



**Doc. 13191 Second Edition**

14 August 2013

## **Violations of the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people to freedom of expression and assembly continue unabated in Russia**

**Written declaration No. 541**

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This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

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On 25 January 2013 the State Duma supported, at first reading, a bill which would prohibit “propaganda of homosexuality among minors”. Ten Russian regions already have such laws. They are a direct attack on the freedom of expression of all LGBT persons, but particularly on the right of young LGBT people to information about sexual orientation and gender identity, a right that has been emphasized by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee of Ministers.

The right to freedom of assembly continues to be violated. In January protests against the State Duma bill in Voronezh and Moscow were attacked violently. Police present failed to provide protection. In March a rally in the Komi Republic was banned, and the event’s organiser attacked. In March also three St. Petersburg administrative districts and the City Administration rejected nine different sites proposed by activists for demonstrations.

We call upon:

- Russia’s MPs to reject the “propaganda of homosexuality” bill;
- The Russian authorities to uphold the right of LGBT people to freedom of expression and assembly and protect them from acts of violence and discrimination;
- The Committee of Ministers to redouble its efforts to persuade the Russian Federation to respect its treaty obligations.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC  
ANDREOLI Paride, San Marino, SOC  
AUROI Danielle, France, SOC  
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC  
BACKMAN Þuriður, Iceland  
BARCIA DUEDRA Gerard, Andorra, SOC  
BATAILLE Christian, France, SOC  
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC  
BLANCO Delia, Spain, SOC  
BONET Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC  
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC  
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC  
DAVIES Geraint, United Kingdom, SOC  
DEBONO GRECH Joseph, Malta, SOC  
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC  
DOBBIN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC  
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL  
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC  
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC  
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC  
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC  
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC  
HENRIKSEN Martin, Denmark, EDG  
HOOD Jim, United Kingdom, SOC  
KOLMAN Igor, Croatia, ALDE  
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL  
MAGRADZE Guguli, Georgia, SOC  
MARJANOVIĆ Vesna, Serbia, SOC  
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC  
MICHEL Jean-Pierre, France, SOC  
MULIĆ Melita, Croatia, SOC  
MYLLER Riitta, Finland, SOC  
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD  
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC  
PRESCOTT John, United Kingdom, SOC  
REISSMANN Mette, Denmark, SOC  
RIORDAN Linda, United Kingdom, SOC  
RIORDAN Linda, United Kingdom, SOC  
SCHEMBRI Deborah, Malta, SOC  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC  
SCHUSTER Marina, Germany, ALDE  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
SHERIDAN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC  
TIRELI Nansi, Croatia, SOC  
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom, SOC  
TRETTEBERGSTUEN Anette, Norway, SOC  
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL  
VORUZ Eric, Switzerland, SOC  
VUKSANOVIĆ Draginja, Montenegro, SOC  
WOLDSETH Karin S., Norway, EDG  
ZAPPONE Katherine, Ireland, NR

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EDG: European Democrat Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

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Total = 51