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Contact: Clare Ovey
Tel: 03 88 41 36 45

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Meeting: 1273 meeting (6-8 December 2016) (DH)

Communication from a NGO (GayRussia et Moscow Pride) (15/11/2016) in the case of Alekseyev against Russian Federation (Application No. 4916/07).

Information made available under Rule 9.2 of the Rules of the Committee of Ministers for the supervision of the execution of judgments and of the terms of friendly settlements.

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Réunion : 1273 réunion (6-8 décembre 2016) (DH)

Communication d'une ONG (GayRussia et Moscow Pride) (15/11/2016) dans l'affaire Alekseyev contre Fédération de Russie (Requête n° 4916/07) **[anglais uniquement]**

Informations mises à disposition en vertu de la Règle 9.2 des Règles du Comité des Ministres pour la surveillance de l'exécution des arrêts et des termes des règlements amiables.



Moscow, 15 November 2016

RE: Implementation of the European Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of Alekseyev v. Russia, nos. 4916/07, 25924/08 and 14599/09, judgment of 21/10/2010, final on 11/04/2011

SUBMISSION on the basis of the Decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe delivered at the 1250th meeting (8-10 March 2016) and the updated Action Plan submitted by the Russian Federation on 24 October 2016

Date of next examination: 6-8 December 2016
(CMCE-DH meeting 1273)

At their 1250th meeting in March 2016 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe delivered the decision on the compliance of the Russian Federation with the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Alekseyev v. Russia, expressing serious concern about the denials of permits for multiple public events of sexual minorities in the Russian cities, including on the basis of the Federal law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors, and requesting the Russian Government to submit to the Committee of Ministers a comprehensive plan setting out the concrete and targeted measures on the implementation of the European Court decision in the instant case and to provide information on all requests to hold public events similar to the one in the present judgment between 1 October 2015 and 30 June 2016 in Moscow and St. Petersburg, as well as in the Kostroma, Arkhangelsk, Murmansk and Tyumen regions, including in each case the date of the request, whether the request was granted, the reasons for the refusal (where applicable), whether the reasons for refusal included reference to the Federal Law, details of any subsequent appeals, including details of the appeal decisions, and whether the event proceeded in line with the original request.

On 24 October 2016 the Russian Government submitted their updated Action Plan concerning the enforcement of the Alekseyev judgment in which the authorities provided some further information on the recent developments in the sphere of the respect for the freedom of assembly of LGBT individuals in the Russian Federation and confirmed the denial of permits for multiple public assemblies in the above mentioned period, including all those initiated by the applicant in the case of Alekseyev v. Russia.

Russian LGBT Human Rights Project GayRussia.Ru and Moscow Pride Organizing Committee would like to present their own updated information concerning the bans of LGBT public assemblies in Russia in the period between January and November 2016 as well as additional comments on the current situation with the legislation prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors and with the respect of the right to freedom of assembly of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia.

Despite the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation concerning the Russian Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors delivered on 23 September 2014 and the clarification of the said decision by the Constitutional Court delivered on 27 October 2015, according to which the existing prohibition can not be interpreted by the authorities and the courts in a broad manner and does not prevent the organization and conduct of the public assemblies of sexual minorities in accordance with the relevant law on public assemblies, the authorities in the Russian cities continued to deny all permissions for holding of the public assemblies with the LGBT themes. In accordance with the Constitutional Court clarifications, it is up to the executive authorities and the general jurisprudence courts, including the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, to decide whether the aims of each particular public assembly violate the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors.

There has not been any single case since the delivery of the judgment or clarifications of the Constitutional Court where the general jurisprudence courts ruled in favor of the organizers of the assemblies with LGBT themes. On the contrary, in each case they came to the conclusion that the denials of permits for the assemblies were lawful as the aims of those assemblies violated the Federal Law on propaganda. In some cases, where the applicants appealed against the judgments to the Supreme Court, the highest instance denied to review the conclusions of the lower courts.

We would like to attract the attention of the Committee of Ministers to the fact that in 2016 the situation with the respect of the right of LGBT individuals to freedom of assembly in Russia continued to sharply deteriorate. At the time of the current submission, in 2016 alone municipal or regional authorities banned Gay Parade marches and all public assemblies in support of the rights of sexual and gender minorities and condemning homophobia and transphobia in the following **56 Russian cities located in 55 out of 85 constitutional regions (subjects of the Russian Federation):**

1. Moscow (Moscow);
2. St. Petersburg (St. Petersburg);
3. Murmansk (Murmanskaya Oblast);
4. Sevastopol (Sevastopol);
5. Simferopol (Republic of Crimea);
6. Yalta (Republic of Crimea);
7. Tyumen (Tyumenskaya Oblast);

8. Tula (Tulskaya Oblast);
9. Kaluga (Kaluzhskaya Oblast);
10. Tver (Tverskaya Oblast);
11. Ryazan (Ryazanskaya Oblast);
12. Arkhangelsk (Arkhangelskaya Oblast);
13. Kostroma (Kostromskaya Oblast);
14. Yaroslavl (Yaroslavskaya Oblast);
15. Ivanovo (Ivanovskaya Oblast);
16. Vladimir (Vladimirskaya Oblast);
17. Belgorod (Belgorodskaya Oblast);
18. Kursk (Kurskaya Oblast);
19. Oryol (Orlovskaya Oblast);
20. Voronezh (Voronezhskaya Oblast);
21. Lipetsk (Lipetskaya Oblast);
22. Tambov (Tambovskaya Oblast);
23. Nizhniy Novgorod (Nizhegorodskaya Oblast);
24. Saransk (Republic of Mordoviya);
25. Penza (Penzenskaya Oblast);
26. Saratov (Saratovskaya Oblast);
27. Samara (Samarskaya Oblast);
28. Ulyanovsk (Ulyanovskaya Oblast);
29. Kazan (Republic of Tatarstan);
30. Cheboksary (Republic of Chuvashiya);
31. Yoshkar-Ola (Republic of Mariy-El);
32. Vyborg (Leningradskaya Oblast);
33. Irkutsk (Irkutskaya Oblast);
34. Chita (Zabaykalskiy Krai);
35. Ulad-Ude (Republic of Buryatiya);
36. Bryansk (Bryanskaya Oblast);
37. Smolensk (Smolenskaya Oblast);
38. Pskov (Pskovskaya Oblast);
39. Velikiy Novgorod (Novgorodskaya Oblast);
40. Khimki (Moskovskaya Oblast);
41. Kaliningrad (Kaliningradskaya Oblast);
42. Kirov (Kirovskaya Oblast);
43. Izhevsk (Republic of Udmurtiya);
44. Perm (Permskiy Krai);
45. Yekaterinburg (Sverdlovskaya Oblast);
46. Kurgan (Kurganskaya Oblast);
47. Chelyabinsk (Chelyabinskaya Oblast);
48. Ufa (Republic of Bashkortostan);
49. Rostov-na-Donu (Rostovskaya Oblast);
50. Krasnodar (Krasnodarskiy Krai);
51. Elista (Republic of Kalmykiya);
52. Astrakhan (Astrakhanskaya Oblast);
53. Volgograd (Volgogradskaya Oblast);
54. Vologda (Vologodskaya Oblast);
55. Petrozavodsk (Republic of Kareliya);
56. Syktyvkar (Republic of Komi).

