



**RUSSIAN
LGBT
NETWORK**

INTERREGIONAL
SOCIAL MOVEMENT

Annual Report

2019



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What is the Russian LGBT Network?

Russian LGBT Network is:

- A group of people who work to protect the rights of LGBT+ community in Russia;
- A cross-regional social movement;
- The largest LGBT+ human rights organization in Russia.

The Russian LGBT Network was founded in April 2006, and has been operating for over a decade.



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What is the Russian LGBT Network?



Individual
Members



Collective
Members



Regional
Offices

The Conference is the main governing body of the Russian LGBT Network. At the Conference, the most important decisions are made. Between the Conferences, its functions are performed by:



Interregional Coordinating Board



The Board of the Russian LGBT Network



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What do we do?

We work to build a society free of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

- Free psychological and legal counselling
- Emergency assistance for those in need
- Monitoring of violence, violations of human rights and discrimination against LGBT+ people
- Reports on LGBT+ rights in Russia
- Support for LGBT+ movement in various regions of Russia
- Annual forum for LGBT+ activists

And much more!



In 2019, our psychologists assisted
814 people from **77** regions of Russia.

176 – Transgender persons

177 – Adolescents

Offline psychological assistance was available

In **15** regions of Russia.



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Psychological Assistance

The most common issues:

- Fears, depression, solitude, suicidal thoughts
- Coming out
- Relationships with partners
- Self-identification and self-acceptance
- Homophobic environment



We regularly organize trainings for our psychologists!

April

- basics of work with the victims of torture
- work with traumatic experience and Lifespan Integration Therapy

November

- best practices of psychological services from different initiative groups and work with the emotional burnout

On April 27-28, Psychological Forum «**Invisible Women**» took place in St. Petersburg. The Forum was organized in cooperation with the movement «**Psychology for Human Rights**».



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Hotline. Phone Consultations

The Russian LGBT Network's Hotline offers free psychological counselling for LGBT+ community and their loved ones throughout Russia.

The Hotline is

The Helpline
8 800 555 73 74

An Online Chat
chat.lgbtnet.org

The Helpline has been operating since 2010.

Since then, it has received more than 25 000 calls.

In 2019, the Helpline received 2 011 calls.

The Helpline operates daily from 3 pm to 9 pm Moscow time.



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The Online Chat has been running for **4** years.
During that time we have received 8 546 requests for help.
In 2019, **10** volunteers-psychologists worked on the Chat.
In 2019, we received 2 357 requests for help.



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Hotline

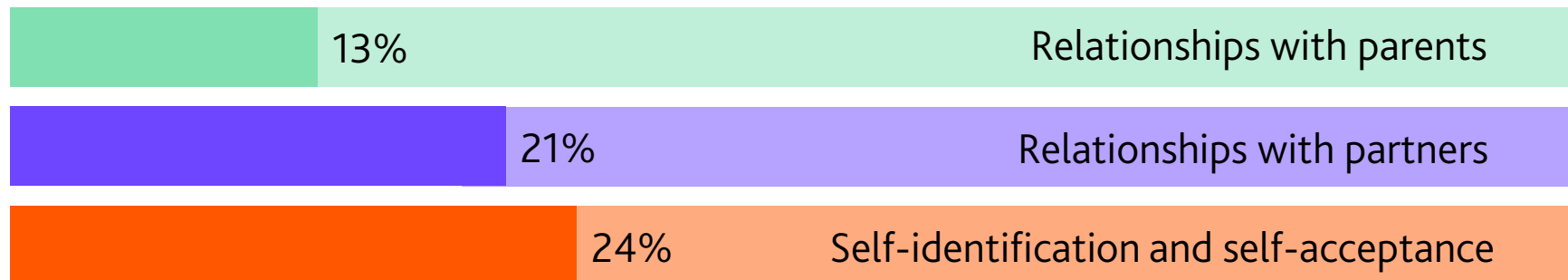
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The most common issues





