

FOREWORD

Dear colleagues, friends, present and future LGBTI activists!

In 2016, the Russian LGBT Network celebrated its 10th birthday. It is a considerable time for any civil society organization working in Russia and a whole era for an LGBTI organization! We have much to analyze, many conclusions to make and continue our work. It is important to point out, that despite all the difficulties and obstacles that we have faced so far, our organization is relentlessly growing and evolving. Increasing number of collective members continues to join the Network and increasing number of regional offices opens and starts to work.

In the present report, we would like to share with you the results of our work for 2016. All of the programs described in the report stem from the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan of the Russian LGBT Network.

In 2016, the Network provided legal and psychological assistance to LGBTI persons all over Russia by means of our hotline, online-chat and e-mail consultation service. We also provided emergency support to LGBTI people who faced difficult situations and helped those who were ready to fight for their own rights.

Advocacy related work of the Network continued to grow and develop further. We continued to prepare overviews, reports and recommendations which were further presented to and lobbied with the relevant Russian and international agencies and stakeholders. A special attention should be paid to the program of monitoring of discrimination and hate crimes against LGBTI community. The data collected during the monitoring process represents the basis of all our reports, which realistically describe the human rights situation of LGBTI people in Russia.

At the end of 2016, an important event took place – we held a forum for LGBTI activists, which hosted approximately 250 guests from all over the country and from different LGBTI organizations. None of this would be possible without your support and hard work!

We have a new decade and new successes ahead of us! May we clearly see our goal, believe in ourselves and not mind any obstacles!

*With gratitude,
Tatiana Vinnichenko
Chairperson of Russian LGBT Network*



HISTORY – WE ARE 10 YEARS OLD!



The long history of the **Russian LGBT Network** began in April 2006, when the Network was founded. In 2008, the first national conference was held involving civil society organizations from all over Russia in support of LGBTQI movement and as a result, the Network became an interregional social movement with a statute, strategy and governance system.

In the ten years of its existence, the **Russian LGBT Network** managed to become the biggest cross – regional LGBTQI organization in Russia. We offer free legal and psychological assistance to members of LGBTQI community and their families, provide representation in courts and grant emergency support to those in need.

Due to the efforts of the Network, rallies like a Week against Homophobia and Transphobia, Day of Silence and Rainbow Flash-mob were successfully held in Russia. We established contact with international and national human rights organizations and started to collaborate with the UN agencies, EU Commission and European Court for Human Rights.

Support provided by the **Russian LGBT Network** allowed for further development of LGBTQI activism in Russia: we helped found LGBTQI organizations and initiative groups in more than 20 regions of the country. **The Russian LGBT Network** also hosts the annual All-Russian Forum of LGBTQI Activists, which gathers participants from all the corners of the country on the same platform.

Of course, 10 years is just a beginning of the road and we still have tremendous work ahead of us, but in the past years we managed to create a sustainable organization that stimulates development and growth of the movement and unites Russian LGBTQI community.

OUR MISSION

The Russian LGBT Network is an interregional nongovernmental human rights organization promoting equal rights and respect for human dignity regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity through unification and development of regional initiatives, advocacy, and rendering of social and legal services.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The following elements constitute the structure of **the Russian LGBT Network**:

The Conference of the Russian LGBT Network (the supreme governing body of the Movement)

is comprised of the following organs:

The Board of the Russian LGBT Network;

Interregional coordination Council;

Individual members;

Collective members:

**Regional Branches in the following cities
and subjects of the country:**

- Moscow
- Voronezh
- Irkutsk
- Krasnodar Krai
- Nizhny Novgorod
- Novosibirsk
- Omsk
- Perm
- Primorsky Krai
- Republic of Komi
- Samara
- Sverdlovsk Oblast
- Tomsk
- Tyumen

- Avers (Samara)
- Gender – L (St. Petersburg)
- Wings (St. Petersburg)
- Maximum (Murmansk)
- Lighthouse (Vladivostok)
- Rainbow Future (St. Petersburg)
- Rakurs (Arkhangelsk)
- Revers (Krasnodar)
- Human to Human (St. Petersburg)
- Future4You (Moscow)
- Queer Peace (St. Petersburg)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Ракурс



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2016, **the Russian LGBT Network** continued to provide resources to support the development and work of the regional branches and collective members. Within the frames of this program, the regional activists can choose the activities which are most relevant to them and seek financial support accordingly.



Throughout 2016, we received 27 applications, out of which the Russian LGBT Network approved 12, thus enabling the implementation of events in Vladivostok, Krasnodar,

Tomsk, Tyumen, St. Petersburg and other regions in collaboration with ten other organizations and initiative groups. More than 200 participants and 11 experts and trainers took part in these events.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The events were quite diverse and included trainings on fundraising and protection of human rights and freedoms in Tomsk and Krasnodar, as well as events for the families in St. Petersburg, and street actions dedicated to the IDAHOT on May 17, in Tyumen.