In the absolute majority of cases municipal or regional authorities denied permits for the public assemblies with the reference to the Russian federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. In a few isolated cases the sole reason for the denial of permits was that the locations chosen by the organizers were not suitable for the conduct of the public assemblies. In each application the organizers clearly expressed their willingness to change the time and/or the locations for the marches, rallies and picketings but the authorities failed to make relevant offers. Moreover, in each case the organizers guaranteed that the participants in the assemblies would not violate any norms of public morality or demonstrate nudity or indecent content.

It is worth mentioning that the applications for Gay Parade marches and other LGBT assemblies in so many Russian regions in 2016 provoked wide discussions of the status of sexual and gender minorities in the local media as well as in social networks and among regional political elites. Nevertheless, officials and politicians in several Russian regions expressed their strong views against the rights of LGBT people and even said they would never allow such assemblies in their cities.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Moscow (Moscow)

On 26 November 2015 Moscow Government denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for the Winter Moscow Gay Pride Parade march in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia as well as the rally to call for the amendments to the Russian Labor Code in order to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity at the example of the similar law passed in Ukraine in November 2015. The assemblies were planned for 5 and 6 December 2016 respectively. The permits for both assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 19 February 2016 the Preobrazhenskiy District Court of Moscow ruled that the denials of permits for both public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Moscow City Court, which dismissed the appeal on 4 October 2016. They are ready to take the case to the Russian Supreme Court as well as the European Court if necessary.

On 17 May 2016 Moscow Government denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for five public assemblies:

- March of 11th Moscow Gay Pride in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 27 May 2016;
- Rally dedicated to the 23rd anniversary of decriminalization of homosexual relations between consenting male adults in Russia with the call for further strengthening of the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals as well as for the fight against

- discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 27 May 2016;
- Rally of 11th Moscow Gay Pride in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 27 May 2016;
- Rally in support of the opening of "LGBT Pride House" in Russian cities during the football World Cup in Russia in 2018 calling for the respect of the constitutional right of the group of citizens to the state registration and opening of the "LGBT Pride House" planned for 28 May 2016;
- March of 11th Moscow Gay Pride in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 28 May 2016.

The permits for five assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 26 May 2016 the Preobrazhenskiy District Court of Moscow ruled that the denials of permits for five public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Moscow City Court, which dismissed the appeal on 20 October 2016. They are ready to take the case to the Russian Supreme Court as well as the European Court if necessary.

In May 2016, despite the judgment in the case of Alekseyev v. Russia on the public events with the identical aims, the Moscow authorities banned all public LGBT assemblies of Moscow Gay Pride for the 11th consecutive year (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016).

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in St. Petersburg (St. Petersburg)

On 14 March 2016 St. Petersburg authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally against homophobia and transphobia of the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly deputy Vitaliy Milonov planned for 22 March 2016;
- Rally to celebrate bisexuality of the Russian Emperor Peter the Great to disseminate information about bisexuality of the Russian Emperor Peter the Great to promote tolerant attitude towards gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in contemporary Russia planned for 23 March 2016;
- March of the St. Petersburg Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 24 March 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 21 March 2016 the Smolninskiy District Court of St. Petersburg ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the

Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the St. Petersburg City Court, which dismissed the appeal on 30 May 2016. On 17 October 2016 the judge of the St. Petersburg City Court dismissed the cassation appeal of the organizers. On 31 October 2016 the organizers sent a cassation appeal against the lower courts judgments to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which is pending. They are ready to take the case to the European Court if necessary.

On 17 March 2016 St. Petersburg authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- March of the St. Petersburg Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 27 March 2016;
- Rally to celebrate bisexuality of the Russian Emperor Peter the Great to disseminate information about bisexuality of the Russian Emperor Peter the Great to promote tolerant attitude towards gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in contemporary Russia planned for 28 March 2016;
- Rally against homophobia and transphobia of the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly deputy Vitaliy Milonov planned for 29 March 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 28 March 2016 the Smolninskiy District Court of St. Petersburg ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the St. Petersburg City Court, which dismissed the appeal on 22 June 2016. On 17 October 2016 the judge of the St. Petersburg City Court dismissed the cassation appeal of the organizers. On 31 October 2016 the organizers sent a cassation appeal against the lower courts judgments to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which is pending. They are ready to take the case to the European Court if necessary.

On 21 April 2016 St. Petersburg authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for five public assemblies:

- Rally to attract attention of the society and of the authorities to the need to follow the decision of the European Court of Human Rights on the illegality of Moscow Pride bans and to call for the respect for the right of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals to freedom of assembly in Russia planned for 28 April 2016;
- Rally to celebrate the 23rd anniversary since the decriminalization of homosexual relations between consenting male adults in Russia and to call for the improvement of the Russian legislation in terms of the recognition of the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender

individuals as well as for the prohibition of discrimination of sexual and gender minorities planned for 29 April 2016;

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 30 April 2016;
- March of the St. Petersburg Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 1 May 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 2 May 2016.

The permits for five assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 20 May 2016 the Smolninskiy District Court of St. Petersburg ruled that the denials of permits for five public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the St. Petersburg City Court, which dismissed the appeal on 25 July 2016. On 17 October 2016 the judge of the St. Petersburg City Court dismissed the cassation appeal of the organizers. On 31 October 2016 the organizers sent a cassation appeal against the lower courts judgments to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which is pending. They are ready to take the case to the European Court if necessary.

On 23 May 2016 St. Petersburg authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for five public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 31 May 2016;
- Rally to condemn criminal prosecution for consensual gay sex in the countries of the world to call for the universal decriminalization of consensual homosexual relations planned for 31 May 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 31 May 2016;
- March of the St. Petersburg Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 1 June 2016;
- Rally in support of the opening of "LGBT Pride House" in Russian cities during the football World Cup in Russia in 2018 calling for the respect of

the constitutional right of the group of citizens to the state registration and opening of the "LGBT Pride House" planned for 1 June 2016.

