

A call to the Russian Federation to protect the rights of trans people and non-heterosexual people

The World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) is an international organization, with more than one hundred member organizations across the globe, that promotes and advocates for sexual health and sexual rights throughout the lifespan and across the world by advancing sexuality research, comprehensive sexuality education, and clinical care and services for everyone.

According to the WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights (2014) everyone is entitled to the same rights and protections (Article 1). Legislation must not discriminate against citizens and residents on the basis of “marital and family status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression”, and any promotion of traditional families and values should not violate the rights of others.

The Russian Federation Constitution states that: “The recognition, observance and protection of the rights and freedoms of persons and citizens shall be the obligation of the State”. Therefore, it must safeguard the rights and security of all of its citizens and residents regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Proposed changes to the Family Code of Russian Federation (July 14, 2020) threaten the rights, security and wellbeing of trans people and limits the right to marry for non-heterosexuals.

The proposed amendment would prohibit changing the birth certificate during transgender transition, and all transgender people who already changed their documents would be required to restore old birth certificates, which would make them more vulnerable for discrimination and violence and block them from marrying. The changes would also explicitly block same-sex marriage.

WAS states that such legislation would be a direct infringement of human rights and sexual rights of trans people and non-heterosexual people.

The WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights includes the right to marry and form relationships equally for everyone (Article 11). One’s gender assigned by birth, gender identity or sexual orientation should not obstruct the right to marry with the person of their choice in any way in local legislation.



WAS urges the Russian Federation to stop discrimination of trans people and non-heterosexual people by legislation and other measures by the state. All citizens and residents of Russia must be equally free from discrimination and given equal rights and protections by the law.

August 7, 2020

