

# ETHNOCIDE IN BELARUS —

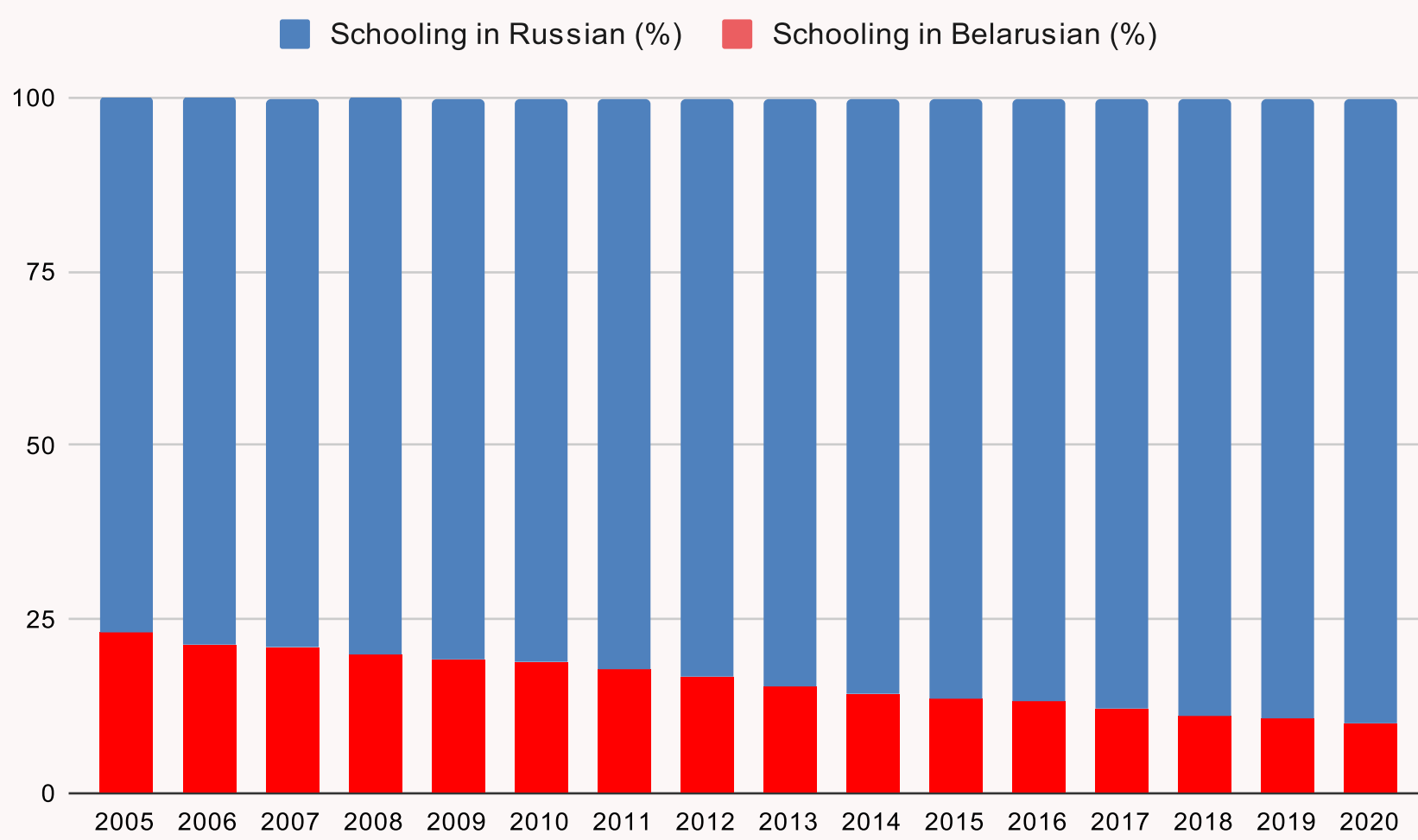
## HOW LUKASHENKO'S REGIME EXTERMINATES THE BELARUSIAN LANGUAGE



«The **Belarusian** and **Russian** languages shall be the official languages of the Republic of Belarus»

(Article 17, The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus)

In 1991, **80%** of Belarusians claimed **Belarusian** to be their **mother tongue**. But, already during the first 5 years of Lukashenko's presidency **Belarusian-speaking schools dropped by 10%**. Their number has been steadily decreasing with **only every 10th pupil** taught in **Belarusian** in 2019.



If current trends continue, by **2030** there would be **no Belarusian-speaking schools** in Belarus.

