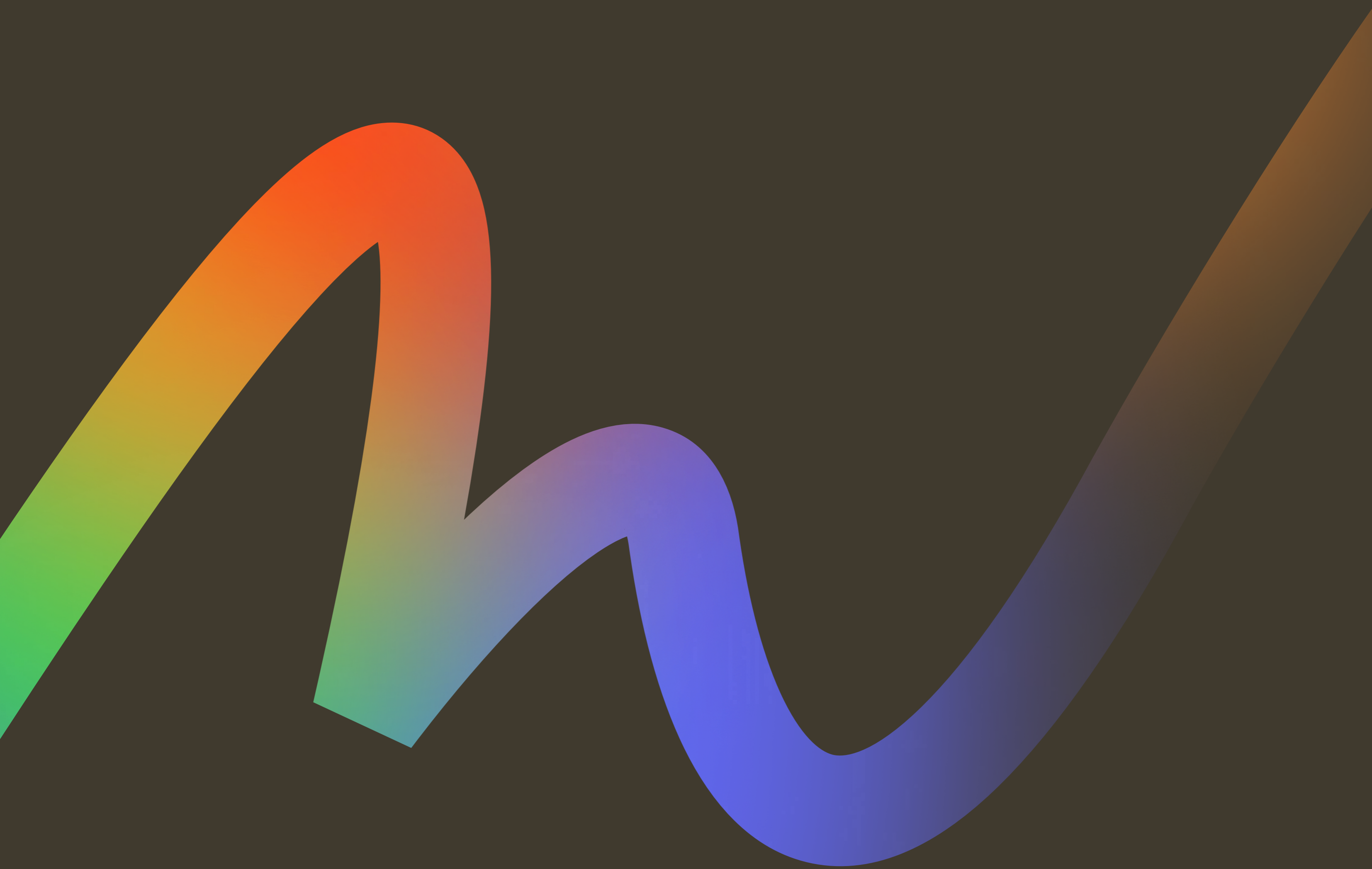


# On the Ban of “Non-traditional Sexual Relationships Propaganda” legislation in Russia



# What did the history of “non-traditional sexual relationships propaganda” begin with?

In 2013, Article 6.21 of the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Violations (hereafter – CoAV RF) was enacted into the Administrative Violations Code, which established responsibility for ‘same-sex relationship propaganda among minors’. The article established administrative liability for ‘social equivalence of traditional and non-traditional sexual relationships’.