The permits for five assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 10 June 2016 the Smolninskiy District Court of St. Petersburg ruled that the denials of permits for five public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the St. Petersburg City Court, which dismissed the appeal on 25 July 2016. On 17 October 2016 the judge of the St. Petersburg City Court dismissed the cassation appeal of the organizers. On 31 October 2016 the organizers sent a cassation appeal against the lower courts judgments to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which is pending. They are ready to take the case to the European Court if necessary.

On 19 September 2016 St. Petersburg authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for five public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 26 September 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 26 September 2016;
- March of the St. Petersburg Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 27 September 2016;
- Rally calling for the respect of the constitutional right of sexual and gender minorities to freedom of peaceful assembly in Russia in order to appeal for the fulfillment of the European Court judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of the bans of Moscow Pride public protests and to call for the respect of the right of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals to freedom of assembly in Russia, guaranteed by the Article 31 of the Russian Constitution planned for 27 September 2016;
- Rally calling for the exclusion of transgenderism from the classification of mental disorders planned for 28 September 2016.

The permits for five assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 27 September 2016 the Smolninskiy District Court of St. Petersburg ruled that the denials of permits for five public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed

against the ruling in the St. Petersburg City Court, which is pending. The organizers are planning to send cassation appeals against the lower courts judgments to the Presidium of the St. Petersburg City Court and the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. They are ready to take the case to the European Court if necessary.

On 10 October 2016 St. Petersburg authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- March of the St. Petersburg Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 19 October 2016;
- Rally calling for the respect of the constitutional right of sexual and gender minorities to freedom of peaceful assembly in Russia in order to appeal for the fulfillment of the European Court judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of the bans of Moscow Pride public protests and to call for the respect of the right of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals to freedom of assembly in Russia, guaranteed by the Article 31 of the Russian Constitution planned for 19 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 21 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 27 October 2016 the Smolninskiy District Court of St. Petersburg ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies are planning to appeal the decision in the St. Petersburg City Court, to send cassation appeals against the lower courts judgments to the Presidium of the St. Petersburg City Court and the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. They are ready to take the case to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Arkhangelsk (Arkhangelskaya Oblast)

On 15 January 2016 Arkhangelsk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for four public assemblies:

- Rally to call for the saving of the population and banning of catching of the homosexual smelt fish from Severnaya Dvina river planned for 25 January 2016;
- Rally to attract attention of the society and of the authorities to the need to follow the decision of the European Court of Human Rights on the illegality of Moscow Pride bans and to call for the respect for the right of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals to freedom of assembly in Russia planned for 26 January 2016;

- Rally to condemn the barbaric executions of homosexuals by throwing them from the roofs of the tallest buildings and by ways of stoning committed by the militants of the Islamic State organization in Iraq and Syria as well as the call to the international community to take measures to put an end to such barbarities in the future planned for 27 January 2016;
- March of the Arkhangelsk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 28 January 2016.

The permits for four assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 25 January 2016 the Oktyabrskiy District Court of Arkhangelsk ruled that the denials of permits for four public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Arkhangelsk Regional Court, which dismissed the appeal on 11 April 2016. On 8 June 2016 and 24 August 2016 the cassation appeals against the lower courts judgments were dismissed by the Presidium of the Arkhangelsk Regional Court and the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. On 3 October 2016 the organizers launched the application on the current case with the European Court.

On 20 May 2016 Arkhangelsk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for five public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the opening of "LGBT Pride House" in Russian cities during the football World Cup in Russia in 2018 calling for the respect of the constitutional right of the group of citizens to the state registration and opening of the "LGBT Pride House" planned for 1 June 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 1 June 2016;
- March of the Arkhangelsk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 2 June 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 2 June 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 2 June 2016.

The permits for five assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 31 May 2016 the Oktyabrskiy District Court of Arkhangelsk ruled that the denials of permits for five public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal

Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Arkhangelsk Regional Court, which dismissed the appeal on 8 September 2016. On 17 October 2016 the organizers sent a cassation appeal against the lower courts rulings to the Presidium of the Arkhangelsk Regional Court which is pending. They are ready to take the case to the Russian Supreme Court as well as the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Murmansk (Murmanskaya Oblast)

On 27 May 2016 Murmansk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for five public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 29 May 2016;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 29 May 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 30 May 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 30 May 2016;
- March of the Murmansk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 31 May 2016.

The organizers were offered by the Murmansk Administration to change the locations of the assemblies three times. They always agreed with the proposals to hold the assemblies in the specially designated places allocated for public events in the city of Murmansk. Nevertheless, the permits for five assemblies were ultimately denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 5 August 2016 the Oktyabrskiy District Court of Murmansk ruled that the denials of permits for five public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Murmansk Regional Court, which dismissed the appeal on 12 October 2016. The organizers sent a cassation appeal against the lower courts judgments to the

Presidium of the Murmansk Regional Court and are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Simferopol (Republic of Crimea)

On 26 April 2016 Simferopol authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 4 May 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 5 May 2016.
- March of the Simferopol Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 6 May 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 24 June 2016 the Tsentralnyi District Court of Simferopol ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea, which is pending. They are ready to take the case to the Russian Supreme Court as well as the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Sevastopol (Sevastopol)

On 27 April 2016 Sevastopol authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 6 May 2016;
- March of the Sevastopol Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 7 May 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 7 May 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 12 May 2016 the Leninskiy District Court of Sevastopol ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among

minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Sevastopol City Court, which dismissed the appeal on 11 October 2016. On 31 October 2016 the organizers sent a cassation appeal against the lower courts rulings to the Presidium of the Sevastopol City Court which is pending. They are ready to take the case to the Russian Supreme Court as well as the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Yalta (Republic of Crimea)

On 29 April 2016 Yalta authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for two public assemblies:

- March of the Yalta Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 8 May 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 8 May 2016.

The permits for two assemblies were denied with the references to the local decree of the Yalta Administration temporarily banning all public events in Yalta except those connected to the state holidays and jubilee dates and events. The Administration also pointed out that the conduct of the march would create threats to the movement of transport and pedestrians. On 29 June 2016 the Yalta City Court of the Republic of Crimea ruled that the denials of permits for two public assemblies were lawful. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Yalta City Court in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea and the appeal is pending. They are ready to take the case to the Russian Supreme Court as well as the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Belgorod (Belgorodskaya Oblast)

On 28 September 2016 the Belgorod authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 7 October 2016;
- March of the Belgorod Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 8 October 2016;
- Rally to condemn criminal prosecution for consensual gay sex in the countries of the world to call for the universal decriminalization of consensual homosexual relations planned for 8 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Sverdlovskiy District Court of Belgorod has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers of the assemblies are ready to appeal against the ruling in the Belgorod Regional Court and in the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. They are ready to take the case to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Ivanovo (Ivanovskaya Oblast)

On 27 September 2016 the Ivanovo authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing to widely disseminate the conclusions of the Russian Constitutional Court contained in its decision on the constitutionality of the provision of the Russian Code on Administrative Offenses concerning the penalties for the propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors planned for 28 September 2016. The organizers aimed to publicly read and quote the verdict of the Constitutional Court;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 5 October 2016;
- March of the Ivanovo Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 5 October 2016.

