Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

 Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention pursuant to the simplified reporting procedure

 Eighth periodic report of States parties due in 2016

 *Note*: The present document is being issued in English, French, Russian and Spanish only.

 \* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

 Belarus\*

[Date received: 14 June 2016]

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 Introduction

1. In accordance with article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Republic of Belarus submits its eighth periodic report on the implementation of the Convention.

2. The report is compiled in the form of answers to a list of questions provided to Belarus by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women prior to the submission of the eighth periodic report ([CEDAW/C/BLR/QPR/8](http://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/BLR/QPR/8)) and also takes into account the concluding observations of the Committee ([CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7](http://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7)).

3. Information provided previously in follow-up to individual concluding observations of the Committee is contained in document [CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/
7/Add.1](http://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7/Add.1).

4. The report was prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the National Statistical Committee, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and other government agencies of the Republic of Belarus whose competence extends to gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women.

5. The report contains information on the legislative, administrative and other measures adopted in the Republic of Belarus to implement the provisions of the Convention. It reflects the progress achieved in the advancement of women in the Republic of Belarus during the reporting period, as well as information on the remaining challenges in that area.

6. Information on the implementation by the Republic of Belarus of individual categories of human rights is provided in detail in periodic reports to other human rights treaty bodies: the common core document ([HRI/CORE/BLR/2015](http://undocs.org/HRI/CORE/BLR/2015)); the national report for the universal periodic review ([A/HRC/WG.6/22/BLR/1](http://undocs.org/A/HRC/WG.6/22/BLR/1)); the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ([E/C.12/BLR/4-6](http://undocs.org/E/C.12/BLR/4)); the fifth periodic report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([CAT/C/BLR/5](http://undocs.org/CAT/C/BLR/5)); the combined eighteenth and nineteenth periodic reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ([CERD/C/BLR/18-19](http://undocs.org/CERD/C/BLR/18)); and the third and fourth periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child ([CRC/C/BLR/3-4](http://undocs.org/CRC/C/BLR/3)).

 General information

7. Measures to ensure equal opportunities for men and women are an integral part of the social policy of the Republic of Belarus. As of 1 January 2016, some 9,498,400 persons reside in the Republic of Belarus, 4,420,800 of them males, and 5,077,600 of them females. Women make up 53.5 per cent of the population and 49.6 per cent of all individuals employed in the republic’s economy.

8. Over the reporting period, the Republic of Belarus adopted legal, organizational and administrative measures to improve the status of women and protect their rights and interests, which made it possible to make substantial progress towards achieving equal rights and opportunities both inside the country and in the world arena.

9. The Republic of Belarus is one of 15 countries in which women’s human development index (HDI) is equal to or higher than that of men. Our country ranks 31st out of 155 countries in terms of the gender inequality index and 25th in terms of the maternity index.

10. The gender equality policy in the Republic of Belarus is implemented on the basis of national action plans. Over the period since the Fourth World Conference on Women, four national action plans for gender equality (1996-2000, 2001-2005, 2008-2010 and 2011-2015) that took into account the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women have been implemented. National plans are approved by the Government of the Republic of Belarus.

11. The national action plan for gender equality 2016-2020 is being drafted. Non‑governmental organizations and United Nations agencies have been brought in to participate in the drafting, as have State agencies and local executive committees.

12. The period 2011-2015 saw the implementation of an entire array of State programmes with a focus on various facets of the advancement of women, including those involving health, education, social protection and the exercise of the rights to work and to participate in sociopolitical life, among them the national programme for demographic security of the Republic of Belarus for 2011-2015, the comprehensive programme of social services for the period 2011-2015, the State employment promotion programmes (approved annually), the National Plan of Action to Improve the Situation of Children and Protect their Rights for 2012-2016, the special-purpose national programme to improve labour conditions and protection for the period 2011-2015 and the State programme to create a barrier-free living environment for persons with physical disabilities for the period 2011-2015.

13. The participation of women in decision-making and in the realization of their leadership potential is an important aspect of gender equality. Women make up 70.1 per cent of civil servants and 54.7 per cent of the executive heads of organizations and their deputies. Traditionally, more than half the members of electoral commissions in the country’s elections are women. Based on the results of the elections held for deputies to local councils of deputies of the twenty-seventh convocation, which took place on 23 March 2014, some 8,700 women were elected as deputies (46.3 per cent of the total number of deputies). Women head more than 30 per cent of councils of deputies at all territorial levels.

14. As of 1 July 2015, some 67.9 per cent of civil servants working in the judiciary were women.

15. Progress has been made in the collection, analysis and presentation of gender statistics within the framework of implementation of the “Gender Statistics and Scientific Support” section of the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality in the Republic of Belarus 2011-2015. State statistical reports today make it possible to analyse and compare all aspects of the status of women and men in all spheres of life.

16. For monitoring purposes, the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus has developed a system of indicators for gender statistics on the basis of which time series are plotted for the following: the economy, poverty, education, health, demographics, children and adolescents, violence, power and decision-making in the society and in the household, communications and the environment. The system is based on a set of gender indicators of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, with account taken of the national circumstances and the suggestions of the members of the National Council on Gender Policy of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

17. Statistics on gender are compiled and processed by the National Statistical Committee in a publication titled *Women and Men in the Republic of Belarus* (issued once every three years) This compilation provides information on the number of women and men in Belarus, life expectancy, migration flows, morbidity rates, secondary and higher education, employment of men and women in different branches of the economy, and other information illustrating the status of women and men in Belarus.

18. One way in which gender statistics have been improved is through the conduct of special sampling by the National Statistical Committee.

19. In 2012, the National Statistical Committee, with the support of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), implemented the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS4). The results of the survey supplement the country’s existing gender statistics with qualitative indicators, which makes it possible to define the country’s gender issues more accurately.

20. In 2014-2015, the National Statistical Committee, together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, implemented an international technical assistance project to build the capacity of the national statistical system in the production, analysis and dissemination of gender-related information on the population; within the framework of the project, households were surveyed for purposes of studying the population’s daily time use.

21. The survey expanded the existing system of indicators for gender statistics considerably, providing information on the structure of daily activities, the ratio of time spent by women and men on paid and unpaid labour, and other indicators that characterize gender differences in time use.

22. The annex to the report provides official information on the current status of women in the Republic of Belarus (see annex).

23. The constitutional principle of the equality of all citizens underlies the activities of the judicial system of the Republic of Belarus. All citizens of the Republic of Belarus, regardless of sex, are guaranteed the right to protection by the courts against threats to life and health, to their honour and dignity and to their personal liberty and property, as well as other rights and liberties. Judicial institutions ensure adherence to the principle of equality of men and women in accordance with the law.

24. Courts of general jurisdiction of the Republic of Belarus do not keep statistical reports on the number or nature of cases during whose hearing judges made direct reference to the Convention.

25. At the same time, courts have handed down relevant decisions after hearing cases involving suits brought by women who feel that they have been discriminated against in labour relations.

 Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

26. Based on the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a study of the advisability of the adoption of a law on ensuring equal rights and opportunities of men and women in Belarus was included in the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality in the Republic of Belarus, 2011-2015.

27. In 2013, the National Centre for Legislative and Legal Research conducted a comprehensive gender analysis of legislation for compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and for the presence of provisions that discriminate against women.

28. The gender analysis showed that national legislation is gender-neutral and contains no provisions that would be discriminatory against women. The principle of equal rights and opportunities of men and women enunciated in the Convention is enshrined in the Constitution and has been further strengthened in national legislation. Most of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have already been stipulated in national legislation in general terms.

29. The Constitution guarantees women and men equal opportunities in education, vocational training, employment and promotion at work and in sociopolitical, cultural and other spheres. This norm is fundamental to the drafting and implementation of gender-balanced legislation. It is universal and points to the need for gender balance in all spheres.

30. The general principle of equality is enshrined in laws and regulations such as the Marriage and Family Code, the Criminal Code, the Civil Code, the Labour Code and the Education Code of Belarus.

31. The analysis concluded that it would be premature to adopt an individual statute on matters of gender equality in Belarus in the near future. It would be more worthwhile to amend special statutes that involve a mechanism for exercising a given right in the context of ensuring gender balance.

32. The question of the advisability of adopting a law on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for men and women in Belarus was examined in 2013 in a session of the National Council on Gender Policy of the Council of Ministers, with the participation of deputies from the House of Representatives and members of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly. The conclusions of the National Centre for Legislative and Legal Research were supported by the members of the National Council.

33. The right to equal protection of rights and legal interests, without discrimination, is enshrined in the Civil Code (article 2), the Code of Administrative Procedure and Enforcement (article 2.12), the Code of Criminal Procedure (article 20) and a number of other laws and regulations of the Republic of Belarus.

34. Under part 3 of article 3 of the Criminal Code, “offenders are equal before the law and shall be criminally liable regardless of their sex, race, ethnicity, language, origin, wealth or official status, place of residence, attitude towards religion, beliefs, membership in public associations or other factors”. A similar provision is contained in part 3 of article 4.2 of the Code of Administrative Offences.

35. Article 190 of the Criminal Code, which specifies liability for intentional direct or indirect violation or restriction of rights and freedoms or the establishment of direct or indirect advantages for citizens — on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, language, origin, wealth or official status, place of residence, attitude towards religion, beliefs or membership in public associations — resulting in substantial harm to the rights, liberties and lawful interests of citizens, serves as an instrument for the legal protection of citizens against discrimination In the period 2011-2015, no cases under this article were filed with or heard by the courts.

36. The Constitutional Court decision of 17 July 2009 on ensuring the equal rights of citizens in the sphere of labour noted that an employer’s inclusion of requirements based on age, place of residence or other circumstances that could be deemed discriminatory in job (vacancy) announcements creates the prerequisites for the violation of citizens’ rights and liberties enshrined in the Constitution, including the right of women to opportunities equal to those of men in labour and in promotion at work (part 5 of article 32). On the basis of that, for purposes of ensuring the guarantees of the exercise of citizens’ constitutional right to work and the comprehensiveness of legal regulation in the sphere of labour relations, the Constitutional Court declared the need to insert the appropriate additions into article 14 of the Labour Code and proposed that the Council of Ministers prepare a draft law on the insertion of the additions into the Code.

37. Part 1 of article 14 of the Labour Code has been revised by the Act of 8 January 2014 on amending the Labour Code (it entered into force on 25 July 2014). The list of characteristics regarded as discriminatory in labour relations has been expanded to include age and place of residence.

 Thus, under the current provisions of article 14, all discrimination — namely, the restriction of employment rights or the granting of any benefit on the basis of sex, race, ethnic origin, language, religious or political convictions, membership or non-membership in trade unions or other public associations, wealth or official status, age, place of residence or physical or mental disabilities that do not hinder the performance of the job duties concerned or other circumstances unrelated to professional qualifications or not specified in the worker’s job description — is prohibited.

 In addition, the list of discriminatory conditions is open, that is, any conditions that are unrelated to professional qualifications or are not associated with job description or status of the worker may be deemed discriminatory in the manner prescribed by law.

38. Discrimination is not permitted either in specific measures or in the provisions of law, of collective agreements or of other local regulations or in employment agreements on any aspect of labour relations (such as hiring, promotion, employment agreement termination, remuneration, terms or labour protection).

39. Under part 4 of article 14, persons who believe they have been subjected to discrimination in the area of labour relations have the right to petition a court for the discontinuation of such discrimination.

40. Such petitions are handled by courts of general jurisdiction in the manner prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code.

41. Republic of Belarus statutes in the sphere of labour relations establish additional guarantees for certain categories of employees.

42. Under Presidential Decree No. 180 of 12 April 2000 on the Procedure for the Application of Presidential Edict No. 29 of 26 July 1999, the term of a contract is as follows when a contract is being concluded with a worker with whom an employment agreement for an indefinite period had been concluded, when a contract is being extended or when a new contract is being concluded:

 (1) For a female employee who is on maternity leave or a mother (or, in her place, the father, or a guardian) who is on parental leave to care for a child under the age of 3 — at least until the end of such leave;

 (2) For an employee who is near retirement age and whose performance has been conscientious with no record of disciplinary misconduct or other workplace offences — at least until attainment of the generally established retirement age.

43. Where the mother (or, in her place, the father, or a guardian) of a child under the age of 3 returns to work before or after completing childcare leave, the employer is obliged, with the consent of the person concerned, to extend the contract or to conclude a new contract for a period extending at least until the child reaches the age of 5.

44. Contracts may not be concluded with pregnant women or with women who have children under the age of 3 (or disabled children under the age of 18) and with whom employment agreements for an indefinite period are in place, unless the women consent to the conclusion of such contracts.

45. A contract with a pregnant woman may, with her consent, be extended for the period of the pregnancy or other period of time by agreement of the parties.

46. In accordance with part 1 of article 268 of the Labour Code, refusing to conclude an employment contract with a woman or reducing her earnings, because of pregnancy or the existence of children under the age of 3 or, in the case of a single mother, the existence of a child under 14 (or a disabled child under 18) is prohibited.

