

and the annexed Action Plan – is a unique tool to enhance the fight against terrorism at national, regional and international levels.

The Republic of Belarus considers international terrorism as a serious threat to international security and supports efforts of the international community to create the necessary conditions for eradication of terrorism. In the Republic of Belarus a legal framework regulating activities in fighting terrorism was created; appropriate preventive, operating, organizational and other measures are being developed and implemented; the processes in the field of illegal migration are being analyzed; control over the stay of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the territory of Belarus is provided.

The Republic of Belarus exercises international cooperation with foreign countries on the basis of bilateral treaties of intergovernmental and interdepartmental character, on the grounds of which the cooperation between Belarusian law enforcement agencies and law enforcement agencies of foreign states is carried out.

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#### SOCIAL STRATIFICATION: WHO GETS WHAT AND WHY?

Social stratification is the process through which the products of social life – including wealth, power, and prestige – are distributed unequally. One of the most important concepts in the study of stratification is social class. As of Karl Marx, class position depends on a person's relationship to the means of production. Capitalists own or control the means of production, while workers sell their labour power to capitalists. To Weber, class position depends on the outcomes of stratification; in other words, on how much power, prestige, or wealth a person has.

Conflict theorists argue that inequality benefits only those who are in dominant positions and that culture often serves the interests of the elite and constitutes an ideology that supports the status quo. From an interactionist perspective, class differences are created and perpetuated through social interaction, how people perceive, interpret, appear, and act in relation to one another.

Social mobility is the movement of people within or between social classes. The most important factors in mobility are education, social class of parents, race, gender, occupation, and age. Mobility has little effect on the relative positions of social classes. Family mobility often requires that both spouses work and that the family go into considerable debt.

Societies differ in the degree of inequality and there is great inequality among societies. Inequality is more severe in poor and newly industrializing societies than in industrial countries. While socialist countries do not base inequality on ownership of the means of production, they still have considerable inequality.

The gap between rich and poor nations is stable, in part because wealthy nations are in a position to dominate poorer ones.

Debate about change in stratification focuses on two issues: an end to inequality and social classes, and equality of opportunity within stratified societies. Marx's communist utopia, in which social classes would disappear, is unlikely to ever come to pass. Both conflict and functionalist theorists believe that inequality of authority will always be necessary, and some functionalist theorists also believe that inequality of prestige is inevitable.

In Belarus social inequality is being reduced, but through a process of levelling rather than of increasing the overall level of incomes. Therefore social policy is prospect for the near future.