The Ivanovo authorities offered the organizers to change the locations of three assemblies to which they immediately agreed. Later on the same day the permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 5 October 2016 the Leninskiy District Court of Ivanovo ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Ivanovo Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Kaluga (Kaluzhskaya Oblast)

On 12 September 2016 the Kaluga authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- March of the Kaluga Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 23 September 2016;
- Picketing with the aim to call for the fulfillment of the European Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of Moscow Pride bans and for the respect of the right to

freedom of assembly of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in Russia planned for 15 September 2016;

- Picketing in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 16 September 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 20 October 2016 the Kaluzhskiy District Court of Kaluzhskaya Oblast ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Kaluga Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Kostroma (Kostromskaya Oblast)

On 21 April 2016 the Kostroma authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for six public assemblies:

- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 2 May 2016;
- March of the Kostroma Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 3 May 2016;
- Rally to celebrate the Blueberries festival to call for the ban on growing of the genetically modified blueberries in Kostroma region planned for 3 May;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 4 May 2016;
- Rally to celebrate the festival of homosexual and transgender fish to call for the preservation of the species and for the ban on catching of Volga homosexual and transgender fish planned for 4 May 2016;
- Rally against the ban on the adoption of Russian orphans by foreign same-sex couples in order to call for the repeal of the Russian law prohibiting the adoption of orphans by foreign same-sex couples as well as by individuals from the countries which legalized gay and lesbian marriages planned for 5 May 2016.

The permits for six assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 8 June 2016 the Sverdlovskiy District Court of Kostroma ruled that the denials of permits

for six public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Kostroma Regional Court which dismissed the appeal on 10 August 2016. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

On 23 September 2016 the Kostroma authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- March of the Kostroma Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 3 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the opening of "LGBT Pride House" in Russian cities during the football World Cup in Russia in 2018 calling for the respect of the constitutional right of the group of citizens to the state registration and opening of the "LGBT Pride House" planned for 3 October 2016;
- Rally with the aim to call for the fulfillment of the European Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of Moscow Pride bans and for the respect of the right to freedom of assembly of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in Russia planned for 4 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Sverdlovskiy District Court of Kostroma has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers of the assemblies are ready to appeal against the ruling in the Kostroma Regional Court. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Kursk (Kurskaya Oblast)

On 28 September 2016 the Kursk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing with the aim to call for the fulfillment of the European Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of Moscow Pride bans and for the respect of the right to freedom of assembly of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in Russia planned for 6 October 2016;
- March of the Kursk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 9 October 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 9 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 3 November 2016 the Leninskiy District Court of Kursk ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the

Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies are planning to appeal against the ruling in the Kursk Regional Court. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Lipetsk (Lipetskaya Oblast)

On 3 October 2016 the Lipetsk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally with the aim to call for the fulfillment of the European Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of “Alekseyev v. Russia” on the illegality of Moscow Pride bans and for the respect of the right to freedom of assembly of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in Russia planned for 10 October 2016;
- March of the Lipetsk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 12 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 12 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 10 November 2016 the Sovetskiy District Court of Lipetsk ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies are planning to appeal against the ruling in the Lipetsk Regional Court. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Oryol (Orlovskaya Oblast)

On 28 September 2016 the Oryol authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 6 October 2016;
- March of the Oryol Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 10 October 2016;

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 10 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 6 October 2016 the Sovetskiy District Court of Oryol ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Oryol Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Ryazan (Ryazanskaya Oblast)

On 22 September 2016 the Ryazan authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 1 October 2016;
- March of the Ryazan Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 2 October 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 3 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 25 October 2016 the Sovetskiy District Court of Ryazan ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Ryazan Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Tambov (Tambovskaya Oblast)

On 29 September 2016 the Tambov authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals

in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 9 October 2016;

- March of the Tambov Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 11 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 11 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 11 October 2016 the Leninskiy District Court of Tambov ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Tambov Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Tula (Tulskaya Oblast)

On 12 September 2016 the Tula authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- March of the Tula Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 22 September 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 22 September 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 23 September 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 21 September 2016 the Tsentralnyi District Court of Tula ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Tula Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Tver (Tverskaya Oblast)

On 15 September 2016 the Tver authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- March of the Tver Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 24 September 2016;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 25 September 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 25 September 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 7 October 2016 the Tsentralnyi District Court of Tver ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Tver Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Tyumen (Tyumenskaya Oblast)

On 9 September 2016 the Tyumen authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for five public assemblies:

- March of the Tyumen Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 18 September 2016;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 19 September 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 20 September 2016;
- Rally calling for the exclusion of transgenderism from the classification of mental disorders planned for 20 September 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals

in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 21 September 2016.

The permits for five assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 27 September 2016 the Tsentralnyi District Court of Tyumen ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Tyumen Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Vladimir (Vladimirskaya Oblast)

On 22 September 2016 the Vladimir authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing in support of the opening of “LGBT Pride House” in Russian cities during the football World Cup in Russia in 2018 calling for the respect of the constitutional right of the group of citizens to the state registration and opening of the “LGBT Pride House” planned for 28 September 2016;
- March of the Vladimir Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 6 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 6 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 31 October 2016 the Oktyabrskiy District Court of Vladimir ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies are planning to appeal against the ruling in the Vladimir Regional Court. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Voronezh (Voronezhskaya Oblast)

On 29 September 2016 the Voronezh authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the opening of “LGBT Pride House” in Russian cities during the football World Cup in Russia in 2018 calling for the respect of the constitutional right of the group of citizens to the state registration and opening of the “LGBT Pride House” planned for 10 October 2016;
- March of the Voronezh Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 13 October 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 13 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 31 October 2016 the Tsentralnyi District Court of Voronezh ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies are planning to appeal against the ruling in the Voronezh Regional Court. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Yaroslavl (Yaroslavskaya Oblast)