47. An employer may not cancel employment agreements with pregnant women, women with children under the age of 3 or single mothers with children 3-14 years of age (or disabled children under 18), except in cases in which the organization is being liquidated; the operations of a branch, a representative office or other independent subdivision of an organization in a different locale are being terminated; or the operations of an individual entrepreneur are being terminated or in cases involving disciplinary misconduct or other workplace violations (part 3 of article 268 of the Labour Code).

48. In addition, the groundless refusal to hire a woman or her dismissal because she is pregnant or the deliberate illegal dismissal of a person from work is punishable under article 199 of the Labour Code. No cases under this article were filed with or heard by the courts in the period 2011-2015.

49. In labour disputes to which women have been a party, the courts have found no evidence of the women’s labour rights having been restricted in terms of hiring, promotions, or contract-term extensions and no evidence of the creation of conditions discriminating against women on the basis of local regulations of organizations (collective bargaining, agreements).

 National machinery for the advancement of women

50. The National Council on Gender Policy of the Council of Ministers (hereinafter, National Council) has been in operation since 2000 (Council of Ministers Resolution No. 698 of 17 May 2000). A new version of the Regulation on the National Council and its composition was approved in 2012 (Council of Ministers Resolution No. 613 of 30 June 2012, amended 14 December 2013).

51. The new Regulation defined the objectives of the National Council with greater specificity.

52. In fulfilling its objectives, the National Council does the following:

 (1) Coordinates the work of government agencies of the republic, other State organizations that report to the Government, local executive and regulatory bodies and public associations in the sphere of ensuring gender equality, to include ensuring the conditions necessary for the full-fledged participation of women and men in all spheres of life and the prevention of human trafficking and gender-based violence;

 (2) Reviews draft regulations geared to improving State gender-equality policy and decides on the advisability of their adoption;

 (3) Produces draft national action plans for gender equality and presents its conclusions on the possibility of their approval to the Council of Ministers;

 (4) Reviews reports on the implementation of the national action plans for gender equality and submits them to the Council of Ministers;

 (5) Facilitates the conduct of scientific and sociological research to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women in economic, political, social and cultural spheres of public life;

 (6) Cooperates at the international level in matters involving gender-equality policy;

 (7) Ensures the preparation of periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

53. The National Council consists of representatives of legislative, executive, and judicial bodies; local executive and regulatory bodies; scientific organizations; and trade unions, as well as five public associations and international organizations (31 persons: 21 women and 10 men). The composition of the National Council changes periodically. Council meetings are held as necessary, but no less often than twice a year.

54. The National Council consists of representatives of the following women’s non-governmental associations, as equal members: the public association Belarusian Women’s Union, the international public association Gender Perspectives, the public association Belarusian Association of Young Christian Women and the public association Women’s Independent Democratic Movement, as well as representatives of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus and of the academic community.

55. Cooperation between the national machinery for implementing gender policy and civil society is also reflected in the recruitment of representatives of public associations to the development and evaluation of draft regulations. For example, representatives of public associations participate in the development of the national action plan on gender equality and other State plans and programmes.

56. Expert working groups addressing the implementation of gender policy were set up in 2012 and 2013 in all regions of the country (in provincial executive committees and the Minsk municipal executive committee) to develop partnerships with civil society institutions in matters of gender policy. Such groups include representatives of non-governmental associations and the academic community.

57. Questions of gender equality are within the competence of various government agencies. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Economics, the National Statistical Committee, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and other government agencies carry out functions ensuring gender equality in various spheres of life to the extent of their competence.

58. The Department of Population and Gender and Family Policy exercises its functions within the structure of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The Department performs the tasks assigned to the Ministry regarding the implementation of the priority areas of State policy for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for men and women and exercises functions involving technical and informational support of the activities of the National Council.

59. Thus, the function of coordinating, controlling and evaluating State policy on gender equality at the national and local levels does not rest with the Department of Population and Gender and Family Policy. That function is performed by the National Council on Gender Policy of the Council of Ministers.

60. National plan measures are funded with monies specified in the Republic budget for maintaining relevant government agencies, local budgets, and extrabudgetary sources. The absence of earmarked funding is not an obstacle to the implementation of national plan measures. All national plan measures have been carried out.

61. The financial resources of international organizations have also been mobilized for the implementation of national plan measures within the framework of international technical-assistance and foreign grant-assistance projects.

62. The status of the implementation of the national plan is reviewed annually. The monitoring system covers two levels: local and national. At the local level, implementation is periodically checked at meetings of executive committees of various levels, as well as at meetings of gender-policy expert working groups in provincial executive committees and the Minsk municipal executive committee.

63. At the national level, the implementation of the national plan is monitored in several stages. The implementers (State agencies, public and international organizations and local executive and regulatory bodies) provide information to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Summarized analytical materials are sent to the Council of Ministers. The implementation of the national plan is a regular subject of discussion at meetings of the National Council and on the boards of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

64. The implementation of the national plan for 2011-2015 was completed in 2015. The results of the implementation were examined at an expanded meeting of the National Council in the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly that included the participation of members of the Council of the Republic.

65. There is no national human rights institution in Belarus that is in compliance with the Paris Principles. A separate study of that question is planned.

66. The country, however, has an extensive system of public institutions that work to promote and protect various categories of human rights and through which constructive cooperation has been set up among State agencies and organizations, civil society structures, religious organizations and trade unions: the National Commission on the Rights of the Child; the National Council on Gender Policy; the Inter-Ethnic Advisory Council; the Inter-Religious Advisory Council; the National Council on Labour and Social Questions; the National Interdepartmental Council on Disability; the Interdepartmental Commission on the Problems of the Elderly, Veterans and Persons Suffering from the Consequences of War; the Council on the Updating of Social and Labour Legislation; the Community Coordinating Council on the Mass Media; the Community Coordinating Council on the Environment; the Community Anti-Corruption Council; the Community Council in the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the Centre for Public-Private Partnership and others.

 Temporary special measures

67. A new, broad measure was introduced in 2015 to support large families — “Family Capital” (a one-time non-cash transfer of US$10,000 to families upon the birth or adoption of their third child and subsequent children). A total of 11,582 “Family Capital” deposit accounts were opened in 2015, and they totalled US$ 115,820,000. The programme is temporary and is scheduled to last for five years, from 1 January 2015 through 31 December 2019; it covers citizens of Belarus. “Family Capital” funds may be used by all family members in equal shares.

68. In 2013, the Labour Code was amended to strengthen equality in family relations. The right to parental leave to care for a child under the age of 3 and to additional days off from work (for child-rearing purposes) extends to stepfathers and stepmothers. In addition, if a mother works as an individual entrepreneur, a lawyer, a notary or a craftworker, the employed father or other family member may also obtain parental leave to care for a child (previously, this right was made available if the mother took a job under an employment agreement).

69. A provision has been introduced into State benefits law to the effect that if a mother is working full-time, and the father, unemployed, is caring for a child under the age of 3, the full benefit is paid (previously, the full benefit was reserved for the mother, and only 50 per cent was paid).

 Stereotypes

70. Mainstreaming gender perspectives in education and the mass media is the principal tool for overcoming gender stereotypes.

71. Within the framework of the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality (the “Development of a System of Gender Education” and “Information Support of Measures to Ensure Gender Equality” sections), measures have been implemented to develop a system of gender education in the country, including public discussion of gender issues and of gender equality during public awareness-raising events.

72. The expertise of journalists was enhanced in the international technical assistance project to develop the national capacity of Belarus to counter domestic violence while achieving gender equality, which was implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UNFPA (2012-2015). A number of events were held for representatives of the mass media: seminars under the rubric “Coverage of Gender (In)Equality and Domestic Violence in the Mass Media”; the course “Gender and the Mass Media” was developed and is being taught at the Institute of Journalists of Belarusian State University; a competition was held among journalists for the best article on gender issues.

73. The print and electronic mass media regularly cover the topic of gender equality and the countering of violence in the family.

74. Various aspects of gender awareness and education are included in refresher and advanced training courses for school teachers in the social sciences and for lecturers teaching foundation courses in the humanities and in social and political sciences, whose duties include teaching classes on human rights, the rights of the child and women’s rights; gender education; and work with children, teenagers and young adults.

75. Advanced training courses in gender-policy implementation for labour, employment, and social welfare specialists are regularly incorporated into the curriculum of the National Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Employees of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

76. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, within the framework of staff development, has put together an education programme titled “Upgrading the Work of Internal Affairs Agencies to Counter Violence in the Family” and has published the handbooks *The Work of Internal Affairs Agencies to Counter Violence in the Family* and *Anti-Trafficking and Human Rights,* which examine gender-equality issues.

77. Issues pertaining to enduring gender equality have been incorporated into training courses at the State educational institution Academy of Postgraduate Studies.

78. The instructional handbooks *Gender and Family Education of Students* and *Creating a Culture of Safe Living* have been published to assist teachers.

79. The strategy for developing gender education is reflected in the Framework Plan for the Continuing Education of Children and Youth, which was approved by the Ministry of Education Resolution No. 82 of 15 July 2015.

80. Gender education focuses on giving the students an idea of the concepts of “gender”, “gender dialogue”, “gender stereotypes” and “gender roles” and on fostering responsible attitudes towards marriage, motherhood and fatherhood; towards treating members of both sexes respectfully and in a non-discriminatory fashion; and towards supporting the endeavour to achieve mutual understanding.

81. The educational process employs curricula, teaching programmes and teaching publications that are the same in terms of content for all students, regardless of sex. Gender stereotypes are eliminated by incorporating components that deepen the students’ gender knowledge into educational standards.

 Violence against women

82. In 2015, the Ministry of Internal Affairs prepared a draft law on the prevention of violence in the family. The draft is now being revised to take into account the observations of other State agencies.

83. Most forms of violence perpetrated within the family are administrative or criminal offences that are subject to penalties.

84. The Code of Administrative Offences and the Criminal Code contain provisions on the liability for domestic violence. Compensation for harm and losses (caused to, for example, the life or health of a citizen) may be obtained through civil proceedings.

85. If no crime is involved, battery that does not result in bodily harm and the intentional infliction of pain or physical or mental suffering on a close relative or family member are subject to administrative penalties under part 2 of article 9.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences (which was added by the Act of 12 July 2013 amending the Code of Administrative Offences and the Code of Administrative Procedure and Enforcement, which law entered into force on 28 August 2013). Women are primarily the victims of such offences.

86. Information on Republic of Belarus court hearings of cases involving the administrative offences covered by part 2 of article 9.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Year* | *Number of cases heard* | *Sanctions imposed* |
|  |  |  |
| 2013 | 1 173 | 740 |
| 2014 | 28 735 | 17 804 |
| 2015 | 44 002 | 26 436 |
|  **Grand total 2013-2015** | **73 910** | **44 980** |

87. In the absence of a claim by the victim, the administrative process may also be initiated by a prosecutor on the basis of article 9.4 of the Code of Administrative Procedure and Enforcement, for intentional infliction of bodily harm and commission of other acts of violence.

88. In addition, prevailing criminal procedure law (part 5 of article 26 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) gives the prosecutor the right to initiate criminal proceedings under the private or private-public prosecution procedure in the absence of a request by the person who was the victim of the crime, if the crime affects the essential interests of the State and society or was committed against a person who is dependent on the accused or, for other reasons, is incapable of defending his or her rights and lawful interests.

89. The current work to prevent violence in the family conforms to the Principles of Crime Prevention Act of 4 January 2014.

90. Under that law, personal protection measures are now supplemented by a new measure — the issuance of an injunction, which compels a citizen who has committed domestic violence to refrain from performing certain actions.

91. The most effective measure is an injunction that prohibits the offender from being in the same residence as the domestic-violence victim.

92. At the same time, victims of family violence can be provided with temporary shelter. Such services are provided in “crisis rooms” set up in local social-services centres, as well as in a number of public associations. The number of crisis rooms over the last five years has increased more than 3.5-fold: to 109 as of 1 January 2016 from 31 as of 1 January 2011.

93. Internal affairs authorities employ personal protection measures against individuals who are prone to violence in the family. Such individuals are placed on a watch list, preventive conversations are held with them, and the individuals are given official warnings. Personal protective measures also take the form of prevention-oriented lectures and films.

94. If there are appropriate legal grounds, internal affairs authorities can prepare the materials necessary to send individuals suffering from alcohol or drug addiction to compulsory rehabilitation centres. If necessary, measures are taken to deprive individuals of their parental rights or to remove a child without the forfeiture of parental rights, as well as to restrict the legal capacity of citizens who are placing their families in dire financial situations.