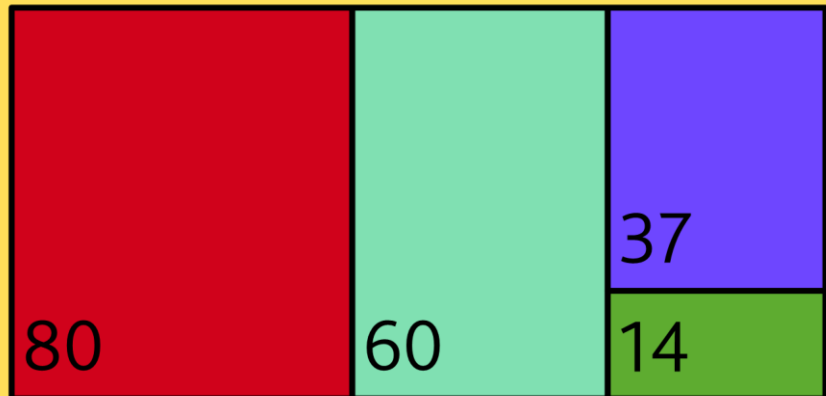
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Legal Assistance

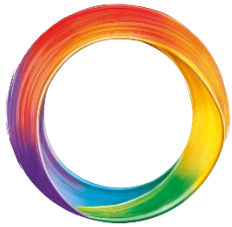
In 2019, our lawyers assisted **327** people from **52** regions of Russia. Under our Legal Assistance program, we offer free legal counselling to LGBT+ community, their friends and relatives.

31 requests for legal assistance came from adolescents from **13** to **17**. Our team consisted of **16** lawyers.

The most common issues



- Political asylum, immigration to and emigration from Russia
- Threats, violence, blackmailing
- Family law
- Trans* Issues



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Emergency Assistance

Emergency Assistance program has been operating since 2014. It was designed to support victims of hate crimes and LGBT+ activists who suffer from discrimination or hate crimes because of their work.

Decisions are made
within **24** hours.

In 2019, we received

75

request for emergency assistance.

62%

Why only 8?

requests to organize emigration from Russia. Emergency Assistance program do help people to leave Russia only on exceptional occasions.

We were able to support

8

requests.

24%

requests did not comply with other conditions of the program.

3%

of applicants decided that they did not need emergency assistance.

Further details about the Emergency Assistance program can be found on the website of the Russian LGBT Network www.lgbtnet.org.



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Emergency Assistance

Emergency Assistance program has been operating since 2014. It was designed to support victims of hate crimes and LGBT+ activists who suffer from discrimination or hate crimes because of their work.

Decisions are made
within **24** hours.

In 2019, we
supported

8

requests for
Emergency
Assistance.

3

temporary relocation
of people from the
place of permanent
residence

1

to provide additional
security measures for
community center in
Yekaterinburg

4

to cover fines
under the so-
called
“propaganda law”



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LGBT+ Persecution in Chechnya

On April 1, 2017, the world found out that LGBT+ people in Chechnya were illegally detained, tortured and even killed. We started to assist the victims immediately, and continued to do so in 2018 and 2019.

What did we do?

- We helped people to leave Chechnya
- We provided food and housing
- We provided medical, legal and psychological assistance
- We helped people to find sanctuary outside of Russia

In 2019:

We received **174** requests for help, most via the Hotline kavkaz@lgbtnet.org

31 persons received assistance and support



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LGBT+ Persecution in Chechnya

In December 2018 – January 2019, the new wave of illegal detentions took place in Chechnya. According to our data, at least **40** people were detained.

In May 2019, in cooperation with the Committee against Torture, we helped Maxim Lapunov to submit a complaint to the ECHR. Maxim Lapunov was the first victim of tortures who dared to speak up publicly about his experience. The complaint was communicated on November 14.

In September 2019, in cooperation with the Russian Justice Initiative, we submitted a complaint to the ECHR on behalf of Arbi Altemirov. Arbi Altemirov was one of the victims of mass persecution in Chechnya. He died in 2017.

In winter 2019, the hearings on the human rights violations in the North Caucasus took place at the PACE. Amin Dzhabrailov, one of the victims of mass persecution of LGBT+ in Chechnya, delivered a statement.

