



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Department for External Church Relations

## **His Holiness Patriarch Kirill notes a high level dialogue between the Church and the state in Belarus**

Addressing the members of the Bishops' Council, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill noted that the agreement between the Byelorussian Orthodox Church and the state signed almost fifteen years ago has given the Church an opportunity to interact with the authorities in the unique for the country format.

“Peacemaking, civil society dialogue, spiritual and moral education, culture, education, healthcare, protection of people against destructive and extremist influences are the traditional spheres of cooperation between the Church and the state,” His Holiness said and underscored:

“The fulfillment of practical tasks in various fields of cooperation is entrusted to the joint church-state bodies, such as the coordinating councils or working groups. These structures help implement agreements of the Church with the authorities. For instance, the Public Council on Morality plays an essential role in the sphere of public and cultural making and in the preservation of cultural heritage of Belarus.”

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