

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 4 April 2017

Dear Commissioner,

As a follow-up to our meeting of 17 January 2017, I wish to thank you once again for having visited the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, which shows your strong interest in our co-operation. I was also glad to hear about your important initiatives undertaken in recent weeks. As I had indicated, you can count on the Council of Europe's support for the important work you carry out on human rights protection.

I also wished to raise with you a specific and urgent issue. I have just been informed of worrying allegations by some media and NGOs about serious human rights violations against LGBT persons in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation. I am sure that your Office is also aware of these allegations. Given the seriousness of these claims I am, naturally, certain that you will look into them with due attention. I would appreciate if you could share with me the results of your investigations at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

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High Commissioner for Human Rights
of the Russian Federation

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