On 23 September 2016 the Yaroslavl authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 29 September 2016;
- Picketing against the ban on the adoption of Russian orphans by foreign same-sex couples in order to call for the repeal of the Russian law prohibiting the adoption of orphans by foreign same-sex couples as well as by individuals from the countries which legalized gay and lesbian marriages planned for 30 September 2016;
- March of the Yaroslavl Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 4 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied without any specific motivation with the references to the conclusions of the Yaroslavl ombudsman for the rights of children. The Leninskiy District Court of Yaroslavl denied to consider the case on procedural grounds. This denial of justice is currently being challenged by the organizers of the assemblies in the Yaroslavl Regional Court. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Saransk (Republic of Mordoviya)

On 10 October 2016 the Saransk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing calling for the exclusion of transgenderism from the classification of mental disorders planned for 13 October 2016;
- March of the Saransk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 16 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 16 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 25 October 2016 the Leninskiy District Court of Saransk ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Mordoviya where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Nizhniy Novgorod (Nizhegorodskaya Oblast)

On 6 October 2016 the Nizhniy Novgorod authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing to condemn criminal prosecution for consensual gay sex in the countries of the world to call for the universal decriminalization of consensual homosexual relations planned for 12 October 2016;
- March of the Nizhniy Novgorod Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 15 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 15 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On The Nizhegorodskiy District Court of Nizhniy Novgorod scheduled the hearing of the case for 16 November 2016. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Nizhniy Novgorod Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Penza (Penzenskaya Oblast)

On 7 October 2016 the Penza authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 11 October 2016;
- March of the Penza Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 17 October 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 17 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 3 November 2016 the Leninskiy District Court of Penza ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Penza Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Saratov (Saratovskaya Oblast)

On 5 October 2016 the Saratov authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing against the ban on the adoption of Russian orphans by foreign same-sex couples in order to call for the repeal of the Russian law prohibiting the adoption of orphans by foreign same-sex couples as well as by individuals from the countries which legalized gay and lesbian marriages planned for 14 October 2016;
- March of the Saratov Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 18 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the opening of “LGBT Pride House” in Russian cities during the football World Cup in Russia in 2018 calling for the respect of the constitutional right of the group of citizens to the state registration and opening of the “LGBT Pride House” planned for 18 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Volzhskiy District Court of Saratov has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Saratov Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Ulyanovsk (Ulyanovskaya Oblast)

On 7 October 2016 the Ulyanovsk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 11 October 2016;
- March of the Ulyanovsk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 19 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 19 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Leninskiy District Court of Ulyanovsk has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Ulyanovsk Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Samara (Samarskaya Oblast)

On 5 and 7 October 2016 the Samara authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 10 October 2016;
- March of the Samara Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 19 October 2016;
- Rally with the aim to call for the fulfillment of the European Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of Moscow Pride bans and for the respect of the right to freedom of assembly of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in Russia planned for 19 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Leninskiy District Court of Samara has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Samara Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Kazan (Republic of Tatarstan)

On 7 October 2016 the Kazan authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing to condemn criminal prosecution for consensual gay sex in the countries of the world to call for the universal decriminalization of consensual homosexual relations planned for 12 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 15 October 2016;
- March of the Kazan Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 20 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Vakhitovskiy District Court of Kazan has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Cheboksary (Republic of Chuvashiya)

On 7 October 2016 the Cheboksary authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 13 October 2016;
- Rally calling for the exclusion of transgenderism from the classification of mental disorders planned for 16 October 2016;
- March of the Cheboksary Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 20 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors as well as on technical grounds. The Leninskiy District Court of Cheboksary has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Chuvashiya, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Yoshkar-Ola (Republic of Mariy-El)

On 7 and 10 October 2016 the Yoshkar-Ola authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 11 October 2016;

- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 17 October 2016;
- March of the Yoshkar-Ola Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 20 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. Initially, the authorities offered the organizers to change the location of the picketing and conduct it in the village Ignatyev on the outskirts of Yoshkar-Ola to which they agreed, but ultimately the picketing was also banned. Moreover, at the time of the planned picketing dozens of antigay protestors gathered in the village to prevent the conduct of the assembly. The Yoshkar-Ola City Court has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Mariy-El, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Vyborg (Leningradskaya Oblast)

On 10 October 2016 the Vyborg authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Picketing in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 17 October 2016;
- March of the Vyborg Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 21 October 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 21 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Vyborgskiy City Court has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Leningradskiy Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Irkutsk (Irkutskaya Oblast)

On 12 October 2016 the Irkutsk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 22 October 2016;

- March of the Irkutsk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 23 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 23 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 20 October 2016 the Kirovskiy District Court of Irkutsk ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Irkutsk Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Chita (Zabaykalskiy Krai)

On 13 October 2016 the Chita authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- March of the Chita Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 24 October 2016;
- Rally to condemn criminal prosecution for consensual gay sex in the countries of the world to call for the universal decriminalization of consensual homosexual relations planned for 24 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 25 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Tsentralnyi District Court of Chita has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Zabaykalskiy kraevoy Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Ulan-Ude (Republic of Buryatiya)

On 14 October 2016 the Ulan-Ude authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally

recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 25 October 2016;

- March of the Ulan-Ude Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 26 October 2016;
- Rally calling for the respect of the constitutional right of sexual and gender minorities to freedom of peaceful assembly in Russia in order to appeal for the fulfillment of the European Court judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of the bans of Moscow Pride public protests and to call for the respect of the right of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals to freedom of assembly in Russia, guaranteed by the Article 31 of the Russian Constitution planned for 26 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 24 October 2016 the Sovetskiy District Court of Ulan-Ude ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Buryatiya where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Bryansk (Bryanskaya Oblast)

On 20 October 2016 the Bryansk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- March of the Bryansk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 29 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 29 October 2016;
- Rally against the ban on the adoption of Russian orphans by foreign same-sex couples in order to call for the repeal of the Russian law prohibiting the adoption of orphans by foreign same-sex couples as well as by individuals from the countries which legalized gay and lesbian marriages planned for 31 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 28 October 2016 the Sovetskiy District Court of Bryansk ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European

Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Bryansk Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Smolensk (Smolenskaya Oblast)

On 20 October 2016 the Smolensk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- March of the Smolensk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 30 October 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 30 October 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 31 October 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. On 28 October 2016 the Leninskiy District Court of Smolensk ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Smolensk Regional Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Pskov (Pskovskaya Oblast)

On 20 October 2016 the Pskov regional authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally calling for the respect of the constitutional right of sexual and gender minorities to freedom of peaceful assembly in Russia in order to appeal for the fulfillment of the European Court judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of the bans of Moscow Pride public protests and to call for the respect of the right of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals to freedom of assembly in Russia, guaranteed by the Article 31 of the Russian Constitution planned for 1 November 2016;
- March of the Pskov Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 1 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the

amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 1 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Pskov City Court has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Pskov Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Velikiy Novgorod (Novgorodskaya Oblast)