## How was the 2013 “On the Ban of Non-traditional Sexual Relationships Propaganda” legislation originally administered?

Throughout the period from 2013 to 2021, Article 6.21 CoAV RF was administered quite selectively. The number of prosecutions in the form of a fine (which for physical persons was 5,000 rubles) did not exceed 6-8 cases per year.

# What changed in 2021-2022?

In 2021-2022, the situation began to rapidly deteriorate. Not only public protests but any demonstration of LGBTQ+ symbols was prohibited. For instance, in 2021, in Saint-Petersburg, a group of minors who [took a picture next to a rainbow flag](#) were arrested at the request of a stranger.

On several occasions, LGBTQ+ activist Julia Tsvetkova was charged with an administrative offense on the basis of the anti-'propaganda' article for [publishing her own drawings, which depicted a vagina](#).



# What happened in December 2022?

In December 2022, the amendments to the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Violations came into force, including a new revision of Article 6.21 CoAV RF and new Article 6.21.2 CoAV RF. Furthermore, revisions to the 'On Information, Information Technologies, and the Protection of Information' legislation, 'On Advertising' legislation, and a range of other regulatory legal acts, which oversee information distribution in Russia.

Since December 2022, not only 'non-traditional relationships propaganda among minors' but also such 'propaganda' regardless of its addressee's ages ended up banned.

The bans were placed on information distribution and/or taking public action aimed at the formation of the following:

- non-traditional sexual views;
- attractiveness of non-traditional sexual relationships and/or preferences or 'sex change';
- a distorted image about social equivalence of traditional and non-traditional sexual relationships and/or preferences;
- imposition of information either about non-traditional sexual relationships and/or preferences or 'sex change' or that may spark interest in such relationships and/or preferences or 'sex change'.

Also, new Article 6.21.2 CoAV RF was put into effect, which specifies liability not just for propaganda but for ‘demonstration’ of non-traditional sexual relationships to minors

Effective December, 5th, 2022 revision of the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Violations allows for the opportunity to fine physical persons for up to 400,000 rubles (5,000 euro) and juridical persons for up to 4,000,000 euro (For comparison: the minimum fine for an offense under the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation is 5,000 rubles. The fine for discrimination for physical persons is up to 3,000 rubles and for juridical is up to 100,000 rubles. The maximum fine for organizing construction that violates construction regulations if it caused wrongful death or bodily injury amounts to 400,000 rubles for juridical persons and 4,000 rubles for physical persons).

In September 2023, the explanations of authorities that are responsible for communication and media control will take effect, [according to which ‘non-traditional relationships propaganda’ is defined as any information that ‘provides justifications for such relationships’.](#)



In addition, the ban will also concern scientific and medical information and publishing research in the field of psychology; a direct ban is set on the distribution of literary works that contain ‘a non-episodic portrayal of non-traditional sexual relationships’ and also any positively-portrayed information about persons whose orientation is different from the heterosexual one.

Furthermore, on December 16th, 2022, a legislation draft that introduces criminal liability for ‘non-traditional sexual relationships propaganda’ was submitted to the State Duma, which specifies criminal liability in the form of imprisonment for up to 5 years, however it was withdrawn from consideration because the regulations for introducing a bill were violated.

Administrative offense proceedings were initiated after a photograph [showing girls kissing was published](#).



Also, censorship of LGBTQ+ resources began to take place because information ‘aimed at non-traditional sexual relationships propaganda’ was posted there. In particular, LGBT Network websites and the ‘Guys+’ (‘Parni+’) website were blocked in Russia on this basis.

In 2022, amid the politicians’ homophobic rhetoric that preceded Article 6.21 CoAV RF amendments and the introduction of Article 6.21.2 CoAV RF, the number of administrative cases for ‘non-traditional sexual relationships propaganda’ has increased drastically, twofold at the very least, compared to previous years.

In particular, in April 2022, Meta was fined 4,000,000 rubles under Article 6.21 CoAV RF and eventually banned in Russia; for the same exact violation, TikTok was fined 2,000,000 rubles twice – in April and in October 2022.