«Everyone shall have the right to use his **native** language and to choose the language of communication. **In accordance with the law**, the State shall **guarantee** the freedom to choose the language of upbringing and instruction»

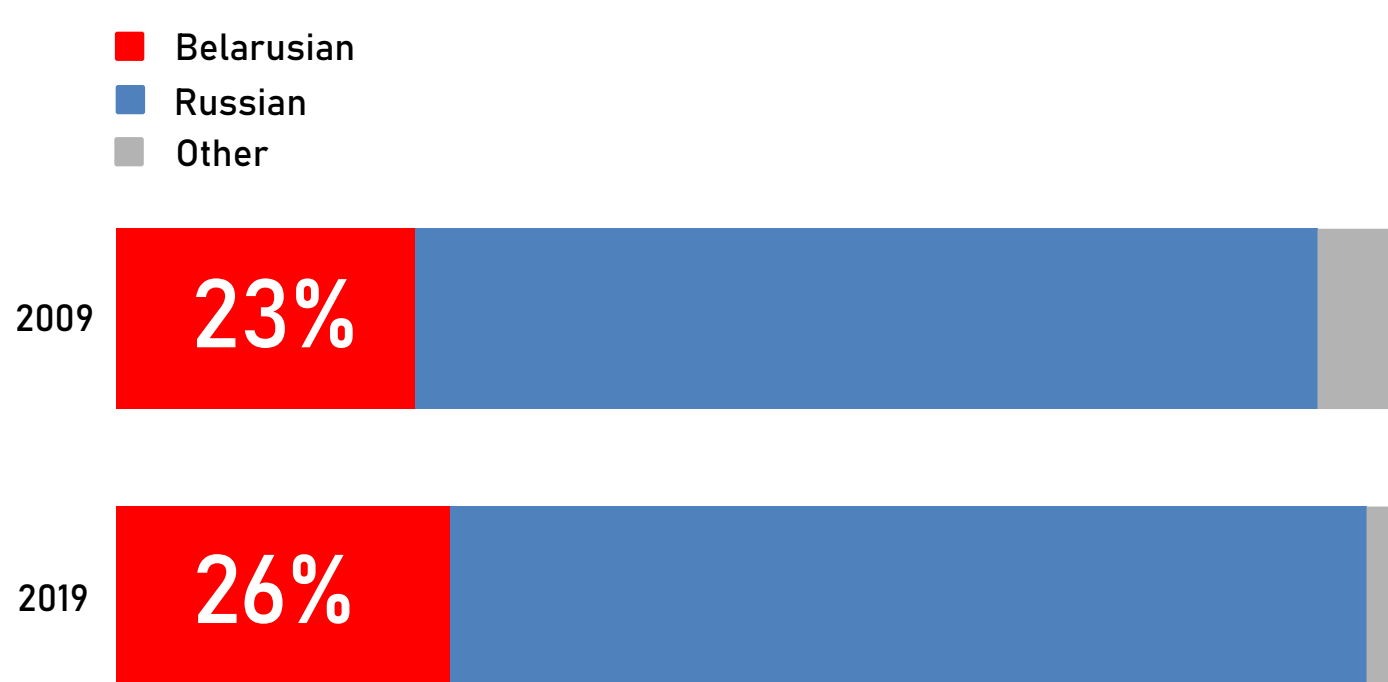
(Article 50, The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus)



«**45%** of schools are **Belarusian-speaking**» (Ministry of Education, 2021) In presenting statistics, the state focuses on the number of schools, not pupils and overlooks the fact that **Belarusian-speaking** schools are located in less populated rural areas with as few as **2-3 pupils in one class**.

But the number of people who speak **Belarusian** is growing.

Share of people who use different languages in everyday communication:



However, the state continues exterminating **Belarusian** language:

In 2021 **more than 270 public institutions** faced **forcible liquidation**. One of them is **F. Skaryna Belarusian Language Society** - the oldest public organization in Belarus.

«After Lukashenko came to power in 1994, the state policy of Belarusization was literally curtailed; active defense of the Belarusian language started being perceived as opposition»

(N.Mechkovskaya, Doctor of Philology, linguist)

«Talking is the only thing **Belarusian-speaking** people can do because nothing great can be expressed in Belarusian, it is a poor language. There are only two great languages in the world - **Russian** and English»

«**Russian** language is a blessing for all of us!»

(A.Lukashenko, self-proclaimed President of Belarus)



27 years of Lukashenko's ethnocide might result in the death of **Belarusian**. Together with Welsh, West Flemish and Scots, it is now recognized by UNESCO as a "**vulnerable**" language.

**STOP LUKASHENKO - SAVE THE BELARUSIAN LANGUAGE!**