ALL-RUSSIAN FORUM OF LGBTQI ACTIVISTS



The second **all-Russian Forum of LGBTQI activists** was held on November 4-7 in Podmoskovye. The Forum gathered approximately 250 participants from all over the country and became the largest LGBT-related event in Russia so far. The event hosted 250 guests, 32 trainers and resulted in several days of productive work in an environment where everyone could be themselves!



The Forum became a platform of experience exchange and communication between different LGBTQI organizations, initiative groups and activists, thus becoming an important step towards further development of LGBTQI movement. The Forum showed that despite the challenging human rights situation of LGBTQI persons



ALL-RUSSIAN FORUM OF LGBTQI ACTIVISTS

in Russia, the movement lives, develops and grows stronger.

On 3rd of November, with support from the Russian LGBT Network the first pre-conference was held for representatives of transgender initiatives and independent trans activists. Participants discussed and outlined the priorities for development of the trans movement in Russia. Twenty five people from different parts of the country took part in the event.



INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

In 2016, the **Russian LGBT Network**, in cooperation with Equal Rights Trust conducted a large scale study examining the approach of Russian courts to the cases involving violation of rights and freedoms of LGBTQI people in Russia.

The report "Justice or Complicity: LGBT Rights and Russian Courts" studies the court practice in relation to different cases of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity: homophobic and transphobic violence, limitation of freedom of expression and manifestation, discrimination in family and private life as well as in labor and education fields. It is noted in the report that Russian courts rarely question the applicability of openly discriminatory "propaganda laws" adopted in 2013 in order to "protect" children from influence of information in which homosexuality is considered a normal component of social life. Based on the materials of the abovementioned study, Equal Rights Trust prepared their own report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights.

Data on discrimination cases, hate crimes and other rights violations of LGBTQI persons in Russia, was submitted to the international organization ILGA World and was used for the update of the Rainbow World Map.

At the end of March, 2016, the Union of Independent Russian LGBT Activists submitted their report on hate crimes against LGBTQI people for 2015 to OSCE/ODIHR. The report was prepared in cooperation with the Russian LGBT Network. The document included 55 cases of hate crimes against LGBTQI people. In the fall of 2016, OSCE/ODIHR published all the data gathered in this period showing that, out of 203 documented hate crimes 56 were perpetrated based on SOGI.



WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Given the absence of political will of the Russian government, or the legal framework that would be simple in its application, and could be used to protect the rights of the citizens from homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination, the **Russian LGBT Network** continued to spread relevant information in order to attract the attention of authorities on regional and federal levels.

We informed the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation as well as the regional counterparts about the results of the monitoring of rights violations and requested their assistance in efficient investigation of hate crimes.

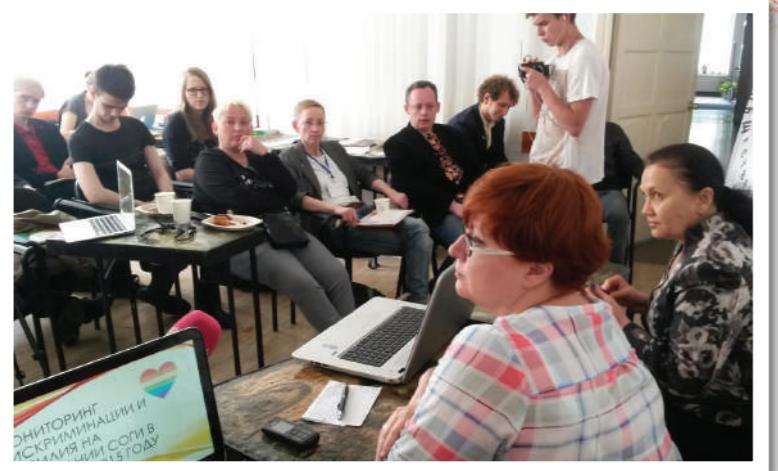


As a result of our efforts:

- A case was reopened in connection with the attack against the LGBTQI activist Alexander Ermoshkin in Khabarovsk;
- Human Rights Ombudsman in Krasnodar Krai condemned the incitement of homophobic hatred in local mass media;
- Human Rights Ombudsman in Perm Krai expressed her readiness to support the comprehensive measures aimed at solving basic problems of transgender persons and shaping a humane procedure of legal gender recognition, as well as informing medical professionals about the issues relevant to working with LGBT people;



WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY



- Contact was established between LGBTQI activists and Human Rights Ombudsman in Kamchatsky Krai;
- A dialogue is ongoing with the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation about the possibility of inclusion of the information on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity in her reports.

The **Russian LGBT Network** also continued to work towards the integration of LGBTQI movement in Russian civil society and strengthening of civil solidarity in the field of human rights.