95. The Criminal Code establishes the liability for a number of acts associated with violence, including those committed against women. Specifically, the Criminal Code defines the liability for rape (article 166), sexual assault (article 167), coercion to perform sexual acts (article 170), organization and/or use of prostitution or creation of conditions for prostitution (article 171), inducement into, or coercion to continue engaging in, prostitution (article 171-1), and human trafficking (article 181). In sentencing for such crimes, the courts are guided by the principles and aims of criminal liability enshrined in articles 3 and 44 of the Criminal Code, and they prescribe punishment on the basis of the principle of the individualization of penalties.

96. Article 166 of the Criminal Code does not exclude criminal liability for a person who commits such acts against a woman to whom he is married. Relevant clarifications are contained in paragraph 2 of the Decision of the Plenum of the Supreme Court No. 7 of 27 September 2012 on the Case Law for Cases involving Crimes against Sexual Inviolability or Sexual Freedom (articles 166-170 of the Criminal Code).

97. Information on Republic of Belarus hearings of the criminal cases covered by articles 166, 167, 170 and 171-1 of the Criminal Code:

| *Year* | *Number of persons convicted* |
| --- | --- |
| *Art.166* *Criminal Code* | *Art.167* *Criminal Code* | *Art.170* *Criminal Code* | *Art.171-1 Criminal Code* |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2011 | 86 | 57 | 1 | 9 |
| 2012 | 64 | 46 | – | 9 |
| 2013 | 61 | 53 | 2 | 1 |
| 2014 | 92 | 80 | – | 2 |
| 2015 | 80 | 73 | – | 1 |
|  **Grand total 2011-2015** | **383** | **309** | **3** | **22** |

98. There is no need to introduce a special provision criminalizing marital rape. Such a provision would be discriminatory against victims of sexual crimes committed outside the domestic context.

99. Two studies — one at the republic level, and one at the regional level — have been conducted to examine community attitudes towards violence in the republic.

100. The first study was performed in 2012 by the National Statistical Committee, with the support of UNICEF (the total sample consisted of 8,500 households, including 3,400 households with children under the age of 5). It showed that 12 out of every 100 women in the age bracket of 15-49 had experienced violence at the hands of their husband/partner. Approximately 40 per cent had sought help for the violence committed against them.

101. The second study was conducted in 2012 by the Centre for Sociological and Political Research of the Belarusian State University to assess domestic violence in Brest Province*.* The study surveyed 337 men and 363 women between the ages of 18 and 60 who had experience in a domestic setting (who had been in a registered marriage or in a marital relationship not officially registered).

102. The following international technical assistance projects were geared to encouraging more women to seek help and disseminating information on the types of help available: the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare project to develop the national capacity of the Republic of Belarus to counter domestic violence while achieving gender equality, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs project to increase the national capacity of the State to counter domestic violence in Belarus, both of which projects were implemented with UNFPA in 2012-2015.

103. The implementation of the projects resulted in the following:

 (1) Crisis rooms were set up in local social-services centres in pilot regions;

 (2) A toll-free nationwide hotline was created and is in operation for victims of domestic violence (tel. 8 801 100 8 801). The telephone hotline provides psychological, legal and social counselling daily, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is administered by the international public association Gender Perspectives;

 (3) The large-scale “Home without Violence” awareness-raising campaign was conducted, with the participation of well-known cultural and sports figures. The campaign ran from 2012 through 2015 and included three stages: “Kitchen without Violence”, “Nursery without Violence” and “Bedroom without Violence”. The campaign was geared to publicizing the telephone hotline and fostering nonviolent behaviour towards women and children. Videos of the campaign continue to be broadcast on the country’s mainstream, national television channels;

 (4) An updated version of the information resource *“Ostanovi nasiliye”* [Stop the Violence] at www.ostanovinasilie.org was released. It contains up-to-date information on national and international domestic-violence law and contact information for organizations that provide support to victims and offers online counselling on violence in the family.

 (5) A competition was held among journalists for the best article on gender issues (from 15 March through 20 August 2013).

 (6) A model was developed for working with domestic-violence aggressors, and it is now being experimentally tested in the cities of Grodno and Minsk and in Brest Province;

 (7) Training seminars were held for journalists, and the course “Gender and the Mass Media” was developed and is being taught at the Institute of Journalists of Belarusian State University;

 (8) Social organizations and religious organizations have been recruited as partners to integrate services for domestic-violence victims (for example, shelter is provided for victims of violence in the city of Lida, of Grodno Province, by the Union of Sisterhoods of Charity of the Belarusian Orthodox Church);

 (9) A mechanism has been developed to enable interdepartmental collaboration among all structures involved in the system for providing assistance to victims (health-care, education, internal affairs and social welfare agencies and public associations), and interdepartmental protocols, with a list of officials and their telephone numbers, have been approved in all regions to provide assistance to domestic-violence victims.

104. In 2012-2015, some 700 persons experiencing hardship, including circumstances resulting from domestic violence, received temporary shelter in crisis rooms of local social-services centres (237 persons in 2015).

105. The local social-services centres provide counselling, including for domestic violence, over a total of 156 hotline telephones. Outreach work to encourage more women to seek help from local social-services centres in cases involving violence is done through booklets, leaflets, and special events.

106. Under part 6 of article 31 of the Principles of Crime Prevention Act, in the absence of the written consent of the victim, an injunction may be issued by agreement with the prosecutor in cases in which the victim is dependent on the perpetrator or, for other reasons, is incapable of defending his or her rights and lawful interests.

107. The Institute for the Retraining and Further Training of Judges and Officials of the Procurator’s Office, the Courts and Other Institutions in the System of Justice, at Belarusian State University, provides advanced training for judges on a regular and comprehensive basis, including in matters of domestic violence and the correct application of Republic of Belarus law in that area. The teaching is done by highly trained professionals who employ modern technologies and teaching resources.

 Human trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

108. The Human Trafficking Act (hereinafter, simply the Act) was adopted on 7 January 2012.

109. The Act defines the legal and organizational principles for countering human trafficking and the powers of State agencies in that area and provides definitions for such concepts as “human trafficking” and “victim of human trafficking”. According to the third paragraph of article 1 of the Act, a victim of human trafficking is a citizen against whom the crime of human trafficking or other related crime has been committed.

110. Chapter 4 of the Act provides for measures to protect and rehabilitate victims of human trafficking. Such measures include providing for safety, social welfare and rehabilitation; suspending expulsion and deportation; and making assistance available from diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Republic of Belarus.

111. The Criminal Code contains provisions criminalizing human trafficking (article 181), as well as other related crimes: organization and/or use of prostitution or creation of conditions for prostitution (article 171), inducement into, or coercion to continue engaging in, prostitution (article 171-1), use of slave labour (article 181-1), kidnapping (article 182), unlawful acts related to the employment of Belarusian citizens abroad (article 187) and production and distribution of pornographic materials or items of a pornographic nature depicting minors (article 343-1).

112. The Act of 5 January 2015 amending the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Penalties Enforcement Code, the Code of Administrative Offences and the Code of Administrative Procedure and Enforcement (which entered into force on 28 January 2015) amended articles 171 and 181 of the Criminal Code.

113. Thus, a provision criminalizing the act of organizing prostitution, as well as a note providing insight into the meaning of the term “use of prostitution”, was added to article 171 of the Criminal Code.

114. Article 181 of the Criminal Code is redrafted; specifically, the definition of the term “human trafficking” has been altered to harmonize with the provisions of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

115. The rehabilitation of human trafficking victims is handled by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, as well as by international and non-governmental organizations.

116. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare handles the rehabilitation of victims older than 18 (its structure includes the local social-services centres in which crisis rooms have been created).

117. The Ministry of Education handles the rehabilitation of victims in the age bracket of 3-18 (its structure includes social and education centres that have shelters). For children under the age of 3, rehabilitation is provided in children’s homes run by the Ministry of Health.

118. The following kinds of government assistance are provided free of charge:

 (1) Temporary accommodations, including board and lodging;

 (2) Legal assistance, including free legal aid from members of the bar association;

 (3) All types of medical assistance, including inpatient care and home care, regardless of the place of permanent residence of the human trafficking victim;

 (4) Psychological counselling;

 (5) Identification of the families of juvenile victims of trafficking or the placement of the juveniles in other families or, where that is not possible, in children’s homes;

 (6) Assistance in finding permanent work;

 (7) Financial support.

119. By decision of a court, within the framework of criminal proceedings, a victim may be awarded compensation from a trafficker for harm incurred as a result of the offence in question (civil action procedure).

120. A number of regulations have been passed to improve the rehabilitation assistance provided to human trafficking victims.

121. For example, a new version of the Social Services Act took effect on 1 January 2013, and the Council of Ministers Resolution No. 1218 of 27 December 2012, which approved the List of Free and Publicly Available Social Services of State Social Services Institutions, was adopted in furtherance of the Act. The Council of Ministers Resolution No. 122 on the Rules for Defraying the Costs of Attorneys Providing Legal Assistance to Human Trafficking Victims and Victims of Terrorist Acts, in accordance with which legal assistance provided by attorneys is paid for by the State, was adopted on 6 February 2012.

122. The Council of Ministers Resolution No. 41 of 28 April 2012 on Drafting a List of the Requisite Medical Services to Be Provided by State Health-Care Agencies, including Inpatient Care, to Human Trafficking Victims, regardless of Their Place of Permanent Residence, has been adopted.

123. Belarus has 146 local social-services centres (covering all administrativedistricts), as well as two municipal family and children’s social-services centres, which offer an entire range of social services.

124. Local social-services centres are funded by local budgets. The actual expenditures for maintaining the centres in 2015 amounted to 1,012,300,000,000 roubles (approximately US$ 52.2 million).

125. A network of crisis rooms, which is being expanded constantly, was created to provide temporary shelter services at the centres. The number of crisis rooms has increased over the last five years by more than 3.5-fold: to 109 as of 1 January 2016 from 31 as of 1 January 2011.

126. In 2015, temporary shelter in crisis rooms was provided to 237 individuals suffering hardship, among them victims of human trafficking (temporary shelter was provided to some 700 individuals from 2012 through 2015).

127. Such temporary shelter (temporary accommodation) is free of charge and includes the following: a place to sleep, a set of bed linens, personal hygiene items and food and drink.

128. The procedure for providing temporary shelter to individuals who are living in extremely difficult circumstances has been greatly simplified since 2013. The agreement for the provision of social services involving temporary shelter may be entered into without the submission of the requisite documents if the individual is referred by labour, employment and social welfare authorities or authorities of internal affairs, health-care institutions, or other State agencies and organizations. Moreover, the law at this time does not limit the length of stay in a crisis room (previously, the service was made available for up to 10 days and could be extended solely by decision of the local social-services centre director).

129. In addition to temporary shelter services, individuals residing in crisis rooms receive the following: assistance in recovering documents, finding jobs and completing documents to obtain disability status; psychological services; financial and humanitarian aid (clothing, food, personal hygiene items); legal aid; counselling; and other types of assistance.

130. The Act has introduced a State social procurement mechanism to accommodate State co-financing of public associations providing social services. Forty-six State social procurement contracts were concluded with public associations in 2015, and the total for grants awarded was 2.4 billion roubles.

131. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has established close contacts with the law enforcement agencies of countries in the European Union, the Middle East and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Belarus has signed international agreements on combating human trafficking with a number of countries, the Republic of Turkey being one of them.

132. In 2012-2015, the country collaborated with law enforcement agencies of Great Britain, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and France to combat human trafficking.

133. The International Training Centre, which has been operating in Minsk since 2007, provides training, further training and retraining in the sphere of migration and the countering of human trafficking and is the primary institution for training experts in this area from the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

134. The Centre conducts training courses that pertain to human trafficking, illegal migration, child pornography on the Internet and victim rehabilitation and reintegration.

135. Prostitution in Belarus is an administrative offence and carries a penalty of a fine or administrative arrest for up to 15 days. As of 1 January 2016, a total of 1,924 individuals (1,873 women and 51 men) were on law enforcement rolls for persons engaging in prostitution.

136. If an individual engaging in prostitution was a victim of human trafficking or other related crime, that individual is absolved of administrative liability.

 Participation in political and public life

137. The Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus does not provide for any exceptions or restrictions on the grounds of sex in respect of voters, referendum participants or candidates for elective office.

138. The absence of electoral quotas for women in Belarus law gives political parties, public associations and employee associations the freedom to determine the number of women they put forward for election.

139. As of 1 January 2016, a total of 15 political parties and 1,127 party organizations; 37 trade unions and 23,139 trade union organizations; and 2,665 public associations were registered in the republic. A total of 41,011 public association organizational structures were registered and recorded. Thirty-four public association unions (alliances), 164 funds (15 international, 5 national, and 144 local), and 7 national State-public associations.

140. Thirty women’s public associations are registered in the republic, as is one international alliance of women’s public associations.

141. The primary legislation governing the rules for entry into civil service is the Civil Service Act of 14 June 2003. Civil service law allows for no preferences whatsoever based on gender.

