

BELARUS:

TRADE UNION RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK



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UPR Submission – Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions (BKDP)

50th Session of the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR), 2025

Belarusian Congress Of Democratic Trade Unions (BKDP)

Established in 1993, the **BKDP** united Belarusian independent trade unions (SPM, SPB, BNP, REP). Following its forced liquidation of all independent trade unions by the Belarusian government in 2022, BKDP now operates in exile.

Key activities: monitoring workers' rights violations, providing international legal support, assisting persecuted union members, and representing Belarusian workers in the ILO, UN, and other organisations.



Key Message

- Freedom of association in Belarus has been entirely dismantled.
- For 20+ years, Belarus ignored the 2004 ILO Commission of Inquiry recommendations.
- In 2022, all independent unions were forcibly dissolved.
- Repression continues: arrests, unfair dismissals, and criminal prosecution of unionists.
- In 2023, the ILO invoked Article 33 — its measure of last resort — but Belarus remains defiant.



Facts And Figures

- Belarus is among the 10 worst countries for workers (ITUC).
- 26 trade unionists imprisoned, 70+ face prosecution.
- Longest sentence: **15 years**; total time: 313 years, 2 months and 4 days.
- Forced prison labour: €0.29–€0.30/month, 80+ hours/week, often in inhumane conditions.
- ~8,000 people/year sent to forced labour in Medical Labour Centres (LTPs), under the Ministry of Internal Affairs.



Unimplemented UPR Recommendations

- Gender pay gap (Recommendation 138.238 - Angola).
- Rights to peaceful assembly, association, expression, access to information, and protection from arbitrary detention — all vital for labour rights.