. For now, 10 different prints on quality T-shirts and 3 models of cotton bags are available, as well as accessories (hats, socks), pens & notebooks, key chains, purse hooks and tealight holders. Delivery all over the world.

Participation in conferences and visits; interviews and appeals

Starting from the summer 2020, and during 2021, the Chairman of BWF Veronica Tsepkało has represented the Foundation and herself in numerous international events dedicated to human rights' situation in Belarus & reminding the international society about the atrocities of Lukashenko's regime.

24/11/2020 – V.Tsepkało and S.Tikhanovskaya addressed the European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

In her speech, Veronica called on the European Union to pay attention to the situation regarding the violation of women's rights in Belarus. She announced the creation of the Belarus Women's Foundation.

14/12/2020 - DEVE-AFET-DROI Extraordinary [Joint meeting](#) in European Parliament on behalf of Sakharov Prize reception – speeches of the laureates.

16/12/2020 - [Live interview](#) with representatives of the democratic opposition of Belarus, the 2020 Sakharov Prize laureates Veronica Tsepkało Sviatlana Tikhanovskaya (European Parliament live).

21/12/2020 – Participation in an [online-broadcast](#) – talk show moderated by Roberto Saviano «Che tempo che fa» on Italian TV channel Rai3.

24/12/2020 - Valery and Veronica Tsepkało visited the Belarusians, who were forced to leave the country, in the refugee camp in Mucenieki, Latvia. They brought gifts to children and discussed what needs to be done under the present conditions. Valery and Veronica gave an interview to Latvian media.

06/02/2021 - [Conference Belarusians abroad](#). BWF representatives talked about women's solidarity and the activities and goals of Belarus Women's Foundation.

08/03/2021 – V.Tsepkało participates in an [Online event-interview](#) «FemaleChangeMaker on Intl. Women's day» by Friedrich- Naumann-Stiftung (Foundation) with Johanna Hasting and Karoline Gil.

13/03/2021 - Presentation of BWF in the World Women's conference, Europe-wide webinar, The Netherlands.

Participation in conferences and visits; interviews and appeals (contin.)

Starting from the summer 2020, and during 2021, the Chairman of BWF Veronica Tsepkało has represented the Foundation and herself in numerous international events dedicated to human rights' situation in Belarus & reminding the international society about the atrocities of Lukashenka's regime.

(continued)

16/07/2021 – V.Tsepkało and S.Tikhanouskaya gave interview to zerkalo.io (TUT.BY) about the power of «women trio» and results a year after the elections

11/08/2021 – In an interview with [Radio Svaboda](http://RadioSvaboda.org) (Hanna Sous) V.Tsepkało, A.Agurbash, D.Losik, K.Kalaur talk about BWF «SOS» project, support for political prisoners and problems facing Belarusian society.

14/08/2021 - Interview with Veronica Tsepkało for "[Nasha Niva](http://NashaNiva.com)" about the year after the elections and the role of women in protests.

18/08/2021 - Interview for [Svaboda Premium](http://SvabodaPremium.com): V.Tsepkało to Hanna Sous about her move to Greece, about feminism and the Belarusian language, as well as the newest project of her husband, Valery Tsepkało.

23/08/2021 - in Washington V. Tsepkało received the 2021 Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Award for her role and leadership in building a free and democratic Belarus. V.Tsepkało had very important high-level meetings at the US State Department and the Congressional Foreign Affairs Committee, where she briefed on the BWF's activities in support of women prisoners of politics and the request BWF submitted to the ICC.

27/08/2021 –V.Tsepkało, O.Karach, Y.Mitskevich in Talk Show [Deutsche Welle](http://DeutscheWelle.com) "Spot-on": Women in Belarus against Lukashenka.

14/09/2021 - [DW report](http://DW.com): project of BWF "Fashion for Freedom« with designer Alena Steinke.

15/09/2021 – BWF published [a video appeal](#) "In solidarity with women of Afghanistan"

11/10/2021 – V.Tsepkało participated in the conference "Crimes against humanity and the recognition of Lukashenka as a terrorist" in Nuremberg, Germany. In her speech she told about the BWF's efforts in gathering information on torture and sending evidence to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague in May 2021. The participants of this conference approved [a Declaration](#) where the prosecution of Lukashenko for crimes in Belarus and threats to international security was one of the main points.

02/11/2021 – BWF signed the [Joint statement](#) of the Belarusian civil society on the political emergency in Belarus and the full number of political prisoners.

25/11/2021 – Urgent Appeal by BWF #FreeBelarusWomen addressed to global women's movement, human rights groups, politicians, community activists and public figures. Already supported by [I.Santos](#), [G. Morawska-Stanecka](#), [S. Prezioso Batou](#).

07/01/2022 – BWF sent [the 3rd letter](#) to the ICC at The Hague with a request for a status update regarding claim against Lukashenka.



Awards given to Veronica Tsepalo to recognize her commitment to freedom, democracy and preservation of human rights.

- 16/12/2020 – V.Tsepalo, together with other representatives of Belarusian Democratic opposition, was awarded the Andrei Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought (the Sakharov Prize*) - for individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the fight for human rights.
- 04/02/2021 - V.Tsepalo, together with M.Kalesnikava and S.Tsikhounskaya, were nominated to Nobel Peace prize 2021. As the American Newsweek writes, “these three women are nominated for their fight for fair elections and for inspiration of peaceful opposition against the Lukashenka regime”.
- 17/05/2021 - The Lev Kopelev prizes were virtually awarded to the leaders of the Belarusian opposition S.Tikhounskaya, M.Kalesnikava and V.Tsepalo. All laureates are the successors of the traditions of the humanist and writer Lev Kopelev, deprived of Soviet citizenship in 1981.
- 20/07/2021 – V.Tsepalo, S.Tsikhounskaya and M.Kalesnikava have been awarded the Luther prize* "Das unerschrockene Wort" ("The intrepid word") in the city of Worms, Germany.
- 23/08/2021 - in Washington V. Tsepalo received the 2021 Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Award for her role and leadership in building a free and democratic Belarus. 21/11/2021 – V.Tsepalo, S. Tsikhounskaya and M.Kalesnikava, as representatives of brave Belarusian women, were awarded IAPC (International Association of Political Consultants) Democracy Medal.
- 23/11/2021 – V.Tsepalo, together with M.Kalesnikava and S.Tsikhounskaya became laureates of the "Fritz-Csoklich Democracy Prize 2021«* award named after an outstanding journalist Fritz Csoklich who was a supporter and a fighter for independent media and democracy in the Eastern Europe.
- 17/12/2021 - V.Tsepalo, together with M.Kalesnikava and S.Tsikhounskaya became laureates of the Charlemagne Prize, first awarded in 1950 to recognize special services to European unification. The award-giving ceremony will take place on May 26, 2022, at Aachen City Hall.

* *Veronica Tsepalo's shares of the cash prize for these awards were transferred in full to Belarus Women's Foundation's account.*