On 21 October 2016 the Velikiy Novgorod authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally to condemn criminal prosecution for consensual gay sex in the countries of the world to call for the universal decriminalization of consensual homosexual relations planned for 2 November 2016;
- March of the Velikiy Novgorod Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 2 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 2 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Novgorod District Court of Novgorodskaya Oblast has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Novgorod Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Khimki (Moskovskaya Oblast)

On 24 October 2016 the Khimki authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 3 November 2016;
- March of the Khimki Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 3 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 3 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied on technical reasons due to the transport problems and the breaches of the rights of pedestrians. The Khimki City

Court has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Moskovskaya Oblast Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Kaliningrad (Kaliningradskaya Oblast)

On 3 November 2016 the Kaliningrad authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 4 November 2016;
- March of the Kaliningrad Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 4 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 4 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. Initially, the Kaliningrad authorities offered the organizers of public assemblies to change the date and the location of the assemblies twice to which they agreed. Ultimately, the authorities banned all three assemblies. On 11 November 2016 the Tsentralnyi District Court of Kaliningrad ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers are planning to take the case to the Kaliningrad Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Kirov (Kirovskaya Oblast)

On 27 October 2016 the Kirov authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 5 November 2016;
- March of the Kirov Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 5 November 2016;
- Rally calling for the exclusion of transgenderism from the classification of mental disorders planned for 5 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The

Pervomayskiy District Court of Kirov has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Kirov Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Izhevsk (Republic of Udmurtiya)

On 28 October 2016 the Izhevsk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 6 November 2016;
- March of the Izhevsk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 6 November 2016;
- Rally against the ban on the adoption of Russian orphans by foreign same-sex couples in order to call for the repeal of the Russian law prohibiting the adoption of orphans by foreign same-sex couples as well as by individuals from the countries which legalized gay and lesbian marriages planned for 6 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Oktyabrskiy District Court of Izhevsk has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Udmurtiya, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Perm (Permskiy Krai)

On 31 October 2016 the Perm authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally calling for the respect of the constitutional right of sexual and gender minorities to freedom of peaceful assembly in Russia in order to appeal for the fulfillment of the European Court judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of the bans of Moscow Pride public protests and to call for the respect of the right of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals to freedom of assembly in Russia, guaranteed by the Article 31 of the Russian Constitution planned for 7 November 2016;
- March of the Perm Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 7 November 2016;
- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 7 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Leninskiy District Court of Perm has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The

organizers are ready to take the case to the Permskiy Kray Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Yekaterinburg (Sverdlovskaya Oblast)

On 28 October 2016 the authorities of Sverdlovskaya Oblast denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies in Yekaterinburg:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 8 November 2016;
- March of the Yekaterinburg Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 8 November 2016;
- Rally to express gratitude to the first Russian President Boris Yeltsin for the repeal of the criminal prosecution for consensual homosexual relations in 1993 planned for 8 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Leninskiy District Court of Yekaterinburg has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Sverdlovsk Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Kurgan (Kurganskaya Oblast)

On 28 October 2016 the Kurgan authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 9 November 2016;
- March of the Kurgan Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 9 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 9 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied due to the bans of public assemblies in the locations applied by the organizers. On 8 November 2016 the Kurganskiy City Court ruled that the denials of permits for three public assemblies were lawful and in compliance with the Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The court dismissed all references of the organizers to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court in the gay propaganda case as well as to the European Court judgment in Alekseyev v. Russia. The organizers of the assemblies appealed against the ruling in the Kurgan Regional

Court where the appeal is pending. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Chelyabinsk (Chelyabinskaya Oblast)

On 28 October 2016 the Chelyabinsk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 10 November 2016;
- March of the Chelyabinsk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 10 November 2016;
- Rally to condemn criminal prosecution for consensual gay sex in the countries of the world to call for the universal decriminalization of consensual homosexual relations planned for 10 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Sovetskiy District Court of Chelyabinsk has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Chelyabinsk Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Ufa (Republic of Bashkortostan)

On 31 October 2016 the Bashkortostan authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies in Ufa:

- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 11 November 2016;
- March of the Ufa Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 11 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 11 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Kirovskiy District Court of Ufa has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Bashkortostan, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Rostov-na-Donu (Rostovskaya Oblast)

On 3 November 2016 the Rostov-na-Donu authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the opening of “LGBT Pride House” in Russian cities during the football World Cup in Russia in 2018 calling for the respect of the constitutional right of the group of citizens to the state registration and opening of the “LGBT Pride House” planned for 12 November 2016;
- March of the Rostov Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 12 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 12 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Leninskiy District Court of Rostov-na-Donu has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Rostov Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Krasnodar (Krasnodarskiy Krai)

On 3 November 2016 the Krasnodar authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 13 November 2016;
- March of the Krasnodar Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 13 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 13 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Pervomayskiy District Court of Krasnodar has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Krasnodar Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Elista (Republic of Kalmykiya)

On 3 November 2016 the Elista authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 14 November 2016;
- March of the Elista Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 14 November 2016;
- Rally calling for the respect of the constitutional right of sexual and gender minorities to freedom of peaceful assembly in Russia in order to appeal for the fulfillment of the European Court judgment in the case of "Alekseyev v. Russia" on the illegality of the bans of Moscow Pride public protests and to call for the respect of the right of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals to freedom of assembly in Russia, guaranteed by the Article 31 of the Russian Constitution planned for 14 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Elista City Court has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kalmykiya, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Astrakhan (Astrakhanskaya Oblast)

On 7 and 8 November 2016 the Astrakhan local and regional authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally to condemn criminal prosecution for consensual gay sex in the countries of the world to call for the universal decriminalization of consensual homosexual relations planned for 15 November 2016;
- March of the Astrakhan Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 15 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 15 November 2016.