2022 was characterized by the fact that the anti-‘non-traditional sexual relationships’ legislation began to be administered not only in the public domain (protests, demonstrations, pickets, events, LGBTQ+ organizations sites), but in the private domain as well.

A prominent example of such administration was the initiation of criminal proceedings under Article 148 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (hereafter – CC RF) (insulting the feelings of believers) for a kiss between two young men, one of whom published a recording of it on his personal Instagram page. In winter 2022, two young men kissed near a house where they lived and recorded this kiss on video using a mobile phone. There was an Orthodox church next to the house, whose bell tower was caught on camera. One of the young men posted a video recording on his personal Instagram page, adding music and the caption ‘what a \*\*\*\*\* beauty’.





On the complaint of a parishioner of the church that was caught on camera, a criminal investigation was launched under Article 148 CC RF (insulting the feelings of believers). A comprehensive expert report was conducted on the case, according to which the feelings of believers were insulted exactly by the fact that the kissing persons were of the same gender. The key to the court case was neither the fact that profanity was used in the audiotrack of the videorecording that showed the bell tower nor the audiotrack itself, but mainly the gender of the depicted persons. Unlike similar criminal investigations launched on the basis of photograph publications, which depicted a church in the background, the recording did not contain any images of nude bodies or sexualized poses.

The case was closed with a guilty verdict in the form of a moderate fine; however, the man was specifically charged with a criminal violation.

# How has the new legislation practically influenced the lives of LGBTQ+ people in Russia?

Throughout 2023, the new legislation has been actively administered in a wide range of different areas of life.

- For example, several transfemme migrants involved in prostitution were first found guilty of the commission of an offense specified by Article 6.21 CoAV RF on account of publishing sex-work advertisements and then deported.
- A case of administrative infraction was commenced against a publishing house for distribution of fiction that featured LGBTQ+ characters.
- Two men who blogged about their relationship faced administrative charges, and one of them was deported.
- Similarly held administratively liable and deported was a man who got acquainted with another man on social media and chatted about sexual orientation with him.
- In May 2023, a young man incurred administrative liability for 'propaganda' and a fine of 100,000 rubles for posting a personal advertisement revealing his homosexuality.

# How could the 2022 ‘On the Ban of Non-traditional Sexual Relationships Propaganda’ legislation be evaluated in terms of international human rights protection standards?

Legislation that came into force in December 2022 did not receive an appraisal from international authorities and organizations. Since 2022, Russia has not been a member of the European Convention on Human Rights, for which reason the European Court of Human Rights no longer has jurisdiction to verify compliance of the aforementioned law with the primary documents in the area of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

That being said, Russia continues to be a member of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation as well as interference with private life and ensures freedom of speech.

Given its implementation practice, the new law ‘On the Non-traditional Sexual Relationships Propaganda Ban’ not only calls for the same negative judgment in the context of international law the same as the prior ban of ‘same-sex relationship propaganda among minors’, but also constitutes a gross privacy interference into the life of every LGBTQ+ person in Russia, rendering illegal any expression of sexual identity, both open and closeted, [such as in private correspondence](#).

Overall, tens of administrative cases have been initiated under Article 6.21 CoAV RF.

- The service sector for LGBTQ+ people has been banned as well. For instance, one nightclub incurred administrative liability in the form of a 1,000,000 ruble fine after it was revealed that it is a gay club, as stated by visitors and nearby residents.

- No open LGBTQ+ events are allowed;

- Furthermore, in accordance with the new legislation, a list of films and TV shows featuring ‘LGBTQ+ propaganda’ has been published.

- Publishers, social media, online resources, internet providers, TV providers, and streaming platforms have been subjected to administrative liability by way of multimillion fines due to placement of information containing ‘LGBTQ+ propaganda’. Cases of administrative liability against such entities are of a mass nature.

- Since 2023, the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation has explicitly identified ‘LGBTQ+ propaganda’ as the exact reason for physical persons, NGOs, and legal bodies being labeled ‘foreign agents’. Among those are a Russian singer and songwriter Elizaveta Gyrdaymova (commonly known as Monetochka), a feminist activist and artist Daria Serenko, and Darya Besedina, a politician, all of whom support LGBTQ+ people.



