



Deutscher Berufsverband
für Soziale Arbeit e. V.

Tariffähige Gewerkschaft

Mitglied der IFSW (International Federation of Social Workers)

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Berlin, 28.01.2013

STATEMENT

Russia violates human rights

Duma passes law "against homosexual propaganda"

"Resist the beginnings!" – the DBSH (German Professional Association for Social Work) is witnessing these events in Russia with great concern. Now that the Duma, the Russian parliament, has passed this law "against homosexual propaganda" in its first reading, the violations of human rights conventions on the part of the Russian state are becoming ever more evident. "Especially in a global society that aims for inclusion, exclusion should be a thing of the past", says Michael Leinenbach, Federal Chairman of the DBSH.

It has become known from the German press and reports by various non-government organizations that gays and lesbians, amongst others, are to be prohibited from staging any form of public event such as protests and parades, for example. The initiators of the bill cite greater protection for children and their development as the reason.

Media that are also accessible to children, in particular, are now prohibited from treating of the subject of homosexuality. This way, censorship is also cemented, along with the violation of human rights.

In consideration of the ethical principles stated by the International Federation of Social Workers (and passed in Australia in October 2004), the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms dated November 4, 1950 (German Federal Law Gazette 1952 II p. 686), and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (in this case Section 21, "Non-Discrimination"), the DBSH is making the following political demands:

- ***The DBSH is calling on the Federal Republic of Germany – as represented by Chancellor Angela Merkel and Vice Chancellor/ Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle – to make its protest known to the Russian state and its Russian partners in every possible form.***
- ***The DBSH is calling on the European Commissioner for Human Rights to take action in this matter.***
- ***The DBSH is calling on the UN Human Rights Council to take action in this matter.***

The DBSH is a member of IFSW, *the* International Federation of Social Workers, and of IFSW Europe e. V. on a European level, as well as of DBB, the German union for civil servants, in its trade union aspect.

- ***The DBSH is asking all private German enterprises and German NGOs maintaining contacts in Russia to make their protest known to the Russian state and their Russian partners in whatever form.***
- ***The DBSH is asking all European trade unions to make their protest known in this matter to the Russian state and their Russian partners in whatever form.***
- ***The DBSH is asking all its partners on a national and European level to make their protest known correspondingly to the Russian state and their Russian partners in whatever form.***

The German Professional Association for Social Work DBSH declares its solidarity with all those discriminated against in Russia and other states on the grounds of their sexual orientation, and supports them with all the means available to it in public relations, as well as on a political and societal level.

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Berlin, 27.01.2013

For the DBSH

Michael Leinenbach
Federal Chairman