

Since these laws are meant to silence the Russian LGBT community, RUSA LGBT and Queer Nation are calling for international support to have these anti-gay laws repealed.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has assured the world that “athletes of all sexual orientations will be welcome at the Olympic Games.” However, the BBC reported yesterday that a Russian legislator who co-sponsored the new anti-gay law said that the Russian government cannot selectively suspend enforcement for Olympic athletes and spectators.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at 12 Noon, New Yorkers will protest in front of the Russian Consulate and demand action against the Russian authorities who continue to violate the rights and freedoms of LGBT Russians by means of censorship and persecution. **RUSA LGBT and Queer Nation intend this protest and others — along with international support and corporate pressure — to force the Russian government to repeal their bigoted and discriminatory laws and to end the persecution of LGBT people.**

RUSA LGBT is a Russian-Speaking American LGBTQ association. RUSA LGBT was formed in 2008 to establish a network for those who identify with Russian-speaking and LGBTQ cultures. The network is made up of people of Russian-speaking heritage, their friends, supporters and loved ones. RUSA LGBT has welcomed many LGBT asylum seekers from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus who fled the abuse and mistreatment in their homelands. RUSA LGBT regularly organizes cultural and social events to unite Russian-speaking LGBTQ community in America and to increase acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQ people within the Russian-speaking public. RUSA LGBT fights for social justice, human and civil rights for LGBTQ people in America and in the Former Soviet Union.

Queer Nation is a direct action group that is dedicated to ending discrimination, violence and repression against the LGBT community.

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