- Besides, in December 2022, RKN, the executive agency in charge of controlling and censoring Russian mass media, was authorized to extrajudicially block websites featuring ‘LGBTQ+ propaganda’, which entailed a maelstrom of bans spanning various webpages, online groups, social media accounts, and other informational internet resources.
- The ‘On the Ban of Non-traditional Sexual Relationships Propaganda’ amendments are used as the grounds [for denying LGBTQ+ people the ability to provide legal or psychological services and when applying for jobs.](#)
- LGBTQ+ people constantly live under pressure and face the threat of being held administratively liable, which often translates to suffering a heavy fine. For many of them, it would be unmanageable and could lead to the bankruptcy of both juridical and physical persons.

As early as the introduction stage of the proposed law, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights spoke against the adoption of the discussed statute:

‘The High Commissioner appeals to legislators, who will consider the proposals in a further two readings, to reject this proposal, and to instead repeal the existing law and take urgent steps to prohibit and actively combat both discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The High Commissioner also notes that exclusion, stigmatization, and discrimination of any group within a society is corrosive, is a root cause of violence, and [has a negative impact on society as a whole.](#)’

The very existence of the ‘non-traditional sexual relationships’ ban represents an infringement of every Russian LGBTQ+ person’s right to non-interference in personal and family life, freedom of speech, and freedom from discrimination specified in Articles 16, 26, and 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

- In June 2023, a transgender woman was held administratively liable for 'propaganda among minors' for posting a contact advertisement on an internet resource with no age restriction.

- In the same month, a non-binary person was arrested and accused in 'propaganda' under Article 6.21 CoAV RF for participating in a single-person picket against the enactment of a law prohibiting gender transition in Russia. In September of 2023 the Court refused to recognize 'propaganda' offence.

- In July 2023, a transfemme person incurred administrative liability under Section 3 of Article 6.21 CoAV RF as a result of posting a dating advertisement in Krasnodar.

- In August 2023, in Chita, an administrator of a Vkontakte group for LGBTQ+ people to meet was charged with an administrative offense.

- In August 2023, in Saint Petersburg, a gay man, an employee of a streaming service, was charged with an administrative offense under Article 6.21 CoAF for disseminating a film depicting LGBTQ+ relationships.

# How did international authorities and organizations react to the 2013 ‘On the Ban of Non-traditional Sexual Relationships Propaganda’ legislation?

International authorities and organizations that assessed the ‘On the Ban of Non-traditional Sexual Relationships Propaganda’ legislation have successively connected it to discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, MESSAGE № 1932/2010 (FEDOTOVA V. THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION)

Back in 2012, when the anti-«non-traditional sexual relationships propaganda» regional laws were enacted, UN Human Right Committee considered a complaint to the administrative violation imposed in accordance with the Legislation № 41-O3 of the Ryazan Region (q. v. Fedotova v. the Russian Federation, Message № 1932/2010, UN Document CCPR/C/106/D/1932/2010, IHRL 2053 (HRC UN 2012), October 31st, 2012, UN Human Rights Committee) and among other things noted the following: ‘Although the Committee acknowledges the role of the State Party’s authorities in defending minors’ well-being, it notes that the State Party was not able to demonstrate why on the basis of the facts of the present message it was necessary to achieve one of the legal goals ... to restrict the author’s right to express their sexual identity and a determination to understand it, even if, in reality, as the State Party claims, she was going to involve children in the discussion of questions connected to homosexuality’.



## RESOLUTION 1948 (2013) FROM 27.06.2013 OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE 'COMBATING DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY'

In Resolution 1948 (2013) from 27.06.2013 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 'Combating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity', the following is stated:  
“ ...

7. The Assembly particularly deplores the unanimous resolution of the so-called non-traditional sexual relationships propaganda among minors, which, in case it is also approved by the Federation Council, would become the first legislation banning homosexuality propaganda that would be adopted on a national level in Europe.