The permits for two rallies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The permit for the march was denied due to the ban on the conduct of the public assemblies at the location chosen by the organizers. The Kirovskiy District Court of Astrakhan has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Astrakhan Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Volgograd (Volgogradskaya Oblast)

In November 2016 the Volgograd authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the opening of "LGBT Pride House" in Russian cities during the football World Cup in Russia in 2018 calling for the respect of the constitutional right of the group of citizens to the state registration and opening of the "LGBT Pride House" planned for 16 November 2016;
- March of the Volgograd Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 16 November 2016;
- Rally to condemn Stalin's repressive Criminal law directed at prosecution of homosexual individuals as well as to call to prevent the repetition of such events in Russia in the future planned for 16 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Tsentralnyi District Court of Volgograd has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Volgograd Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Vologda (Vologodskaya Oblast)

On 9 November 2016 the Vologda authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 19 November 2016;
- March of the Vologda Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 19 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the strengthening of punishment for hate crimes committed against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia in order to call for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" of victims as aggravating circumstances while committing a criminal offence planned for 19 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Vologodskiy City Court has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Vologda Regional Court, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Petrozavodsk (Republic of Kareliya)

On 10 November 2016 the Petrozavodsk authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally against the ban on the adoption of Russian orphans by foreign same-sex couples in order to call for the repeal of the Russian law prohibiting the adoption of orphans by foreign same-sex couples as well

as by individuals from the countries which legalized gay and lesbian marriages planned for 20 November 2016;

- March of the Petrozavodsk Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 20 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legal ban on discrimination of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals in Russia calling for the amendments to the Russian law implementing direct prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity planned for 20 November 2016.

The authorities offered the organizers to change the locations of all three assemblies without offering any concrete alternatives. The organizers are planning to appeal the decisions in court. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kareliya, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Denials of permits for the public LGBT events in Syktyvkar (Republic of Komi)

On 14 November 2016 the Syktyvkar authorities denied Mr. Alekseyev and two other applicants permits for three public assemblies:

- Rally to condemn the Federal law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors in Russia implemented in June 2013 and to call for its repeal planned for 23 November 2016;
- March of the Syktyvkar Gay Parade in support of the tolerant attitude and respect for the rights and freedoms of the homosexual people and gender minorities in Russia planned for 23 November 2016;
- Rally in support of the legalization of same-sex marriage unions calling for the amendments to the Russian Family Code in order to legally recognize the right of two individuals of the same sex to enter into marriage planned for 23 November 2016.

The permits for three assemblies were denied with the references to the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors. The Syktyvkar City Court has not yet ruled on the merits of the case. The organizers are ready to take the case to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Komi, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and to the European Court if necessary.

Official statements against the freedom of assembly for sexual and gender minorities

In 2016 Russian politicians and officials, including those directly responsible for issuing permits for public assemblies, continued to make homophobic statements against the right of LGBT people to freedom of assembly. Those statements were widely circulated in the local and federal media.

On 15 September 2016 Alexey Mayorov, the head of the Moscow Government Department on regional security and the prevention of corruption, responsible for the consideration of the notifications for public assemblies in Moscow, said in the on-line interview with Gazeta.Ru: "We have the law which protects the minors from particular information, we should not build the stone wall around this event.

One thing is to conduct such a parade, the other thing is to get the relevant notification from the prosecution authorities that this was seen by citizens who were walking with their children. The department gives priority to the legislation which protects minors, their moral upbringing." Alexey Mayorov stressed that while he works in the department, there are no perspectives for the conduct of the Gay Parade in the capital.

https://www.gazeta.ru/social/news/2016/09/15/n_9112595.shtml

On 20 October 2016 Smolensk media published a photo of the notification asking for permit for the Gay Parade march in Smolensk. The handwriting resolution of the Smolensk Mayor Nikolay Alasheyev was attached to the document: "To E.S. Kirsanov. Prepare the ban! While I am the head, there will be no Gay Parades in Smolensk!" N.N. Alasheyev."

http://smolensk-i.ru/authority/poka-ya-glava-nikakih-gey-paradov-v-smolenske_174258

On 28 October 2016 the head of Kaliningrad Alexander Yaroshuk made a statement in which he stressed: "The Administration has not issued and will not issue any permits for the Gay Parade. That is why I would like to put an end to the fantasies of those guys: while I am the head of the city, there will be no Gay Parades in Kaliningrad!"

<https://klops.ru/news/obschestvo/142372-yaroshuk-nikakih-gey-paradov-poka-ya-upravlyayu-gorodom-v-kaliningrade-ne-budet>

On 9 November 2016 the head of Kaliningrad Alexander Yaroshuk continued to reflect on the issue of Gay Parades in the interview with "Komsomolskaya Pravda" radio station: "They advertised it everywhere in four days. Can you understand that this was a well planned action of those gays? I was called from all around Russia, from all Europe – the calls were basically from everywhere. They were saying: "Are you an idiot to allow Gay Parades?" And I am not allowing anything. That is why while I am a Mayor there will be no Gay Parades."

<http://kgd.ru/news/society/item/58551-yaroshuk-mne-so-vsej-rossii-i-evropy-pozvonili-i-skazali-idiot-chno-li-gej-parad-razreshaesh>

On 20 October 2016 the Mayor of Velikiy Novgorod Yuriy Bobryshev made his statement on the planned Gay Parade in the city: "I am categorically against this provocative action. Velikiy Novgorod is the pearl of the world and Russian culture and the Motherland of Russia, and I will never allow the conduct of such rallies and parades in our city. The permit will not be signed by me."

<https://news.novgorod.ru/news/152117/>

On 3 November 2016 the head of Bashkortostan parliament Konstantin Tolkachev made his own statement on the initiative of the Gay Parade in Ufa: "Honestly speaking, after the departure of deputy Murzin, I thought I would never face the issue of Gay Parades in Ufa. The time has shown that there is no demand for such demonstrations in our society, and this phenomenon is not very important for our country. The waters are being muddied by some individuals, to whom I would advise not to create conflicts out of nothing and to direct their energy into creative direction, to the solving of problems which we, unfortunately, have more than

enough. By the way, the recent trip to Strasbourg and the outrageous behavior of the representatives of the LGBT community once again persuaded me in the rightness of such an approach.”

<http://ufa1.ru/text/newsline/229030410567680.html?full=3>

The head of the Republic of Crimea Sergey Aksyonov commented the attempts to organize the Gay Parade march and LGBT rallies in Simferopol in April 2016. According to Mr. Aksyonov, “the authorities will not allow to propagate what contradicts with the moral values of the Crimean nations and provokes outrage and disgust of the absolute majority of Crimeans”. Mr. Aksyonov stressed that “we are not interfering in the private lives of citizens, everyone lives the way he wants. But we must protect the people, especially the youth, from the actions, which are directed at the destroying of the moral health of the nation. This is our right and our obligation.”

http://www.krym.aif.ru/society/aksyonov_rasskazal_chno_dumaet_o_gey-parade_v_simferopole

On 17 May 2016 the head of the Russian Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin said that the balanced position of court in the cases connected to sexual minorities and “gender emancipation” is linked to the national peculiarities of Russia. Valeriy Zorkin stressed during the St. Petersburg conference dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Russian Constitutional Court that “in those issues the Constitutional Court of Russia is probably most closely tied to the national consensus, which is based on historic and geopolitical traditions of the multinational Russian nation”. He added that “some mostly sharp reflections of those liberal and individual-based interpretation of human rights, which the European Court in following in general, are very badly implementing” in the Russian law tradition.