The **Russian LGBT Network** together with the civil rights organization Civil Control (St. Petersburg) initiated and successfully implemented the project “new challenges – new possibilities”, which attracted approximately 100 Russian human rights initiatives. The project was aimed at discussing, elaborating and encouraging the civil society to integrate the methods for increasing the public trust and fundraising from private and corporate donors for promotion of human rights.



WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY



transgender people to obtain driving license and 3) remove limitation to their right to marry.

In addition, the **Russian LGBT Network** cooperated with human rights defenders and other civil rights activists within the frames of Civil Society Forum “**Russia – EU**”.



The Russian LGBT Network also actively cooperated with the Saint Petersburg Human Rights Council - one of the most respected unions of human rights organizations and activists in our country. Namely, it was based on the Network’s initiative that the Human Rights Council called on the Federal Assembly and the government of Russian Federation to 1) provide a swift, accessible and transparent procedure allowing to change gender markers in all the documents for transgender people including, but not limited to birth certificates, passports, employment record book, education certificates; 2) remove the unsubstantiated limitation of right of

STRATEGIC LITIGATION



ATTACK ON THE OFFICE OF LGBT ORGANIZATION IN MURMANSK

On April 13, 2015, unknown perpetrators broke into the office of Murmansk LGBT Organization Maximum and sprayed pepper gas in the building, where two people were present at that moment. The survivors were twice denied the possibility of starting a criminal investigation despite the involvement of the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Murmansk Oblast. The lawyer representing one of the survivors pointed out several times that no actions were taken to identify the attackers and their motives. The refusal to start a criminal investigation was appealed in the Prosecution and Court, however without any result. On July 7, 2016 after exhausting all judiciary instances in Russia, one of the survivors Violetta Grudina submitted a lawsuit to the European Court for Human Rights.

Lawyer Olga Tseitlina, who is representing the activist stated that: “*Ignoring discriminatory, in this case homophobic, motive of the attack, indicates the unwillingness of the authorities to recognize and efficiently investigate hate crimes. It is important, that the authorities disregarded the incident of the attack itself, refusing to start a criminal investigation allegedly based on absence of element of crime, even though the fact of spraying the gas at the office was established and proven. While investigating violent incidents, the authorities must conduct an efficient and independent investigation to outline the possible discriminatory motives. In this case, no such investigation took place.*”



STRATEGIC LITIGATION



ATTACK ON AN LGBT ACTIVIST IN KHABAROVSK

Rainbow over Amur River flash-mob was held on May 17, 2015 in Khabarovsk within the frames of the International Day against Homo/Bi/Transphobia. During the demonstration many participants witnessed the attack perpetrated against the activist Alexander Yermoshkin: the activist lost consciousness after having received a traumatic brain injury. He reported the case to the police and after numerous rejections a criminal investigation was finally initiated under part II of the article 116 of the Russian Criminal Code: “inflicting physical injuries or perpetration of other violent actions causing physical pain”. At the end of 2015, police suspended the investigation due their inability to identify the perpetrator. In 2016, the investigation was resumed after a forensic expertise was conducted, proving that the law enforcement agencies had not taken sufficient measures in the process on initial inquiries.

ATTACK ON AN LGBTQI ACTIVIST IN MAKHACHKALA

On December 1, 2016 activist Aleksandr Sidorov was physically assaulted and beaten up after performing a single protest in support of the LGBTQI community in Makhachkala. The video recorded during the incident clearly shows the police officers calmly talking to the attackers without any intention to arrest them. At the police station Aleksandr Sidorov wanted to submit two complaints: against attackers and against the police officers, although under the pressure from police officers he was



STRATEGIC LITIGATION

forced to write a clarification stating that "he had badly fallen". On December 13, 2016 Alexandre Sidorov submitted a complaint to the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation, requesting that the conduct of police officers at the precinct where he was taken after the attack, be subjected to the disciplinary investigation and they be held responsible for not taking action while he was being physically assaulted in the street.

CHARITY FOUNDATION "SFERA" LISTED AS A FOREIGN AGENT



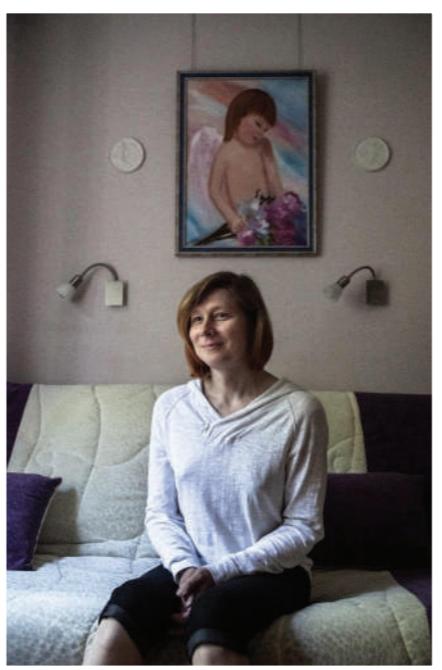
On March 1, 2016, Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation listed social and human rights charity foundation "Sfera" in the register of NGOs fulfilling the functions of a "foreign agent". The Foundation became the 121st organization to be put on this list. On July 13, 2016 Kuibyshevsky District Court found charity foundation "Sfera" guilty of violating F3 N121 of July 20, 2012, better known as "the law on foreign agents" and imposed a fine of 300 000 Russian Rubles. Although already in August the case was closed due to the statute of limitations, which was also confirmed by Saint Petersburg City Court in October of the same year. Despite the fact that the court indicated numerous procedural violations made by MoJ in the explanation of its latest ruling, and annulled the previously imposed fine, the charity foundation Sfera remains listed in the registry of "foreign agents".