8. In this context, the Assembly takes into account the opinion of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (The Venice Commission) on the topic of the so-called homosexuality propaganda ban in light of the recent legislation in some Council of Europe member states; it endorses its analysis and commends its conclusions, in particular, that 'the considered measures appear to be incompatible with the fundamental values [of the European Convention for Human Rights]', in addition to their nonconformance to restrictions specified in Articles 10, 11, and 14 of the European Commission of Human Rights...”.



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS DECREE  
FROM JUNE 20TH, 2017 ON THE COMPLAINT  
№ 67667/09 (BAYEV AND OTHERS V. THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION)

The European Court of Human Rights in its decree on the complaint № 67667/09 and others in the Bayev and others v. Russia case noted, first of all, the overall constraining effect that the anti-‘non-traditional sexual relationships propaganda’ legislation exerts on the lives of homosexual persons and their social activity. (Bayev and others v. Russia, application № 67667/09. 62).

Furthermore, the European Court has also noted that the issue of the quality of this legislation, which was previously raised, is secondary in relation to the question of the necessity of this legislation as a general measure.

The European Court has noted that the ‘same-sex relationships propaganda’ ban cannot be justified by the necessity to protect family values since persons who consider themselves a part of LGBTQ+ demonstrate devotion to the marriage, parenthood, and adoption institutes. As pointed out by the European Court, ‘The government was unable to demonstrate how freedom of expression on LGBT issues may invalidate or otherwise negatively affect real and existing ‘traditional families’ or threaten their future.’ Negative prejudice of the heterosexual majority toward the homosexual minority itself cannot be considered as sufficient proof for distinct treatment, no less than ‘analogous negative prejudices toward persons of a different race, background, or skin color’. The legislation banning ‘non-traditional sexual relationships propaganda’ ‘is an example an attitude to prejudice, unambiguously underlined by its intrinsic interpretation and administration and incarnated in expressions such as ‘how to create a distorted image of societal equivalence of traditional and non-traditional sexual relationships’ and references to potential dangers of ‘creating a distorted impression about the social equivalence of traditional and non-traditional marital relationships... Even more unacceptable are attempts to draw parallels between homosexuality and pedophilia’.

Additionally, in this case, the European Court noted that administration of this legislation cannot be justified by references to risks to public health and the demographic situation, indicating the low likelihood that ‘restricting potential freedom of expression on LGBT issues will assist with reducing health risks. Quite the opposite, spreading knowledge on the issues of sex and gender identity and raising awareness of any related risks and methods of protection against these risks, which are demonstrated objectively and scientifically, would be an integral part of both the disease prevention campaign and the general policy of public healthcare’. In addition, ECHR resolution states the following: ‘It is very difficult to imagine how legislation that bans homosexuality or non-traditional sexual relationships propaganda among minors could assist with reaching the desired demographic goals or how, vice versa, the lack of such legislation would negatively affect them... Withholding information about same-sex relationships is not a method that could be used to reverse the negative demographic trend. Moreover, the hypothetical total benefit in any case should be compared to specific LGBT rights, which are negatively impacted by the disputed restrictions. It is sufficient to note that public approval of heterosexual couples does not depend on their intention or ability to have children. From this follows that this argument cannot serve as a justification to restrict freedom of speech on the topic of same-sex relationships’.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MESSAGE  
№ 2318/2013 FROM 17.07.2018 ON THE  
COMPLAINT KIRILL NEPOMNYATSHY V. RUSSIA

Finally, Human Rights Committee has reviewed the complaint on the Kirill Nepomnyatshy v. Russia case and has outlined its stance in Message № 2318/2013 from 17.07.2018. Apart from considerations previously expressed in aforementioned sources, the Human Rights Committee lists a statement about the fact that ‘the introduced restriction did not concern the usage of sexually explicit obscene language, but constituted a total ban on expressing sexual orientation’.

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.  
CLOSING REMARKS: RUSSIAN FEDERATION.  
CRC/C/RUS/CO/4-5 (2014)

In 2014, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about Russian anti-‘non-traditional sexual relationships’ legislation and emphasized that these laws ‘encourage stigmatization and discrimination in relation to lesbians, homosexuals, bisexuals, transgenders, and intersexuals (LGBTI), including children and children from LGBTI families’. The committee specially noted that ‘used vague propaganda definitions led to intentional ongoing repressions in relation to the LGBTI community in the country, including through the means of harassment and violence, in relation to underage LGBTI rights defenders’. Russian authorities were recommended to repeal current ‘propaganda’ laws. (Committee on the Rights of the Child. Closing remarks: Russian Federation. CRC/C/RUS/CO/4-5 (2014). Paragraphs 24-25.)