142. As a result, a majority of civil servants are women. As of 1 July 2015, women accounted for 70.1 per cent of the total number of civil servants, namely:

 (1) 51.6 per cent in the legislatures;

 (2) 69.8 per cent in executive bodies;

 (3) 67.9 per cent in the judiciary;

 (4) 49 per cent in government agencies with special constitutional and legal status;

 (5) 74.5 per cent in local government and self-governing bodies.

143. As of 1 January 2016, women accounted for 58 per cent of judges of general-jurisdiction courts of the republic. In terms of senior posts (presidents and vice-presidents of courts), women hold 45.9 per cent of those posts. Of the 12 judges of the Constitutional Court, five are women (which amounts to 42 per cent), one of whom is the Vice-President.

144. Belarus, together with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, has been implementing a project devoted to the participation of women in political and public life. As part of the project, an international conference on ensuring gender equality in public life was held in Minsk on 15 and 16 June 2015. An international forum of women leaders on equal opportunities for a better future is scheduled to take place in 2016.

145. Article 143 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides a common set of rules for men and women to appeal the following in court: detention, remand in custody, house arrest or extension of the period of detention on remand or house arrest.

146. With a view to protecting the rights of convicted women and other individuals in custody and preventing acts of torture and cruel or inhuman treatment against them, the Office of the Procurator General inspects detention and correctional facilities, has set up helplines, regularly holds private interviews with convicted persons and other individuals in custody, meets with former prisoners to obtain information from them about allegations of torture and violence while they were in custody or were serving their sentence and analyses the causes of bodily injuries to inmates in remand centres and prisons.

147. The Office of the Procurator General has received no complaints from women of unlawful arrest or detention on remand or of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

148. The Act of 16 June 2003 governs detention procedure and conditions and guarantees the rights and lawful interests of persons held on remand.

149. No discrimination is allowed against detainees on the grounds of sex, race, ethnic background, language, origin, wealth or social status, place of residence, attitude to religion, beliefs, membership in public associations or any other grounds.

150. Article 10 states that detainees have the right to submit petitions, requests, applications and complaints, including to a court, regarding the lawfulness and validity of their detention and violations of their rights and lawful interests.

151. The activities of bodies and institutions carrying out sentences and other penal measures are also monitored by public associations.

152. Republic of Belarus courts in 2011-2015 heard 3,297 complaints regarding the use of measures of restraint that took the form of remand in custody or house arrest or regarding the extension of the period of detention on remand or house arrest (there were 675 complaints in 2011; 485 in 2012; 582 in 2013; 716 in 2014; and 839 in 2015). Hearings found 158 complaints to be justified (44 in 2011; 22 in 2012; 32 in 2013; 29 in 2014; and 31 in 2015).

153. Belarus sent its comments on the concluding recommendations of the Committee Nos. 26 (a, b and c), 27 and 50 (pertaining to paragraph 26) in note No. 214 of 22 February 2011 of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva.

154. The Zavod District Court of Minsk, on 16 May 2011, and the Frunze District Court of Minsk, on 20 May 2011, heard the criminal cases against, respectively, I.V. Khalip and A.V. Polazhenko regarding events that took place on 19 December 2010.

155. I.V. Khalip and A.V. Polazhenko were convicted under part 1 of article 342 of the Criminal Code for organizing, and actively participating in, group activities in flagrant breach of the peace and for disrupting public transport. The legality and justification of the sentences were confirmed in cassation by the Minsk Municipal Court. The Supreme Court, in its review of those criminal cases by way of supervision, also found no violations of the law that would annul the court decisions.

156. I.V. Khalip and A.V. Polazhenko were justifiably prosecuted for the crimes they committed, which are punishable under Belarus criminal law. Their conviction by the courts was neither persecution based on political motives nor persecution for political views.

157. In 2015, the Ministry of Justice and the principal judicial authorities of the provincial executive committees and the Minsk municipal executive committee registered 106 new public associations, one public association union (alliance) and 11 new funds.

158. By comparison with 2014, the number of registered public associations increased by 2.7 per cent (to 2,665 as of 1 January 2016 from 2,596 as of 1 January 2015). The number of registered funds grew by 5.8 per cent (to 164 as of 1 January 2016 from 155 as of 1 January 2015).

159. In amending legislation on the activities of political parties and other public organizations, the Act of 4 November 2013, which entered into force in February 2014, touches on matters of organizations such as public associations.

160 The main purpose of drafting the Act was to improve the legal framework for the establishment, activities, and liquidation of public associations.

161. The Act simplified the requirements for the conditions for the establishment of public associations. Specifically, it provided for reduced representation of the founders of a public association from the regional units at which it will operate.

162. The Act also contained amendments to simplify the procedure for registering changes to the charters of public associations and political parties, for liquidating the public associations, and for registering organizational structures.

163. The innovations extend to all public associations, including women’s public associations.

164. The largest and most influential women’s public association is the Belarusian Women’s Union, which was established in 1991 and represents more than 180,000 women across the country. Its membership includes members of Government, deputies, heads of national government agencies and representatives of business.

165. Annually, the Union conducts a Woman of the Year national competition, which includes such categories as “Leadership and Effective Management” and “Spiritual Revival”.

166. Under the law, public associations are co-financed on a competitive basis within the framework of State social procurement.

167. In order to implement humanitarian projects, public associations also draw upon foreign grant assistance. Under the law, registered foreign grant assistance may be exempt from taxes, fees and duties if the project conforms to the aims of State policy. In that context, the republic’s government agencies support public associations by issuing them appropriate findings.

 Education

168. The guarantees of the constitutional right of every individual to an education and the assurance of equal access to education, regardless of gender, are enshrined in the sphere of education.

169. The gross enrolment rate for the population for all levels of education (except for preschool education) in 2015 was 99.4 per cent for both sexes, 103.1 per cent for women, and 96.9 per cent for men.

170. The educational process employs curricula, teaching programmes and teaching publications that are of identical content for all students, regardless of sex.

171. Issues associated with ensuring gender equality have been addressed since 2011 at the State educational institution Academy of Postgraduate Studies, the National Institute for Vocational Training, and provincial and Minsk city educational institutions in training courses for successive special groups of attendees: counsellors, directors and deputy directors of social education centres, directors and deputy directors of boarding schools and child protection inspectors and methodology advisers.

172. The following gender-awareness topics have been added to a number of programmes for retraining specialists and upgrading skills and to a number of educational programmes: counselling, ideological and character-building work in schools, psychology of family relations and the preparation of youth for marriage, and current issues of modern psychology and pedagogy.

 Employment

173. Under part 2 of article 42 of the Constitution, women and men have the right to equal pay for work of equal value.

174. This right is enshrined in domestic law through the establishment of equitable approaches to the labour remuneration system, which, generally speaking, does not discriminate against women. Under domestic law, the forms and system of pay are also independent of considerations of the gender of the employee. Where women have the same qualifications as men and all other things are equal, they are entitled to perform equal work and to receive equal pay.

175. At the same time, the occupational segregation of women on the labour market and the wage gap between men and women remain a problem. A trend of recent years points to the closing of that gap. If, for example, the nominal aggregate average monthly wage of women across the republic in 2013 was 74.5 per cent of that of men, it was 76.6 per cent in 2014 and 76.2 per cent in 2015.

176. The existing, real-world gender gap between the level of pay of men and women in Belarus is due primarily to the high percentage of men employed in organizations in economic sectors such as industry, construction, transportation and communications, where working conditions are harmful and hazardous and the work is high-pressure, in connection with which the pay is higher.

177. Work is under way to improve the legal and regulatory instruments that establish the special aspects of the regulation of working conditions.

178. Belarus maintains a list of heavy-labour jobs and jobs with harmful and/or hazardous working conditions for which women cannot be hired (hereinafter, the list). The list contains 182 positions (previously, there were 252). The restrictions are primarily intended to protect women’s lives and health.

179. An employee’s working conditions are not determined by the title of his/her profession or position, but depend on the production process, the equipment used and how the work is organized at a given job site. The prohibition takes effect solely in the event that the work is classified as harmful or hazardous.

180. Women may be hired to operate highway-construction, railroad-construction and general-construction machinery and rail vehicles designed for conveying passengers, freight, baggage, as well as to maintain such machinery and vehicles, provided that the results of the workplace certification for working conditions do not attest to harmful and/or hazardous working conditions in the workplace.

181. Workplaces are becoming less harmful and less hazardous by the year as a result of the modernization of production and the introduction of new technologies in organizations of the republic.

182. Belarus has created conditions enabling the equal participation of fathers in the rearing of children. The Labour Code contains a number of articles aimed at equal exercise of rights both of women and of men, including in child-rearing.

183. Labour law, for example, gives the family the right to independently choose which of the working parents will care for the child and, accordingly, will take childcare leave until the child reaches the age of 3. The same benefit paid to a mother is extended to a father who takes childcare leave for a child under 3.

184. An employer may not cancel an employment agreement with a working father who is on childcare leave for a child under the age of 3, except in certain cases (the organization is being liquidated or the operations of a branch, a representative office or other independent subdivision of an organization in a different locale are being terminated). For a father who returns to work either before or after completing childcare leave for a child under the age of 3, the employer is obliged to extend the contract or conclude a new contract for a period that runs at least until the child reaches the age of 5.

185. Employers may not cancel employment agreements with single fathers who have children 3-14 years of age (or disabled children under 18), except in the specific cases mentioned earlier.

186. There is an entire array of social guarantees for persons raising a disabled child under 18 or two or more children under 16 (such as additional, paid days off from work).

187. Information on the equal rights of both parents to employee benefits in connection with raising children is placed on the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare site and is disseminated through press conferences, televised call-in shows and online conferences on social welfare issues, as well at events conducted with employers and trade unions (such as seminars, round tables and conferences).

188. The Labour Code provides for, among other things, non-routine work schedules — namely, flexible working hours, a total-time-worked regime and part-time work — which enable the efficient use of the labour of all sociodemographic groups of the populace, including those who, because of partial disability or family or other circumstances, cannot work the full working day.

189. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has prepared recommendations to employers regarding flexible forms of employment, placed them on its official site and sent them to all interested parties to raise the awareness of employers and employees regarding the use of flexible work schedules.

190. The Every Day is Father’s Day! holiday is publicly celebrated in Minsk and in the provinces every year to enhance the status of fathers in society.

191. A number of the country’s higher education institutions are offering a programme titled “School of Responsible Parenthood”, the aim of which is to improve the foundations of the psychological and pedagogic knowledge of future and current parents regarding child-rearing and to heighten awareness of the future parental role and promote a positive attitude towards it.

192. Instructional materials have been published, and handbooks and teaching programmes developed, on “School of Responsible Parenthood” subject matter.

193. The National Statistical Committee has conducted two surveys: the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, to assess the status of women and children (2012), and a survey of households to study daily time use by the population (2015), during which, among other things, the participation of fathers in the rearing and development of children was studied.

194. The subprogramme titled “Family and Childhood” of the State programme for the public health and demographic security of Belarus for 2016-2020 includes activities involving the in-depth study of question of mandatory paternity leave.

 Health care

195. The level of sexual and reproductive health among the populace of Belarus is high in most regards.

196. The birth rate has grown since 2003 to 12.5 per 1,000 in 2015 from 9.0 (it was 11.5 in 2011).

197. Belarus is a country with low maternal, perinatal, infant and child mortality rates. There has been a steady downward trend in those indicators for a number of years.

198. Infant mortality in 2015 was 3.0 per 1,000 live births (it was 3.9 in 2011).

199. No maternal mortality cases were recorded in 2015 (the rate was 0.9 per 100,000 live births in 2011).

200. Virtually all pregnant women (99 per cent) are seen by a doctor/physician, with 97 per cent of them examined in the early stages of pregnancy. Some 97 per cent of pregnant women undergo an ultrasound examination to detect congenital malformations of the fetus.

201. In 2015, an average of 71 women out of 100 had an illness during pregnancy (72.7 per cent in 2011), which lowers the quality of fetal development and results in poorer health in children.

202. A threatened miscarriage has been the predominant condition complicating the course of pregnancies over the span of the last two years. Approximately one fourth of pregnant women exhibit symptoms of miscarriage.

203. In 2015, the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women was 22.4 per cent; of thyroid pathology, 9 per cent; of the onset of genitourinary disease, 11 per cent; of circulatory system disease, 6.4 per cent; of gestational toxicosis, 5 per cent; and of diabetes mellitus, 1.1 per cent.

204. Recent years have seen an upward trend in the number of births without complications. In 2015, normal births accounted for 40.2 per cent of births.

205. The rate of delivery by Caesarean section rose to 28.7 per cent in 2015 from 24.6 per cent in 2011.

206. Premature births do not exceed 4.0 per cent of births.

207. In Belarus, breast cancer is the most prevalent of malignant tumours of female reproductive organs (4,324 cases), and cervical cancer ranks fourth (884 cases).

208. In 2015, breast cancer accounted for 17.7 per cent of all malignant tumours in women (it ranked second), and cervical cancer, 3.6 per cent (it ranked ninth).