A CASE OF REFUSAL TO HIRE A LESBIAN

Anna Balash from Novosibirsk tried twice to get a job at the company "Sib - Alliance" as a sales manager for woodworking products. The first time, in October 2015 and the second time, given that the vacancy was still open - in February 2016. Both times the woman was denied employment for the same reason: "untraditional sexual orientation". The second time the potential employer even provided a letter with a lengthy explanation clarifying that the reason for rejection was the applicant's sexual orientation.

STRATEGIC LITIGATION

On July 29, 2016 Zheleznodorozhny District Court of Novosibirsk heard the case of Anna Balash about protection of labor rights and declared "illegal the decision of LTD Sib- Alliance to deny Anna Balash employment based on her untraditional sexual orientation". The company was ordered to sign a contract with Anna Balash and pay out compensation for moral damages in the amount of 1000 Russian Rubles. The Company appealed the decision, but the second instance court upheld the previous ruling in November.



A CASE OF GRANTING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS TO A TRANSGENDER WOMAN

Transgender woman Pasha Kaptanovskaya is currently divorcing her wife, paying alimony for their child and based on a court decision is limited in her parental rights. The reason for this limitation, given in the court by the biological mother and supported by the guardianship authorities, is the gender identity of Kaptanovskaya.

Lawyer representing Pasha Kaptanovskaya submitted a lawsuit demanding to establish a procedure for visiting hours, since the biological mother does not let Pasha meet their son. During the court hearings an expertise was called for and carried out aimed at establishing how "damaging" is Pasha's influence on her child. The expertise took place in absentia, without the presence of the child or Kaptanovskaya herself. The report was based exclusively on the court materials. In November, 2016 the court ruled in favor of restriction of Pasha's parental rights. Pasha and her lawyer appealed the decision.



THE CASE AGAINST ELENA KLIMOVA AND PROJECT "CHILDREN-404"

Beginning in January 2014, several administrative cases were initiated against Elena Klimova under the article 6.21 of Administrative Offenses Code of the Russian Federation: each time the journalist from Nizhniy Tagil was accused of creating a network of web resources "propagandizing non-traditional sexual relations among minors". The very first trial was won by Elena Klimova on 21 of February, 2014: the court decided to dismiss the case based on the absence of elements of a crime.

However, already in November, 2014 new charges were pressed against Klimova. Throughout 2015 and 2016 different judiciary instances and courts alternated in finding Elena Klimova not guilty or, on the contrary, sentencing her to fines for "propaganda" and ordering to block the web resources of the project "Children-404" and later annulling these same rulings.

THE CASES AGAINST ELENA KLIMOVA IN 2016:

- **«The first case»:** August 7, 2015 Central District Court of Barnaul found the information available on pages of "Children-404" group "a propaganda of untraditional sexual relations" among minors. In 2016, cassation appeals were submitted to Altai Krai Court and Supreme Court of the Russian Federation requesting the annulment of the previous rulings and

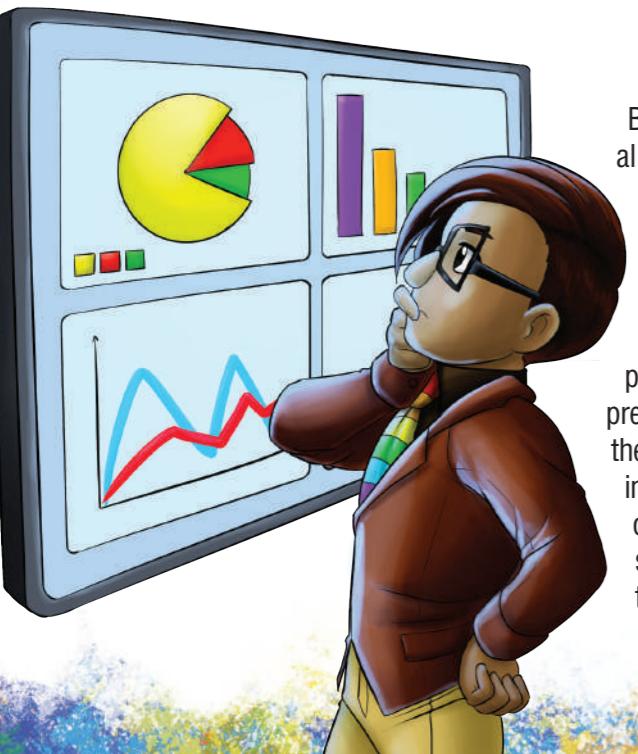
redirection the case for hearing to the court of first instance. Unfortunately, both claims were rejected.