VENICE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSION 'ON THE QUESTION OF THE BAN OF THE SO-CALLED "HOMOSEXUALISM PROPAGANDA" IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT LEGISLATION IN CERTAIN MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, ADOPTED ON ITS 95TH PLENARY MEETING' (VENICE, JUNE 14-15TH, 2013)

After the 'On the Ban of Non-traditional Sexual Relationships Propaganda' legislation was adopted and such legislation appeared in other European states, the Venice Commission spoke out about the legislation's concept. In its conclusion 'On the Question of the Ban of the So-called „Homosexuality Propaganda“ in Light of the Recent Legislation in Certain Member States of the Council of Europe, Adopted on its 95th Plenary Meeting' (Venice, June 14-15, 2013), the Venice Commission studies the legislation provisions that list restrictions on 'homosexuality propaganda', which were adopted or proposed for adoption in the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine and, among other things, arrived at the following conclusion:

28. ... scope of application of such terms as 'propaganda' and 'promotion', which are fundamental to these laws, appears not only very broad but also very ambiguous and vague, taking into account the applications of the case law norms... In some of these norms, unclear terms are used, such as 'among minors' / 'aimed at minors' ... Thus, from the case law, it is unclear whether the term 'homosexuality propaganda ban' should be interpreted restrictively or it encompasses any information or an opinion in favour of homosexuality, any attempt to change the homophobic attitudes of a part of the population toward homosexuals and lesbians, any attempt to balance out sometimes deep-rooted prejudices by spreading unbiased and factual information about sexual orientation ...

37. In opinion of the Venice Commission, the considered provisions relating to the 'homosexuality propaganda' ban ... are not articulated with enough precision to satisfy the 'as prescribed by law' request, which is defined in paragraphs 2 of Articles 10 and 11 of ECHR, respectively, and national courts were not able to mitigate this through consecutive interpretations... the 'homosexuality propaganda' ban is obviously connected to the sexual orientation issue. Firstly, the ban in question restricts statements that propagate homosexual/lesbian sexual orientation. Secondly, it appears to be that the ban will more frequently, albeit not necessarily, affect persons with a homosexual/lesbian sexual orientation, who have a personal interest in advocating for tolerance toward homosexual/lesbian sexual orientation and its acceptance by the majority ...

48. Therefore, measures directed at excluding propaganda of other sexual identities, except for the heterosexual one, from the public domain concern the core principles of a democratic society, which is characterized by pluralism, tolerance, and broad-mindedness, as well as a fair and appropriate treatment of minorities. Thus, such measures should be warranted by compelling reasons ... In opinion of the Venice Commission, a negative perception of homosexuality itself, even by a significant part of the public, cannot justify neither the restriction of the right to privacy of homosexuals and lesbians nor their freedoms to publicly declare their sexual orientation, stand up for positive ideas in relation to homosexuality, or encourage tolerance toward homosexuals. In connection with this, the Venice Commission reminds that in its Recommendation CM/Rec (2010)5 the Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe deemed that neither cultural, traditional or religious values, nor 'dominant culture' rules can be used to justify hate speech or any other form of discrimination, including on the ground of sexual orientation or gender identity... Once again, it should be emphasized that the accusations in considered provisions are not limited to obscenities, provocative calls to intimate relationships between persons of the same gender or the fact that the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation named 'imposition of a homosexual way of life', but that they also, seemingly, are applicable to spreading simple information about ideas that propagate a more positive attitude to homosexuality ...

63. As for explanatory notes that accompany Federal legislation draft and the Ukrainian legislation draft № 8711 (№ 0945), respectively, the Venice commission notes that they do not provide any proof of the harm that may be caused to minors... Indeed, shielding minors from the corresponding information about sexuality, including homosexuality, cannot be considered to be in their interest.

66. The Venice Commission notes that international practices in the human rights domain support the right to receive age-appropriate information about sexuality.

