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Stigmatisation by the authorities leading to intensified violence and discrimination against LGBT people in Russia

Written declaration No. 559

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.

In June the Assembly deplored the approval by the Russian Duma of the law on so-called "Propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors", and expressed concern at the earlier adoption of similar legislation in a number of Russian regions.

A draft law has now been tabled in the Duma which would deny LGBT parents custody of their own children.

There is evidence that this continuing stigmatisation of LGBT people as a threat to children is exacerbating an already serious situation regarding discrimination and violence against them. For example:

1. the St Petersburg "propaganda" law was used explicitly by one extremist group to justify attacking a peaceful demonstration;
2. hundreds of videos have been published online by homophobic vigilante groups showing individuals - including teenagers - being subjected to intense humiliation, often sexual in nature, and even to torture;
3. a recent report documents the dismissal of two LGBT teachers following pressure on their employers by aggressively homophobic organisations.

We call on the Russian authorities and politicians of all parties to stop stigmatising LGBT people, to withdraw homophobic legislation, and to adopt policies and laws promoting tolerance and human rights for all.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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Total = 57