- **«The second case»:** January 20, 2016 the Kaluzhsky District court of Kaluzhskaya Oblast ruled that Children-404 group in social media Vkontakte should be blocked. The decision was appealed on August 23, 2016 and the previous ruling was annulled due to the fact that Elena Klimova was not informed about the court hearing and the proceedings took place in absentia.

- **«The third case»:** in this case that was initiated by the activists of "molodaya gvardia", Elena Klimova was once again accused of "propagandizing non- traditional sexual relations among minors". In January and August 2015 Magistrates' Court found Klimova guilty of "propaganda" and sentenced her to a fine. After several hearings and attempts to appeal the decision in Sverdlovsky Court (which refused to satisfy Klimova's claim) an attempt was made to seek justice at the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. The Supreme Court also ruled against Klimova after which on May 30, 2016 this case was submitted to the European Court for Human Rights.



In 2016, within the frames of our monitoring program the Russian LGBT Network conducted a large scale survey with participation of activists from Arkhangelsk, Ekaterinburg, Krasnodar, Omsk, Perm, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Samara, Saint Petersburg, Syktyvkar, Tomsk and Tyumen. As a result 380 cases of hate crimes against LGBTQI were documented out of which 84 involved physical violence.

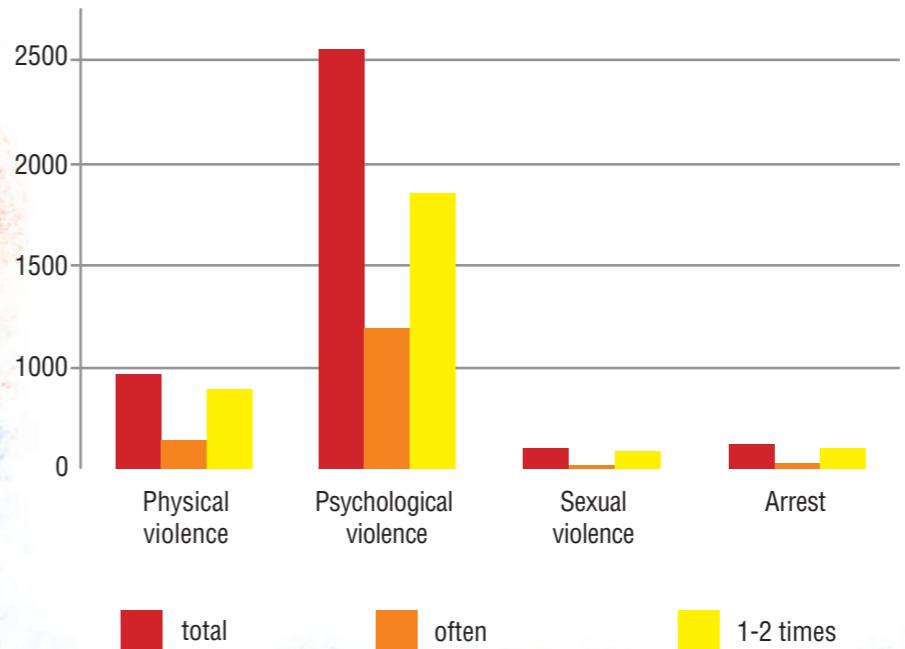


ANNUAL ONLINE SURVEY

Beginning in 2007, the Russian LGBT Network conducts annual anonymous survey about the human rights violations against LGBTQI people. Every year between 1000-3000 people are surveyed. In 2016, this number amounted to 3759 respondents.

According to the results of the survey, members of LGBTQI community in Russia most frequently face psychological violence: 2052 participants stated that they suffered from psychological violence expressed through threats, blackmail or humiliation, while 473 stated that they faced physical violence (use of force without permission and causing physical pain). Ninety six participants stated that they were victims of rape or other kinds of sexual coercion or violence based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Another 117 participants stated that they were subjected to unlawful detentions.

According to the data collected in 2016, 218 people faced refusal to access services or goods. Personal data of 691 respondents was used illegally with 571 of them stating that such violations occurred regularly. Two hundred and sixty five people stated that they were evicted or refused housing based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.



Six hundred and fifty three (653) participants stated to have faced difficulties in their relations with employers or colleagues based purely on their sexual orientation and / or gender identity; 521 respondents lost their jobs because of their sexual orientation or gender identity; 49 persons were not hired due to homo/bi/transphobic bias.

One hundred and forty four (144) respondents described cases of rights violations faced while attempting to receive adequate medical help, while 57 respondents had suffered from limitations in their parental rights based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

THE PROGRAM OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Program of Emergency Assistance was established in February 2014. It was created in order to provide victims of hate crimes and LGBTQI activists, who suffered because of their work, with swift and efficient assistance.

As a result of this program, people who face trouble may receive legal, psychological, financial and other kinds of help. The main priority of the emergency support program is ensuring the physical safety of the activists and victims of hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In order to receive such help, however, it is important that the victim is ready to address the authorities to restore the violated rights and interests in a legal way and provide all the necessary documentation for this.

In 2016, the **Russian LGBT Network** received 29 applications for the emergency support from 13 different cities and regions of Russia: Astrakhan, Kemerovskaya Oblast, Krasnodar, Irkutsk, Moscow, Murmansk, Ingushetia, Rostovskaya Oblast, Saint Petersburg, Ufa and Yaroslavskaya Oblast. Many of these applications were connected to the detention of activists participating in Rainbow Column in Moscow in May of 2016. Unfortunately we were able to support only one such application, due to the fact that majority of



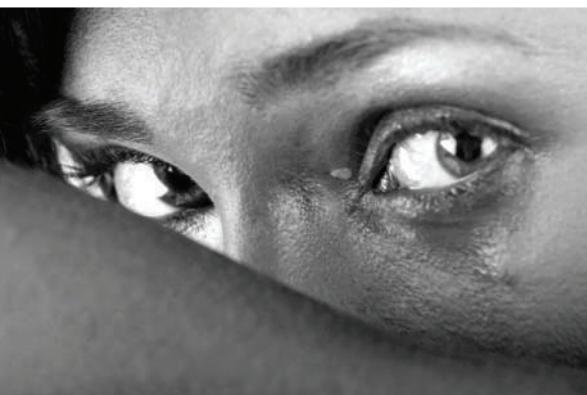
THE PROGRAM OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

applicants was not able to provide documents necessary to start a court case.

- In Murmansk, a transgender woman was beaten up and raped by her cohabitant and his friends. The attackers filmed the incident and threatened her to send the recording to her family and relatives. The woman addressed the police for help and the two perpetrators were arrested. The Russian LGBT Network provided the survivor with shelter and a lawyer who works on the case.

- In February 2016, a

resident of Murmansk addressed the **Russian LGBT Network** asking to ensure his physical safety. It turned out that after being instigated by his relative a group of people attempted to rape the applicant: fortunately the young man was able to escape and reported the case to the law enforcement agency. The police detained the suspects for a short while, however afterwards the applicant started receiving threats of physical violence. **The Russian LGBT Network** provided him with shelter and a lawyer to work on the case.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



- In June 2016, the organizers of a seminar “LGBT teenagers: conversation of specialists and adolescents about sexuality through lenses of legislative limitations” taking place in Saint Petersburg, addressed the **Russian LGBT Network**. One of the leading speakers at the seminar was Dmitri Isaev, who a month earlier suffered from the attacks of

the “orthodox” activists. Having learned about the event, people opposing Isaev started threatening him with physical violence. The organizers requested help to provide physical safety measures for the participants and the speaker of the event. As a result of the assistance of The Network, the seminar was held without incidents.



PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE



- In mid-July a queer festival “Chernomorye-2016” was held in Krasnodar Krai by Krasnodar based public LGBT movement “Revers”. Having learned about the festival, local “national-human rights committee” and 8 Kuban Atamans released a video statement that included insults and threats of physical violence towards LGBT people. The Russian LGBT Network helped provide safety of participants of the festival.

In 2016, our organization provided psychological assistance in two programs: “psychological service” and “hotline”. Last year more than 70 professional psychologists cooperated with the **Russian LGBT Network**. Most of the specialists provided help on voluntary basis.



The most frequently used channels for obtaining psychological help in 2016 were:

- E-mail
- Skype
- Online chat with a psychologist
- Trust line of the **Russian LGBT Network**



PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE



Through our psychological assistance program we helped 360 clients, out of which 123 were cisgender women, and 61 – transgender people. It is noteworthy that the demand on this service remains stable from year to year.

Face to face psychological consultations were held in 15 regions of Russia: in Arkhangelsk, Vladivostok, Ekaterinburg, Irkutsk, Krasnodar, Moscow, Murmansk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Perm, Petrozavodsk, Samara, Saint Petersburg, Tomsk and Tyumen.

In 2016, two trainings were held for psychologists in order to improve the quality of services they provide to LGBTQI people. The first event was dedicated to providing basic skills in delivering psychological assistance for new specialists, who recently joined the team of our volunteers. In addition, in 2016, we piloted the format of educational seminars elaborated by the most qualified psychologists of the Russian LGBT Network, that have experience in different spheres requiring specific preparation: work with HIV positive LGBTQI people, work with transgender clients, work with LGBTQI adolescents, work with religious LGBTQI people. This way, an educational program "Psychological Assistance for LGBTQI people" was created and is being implemented on the platform of the Russian LGBT Network.

We presented an additional service of peer to peer counseling for transgender people.

The Russian LGBT Network thanks our amazing team of psychologists providing support to LGBTQI community in difficult and critical life situations.



HOTLINE



The hotline of the Russian LGBT Network is a unique project for Russia, which exists since 2010. It enables people from all over the country to obtain professional psychological help. All the consultations through the hotline are free of charge.

The hotline project includes two main channels of psychological assistance: trust line (8 800 555 73 74) and online chat (chat.lgbtnet.org).

In 2016, eight professional psychologists worked constantly on the trust line and 47 worked on online-chat.

In 2016, 4005 people called our trust line and 2049 used our chat.

The most popular topics addressed in the online chat throughout 2016 were as follows:

- Difficulties in relationship with one's partner (24.1%)
- Difficulties in accepting one's own sexuality (15.7%)
- Problems in relationship with parents (14.7%)

Онлайн-чат
Российской ЛГБТ-сети

Профессиональная
психологическая помощь
ЛГБТКИА-людям с 10 до 14
и с 18 до полуночи
по Московскому времени.
[Правила чата](#)

Начать чат

1
Консультант

HOTLINE

- Coming out (13.8%)
- Difficulties in accepting one's own gender identity (6.8%)

The most popular topics addressed in the trust line throughout 2016 were as follows:

- Difficulties in accepting one's own sexuality (23.3%)
- Difficulties in relationship with a partner (21.3%)
- Problems in relationship with the parents (9.8%)
- Difficulties in accepting one's own gender identity (9.6%)
- Coming out (6.8%)
- Break up (6.7%)



We constantly work on improving the qualification of our specialists. In 2016, we held several large training events: for instance, in May we held a



ble manner, in order to maintain it we need small, but regular investments. In 2017, we also plan to provide transgender community with the opportunity to receive help based on the "peer support" principle, for which we will have a separate time slot at the hotline."

Ekaterina Petrova,
coordinator of the hotline
of the Russian LGBT Network

HOTLINE

seminar involving 40 people from 15 regions of the country. We also held trainings for psychologists within the frames of our annual Forum for LGBTQI activists.

"In 2016, we did tremendous amount of work in terms of attracting and training specialists that are ready to provide emergency psychological assistance to LGBTQI persons in difficult situations. We managed to keep our online chat working 24/7, with help of psychologists from all over the country. We are now working on making our phone line to work in a sta-



LEGAL ASSISTANCE



In 2016, the legal team of the **Russian LGBT Network** included 14 people that provided 168 consultations to people from 41 regions. Most of the requests came from Moscow, Moscow Oblast and Saint Petersburg, followed by Krasnodar and Novosibirsk.

In 2016, people asked for legal help about the following issues:

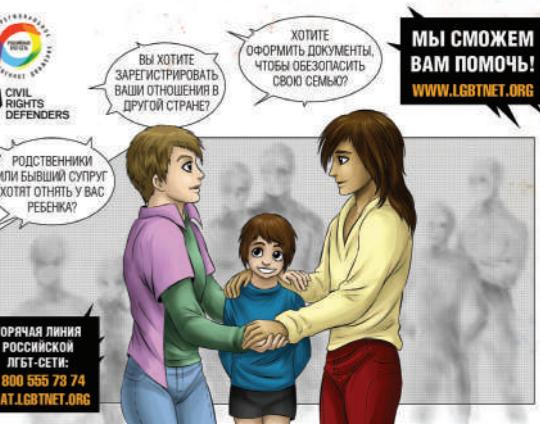
- Family rights (16%)
- Transgender issues (15.5%)
- Emigration (15.5%)
- Hate Crimes (13%)
- Blackmail and threats (9.5%)
- Labor rights (3%)
- Military Service (3%)
- Inquiries connected to “propaganda law” (2,4%)
- HIV (1,8%)

In addition, in 2016 we held 2 trainings for lawyers involved in providing legal help to LGBTQI community in Russia. The first training was held in April 2016 involving 19 participants from Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Krasnodar, Irkutsk, Murmansk, Omsk, Perm, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Rostov-on-Don, Samara and Saint Petersburg. The training was dedicated to same-sex partnerships, migration and educational activities.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The second training was held within the frames of the annual All-Russian Forum of LGBTQI activists involving 18 participants from Arkhangelsk, Astrakhan, Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Moscow, Omsk, Samara, Saint Petersburg, Sergiev Posad and Tomsk. The training was dedicated to protection of LGBTQI people in Russia through the court system, psychological aspects of working with adolescents and victims of violence and discrimination, as well as hate crimes.



Also in 2016, we held trainings for specialists who wish to join the team of the Russian LGBT Network. The first event of this kind was carried out in April 2016 in Saint Petersburg with 12 people taking part. The second training was held in November 2016 gathering around 50 participants from 18 different cities.

ONLINE LEGAL READER OF THE RUSSIAN LGBT NETWORK



In 2015, the Russian LGBT Network launched a new resource: an online legal reader for LGBTQI community and everyone who is interested in the topic. The reader represents a structured compilation of legal articles that regard LGBTQI community. Here you can find articles on different topics: family and marriage, civil matters, and legal matters with governmental bodies. The book also includes two sections that are specifically targeting LGBTQI activists and transgender people.

In 2016, the guidebook was updated with 26 new articles prepared by 12 lawyers from 9 regions of the country.

Throughout the years of work of the legal department we accumulated big experience of providing assistance to LGBT community in difficult situations. In the nearest future we plan to organize a comprehensive support system, including legal, social and psychological assistance of victims of discrimination, violence and hate crimes.

PUBLICATIONS



LGBTQI and school: how to form a support system
// Aleksandr Kondakov, Saint Petersburg, 2016

This publication aims to explore the problems that affect formation of attitudes towards LGBTQI people in schools, or more specifically the factors that impact level of friendliness or hostility in middle school.



LGBTQI people with disabilities in Russia
// Aleksandr Kondakov in cooperation with Cassandra Hartblay, Ekaterina Ivanova and Aleksandra Dmitrieva, Saint Petersburg, 2016.

There is very little known about how the simultaneous experience of disability and stigmatized sexuality can affect the feelings, problems and self-perception of Russian citizens today. This study, attempted to fill this void to some extent.

PUBLICATIONS



Annual Report of the Russian LGBT Network for 2015 // The Russian LGBT Network, Saint Petersburg, 2016.

Discrimination and violence against LGBT people in Russia in 2015: results of monitoring // The Russian LGBT Network, Saint Petersburg, 2016.

In 2015, the Russian LGBT Network documented 284 cases of violence and discrimination against LGBT people in Russia. The cases were documented by monitoring teams in 9 cities of Russia. Additionally, data was collected through monitoring the consultations provided by the Russian LGBT Network's legal assistance service through website of the network.



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE, WHO SUPPORTED OUR WORK

We would like to thank all the activists from regional offices and collective members of the Russian LGBT Network, as well as our individual members, volunteers and allies! We are thanking you with all our heart for supporting our work in 2016!

We would also like to thank everyone who supported us all over the world, wrote us letters, offered help, inspired hope that this world will by all means change for better!

Russian Human Rights Organizations

- Autonomous Non-profit Organization for Informational and Legal Services “Public Advocacy Resource Center” (Saint Petersburg);
- Autonomous Non-profit Organization “Lawyers in Support of Constitutional Laws and Freedoms” (Moscow);
 - Anti-discrimination Center “Memorial” (Saint Petersburg);
 - Informational-Analytical Center “SOVA” (Moscow);
 - Committee “Civil Assistance” (Moscow);
 - Interregional Association of Public Advocacy Organizations “AGO-RA” (Kazan);
 - Interregional Social Charity Organization “Center for the Development of Non-profit Organizations” (Saint Petersburg);

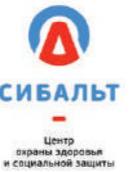


WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE, WHO SUPPORTED OUR WORK

- Omsk Regional Social Organization “Health and Social Welfare Center “SIBALT” (Omsk);
- Public Advocacy Counsel of Saint Petersburg;
- Regional Social Organization “The Moscow Group for Assistance in Executing the Helsinki Accords” (Moscow);
- Saint Petersburg Public Advocacy Organization “Civil Control” (Saint Petersburg).

Russian LGBT Organizations:

- Autonomous Non-Profit Organization of Social-Sports Programs “LGBT Sports Community” (Moscow);
- Heterosexual-LGBT Alliance for Legal Equality (Saint Petersburg);
- LGBT Initiative Group “Coming Out” (Saint Petersburg);
- LGBT Organization “Rainbow Association” (Moscow);
- LGBT Project “PULSAR” (Omsk);
- International LGBT Film Festival “Side by Side” (Saint Petersburg);
- Project “LaSky” (Moscow);
- Phenix+.



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE, WHO SUPPORTED OUR WORK

Международные организации:

- Amnesty International;
- Civil Rights Defenders;
- Democracy Council;
- Equal Rights Trust;
- Freedom House;
- Front Line Defenders;
- Hirschfeld Eddy Foundation;
- Human Rights Watch;
- ILGA Europe;
- IREX Europe;
- OAK Foundation;
- People in Need;
- Peter Tatchell Foundation;
- Prague Civil Society Centre;
- Sigrid Rausing Trust;
- Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft (EVZ);
- Stonewall.



OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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