



Press Release: 2nd September 2013

IRISH GOVERNMENT MUST RESPOND TO ANTI-GAY LAWS IN RUSSIA

The human rights situation in Russia for LGBT people is deteriorating. GLEN have written to the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Eamonn Gilmore TD., to urge him to respond on behalf of the Government and the Irish people, and to make clear to both Ireland and the rest of the world the measures it intends to take against the new repressive legislation.

“We call on the Irish Government to condemn the new Russian laws in the strongest possible terms and send a clear message to Russia and to the world that Ireland believes them to be an affront to human rights and human dignity” said Kieran Rose, GLEN Chair.

“Since Vladimir Putin was re-elected President of Russia there has been a powerful crackdown on human rights and civil society groups. New laws are being supplemented by harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders and civil society representatives and organisations. In particular, laws have been passed attacking the rights of LGBT people, which are being accompanied by public rhetoric demonising LGBT people leading to brutal assaults by hate groups.” said Rose.

“These new laws represent a serious attack on human rights and civil society in Europe. They send out the clear message from the Russian government and parliament that intolerance of others is acceptable and that human rights are not inviolable but rather are political notions which can be rowed back when it is politically advantageous to do so. **This cannot be allowed to stand”** continued Rose.

Protests are being organised in Dublin this week by the Irish campaign group [Action For Russia](#).: one at the Dáil on Tuesday evening and one at the Russian Embassy next Sunday.

At the **international level a new campaign, “[Keep Hope Alive](#)”** is calling on world leaders to challenge the Russian government on the deteriorating human rights situation in Russia at **this week’s G20 conference.** The G20 conference is taking place in Russia in St Petersburg on the 5th and 6th of September.

Ireland, while not a member of the G20, has a very significant role to play in ensuring that the EU seriously addresses these violations of the most basic international human rights obligations and democratic principles **We call on the Irish government to prioritise**

addressing these developments including at the EU, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Human Rights Council, where Ireland is currently a member” concluded Rose.

Ends

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Editors notes:

1. A copy of the letter from GLEN to the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade is available [here](#).

2. ‘Keep Hope Alive’ Campaign

GLEN is a member of ILGA-Europe, Europe’s umbrella lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex organisation, which is coordinating the “[Keep Hope Alive](#)” campaign.

For further information the campaign see “[Keep Hope Alive](#)” on Facebook: and:

- [Keep Hope Alive Campaign video](#)
- [ILGA-Europe’s briefing note on the human rights situation of LGBTI people and other minority groups in Russia](#)
- [ILGA-Europe’s web resource on Russia developments](#)

The *Keep Hope Alive* campaign is supported by:

- [Article 19](#)
- [Civil Rights Defenders](#)
- [Freedom House](#)
- [Front Line Defenders](#) – the Irish Human Rights Defenders Organisation
- [ILGA-Europe - the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association](#)
- [Russian LGBT Network](#)
- [UNITED for Intercultural Action - European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees](#)

3. Protests in Ireland week beginning 2nd September

This week as part of a ‘Global Speak Out’ on LGBT Human Rights in Russia a range of actions will take place including a **protest outside the Dáil on 3rd Sept at 19:30** and a **protest outside the Russian embassy on Sunday 8th at 3pm**, organised the Irish LGBT campaign group [Action For Russia](#).