209. The standardized morbidity indicator among women of Belarus in 2015 was 49.7 per 100,000 women for malignant tumours of the breast and 12.2 for malignant tumours of the cervix.

210. In 2015, breast cancer accounted for 78.3 per cent of all diagnosed cases of disease stages I and II, and cervical cancer, 73.5 per cent; they accounted for 20.9 per cent and 25.3 per cent, respectively, of neglected cases.

211. A total of 40,277 female patients with malignant tumours of the breast were on the rolls of the country’s oncology clinics in 2015 (24,008 of them, or 59.6 per cent, have been on the rolls for five years or more), as were 11,043 women with cervical cancer (791 of them, or 7.16 per cent, have been on the rolls for five years or more).

212. Expenditures for prevention and treatment of oncological disease amounted to 3.6 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Belarus in 2014 and 4.7 per cent in 2015.

213. Early detection and screening for breast cancer and cervical cancer are included in the State programme for the public health and demographic security of Belarus for 2016-2020. Within the framework of the implementation of the State programme for responding to the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant for the period 2011-2015, epidemiological studies examined the morbidity rate for malignant tumours in women living in areas with varying intensity of radiation contamination. The studies failed to identify a risk of developing cervical cancer or breast cancer in a contaminated area, including an area with a high intensity of radiation contamination (>5 Ci/km2). The State programme for the public health and demographic security of Belarus for 2016-2020 provides for financial resources to implement screening programmes for cervical, prostate, breast and colorectal cancers.

214. International experts have made recommendations for modifying the draft strategy for promoting and maintaining reproductive health in Belarus up to the year 2020. The draft strategy is intended to preserve and improve reproductive health, enhance reproductive capacity, and lower maternal, infant and child morbidity and mortality rates.

215. Belarus is doing consistent, focused work to improve reproductive health and protect the health of mothers and children. Fundamental measures to protect reproductive health are provided for in the national program for the demographic security of the Republic of Belarus, the State programme for the public health and demographic security of Belarus for 2016-2020, and the National Plan of Action to Improve the Situation of Children and Protect their Rights for 2012-2016.

216. In 2015, the rate of abortions among women of child-bearing age dropped to 12.8 per 1,000 (it was 13.2 in 2011). The number of abortions per 100 live births was 29.5 in 2011 and 24.5 in 2015.

217. Health centres offer a supportive environment and psychological counselling prior to the termination of a pregnancy for women seeking an abortion.

218. For purposes of preventing abortions in the republic, the “Together in Protection of Life” and “Give Me Life” campaigns, which are intended not only to prevent abortions, but also to raise the birth rate and draw broad public attention to matters of the family, have been conducted on an ongoing basis since 2014.

219. “For Birth” offices were opened in 2013 in certain regions of the country at regional municipal outpatient clinics and women’s counselling centres, with direct support from the Church and provincial executive committees. The purpose of such offices is to provide psychological counselling to prepare women for motherhood.

220. The “Together in Protection of Life” prevention campaign, which was aimed at drawing broad public attention to matters of the family, raising the birth rate, curbing the number of artificial abortions and promoting a positive attitude in youth towards family values, was conducted in the republic in 2014.

221. The “Together in Protection of Life, Morality and Family Values” campaign was conducted in 2015 in all regions of the republic. It included specialists teaching pre-abortion psychological counselling.

222. The “Family and Childhood” subprogramme of the State programme for the public health and demographic security of Belarus for 2016-2020 involves improving the system for protecting the health of mother and child.

223. The State programme for the public health and demographic security of Belarus for 2016-2020 includes 26,796,000,000 roubles for the development and introduction of a national model for a family planning service and for the establishment of a service for protecting men’s health. Some 273 million roubles are provided to develop a training module on reproductive health, including pre‑abortion counselling, for specialists of the family planning service, general practitioners and physician’s assistants, obstetrician-gynaecologists, psychologists and psychotherapists.

224. Migrant women, Roma women, elderly women and women with disabilities or in prison have equal opportunities in terms of access to health-care services. The basic health indicators of those groups of women are within the range of the health indicators for the population.

225. As of 1 January 2016, Belarus had recorded 19,827 cases of HIV infection. The incidence of HIV infection was 161.9 cases per 100,000. A total of 2,305 HIV-positive individuals were identified in 2015 (1,811 were identified in 2014).

226. The high percentage of HIV-infected women among all HIV-infected individuals (39.5 per cent in 2015) leads to increased numbers of children born to HIV-infected mothers (the number was 200 in 2006 and 295 in 2015). Thanks to the mothers’ access to services, however, including antiretroviral therapy, a dynamic reduction is being observed in the mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

227. Upon registration, pregnant women are given a pre-test consultation on HIV infection so as to encourage the future mothers to ascertain their own HIV status and, if necessary, take measures to prevent vertical HIV transmission.

228. The number of pregnant women tested for HIV infection has grown (it was 105,998 in 2006 and 211,634 in 2015). The pregnant women tested represent 16.9 per cent of all persons tested in the overall effort to screen the population for HIV, and in 2006-2015 the rate of HIV infection detected among the pregnant women tested ranged from 0.79 per cent in 2006 to 0.06 per cent in 2015.

229. The prevalence of HIV among pregnant women in 2015 was 0.1 per cent.

230. The implementation of the complex of measures to prevent vertical HIV transmission made it possible to reduce the mother-to-child HIV transmission to 2.4 per cent in 2015.

231. The “Prevention of HIV Infection” subprogramme of the State programme for the public health and demographic security of Belarus for 2016-2020 involves a number of measures:

 (1) Provision of combination antiretroviral therapy to HIV-positive individuals in need of treatment;

 (2) Prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission;

 (3) Provision to the population groups at high risk of infection with a package of services to prevent HIV infection.

 Rural women

232. As of 1 January 2016, a total of 2,128,300 individuals, or 22.4 per cent of the total population, lived in rural areas. Of that number, 1,020,000 individuals (47.9 per cent) were male, and 1,108,300 (52.1 per cent) were female.

233. The State programme for sustainable rural development for 2011-2015 was geared to improving the living conditions of the rural population, including women. The programme involved measures to provide employment, expand the social services system, build homes, and develop education, health care, culture and personal services, among other things.

234. As a result of the implementation of the State programme for promoting employment, permanent jobs were found in 2015 for some 25,200 unemployed individuals living in rural areas, and 1,600 unemployed rural residents were sent for occupational training and skill upgrades.

235. In 2015, labour, employment and social welfare agencies received requests from 285 unemployed people for assistance in setting up their own businesses in rural areas. All of them were provided support through grants. The number of unemployed people living in rural areas at the end of 2015 was 6,900 (a figure lower by 1,100 than that of 2008).

236. Grants are being provided to unemployed persons who are setting up their own businesses, offering services in agritourism, or are engaged in craftwork.

237. In order to inform the public of available jobs and facilitate an efficient search for suitable work, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare maintains a national job vacancies databank (hereinafter, job vacancies bank) that contains information on available jobs and on job vacancies in national organizations that include living accommodations. The job vacancies bank is on the Internet on the Ministry’s site (http://vacancy.mintrud.by/user/Pages/Public/Agro.aspx). The information is updated daily.

238. There is a trend indicating that the gap between the wages of men and women engaged in agriculture is closing. In agriculture, the nominal aggregate monthly wage of women was 93.0 per cent of that of men in 2015 and 85.3 per cent in 2010 (on average across the republic, it was 76.2 per cent in 2015).

239. Certain categories of women employed in agriculture may retire on preferential terms (before reaching the generally established retirement age).

240. For example, women who have worked milking cows (or operating milking machines) or raising calves or pigs on collective or State farms or in other agricultural enterprises (and who have done that work for at least 25 years), as well as women who have worked as tractor drivers or mechanics in agriculture (for at least 15 years), are entitled to receive retirement benefits on preferential terms, that is, five years before reaching the generally established retirement age. The size of the early pension is not reduced.

241. Women who have given birth to five or more children and have raised them to the age of 16, may retire, regardless of age, after having worked directly in farming operations on collective farms or State farms or in other agricultural enterprises for at least 10 years (which does not include the length of time spent raising the children). The minimum length of service for the award of an early pension when compulsory insurance contributions have been paid is five years instead of the 15.5 years required for old-age pensions on general grounds in 2016 (that length of service is being increased annually on 1 January by six months until the 20-year mark is reached).

242. Public associations do vigorous work among rural women. The operations of the Selchanka organization have been based at the public association Belarusian Women’s Union since 2008.

 Vulnerable groups of women

243. Income inequality has been kept consistently low in Belarus as a result of measures taken by the Government to maintain income levels. The proportion of the total population represented by the poor has dropped more than twofold since 2005 and, based on figures for 2015, is 5.1 per cent. The percentage represented by poor women is less than that for poor men — 4.8 per cent as opposed to 5.6 per cent.

244. For men and women with disabilities, the Act on State Social Benefits, Rights and Guarantees for Particular Categories of Citizens establishes equal rights and guarantees, including the provision of allowances for medications, social rehabilitation aids, treatment at health resorts and travel by public transport.

245. Disability pensions for disabled men and women are calculated by the same rules and take into account the extent of the loss of health (on the basis of a finding by a health-care expert).

246. As of 1 January 2016, there were 549,475 disabled persons (248,347 men and 301,128 women) on the rolls of labour, employment and social welfare agencies.

247. Since January 2012, a monthly pension supplement has been in place both for women and men 75 or older.

248. State employment promotion programmes include special measures of support for citizens who are not capable of competing on an equal footing on the labour market and who are in need of social welfare. Annually, employers must reserve more than 20,000 jobs for persons in need of additional employment guarantees.

249. In 2015, employers reserved jobs for 20,100 persons, including 2,100 jobs for unemployed disabled persons, 6,000 for persons released from prison and 3,300 for parents of large families and single parents.

250. In 2015, a total of 7,012 unemployed persons were placed in reserved slots, which constitutes 43.3 per cent of the total number of placements of unemployed persons in need of additional employment guarantees (the figure was 41.5 percent in 2008).

251. A total of 2,039 unemployed persons consisting of large-family parents and single parents were placed in reserved slots, as were 633 disabled persons and 1,395 persons released from prison.

252. Under part 2 of article 7 of the Employment Act, unemployed persons are entitled to free vocational guidance, psychological support and vocational training, retraining and skill upgrades upon referral by labour, employment and social welfare agencies.

253. One highly effective means of mitigating the social consequences of unemployment has been to retrain unemployed women in new trades that are in demand on the job market, including those that give them the opportunity to start their own businesses. The training is being done in more than 100 trades that are in demand on the job market, with 20 per cent of them integrated, that is, providing the opportunity to learn two or more trades.

254. In 2015, some 2,900 unemployed women were sent for vocational training, retraining and skill upgrades in the trades that were in highest demand on the job market. Priority is given to unemployed women and mothers who, because of childcare, have not worked for a lengthy period.

255. Specialists from labour, employment and social welfare agencies provide free vocational counselling and free counselling on matters of self-employment.

256. In 2015, a total of 34.7 per cent of the total number of individuals receiving grants to start their own business, offer services in agritourism, or do craftwork were women.

257. Labour, employment and social welfare agencies conduct nationwide job fairs and open houses in which women can find suitable work.

258. As of the end of 2015, some 43,300 persons had registered as unemployed, 15,200 of them — or 35.1 per cent — women. Some 19,300 individuals were receiving unemployment benefits, 8,400 of them women, which constitutes 55.2 per cent of the number of unemployed women on the rolls.

259. The law provides for 11 types of State benefits to support families with children. The childcare allowance is paid until the child reaches the age of 3, regardless of the employment or income of the parents, i.e., it is paid to virtually all families. That period is counted towards the time-in-service used in the calculation of pensions.

260. The system of State benefits for families raising children is under constant development:

 (1) In 2011, the benefit paid on the birth of a child doubled (to 10 times the minimum subsistence budget for the first child and to 14 times the budget for the second and subsequent children);

 (2) In 2012, the benefit for children over 3 increased (to 50 per cent of the minimum subsistence budget from 30 per cent), as did that for the care of a disabled child (to 100 per cent of the minimum subsistence budget from 65 per cent);

 (3) In 2013, the benefit for the care of a child under 3 was linked to the average monthly wage of workers in the republic, enabling a twofold increase in the benefit (by making it 35 percent of the average monthly wage for the first child; 40 per cent for the second and subsequent children; and 45 per cent for a disabled child under 3) and the social protection of families raising disabled children was strengthened (the categories of recipients of the benefit for the care of a disabled child were expanded and, among other things, the benefit for temporary disability for the period of medical rehabilitation of a disabled child was introduced);

 (4) In 2015, a new benefit was introduced — for children 3-18 during the period in which a child under 3 is being raised (100 per cent of the minimum subsistence budget).

261. In all, the system of State benefits in 2015 covered 541,500 children (of whom 348,300 were under the age of 3), which constitutes 30.5 per cent of all children (99.6 per cent of children under 3 are covered).