67. ... In opinion of the Venice Commission, the spread of information and ideas that propagate positive ideas in relation to homosexuality and that facilitate tolerance in relation to homosexuals does not exclude the spread and strengthening of traditional family values and the importance of traditional marital relationships.

68. ... Radical restrictions on freedom of speech, which concern not only certain types of content (for example, explicit sexual content, such as in the *Muller v. Switzerland* case), but also all freedom of speech categories, ranging from political discussions and artistic self-expression to commercial statements, will, without doubt, seriously influence public debates on important social issues that are central to any democratic society. Therefore, the restriction cannot be considered 'necessary in a democratic society' to protect family in its traditional sense.

77. In conclusion, ... the Venice Commission believes that the 'homosexuality propaganda' ban, in comparison to 'heterosexuality propaganda' or sexuality propaganda, in general, is discrimination because the difference in treatment is based on the content of the statements about sexual orientation, whereas the authors of the considered provisions did not put forward any sensible nor objective criteria to justify the 'homosexual propaganda' ban, in comparison to 'heterosexual propaganda'.

80. Secondly, ‘public morality’, values and traditions, including the majority religion, and ‘protecting minors’ as a justification for the ‘homosexuality propaganda’ ban do not correspond to the criteria of vital necessity and proportionality, as required [by the Convention]. Once again, the bans under consideration are not restricted to explicit sexual content or obscenities but rather are general restrictions imposed on legally expressing sexual orientation. The Venice Commission reiterates that homosexuality as a variety of sexual orientation is protected [by the Convention] and, by itself, cannot be considered immoral in the sense of Section 2 Article 10 [of the Convention] by the authorities. On the other hand, there is no proof that expressions of sexual orientation would have negatively affected minors whose interest is to get relevant, appropriate, and objective information about sexuality, including sexual orientation.

81. Finally, the ban exclusively concerns ‘homosexuality propaganda’, in comparison to ‘heterosexuality propaganda’. Further taking into account the democratic demand to treat minorities appropriately, the lack of any sensible or objective criteria that would justify the difference in treatment when administering norms on freedom of speech and assembly is tantamount to discrimination on the grounds of the content of the statements about sexual orientation.

82. Overall, it appears that the aim of these measures is not so much the promotion of traditional values and attitudes toward family and sexuality as the restriction of non-traditional values through prosecution for their expression and propaganda. Per se, the measures in question appear not compatible with ‘fundamental ECHR values’, in addition to the mismatch between the ban itself and the restriction requirements specified in Articles 10, 11, and 14 of the Convention.

