



CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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**Declaration CONF/PLE(2017)DEC1 adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 27 January 2017**

**Support for the letter of the Council of Europe Secretary General on the proposed legislation which would decriminalise certain domestic violence in the Russian Federation**

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At its meeting on 27 January 2017, the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe declared its support for the letter sent on 16 January 2017 by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland to the State Duma and the Federation Council of the Russian Federation on 16 January 2017. The Secretary General deplored the proposed legislation, which would decriminalise certain domestic violence (battery within the family), reducing it from a criminal offence to an administrative offence.

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe expresses solidarity with Russian civil society, which has campaigned extensively against this change in law to which it is strongly opposed. It calls upon the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to continue addressing this issue, and pledges to support those efforts.