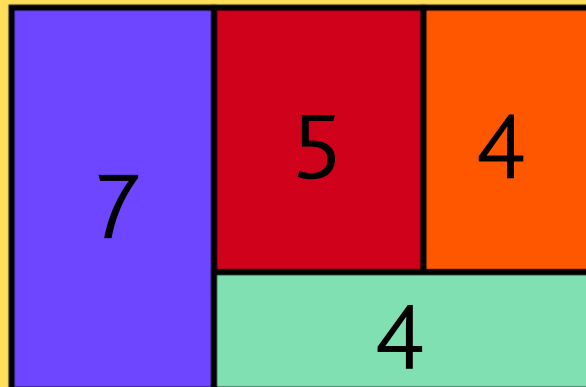


Strategic Litigation

The goal of strategic litigation is not only to solve individual's problem, but also to initiate systemic changes.

Each strategic litigation case leads to gradual change of legislation, its implementation or even of public opinion.

In 2019, the number of cases in Strategic Litigation program doubled. In 2018, we had 10 such cases, in 2019 – 20.



- 5 cases – hate crimes
- 7 cases – the so-called “propaganda law”
- 4 cases – against “vigilantes”
- 4 other cases (family law, freedom of assembly, penitentiary system, military service).



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Discrimination Monitoring

We constantly gather information on discrimination, human rights violations and hate crimes in Russia. We analyze this information and prepare reports, papers, analytical notes and other materials.

As a result, anyone can learn about the most severe problems of LGBT+ community.

Our monitoring team
in 2019 –
29 volunteers
from 15 regions of Russia.

In 2019, we documented **319** cases of discrimination, violence or human rights violations.