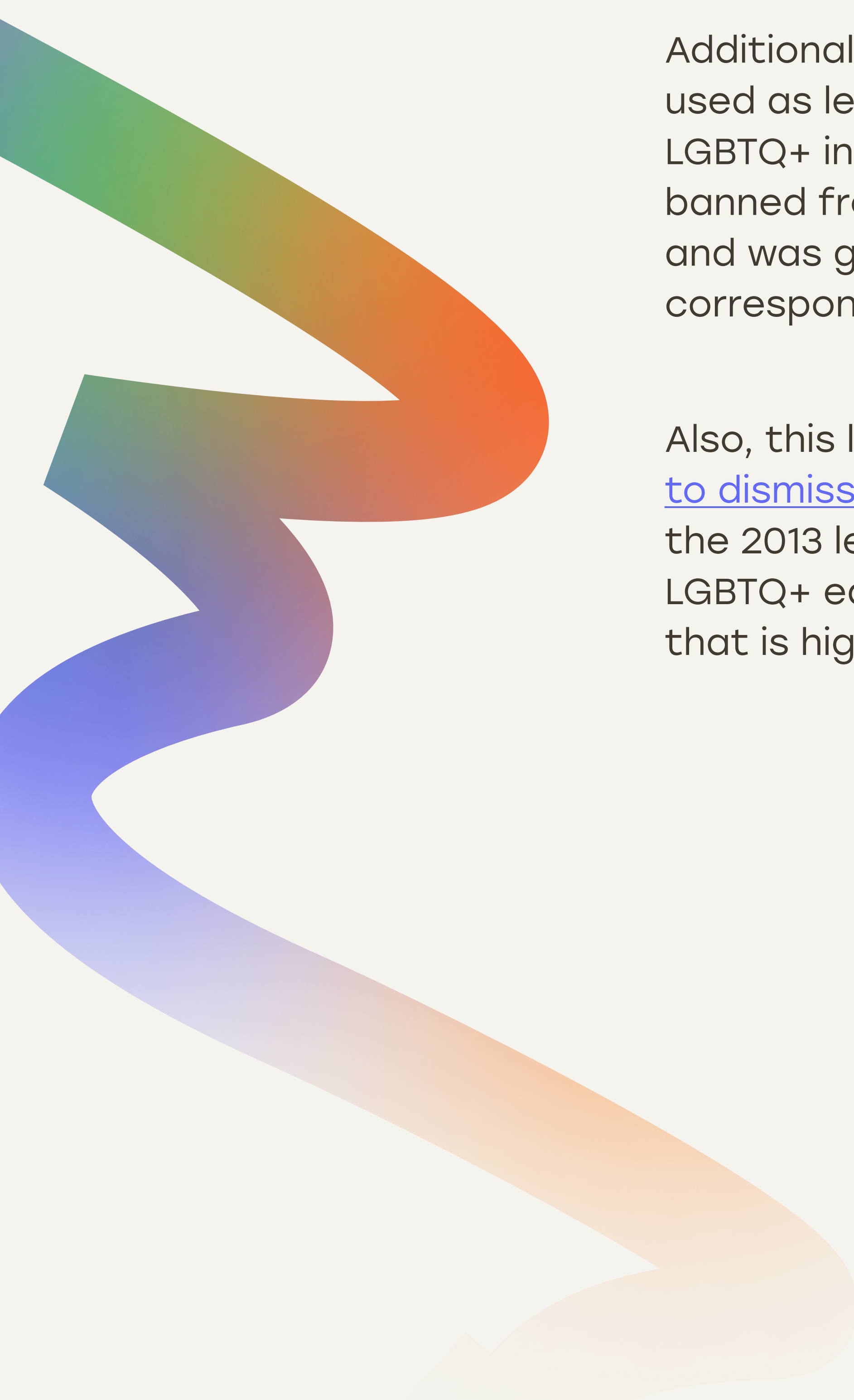
83. In light of the aforementioned, the Venice Commission believes that the legislative norms that ban ‘homosexuality propaganda’ are incompatible [with the Convention and] the international standards in the scope of human rights. For this reason, the Venice commission recommends repealing these provisions...”



## PROSECUTION STATISTICS IN 2013-2022

	Investigated	Charged
2013	0	0
2014	11	2
2015	11	8
2016	10	4
2017	8	3
2018	4	1
2019	20	4
2020	28	8
2021	16	6
2022	22	16

Alongside this, these legislative norms were administered with the intention of banning public LGBTQ+ events. To hold an event outside of designated areas, it was necessary to send a notice about the event being held and obtain approvals. Government agencies repeatedly used Article 6.21 CoAV RF provisions to refuse to approve events, resulting in the inevitable dispersal of the events and/or charges being pressed against their participants. Until 2019, the legislation was also used to issue warnings about the inadmissibility of hosting LGBTQ+ events in so-called 'guide-parks', which, however, did not result in the events being dispersed. From 2019 onward, the very same grounds were also used to disperse public events in the so-called 'guide-parks'.



Provisions of the «non-traditional relationships propaganda ban» were also used as an excuse for the police to sweep LGBTQ+ events held on closed sites, which had a chilling effect on participants and sometimes led to [the event being jeopardized](#).

Additionally, Article 6.21 CoAV RF was used as legal grounds to categorize LGBTQ+ information as information banned from spreading among minors and was grounds to block corresponding informational sources.

Also, this legislation was used [to dismiss LGBTQ+ educators](#). Since the 2013 legislation was adopted, LGBTQ+ educators have been a group that is highly discriminated against.

**COMING OUT**

LGBTQ+ group

## Useful links

### How to help

[Make a donation](#)

### Research

[NEEDS OF LGBTQ+ PEOPLE IN RUSSIA IN 2023](#)

On the Ban of 'Non-traditional Sexual Relationships Propaganda' legislation in Russia. — Coming Out, 2024. – 27 pages.

2024