



NOTE of the Co-Chairs of the Bologna Follow-up Group to be tabled at the virtual BFUG meeting in Berlin 24/25. September 2020 under agenda point 10. on the situation in Belarus.

We are deeply concerned about the overall human rights situation in Belarus and its deterioration in the aftermath of the recent presidential election.

The European Higher Education Area and its 48 members have committed repeatedly in Ministerial Communiqués to support and protect the democratic rights of students and staff in exercising their right to academic freedom, without fear of reprisal.

What we are witnessing in Belarus is the grave violation of human rights and shared fundamental freedoms and values. The recent attacks, harassment, intimidation, detention, fines, arrest and expulsion of students and academic staff from higher education institutions are not acceptable nor negotiable.

As Co-Chairs representing the United Kingdom, United Kingdom (Scotland) and Germany we will raise and discuss these evident violations of our fundamental values with the 48 Ministers present during the next Ministerial Conference on November 19, 2020.

We underline the EHEA's commitments to promote and guarantee our fundamental values, to monitor them and assess the violations against them, and report comprehensively in the coming work period 2021 – 2024.