



Press release 2nd September 2013

EU Leaders must confront President Putin at G20 summit about human rights crisis in Russia

An international campaign, "[Keep Hope Alive](#)" is calling on world leaders to challenge the Russian government about 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.**

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.

"The upcoming G20 summit presents a critical opportunity for world leaders to make clear to Russia that these attacks on human rights are unacceptable, will not go unchallenged and will not be without consequences." said **Kieran Rose, GLEN Chair.**

"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 through the EU, the council of Europe, the United Nations Human Rights Council, where Ireland is currently a member, and any other international body where human rights are relevant" continued 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" concluded Rose.

Ends

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Editors notes:

1. Keep Hope Alive Campaign

GLEN is a member of ILGA-Europe, Europe's largest umbrella lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex organisation, which is coordinating the "Keep Hope Alive" campaign.

For further information on the 'Keep Hope Alive' campaign:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/russiakeephopealive

- [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](#)

2. 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 by a group of Irish LGBT people - [Action For Russia](#).