262. The sizes of State benefits are revised quarterly (1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November) in connection with the increase in average monthly wage for the quarter and the increase in the average per capita minimum subsistence budget.

263. The State invests considerable resources into the development of its policy for lending for housing: the volumes of financial aid and support provided by the State to large and young families to pay off debt on preferential and non-preferential loans for housing construction have been increased, and the interest rate on preferential loans has been lowered to 5 per cent for young families with two children.

264. Belarus has a system of targeted social assistance to provide social support to poor families and individuals and to families and individuals experiencing hardship. The criterion for designating families (individuals) as poor is the average per capita minimum subsistence budget.

265. The targeted social assistance system has five social benefits, including, for poor families (individuals), a monthly social benefit and the provision of food for children in the first two years of their lives. A one-time social benefit is provided for individuals experiencing hardship.

266. The main purpose of these social benefits is to provide support to the poor in acquiring food, medicines, clothing, shoes and school supplies and to meet other of their vital needs, as well as to ensure a balanced, high-quality diet for young children.

267. In 2015, some 251,300 individuals received targeted social assistance.

268. A total of 11,257 families (27,268 individuals) were recipients of monthly and one-time benefits as single-parent families, and food items were provided free of charge to 10,737 children in 9,650 single-parent families.

269. Families and single mothers raising disabled children with special developmental needs have exercised their right to social services in residential care homes. A total 754 minors reside in 10 such institutions, and of those children, 47 are orphans, 450 are children without parental care and 257 are disabled children who receive services at the request of their parents.

270. The law makes it possible for individuals (regardless of sex) who care for a disabled family member (a group I disabled person or an elderly person who has reached the age of 80 and is in need of care) to receive a care allowance (if certain conditions are met). On 1 January 2012, the size of the allowance increased to the following: 100 per cent of the average per capita minimum subsistence budget (1,591,300 roubles in February) for permanent care of one disabled person, and 120 per cent of the average per capita minimum subsistence budget (1,909,600 roubles in February) for the simultaneous care of two or more disabled persons).

 Marriage and family relations

271. The Marriage and Family Code of Belarus enshrines the principle of the equality of the spouses in the family. All issues regarding marital and family relations are decided by the spouses jointly, by mutual consent and on the basis of equality.

272. Under the Code, property acquired by the spouses during their marriage is their joint property, regardless of for which of the spouses it was acquired or for which of the spouses or by which of the spouses money was provided. Spouses have equal rights of ownership, use and disposal of the property, unless otherwise stipulated in the marriage contract.

273. If there is a division of property that constitutes joint property of the spouses, their shares are to be equal, unless otherwise stipulated in the marriage contract. The court may decide against recognizing the shares as equal in consideration of the interests of minor children or of adult children who are unable to work and are in need of assistance or in consideration of interests of one of the spouses that merit the attention.

274. If there is a marriage contract, the court, in the division of joint property, takes the terms of the contract as a point of departure in determining which items are to be transmitted to which spouse.

275. A wife in need of financial assistance during pregnancy; a spouse who is caring for a common child under the age of 3 or a common disabled child under the age of 18 or a common adult child unable to work; and a spouse who is unable to work have the right to petition the court for maintenance from a spouse who has the means to provide it.

276. A former wife who is in need of financial assistance and is pregnant retains the right to receive maintenance from a former husband who has the means to provide it if the pregnancy occurred before the dissolution of the marriage.

277. When the court’s decision to dissolve the marriage is recorded, if there is a dispute on the rearing and maintenance of the children, the court determines with which of the parents the children will live, the arrangements for the non-custodial parent’s contact with the children and participation in their upbringing and the amount of child support if there is no marital contract or agreement concerning the children or if the marital contract or agreement concerning the children does not cover those issues (article 39 of the Marriage and Family Code).

278. In the overwhelming majority of cases, if the parents take up separate residences, the courts rule that the child will live with the mother.

279. The court may decide to limit one or both parents’ contact with a child for a given or indefinite period if the parents violate the agreement concerning the children or the court’s decision or if their contact does not serve the interests of the child (part 2 of article 77 of the Marriage and Family Code).

280. Under article 85 of the Marriage and Family Code, if leaving the child with the individuals with whom the child is placed represents a danger to the child, the court may decide to remove the child and place him or her in the care of a tutorship and guardianship authority without depriving the parents of their parental rights. In such cases, the parents have the right to have contact with the child in the manner prescribed by law. If it is the opinion of the tutorship and guardianship authority that the reasons serving as grounds for removal of the child have ceased to exist, the court, at the request of the parents and based on the best interests of the child, renders the decision to return the child to his or her parents. The wishes of a child who has reached the age of 10 must be taken into account.

 Additional information

281. In 2015, the Republic of Belarus signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 13 December 2006 (Presidential Decree No. 401 of 24 September 2015). Work is progressing on the preparation of the bill to ratify the Convention.

282. The following State programmes were adopted in 2016:

 (1) State programme for the public health and demographic security of Belarus for 2016-2020 (Council of Ministers Resolution No. 200 of 14 March 2016);

 (2) State programme for social welfare and promotion of employment for 2016-2020 (Council of Ministers Resolution No. 73 of 30 January 2016);

283. Belarus has decided to raise the retirement age in stages. Beginning 1 January 2017, the generally established retirement age will be raised annually by six months until it reaches 63 for men and 58 for women (Presidential Decree No. 137 of 11 April 2016).

284. Combating human trafficking is a priority of the Government of Belarus. For a number of years, Belarus has been committed to enhancing international efforts to counter human trafficking and has consistently promoted initiatives to eradicate the problem on a global scale.

285. At the initiative of Belarus, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons at its sixty-eighth session (November 2013) and seventieth session (November 2015). Under the resolution, the General Assembly decided to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed every year beginning in 2014.

286. In May 2014, at the twenty-third session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a resolution at the initiative of Belarus was adopted on preventing and combating trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal.

287. In May 2015, in the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Belarusian delegation initiated a resolution that was adopted on implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Annex

 Population, by age

(as of beginning of year, in persons)

Entire population

 Males and females

| *By age, in years* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-4 | 478 431 | 500 431 | 518 350 | 533 353 | 549 462 | 562 055 | 573 012 | 585 524 |
| 5-9 | 446 000 | 441 928 | 440 390 | 445 278 | 459 747 | 479 639 | 502 262 | 521 443 |
| 10-14 | 479 967 | 462 868 | 454 429 | 451 000 | 451 056 | 447 088 | 443 395 | 442 365 |
| 15-19 | 668 091 | 627 279 | 586 677 | 546 438 | 506 371 | 482 256 | 465 604 | 457 158 |
| 20-24 | 782 776 | 776 514 | 762 499 | 736 776 | 711 362 | 671 668 | 631 754 | 593 534 |
| 25-29 | 732 530 | 748 832 | 761 034 | 776 658 | 784 095 | 781 505 | 775 281 | 762 867 |
| 30-34 | 675 484 | 681 304 | 687 655 | 695 673 | 706 058 | 727 041 | 744 290 | 758 111 |
| 35-39 | 661 126 | 663 663 | 664 295 | 662 867 | 662 350 | 667 409 | 673 776 | 681 551 |
| 40-44 | 675 904 | 658 056 | 651 083 | 648 913 | 650 438 | 649 993 | 653 139 | 654 888 |
| 45-49 | 792 268 | 769 889 | 739 017 | 708 151 | 680 982 | 659 294 | 642 694 | 637 027 |
| 50-54 | 738 733 | 756 413 | 771 322 | 778 969 | 776 710 | 763 327 | 743 451 | 715 806 |
| 55-59 | 612 542 | 615 671 | 630 571 | 646 080 | 666 209 | 696 903 | 715 939 | 732 600 |
| 60-64 | 404 585 | 457 341 | 507 001 | 537 432 | 553 366 | 562 068 | 567 427 | 583 779 |
| 65-69 | 377 730 | 339 783 | 304 566 | 294 500 | 317 172 | 359 109 | 408 295 | 454 419 |
| 70 or older | 987 390 | 1 000 000 | 1 002 304 | 1 003 062 | 988 462 | 958 799 | 940 549 | 917 292 |
|  **Grand total** | **9 513 557** | **9 499 972** | **9 481 193** | **9 465 150** | **9 463 840** | **9 468 154** | **9 480 868** | **9 498 364** |

Males

| *By age, in years:* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-4 | 245 830 | 257 291 | 266 955 | 274 647 | 282 957 | 289 370 | 295 149 | 301 634 |
| 5-9 | 229 085 | 226 992 | 226 109 | 228 526 | 236 042 | 246 370 | 258 189 | 268 468 |
| 10-14 | 247 229 | 238 179 | 233 319 | 231 713 | 231 879 | 229 555 | 227 672 | 227 044 |
| 15-19 | 343 850 | 323 129 | 302 105 | 280 726 | 260 424 | 248 418 | 239 685 | 234 755 |
| 20-24 | 400 801 | 398 292 | 391 788 | 378 975 | 365 467 | 344 808 | 324 467 | 304 771 |
| 25-29 | 370 475 | 379 195 | 386 043 | 394 929 | 399 619 | 399 208 | 396 607 | 391 179 |
| 30-34 | 334 828 | 339 113 | 343 355 | 348 168 | 354 275 | 366 062 | 375 255 | 383 236 |
| 35-39 | 321 860 | 323 244 | 324 302 | 324 551 | 325 143 | 328 482 | 333 121 | 338 322 |
| 40-44 | 325 427 | 317 159 | 313 478 | 312 283 | 313 061 | 313 157 | 314 962 | 316 828 |
| 45-49 | 379 029 | 367 366 | 351 862 | 336 554 | 323 502 | 312 426 | 305 209 | 302 541 |
| 50-54 | 342 335 | 351 314 | 358 837 | 362 487 | 361 284 | 356 227 | 346 439 | 333 435 |
| 55-59 | 272 810 | 273 696 | 280 389 | 287 188 | 297 028 | 311 780 | 321 461 | 330 418 |
| 60-64 | 171 821 | 194 753 | 214 790 | 226 842 | 232 785 | 235 845 | 238 277 | 245 771 |
| 65-69 | 143 576 | 129 449 | 116 509 | 113 784 | 124 068 | 140 810 | 160 953 | 178 596 |
| 70 or older | 296 331 | 299 118 | 298 318 | 296 920 | 289 992 | 278 693 | 271751 | 263 844 |
|  **Grand total** | **4 425 287** | **4 418 290** | **4 408 159** | **4 398 293** | **4 397 526** | **4 401 211** | **4 409 197** | **4 420 842** |

Females

| *By age, in years:*  | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-4 | 232 601 | 243 140 | 251 395 | 258 706 | 266 505 | 272 685 | 277 863 | 283 890 |
| 5-9 | 216 915 | 214 936 | 214 281 | 216 752 | 223 705 | 233 269 | 244 073 | 252 975 |
| 10-14 | 232 738 | 224 689 | 221 110 | 219 287 | 219 177 | 217 533 | 215 723 | 215 321 |
| 15-19 | 324 241 | 304 150 | 284 572 | 265 712 | 245 947 | 233 838 | 225 919 | 222 403 |
| 20-24 | 381 975 | 378 222 | 370 711 | 357 801 | 345 895 | 326 860 | 307 287 | 288 763 |
| 25-29 | 362 055 | 369 637 | 374 991 | 381 729 | 384 476 | 382 297 | 378 674 | 371 688 |
| 30-34 | 340 656 | 342 191 | 344 300 | 347 505 | 351 783 | 360 979 | 369 035 | 374 875 |
| 35-39 | 339 266 | 340 419 | 339 993 | 338 316 | 337 207 | 338 927 | 340 655 | 343 229 |
| 40-44 | 350 477 | 340 897 | 337 605 | 336 630 | 337 377 | 336 836 | 338 177 | 338 060 |
| 45-49 | 413 239 | 402 523 | 387 155 | 371 597 | 357 480 | 346 868 | 337 485 | 334 486 |
| 50-54 | 396 398 | 405 099 | 412 485 | 416 482 | 415 426 | 407 100 | 397 012 | 382 371 |
| 55-59 | 339 732 | 341 975 | 350 182 | 358 892 | 369 181 | 385 123 | 394 478 | 402 182 |
| 60-64 | 232 764 | 262 588 | 292 211 | 310 590 | 320 581 | 326 223 | 329 150 | 338 008 |
| 65-69 | 234 154 | 210 334 | 188 057 | 180 716 | 193 104 | 218 299 | 247 342 | 275 823 |
| 70 or older | 691 059 | 700 882 | 703 986 | 706 142 | 698 470 | 680 106 | 668 798 | 653 448 |
|  **Grand total** | **5 088 270** | **5 081 682** | **5 073 034** | **5 066 857** | **5 066 314** | **5 066 943** | **5 071 671** | **5 077 522** |