<http://www.interfax-religion.ru/?act=news&div=63040>

Comments on the updated Action Plan of the Russian Government

In their updated Action Plan the Government has not provided any positive examples of LGBT public assemblies being authorized in Russian cities, in fact giving references to the multiple number of cases when the LGBT activists were denied permits for public events on the basis of the Federal Law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors.

The references of the Government to the successful conduct of the “Side by Side” LGBT film festival or the LGBT activists forum in Moscow and St. Petersburg have no relevance to the current case as such gatherings were held in closed places, can not be considered as public assemblies and do not need prior authorization from the authorities.

The references of the Government to the single pickets and Rainbow flashmobs also have no relevance to the current case as according to the Russian law single pickets do not need prior authorization from the authorities and the flashmobs were conducted spontaneously due to the denials of permits for the assemblies applied by the LGBT activists.

The regular sports events organized by the LGBT Sports Federation can not be considered as public assemblies within the meaning of the law as they also do not need prior authorization from the authorities and are held in closed private locations.

Irrespective of what is being said by the Russian Government in their updated Action Plan and in breach of the Russian Federal Law on public assemblies in its interpretation by the Constitutional Court, the local authorities never offer the organizers of the LGBT public assemblies to change the location of their assemblies with another concrete place for their holding. In rare cases (like in Arkhangelsk) the authorities offered the organizers of such assemblies to find the location, where the Federal Law on propaganda would not be breached, by themselves, at the same time admitting in courts that there are no such places in the city where relevant assemblies could be conducted without the breach of the propaganda law. In those cases when the organizers were initially offered new locations for their assemblies (like in Ivanovo, Yoshkar-Ola or Kaliningrad) the authorities ultimately denied to issue permits for the conduct of those assemblies. At the same time all applications for public events of the LGBT activists always contain the information on their readiness to accept any proposal of the authorities concerning the changes in the locations of the public assemblies as well as guarantees that the organizers and the participants of the assemblies would not breach the norms of morality and demonstrate nudity or other forms of indecency.

We would like to remind the Committee of Ministers that since the delivery of the decision in the case of Alekseyev v. Russia on 21 October 2010 the applicant in the case has not been authorized to conduct any single public assembly in any Russian city. Hundreds of his requests for permits were denied, primarily on the grounds of protecting morality of minors against propaganda of homosexuality or on security basis.

Threats and pressure against the applicant in the instant case

Threats

The pressure on the organizers of the Gay Parades and other LGBT assemblies in Russia mounted significantly in 2016. The applicant in Alekseyev judgment is constantly receiving personal threats, including death threats, via social networks, in the comments in social networks and under the articles published by various medias around the country. Moreover, since several city administrations (including Ulyanovsk and Krasnodar) leaked the copies of the notifications for public assemblies to the media and private individuals, Mr. Alekseyev started to receive direct threats by phone and via text messages. One of them below, received on 3 November 2016, reads: "Wait, faggot, soon you will howl from pain, fucking bastard – we will not allow to multiply faggots, this genetic garbage should be shot. 10,....? It's a tragedy for those who live there."

< Messages +7 (953) 150-41-02 Details

Text Message
Today 14:04

Жди, пидор, скоро ты взвоешь от боли, выронок ебаний-плодить пидоров не дадим,этот генетический хлам нужно отстреливать. 10, [redacted] ? Горе тем,кто там живет.

Petitions

The public petition against the Gay Parade and the gay propaganda in Smolensk was launched at Change.Org.

<https://www.change.org/p/смоляне-провести-анти-гей-парад-в-смоленске>

The public petition against the Gay Parade in Kursk launched on 28 September 2016 calls for the ban of the march as well as to “carefully study the personalities of the organizers”, “check the schemes and sources of their financing of the Gay Parade, possible ties with the unfriendly foreign organizations”, “do not allow such events even to reach the stage of planning” and “stop the public dissemination of the information about the festival in the media and social networks”.

<http://www.kursk.kp.ru/online/news/2524123/>

On 7 October the public petition calling for the ban of the Gay Parade in Nizhniy Novgorod was created at Change.Org.

<https://www.change.org/p/администрация-нижнего-новгорода-запретить-гей-парад-в-нижнем-новгороде>

On 8 September 2016 the public petition calling for the ban of the Gay Parade in Tyumen was created at Change.Org.

<https://www.change.org/p/владимир-якушев-законодательно-запретите-проведение-гей-парада-в-тюмени>

Summary

Summarizing the information provided above, only in 2016 the authorities have banned all public assemblies applied by the representatives of the LGBT community in 55 out of 85 Russian constitutional regions.

Like before, absolute majority of the notifications concerning the conduct of the LGBT assemblies, irrespective of their location, timing or purposes, were dismissed with the reference to the Russian Federal Law prohibiting so called propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors, which came into legal force in June 2013.

The Russian authorities continued to deny the permits for all public LGBT assemblies with the purposes linked to the LGBT community or applied in the name of the LGBT community.

It is particularly noteworthy that not a single court, including the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, ruled in favor of the right of the LGBT individuals to freedom of assembly with the reference to the European Court ruling in the case of Alekseyev v. Russia or the Russian Constitutional Court ruling and clarifications in the gay propaganda case.

We would like to attract special attention of the Committee of Ministers to the fact that in May 2017 the activists of Moscow Pride are planning to submit their notifications for the public assemblies, including a march, of the 12th Moscow Gay Pride Parade. Despite the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Alekseyev v. Russia, Moscow authorities banned all such assemblies for eleven consecutive years with the Russian courts validating those bans.

In sum, we maintain that the Russian authorities have failed to implement Alekseyev v. Russia judgment effectively as none of the public events proposed by the applicant Mr. Nikolay Alekseyev in different cities of Russia has been approved by the authorities. The local authorities in different Russian cities have formulated their clear position that they are not going to approve LGBT public assemblies, including Gay Pride events, under any circumstances. Moreover, the organizers of such assemblies are receiving death threats and are not in any way protected by the Russian authorities.

In 2016 the Russian Federal Law prohibiting propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors has been used to harshly suppress all LGBT assemblies in any possible forms and to prosecute activists fighting for LGBT equality in Russia, which will also have a chilling effect on future assemblies related to LGBT issues, including the 12th Moscow Gay Pride planned for 27 May 2017.

Yours faithfully,



on behalf of the Russian
LGBT Human Rights Project
GayRussia.Ru & Moscow Pride
Organizing Committee
Nikolay Alekseyev, President