

Participation in the public life and in decision-making processes

Belarus

Citizens of the Republic of Belarus, regardless of age, have the right to participate in the public life, in discussing issues of state and public life, as well as on their own initiative to create and join existing public organizations and associations. Organizing public discussion of the most important bills and dialogue platforms is an established practice in the political system of Belarus.

The socio-political activity of older people is ensured through their participation in the activities of public associations and councils of senior citizens.

The legal framework and measures of social protection for older people, war veterans, family members of those killed and wounded during the war are established by the laws of the Republic of Belarus “On pensions”, “On social services”, “On veterans”, “On the rights of people with disabilities and their social integration”.

In order to improve the status of older people, veterans and people affected by the consequences of wars, state programs are being implemented.

The legislative framework determines state policy in the field of work with older people and a system of measures aimed at ensuring the full participation of older citizens in the life of society, including a set of benefits and guarantees, social support measures, and government program activities.

In order to create a positive image of older people and eliminate forms of ageism in the media, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, together with the United Nations Population Fund in the Republic of Belarus (UNFPA), is implementing the Information Strategy for Active Longevity for 2023-2025.

The priority areas of action are the following:

- creating conditions for involving older citizens in the activities of public associations, involving them in volunteer activities;
- creating an image of healthy aging and active longevity in the media;
- conducting sociological research to assess the status of older citizens, their social well-being, as well as participation in various spheres of society;
- promoting the strengthening of intergenerational ties, strengthening the role of older citizens in the education and socialization of new generations, the preservation and transmission of cultural and moral values and traditions of the nation.