 Urban Population

 Males and females

| *By age, in years* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-4 | 364 666 | 383 176 | 399 467 | 413 356 | 427 202 | 437 285 | 447 456 | 458 564 |
| 5-9 | 331 572 | 331 851 | 333 386 | 340 801 | 354 800 | 373 901 | 393 824 | 410 762 |
| 10-14 | 341 927 | 330 779 | 328 990 | 330 739 | 335 388 | 336 924 | 337 758 | 339 482 |
| 15-19 | 528 006 | 507 371 | 477 448 | 444 552 | 407 276 | 387 454 | 377 096 | 374 934 |
| 20-24 | 630 141 | 628 688 | 623 854 | 617 682 | 609 448 | 582 340 | 552 175 | 519 668 |
| 25-29 | 593 989 | 610 670 | 624 508 | 640 399 | 648 240 | 649 073 | 647 544 | 644 530 |
| 30-34 | 534 392 | 544 831 | 556 474 | 569 340 | 582 094 | 603 873 | 621 649 | 635 913 |
| 35-39 | 501 092 | 507 831 | 513 610 | 518 237 | 523 775 | 533 917 | 544 754 | 555 793 |
| 40-44 | 501 594 | 488 134 | 484 729 | 486 817 | 491 676 | 496 333 | 502 897 | 507 751 |
| 45-49 | 593 843 | 576 617 | 552 858 | 529 367 | 508 458 | 491 728 | 478 810 | 475 088 |
| 50-54 | 556 751 | 569 119 | 579 858 | 585 651 | 583 910 | 574 417 | 558 531 | 535 229 |
| 55-59 | 462 951 | 467 377 | 479 620 | 492 157 | 506 142 | 528 789 | 541 360 | 551 496 |
| 60-64 | 293 836 | 339 187 | 380 209 | 405 645 | 419 243 | 428 543 | 433 447 | 444 164 |
| 65-69 | 244 169 | 221 871 | 203 665 | 203 591 | 227 309 | 264 016 | 305 366 | 341 501 |
| 70 or older | 548 143 | 569 515 | 583 657 | 596 604 | 595 972 | 586 182 | 582 313 | 575 170 |
|  **Grand total** | **7 027 072** | **7 077 017** | **7 122 333** | **7 174 938** | **7 220 933** | **7 274 775** | **7 324 980** | **7 370 045** |

Males

| *By age, in years:* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-4 | 187 530 | 197 208 | 205 904 | 212 723 | 219 914 | 225 105 | 230 273 | 236 232 |
| 5-9 | 170 452 | 170 582 | 171 276 | 175 242 | 182 371 | 192 245 | 202 661 | 211 564 |
| 10-14 | 176 257 | 170 328 | 168 909 | 170 069 | 172 614 | 173 072 | 173 499 | 174 463 |
| 15-19 | 269 424 | 257 767 | 241 811 | 224 374 | 205 930 | 196 404 | 190 768 | 188 972 |
| 20-24 | 317 542 | 317 082 | 314 645 | 310 926 | 305 654 | 291 203 | 275 883 | 259 479 |
| 25-29 | 297 400 | 305 519 | 312 536 | 320 637 | 324 884 | 325 264 | 324 510 | 323 040 |
| 30-34 | 262 049 | 268 551 | 275 281 | 282 205 | 288 868 | 300 562 | 309 258 | 316 800 |
| 35-39 | 238 583 | 242 745 | 246 594 | 250 175 | 254 157 | 259 919 | 266 516 | 272 884 |
| 40-44 | 233 172 | 227 691 | 226 573 | 228 121 | 230 935 | 234 179 | 238 019 | 241 292 |
| 45-49 | 272 245 | 264 009 | 252 946 | 242 209 | 233 039 | 225 158 | 220 112 | 218 868 |
| 50-54 | 247 674 | 253 291 | 258 404 | 260 935 | 260 002 | 256 895 | 249 758 | 239 405 |
| 55-59 | 199 495 | 200 658 | 205 569 | 210 437 | 216 719 | 226 859 | 232 537 | 237 558 |
| 60-64 | 123 710 | 142 056 | 157 554 | 166 796 | 171 253 | 174 181 | 175 847 | 179 848 |
| 65-69 | 93 858 | 85 477 | 78 889 | 79 409 | 89 051 | 102 942 | 118 646 | 131 382 |
| 70 or older | 166 942 | 173 182 | 176 725 | 179 989 | 178 397 | 173 978 | 171 854 | 169 002 |
|  **Grand total** | **3 256 333** | **3 276 146** | **3 293 616** | **3 314 247** | **3 333 788** | **3 357 966** | **3 380 141** | **3 400 789** |

Females

| *By age, in years:* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-4 | 177 136 | 185 968 | 193 563 | 200 633 | 207 288 | 212 180 | 217 183 | 222 332 |
| 5-9 | 161 120 | 161 269 | 162 110 | 165 559 | 172 429 | 181 656 | 191 163 | 199 198 |
| 10-14 | 165 670 | 160 451 | 160 081 | 160 670 | 162 774 | 163 852 | 164 259 | 165 019 |
| 15-19 | 258 582 | 249 604 | 235 637 | 220 178 | 201 346 | 191 050 | 186 328 | 185 962 |
| 20-24 | 312 599 | 311 606 | 309 209 | 306 756 | 303 794 | 291 137 | 276 292 | 260 189 |
| 25-29 | 296 589 | 305 151 | 311 972 | 319 762 | 323 356 | 323 809 | 323 034 | 321 490 |
| 30-34 | 272 343 | 276 280 | 281 193 | 287 135 | 293 226 | 303 311 | 312 391 | 319 113 |
| 35-39 | 262 509 | 265 086 | 267 016 | 268 062 | 269 618 | 273 998 | 278 238 | 282 909 |
| 40-44 | 268 422 | 260 443 | 258 156 | 258 696 | 260 741 | 262 154 | 264 878 | 266 459 |
| 45-49 | 321 598 | 312 608 | 299 912 | 287 158 | 275 419 | 266 570 | 258 698 | 256 220 |
| 50-54 | 309 077 | 315 828 | 321 454 | 324 716 | 323 908 | 317 522 | 308 773 | 295 824 |
| 55-59 | 263 456 | 266 719 | 274 051 | 281 720 | 289 423 | 301 930 | 308 823 | 313 938 |
| 60-64 | 170 126 | 197 131 | 222 655 | 238 849 | 247 990 | 254 362 | 257 600 | 264 316 |
| 65-69 | 150 311 | 136 394 | 124 776 | 124 182 | 138 258 | 161 074 | 186 720 | 210 119 |
| 70 or older | 381 201 | 396 333 | 406 932 | 416 615 | 417 575 | 412 204 | 410 459 | 406 168 |
|  **Grand total** | **3 770 739** | **3 800 871** | **3 828 717** | **3 860 691** | **3 887 145** | **3 916 809** | **3 944 839** | **3 969 256** |

 Rural population

 Males and females

| *By age, in years:* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-4 | 113 765 | 117 255 | 118 883 | 119 997 | 122 260 | 124 770 | 125 556 | 126 960 |
| 5-9 | 114 428 | 110 077 | 107 004 | 104 477 | 104 947 | 105 738 | 108 438 | 110 681 |
| 10-14 | 138 040 | 132 089 | 125 439 | 120 261 | 115 668 | 110 164 | 105 637 | 102 883 |
| 15-19 | 140 085 | 119 908 | 109 229 | 101 886 | 99 095 | 94 802 | 88 508 | 82 224 |
| 20-24 | 152 635 | 147 826 | 138 645 | 119 094 | 101 914 | 89 328 | 79 579 | 73 866 |
| 25-29 | 138 541 | 138 162 | 136 526 | 136 259 | 135 855 | 132 432 | 127 737 | 118 337 |
| 30-34 | 141 092 | 136 473 | 131 181 | 126 333 | 123 964 | 123 168 | 122 641 | 122 198 |
| 35-39 | 160 034 | 155 832 | 150 685 | 144 630 | 138 575 | 133 492 | 129 022 | 125 758 |
| 40-44 | 174 310 | 169 922 | 166 354 | 162 096 | 158 762 | 153 660 | 150 242 | 147 137 |
| 45-49 | 198 425 | 193 272 | 186 159 | 178 784 | 172 524 | 167 566 | 163 884 | 161 939 |
| 50-54 | 181 982 | 187 294 | 191 464 | 193 318 | 192 800 | 188 910 | 184 920 | 180 577 |
| 55-59 | 149 591 | 148 294 | 150 951 | 153 923 | 160 067 | 168 114 | 174 579 | 181 104 |
| 60-64 | 110 749 | 118 154 | 126 792 | 131 787 | 134 123 | 133 525 | 133 980 | 139 615 |
| 65-69 | 133 561 | 117 912 | 100 901 | 90 909 | 89 863 | 95 093 | 102 929 | 112 918 |
| 70 or older | 439 247 | 430 485 | 418 647 | 406 458 | 392 490 | 372 617 | 358 236 | 342 122 |
|  **Grand total** | **2 486 485** | **2 422 955** | **2 358 860** | **2 290 212** | **2 242 907** | **2 193 379** | **2 155 888** | **2 128 319** |

Males

| *By age, in years:* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-4 | 58 300 | 60 083 | 61 051 | 61 924 | 63 043 | 64 265 | 64 876 | 65 402 |
| 5-9 | 58 633 | 56 410 | 54 833 | 53 284 | 53 671 | 54 125 | 55 528 | 56 904 |
| 10-14 | 70 972 | 67 851 | 64 410 | 61 644 | 59 265 | 56 483 | 54 173 | 52 581 |
| 15-19 | 74 426 | 65 362 | 60 294 | 56 352 | 54 494 | 52 014 | 48 917 | 45 783 |
| 20-24 | 83 259 | 81 210 | 77 143 | 68 049 | 59 813 | 53 605 | 48 584 | 45 292 |
| 25-29 | 73 075 | 73 676 | 73 507 | 74 292 | 74 735 | 73 944 | 72 097 | 68 139 |
| 30-34 | 72 779 | 70 562 | 68 074 | 65 963 | 65 407 | 65 500 | 65 997 | 66 436 |
| 35-39 | 83 277 | 80 499 | 77 708 | 74 376 | 70 986 | 68 563 | 66 605 | 65 438 |
| 40-44 | 92 255 | 89 468 | 86 905 | 84 162 | 82 126 | 78 978 | 76 943 | 75 536 |
| 45-49 | 106 784 | 103 357 | 98 916 | 94 345 | 90 463 | 87 268 | 85 097 | 83 673 |
| 50-54 | 94 661 | 98 023 | 100 433 | 101 552 | 101 282 | 99 332 | 96 681 | 94 030 |
| 55-59 | 73 315 | 73 038 | 74 820 | 76 751 | 80 309 | 84 921 | 88 924 | 92 860 |
| 60-64 | 48 111 | 52 697 | 57 236 | 60 046 | 61 532 | 61 664 | 62 430 | 65 923 |
| 65-69 | 49 718 | 43 972 | 37 620 | 34 375 | 35 017 | 37 868 | 42 307 | 47 214 |
| 70 or older | 129 389 | 125 936 | 121 593 | 116 931 | 111 595 | 104 715 | 99 897 | 94 842 |
|  **Grand total** | **1 168 954** | **1 142 144** | **1 114 543** | **1 084 046** | **1 063 738** | **1 043 245** | **1 029 056** | **1 020 053** |

Females

| *By age, in years:* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-4 | 55 465 | 57 172 | 57 832 | 58 073 | 59 217 | 60 505 | 60 680 | 61 558 |
| 5-9 | 55 795 | 53 667 | 52 171 | 51 193 | 51 276 | 51 613 | 52 910 | 53 777 |
| 10-14 | 67 068 | 64 238 | 61 029 | 58 617 | 56 403 | 53 681 | 51 464 | 50 302 |
| 15-19 | 65 659 | 54 546 | 48 935 | 45 534 | 44 601 | 42 788 | 39 591 | 36 441 |
| 20-24 | 69 376 | 66 616 | 61 502 | 51 045 | 42 101 | 35 723 | 30 995 | 28 574 |
| 25-29 | 65 466 | 64 486 | 63 019 | 61 967 | 61 120 | 58 488 | 55 640 | 50 198 |
| 30-34 | 68 313 | 65 911 | 63 107 | 60 370 | 58 557 | 57 668 | 56 644 | 55 762 |
| 35-39 | 76 757 | 75 333 | 72 977 | 70 254 | 67 589 | 64 929 | 62 417 | 60 320 |
| 40-44 | 82 055 | 80 454 | 79 449 | 77 934 | 76 636 | 74 682 | 73 299 | 71 601 |
| 45-49 | 91 641 | 89 915 | 87 243 | 84 439 | 82 061 | 80 298 | 78 787 | 78 266 |
| 50-54 | 87 321 | 89 271 | 91 031 | 91 766 | 91 518 | 89 578 | 88 239 | 86 547 |
| 55-59 | 76 276 | 75 256 | 76 131 | 77 172 | 79 758 | 83 193 | 85 655 | 88 244 |
| 60-64 | 62 638 | 65 457 | 69 556 | 71 741 | 72 591 | 71 861 | 71 550 | 73 692 |
| 65-69 | 83 843 | 73 940 | 63 281 | 56 534 | 54 846 | 57 225 | 60 622 | 65 704 |
| 70 or older | 309 858 | 304 549 | 297 054 | 289 527 | 280 895 | 267 902 | 258 339 | 247 280 |
|  **Grand total** | **1 317 531** | **1 280 811** | **1 244 317** | **1 206 166** | **1 179 169** | **1 150 134** | **1 126 832** | **1 108 266** |

