



Statement of the Co-Chairs of the European Higher Education Area, the United Kingdom, the United Kingdom (Scotland) and Germany at the virtual Ministerial Conference of the European Higher Education Area in Rome, November 19, 2020 on the situation in Belarus.

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-Chairing Ministers of higher education in the European Higher Education Area we will make these evident violations of our fundamental values public until they end. Students who suffer from these violations may ask for stipends to finish their studies somewhere else in the EHEA.

We offer our support to the academic community and authorities of Belarus to assist them in reaching our shared values.

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.