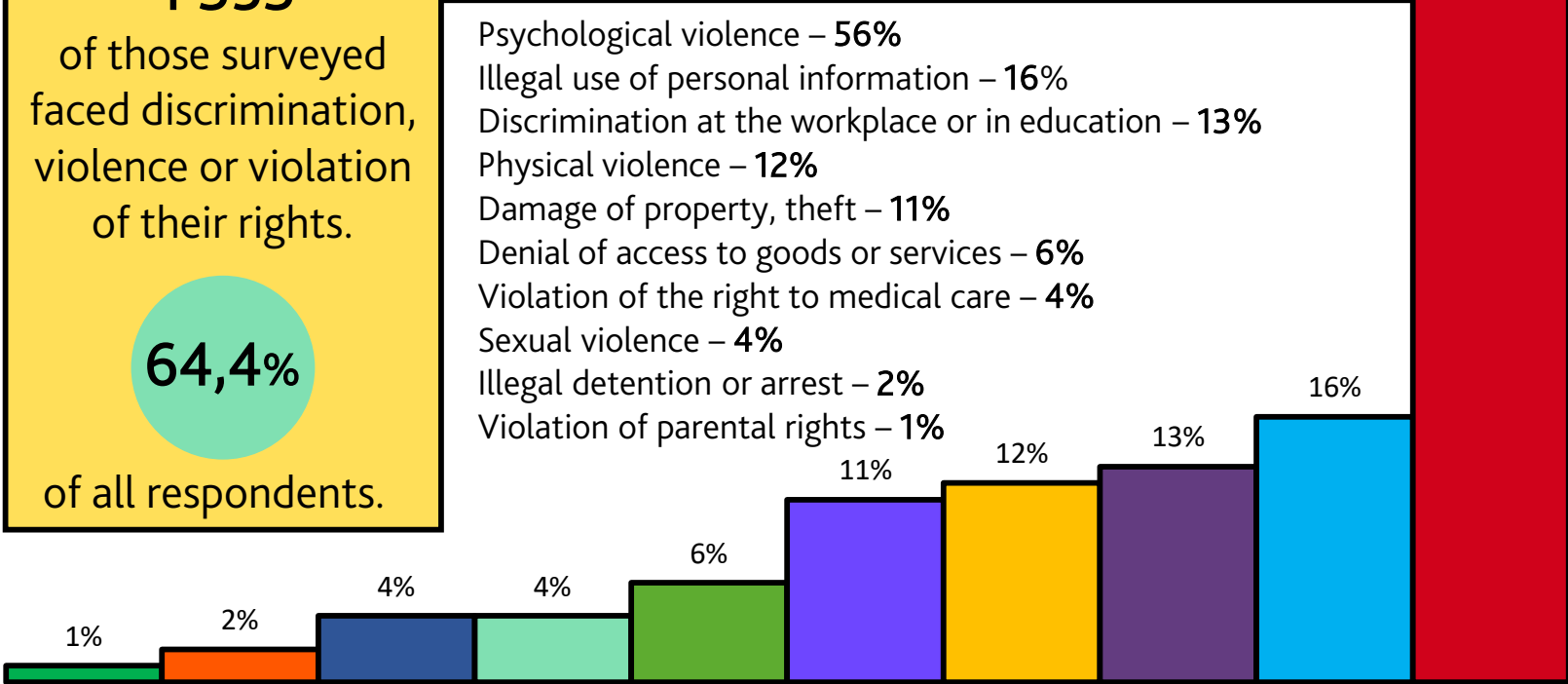


In 2019, **6 757** people participated in our survey.

4 353
of those surveyed
faced discrimination,
violence or violation
of their rights.

64,4%
of all respondents.

What did LGBT+ faced in Russia in 2019?





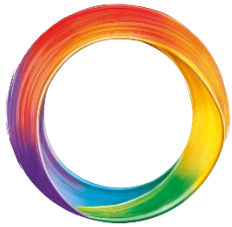
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International Advocacy

Our advocacy involves various activities aimed at changing the situation with LGBT+ rights in Russia to the better. The goal is to achieve systemic changes.

In 2019, the Russian LGBT Network:

- Took part at the winter session at the UN Human Rights Council
- Achieved an adoption of the joint statement of more than 30 member-countries of the UNHRC on the LGBT+ persecution in Chechnya
- Prepared and submitted the report on hate crimes in Russia to the OSCE
- Prepared an analytical note on the so-called “conversion therapy” for the Independent Expert on SOGI



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National Advocacy

Our advocacy involves various activities aimed at changing the situation with LGBT+ rights in Russia to the better. The goal is to achieve systemic changes.

In 2019, we worked with the Federal Ombudsperson. In cooperation with Novaya Gazeta, we held a meeting on LGBT+ persecution in Chechnya and on the lack of transparent and effective investigations there.

In 2019, we worked actively with political parties. At the invitation of the leadership of Yabloko and the Party of Changes, we organized events on the situation with LGBT+ rights in Russia.



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Support for LGBT+ Movement

The Russian LGBT Network provides financial and other resources to support LGBT+ movement in Russia.

Any initiative group that have at least one Individual Member of the Russian LGBT Network can apply.

In 2019, we received

25

applications.

We managed to support **17** applications
to the total value of

1 531 271 rubles.



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Support for LGBT+ Movement

In 2019, we supported

17

applications – from Vladivostok, Yekaterinburg, Moscow, Murmansk, Novosibirsk, Perm, Samara, St. Petersburg, Tomsk, Tyumen and Yaroslavl.

Among the supported projects, there were seminars, training, and lectures, Rainbow Flashmob, Families Equality Day Festival and even School for LGBT Activists.

Moreover, we supported work of the community centers in Vladivostok, Murmansk, Tomsk and Perm.



Support for LGBT+ Movement

Annual Forum for LGBT+ activists in the largest platform in Russia for different organizations, initiatives and activists to communicate and share their experiences

In 2019, the Forum brought together **270** people from **36** regions of Russia.

More than **70** different events were organized.

The theme of the Forum 2019

«Creating the New World: Past, Present and Future of the LGBT+ Movement»



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Your Support

We are grateful to each and every person who supported our work in 2019!

In 2019, we collected

3 373 817

rubles

2 651 384 rubles

to help LGBT+ from Chechnya

722 433 rubles

for the Hotline

75% of people who supported us were based in Russia.

In 2019, **143** people signed up for monthly donations. In 2018, **30**, people supported our work monthly. In 2017 – none.



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Us on the Map