Life expectancy at birth (years)

| *Years* | *Entire population* |  | *Urban population* |  | *Rural population* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Males and females* | *Males* | *Females* | *Males and females* | *Males* | *Females* | *Males and females* | *Males* | *Females* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2008 | 70.5 | 64.7 | 76.5 | 71.9 | 66.3 | 77.3 | 66.6 | 60.4 | 74.4 |
| 2009 | 70.5 | 64.7 | 76.4 | 72.1 | 66.5 | 77.3 | 66.4 | 60.3 | 73.9 |
| 2010 | 70.4 | 64.6 | 76.5 | 72.1 | 66.4 | 77.6 | 66.1 | 60.1 | 73.8 |
| 2011 | 70.6 | 64.7 | 76.7 | 72.2 | 66.4 | 77.8 | 66.4 | 60.3 | 74.1 |
| 2012 | 72.2 | 66.6 | 77.6 | 73.5 | 68.0 | 78.5 | 68.4 | 62.7 | 75.3 |
| 2013 | 72.6 | 67.3 | 77.9 | 73.9 | 68.6 | 78.7 | 68.9 | 63.3 | 75.5 |
| 2014 | 73.2 | 67.8 | 78.4 | 74.4 | 69.1 | 79.2 | 69.6 | 64.1 | 76.1 |
| 2015 | 73.9 | 68.6 | 78.9 | 75.0 | 69.8 | 79.7 | 70.4 | 65.1 | 76.6 |

 Usage of female contraceptives

|  | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Women under observation (as of end of year), in thous. persons |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  with intrauterine coils | 559.3 | 522.9 | 525.5 | 515.0 | 505.8 | 481.5 | 477.1 | 443.0 |
|  as a percentage of women in age bracket 15-49 | 22.3 | 21.1 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 21.4 | 20.7 | 20.8 | 19.5 |
|  using hormonal contraceptives | 455.2 | 455.3 | 478.6 | 450.5 | 437.0 | 452.8 | 426.9 | 420.2 |
|  as a percentage of women in age bracket 15-49 | 18.1 | 18.4 | 19.6 | 18.8 | 18.5 | 19.5 | 18.6 | 18.5 |
|  having intrauterine coils inserted, in units | 34 734 | 32 671 | 40 488 | 27 085 | 24 854 | 22 145 | 19 800 | 19 798 |
|  per 100 women in age bracket 15-49 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 |

Abortions, by age group

|  | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Number of abortions in women by age, in years: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  under 15 | 33 | 41 | 17 | 23 | 29 | 27 | 14 | 13 |
|  15-19 | 3 897 | 3 153 | 2 632 | 2 227 | 1 781 | 1 830 | 1 597 | 1 362 |
|  20-34 | 29 604 | 25 255 | 23 646 | 23 093 | 20 541 | 22 319 | 21 533 | 21 208 |
|  35 or older | 8 663 | 7 518 | 6 967 | 6 688 | 6 277 | 7 030 | 6 653 | 6 634 |
| Number of abortions per 1,000 women by age, in years: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  under 15 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
|  15-19 | 11.7 | 10.0 | 8.9 | 8.1 | 7.0 | 7.6 | 6.9 | 6.1 |
|  20-34 | 27.3 | 23.2 | 21.7 | 21.2 | 18.9 | 20.7 | 20.3 | 20.3 |
|  35 or older | 7.8 | 6.9 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| Number of abortions among women with first pregnancy | 7 110 | 5 745 | 5 021 | 4 928 | 4 076 | 4 784 | 4 426 | 4 453 |

Morbidity for HIV infection, by age group

| *By age, in years:* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Number of persons newly diagnosed with HIV infection, grand total**  | **881**  | **1 072**  | **1 069**  | **1 196**  | **1 223**  | **1 533**  | **1 811**  | **2 305** |
| **Person** |
| 0-14 | 17  | 16  | 24  | 23  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 26 |
| 15-19 | 20  | 33  | 22  | 17  | 23  | 24  | 12  | 20 |
| 20-29 | 407  | 433  | 396  | 396  | 369  | 408  | 499  | 594 |
| 30-39 | 308  | 411  | 424  | 497  | 491  | 633  | 725  | 1 034 |
| 40 or older | 129  | 179  | 203  | 263  | 324  | 451  | 557  | 631 |
| **Women** | **427**  | **510**  | **506**  | **575**  | **564**  | **731**  | **759**  | **910** |
| *By age, in years:* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-14 | 8  | 6  | 10  | 11  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 13 |
| 15-19 | 19  | 28  | 18  | 13  | 17  | 17  | 10  | 14 |
| 20-29 | 238  | 246  | 220  | 226  | 209  | 212  | 249  | 285 |
| 30-39 | 112  | 153  | 179  | 212  | 194  | 307  | 284  | 356 |
| 40 or older | 50  | 77  | 79  | 113  | 137  | 187  | 209  | 242 |
| **Per 100,000 population of given sex and age** |  |
| *By age, in years:* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Number of persons newly diagnosed with HIV infection, grand total**  | **9.2** | **11.3**  | **11.3**  | **12.6**  | **12.9**  | **16.2**  | **19.1**  | **24.3** |
| 0-14 | 1.2  | 1.1  | 1.7  | 1.6  | 1.1  | 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.7 |
| 15-19 | 2.9  | 5.1  | 3.6  | 3.0  | 4.4  | 4.9  | 2.5  | 4.3 |
| 20-29 | 27.0  | 28.5  | 26.0  | 26.1  | 24.5  | 27.7  | 34.9  | 43.0 |
| 30-39 | 23.0  | 30.7  | 31.4  | 36.7  | 36.0  | 45.8  | 51.6  | 72.4 |
| 40 or older | 2.8  | 3.9  | 4.4  | 5.7  | 7.0  | 9.7  | 12.0  | 13.5 |
| **Women** | 8.4  | 10.0  | 10.0  | 11.3  | 11.1  | 14.4  | 15.0  | 17.9 |
| *By age, in years:* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-14 | 1.2  | 0.9  | 1.5  | 1.6  | 1.0  | 1.1  | 1.0  | 1.7 |
| 15-19 | 5.7  | 8.9  | 6.1  | 4.7  | 6.6  | 7.1  | 4.4  | 6.2 |
| 20-29 | 32.1  | 33.0  | 29.5  | 30.4  | 28.4  | 29.5  | 35.7  | 42.3 |
| 30-39 | 16.5  | 22.5  | 26.2  | 30.9  | 28.2  | 44.2  | 40.3  | 49.9 |
| 40 or older | 1.9  | 2.9  | 3.0  | 4.2  | 5.1  | 6.9  | 7.7  | 8.9 |

Attitude of public towards domestic violence

(based on data of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey to evaluate the status of children and women (MICS4), 2012, as a percentage)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Percentage of those who think husband is entitled to beat his wife if she:* | *Population by age 15-49* | *Residing in:* |
|  | *Urban and suburban areas* |  | *Rural settlements* |
| *Women* | *Men* |  | *Women* | *Men* |  | *Women* | *Men* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  leaves the house without telling him | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
|  neglects the children | 3.8 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 7.1 | 5.8 |
|  challenges him | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1.2 |
|  refuses to have intercourse | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 1.3 |
|  burns the food | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
|  any of the above reasons | 4.1 | 4.2 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 7.6 | 6.7 |

Experienced domestic violence

(based on data of MICS4, 2012, as a percentage)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Women in the age bracket15-49 who are married or have been married*  | *Residing in:* |
| *Urban and suburban areas* | *Rural settlements* |
|  |  |  |  |
| Percentage of women who have ever experienced domestic violence | 11.8 | 10.4 | 16.0 |
| Experienced violence in the 12 months immediately preceding survey: |  |  |  |
|  Everyday or almost everyday | 0.6 | 0.4 | 1.3 |
|  1 or 2 times a week | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.4 |
|  1 or 2 times a month | 1.3 | 1.0 | 2.2 |
|  Less than once a month | 4.5 | 4.3 | 5.3 |
|  Found it difficult to estimate | 4.4 | 3.9 | 5.9 |

Aggregate nominal average wage for workers, for December

(in thousands of roubles)

| *Years* | *Males*  | *Females* | *Ratio of women’s wages to men’s, as a percentage* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2008 | 1 147.8 | 848.0 | 73.9 |
| 2009 | 1 240.2 | 924.7 | 74.6 |
| 2010 | 1 792.1 | 1 373.1 | 76.6 |
| 2011 | 3 292.8 | 2 428.2 | 73.7 |
| 2012 | 5 397.7 | 4 019.9 | 74.5 |
| 2013 | 6 655.0 | 4 960.6 | 74.5 |
| 2014 | 7 635.4 | 5 851.5 | 76.6 |
| 2015 | 8 367.4 | 6 374.8 | 76.2 |

 Composition of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus

 (as of 1 January, in persons)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Years* | *Council of the Republic* |  | *House of Representatives* |
| *Grand total* | *Men* | *Women* |  | *Grand total* | *Men* | *Women* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2008 | 58 | 40 | 18 | 110 | 78 | 32 |
| 2009 | 58 | 39 | 19 | 110 | 75 | 35 |
| 2010 | 58 | 39 | 19 | 110 | 75 | 35 |
| 2011 | 58 | 39 | 19 | 110 | 75 | 35 |
| 2012 | 58 | 39 | 19 | 110 | 75 | 35 |
| 2013 | 58 | 38 | 20 | 109 | 80 | 29 |
| 2014 | 56 | 36 | 20 | 109 | 80 | 29 |
| 2015 | 58 | 39 | 19 | 110 | 80 | 30 |
| 2016 | 58 | 39 | 19 | 110 | 80 | 30 |

 Number of civil servants of State agencies and other government organizations, by level of government

 (percentage)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *As of 1 November 2013* |  | *As of 1 July 2015* |
| *Men* | *Women* | *Distribution by gender* |  | *Men* | *Women* | *Distribution by gender* |
| *Men* | *Women* | *Men* | *Women* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Civil servants, grand total** | **100** | **100** | **30.1** | **69.9** | **100** | **100** | **29.9** | **70.1** |
| Employed in: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  Legislative bodies | 0.9 | 0.4 | 48.5 | 51.5 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 48.4 | 51.6 |
|  Executive bodies | 48.7 | 47.5 | 30.6 | 69.4 | 49.5 | 48.9 | 30.2 | 69.8 |
|  Judicial bodies | 5.5 | 6.2 | 27.6 | 72.4 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 32.1 | 67.9 |
|  Government agencies with special constitutional and legal status | 11.3 | 4.6 | 51.3 | 48.7 | 11.6 | 4.8 | 51.0 | 49.0 |
|  Local government and self-governing bodies | 33.6 | 41.3 | 26.0 | 74.0 | 33.8 | 42.2 | 25.5 | 74.5 |

Recorded crimes involving human trafficking
(in number of cases)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Organization and/or use of prostitution or creation of conditions for prostitution, article 171 | 87 | 107 | 123 | 116 | 76 | 47 | 34 | 52 |
| Inducement into, or coercion to continue engaging in, prostitution (art. 171-1) | 34 | 39 | 49 | 41 | 34 | 18 | 15 | 36 |
| Human trafficking, article 181 | 66 | 47 | 30 | 4 | 2 | 3 | – | 1 |
| Use of slave labour, article 181-1  | – | 1 | 1 | – | 1 | – | 1 | 1 |
| Kidnapping (for the purpose of exploitation) article 182, part 2 | 16 | 11 | 16 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 27 |
| Unlawful acts related to the employment of Belarusian citizens abroad, article 187 | 22 | 18 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 3 | – | – |

Convicted of crimes involving human trafficking
(in persons)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Organization and/or use of prostitution or creation of conditions for prostitution, article 171 | – | – | – | – | – | 24 | 21 | 25 |
| Inducement into, or coercion to continue engaging in, prostitution, article 171-1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Human trafficking, article 181 | 17 | 19 | 12 | 3 | – | 3 | – | – |
| Kidnapping (for the purpose of exploitation) article 182, part 2 | – | – | – | – | – | 3 | 10 | 17 |
| Unlawful acts related to the employment of Belarusian citizens abroad, article 187 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – |