

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 956th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 June 2013

**Regarding the draft law on propaganda among minors advocating
non-traditional sexual relations**

Mr. Chairperson,

We note our colleagues' interest in the legislative process in our country. We should like once again to draw attention to the fact that the amendments to the Federal Law on the Protection of Children from Information Causing Harm to Their Health and Development is seen in our country not as an attempt to restrict the rights of the gay community, as the distinguished representatives of Norway and the European Union stress, but as the implementation of a very important aspect of the Russian State policy to protect children.

Our country consistently takes measures to create a comprehensive system to safeguard the rights of children, including the use of international human rights instruments. The recent legislative initiatives fully comply with the letter and spirit of the resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms through a better understanding of traditional values of humankind and are intended to protect children from factors detrimental to their physical, intellectual, psychological and moral development. I should like to emphasize once again that this law in no way restricts the right of adults to pursue non-traditional sexual practices.

I should also like to mention that according to recent social surveys the need to restrict propaganda among minors advocating non-traditional sexual relations is supported by 88 per cent of Russian citizens, including representatives not just of the Orthodox Church but of all traditional confessions.

We shall continue in future to depend on the traditional cultural and moral values that prevail not only in Russian society but also in that of other OSCE participating States. Ultimately, our and your future depends in many ways on how the personality of our children is formed. We believe that the OSCE should pay greater attention to the rights of children and not attempt to shift priority towards singling out certain categories of "special groups" supposedly requiring particular protection.

I should also like to recall that there is no mention of the concept of “sexual orientation” or “gender identity” in universal international agreements or among the OSCE’s commitments, and appeals to Russia to comply with any kind of commitment in this area therefore have no foundation.

Indeed, if you read the many posts by Russian bloggers on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT) you would see quite clearly, I believe, why there is no point, at the State or social level, in trying to convince us that LGBT is a good thing and that this issue should be promoted. Your impression of the bloggers themselves would probably also change.

Thank you for your attention.