



# EXPERT REPORT

## on the Situation of LGBTQI+ Individuals in the Russian Federation

*(For Use in U.S. Immigration Proceedings)*

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### DESCRIPTION

This report provides an analysis of the socio-legal status of LGBTQI+ individuals in the Russian Federation, including documented cases of persecution, international assessments, legal foundations, expert findings, and recommendations. It may be used as written expert testimony in support of immigration cases and asylum applications in the United States.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This expert report presents a comprehensive legal and factual assessment of systemic persecution against LGBTQI+ individuals in the Russian Federation. It is based on the analysis of Russian law, enforcement practices, personal testimonies, media materials, and international human rights sources.

The author, **Dmitrii Tur**, is the President of the Board of Directors of the nonprofit organization **Ours in the USA**, which has supported over 100 LGBTQI+ asylum applicants from Russia.

### Key Findings:

- **Legislative Persecution:** Since 2013, Russia has enacted a series of repressive laws targeting expressions of LGBTQI+ identity. As of 2023, criminal prosecution under Article 282.2 of the Criminal Code (“extremism”) is possible.
- **State Violence:** Arbitrary detentions, raids, beatings, humiliation, forced “conversion”, and threats are documented in dozens of cases, especially in Chechnya and other regions.
- **Institutional Discrimination:** Transgender individuals are banned from changing legal documents or adopting children. LGBTQI+ individuals face discrimination in education, healthcare, employment, family, and courts.
- **International Assessment:** Reports by the U.S. Department of State and Human Rights Watch confirm that the situation in Russia meets the standard of a “well-founded fear of persecution” under the UN Refugee Convention and U.S. immigration law.

### Conclusion:

LGBTQI+ individuals in Russia are systematically deprived of basic rights and live under the constant threat of persecution, regardless of their level of public visibility. This report substantiates that LGBTQI+ applicants from Russia meet the criteria for international protection and refugee status.

It may be used for:

- immigration proceedings and interviews;
- human rights reports and analysis;
- legal petitions and court submissions.

## I. Introduction

This report has been prepared in response to the growing need for a documented and expert-based analysis of the situation of LGBTQI+ individuals in the Russian Federation, with a focus on the legal, social, and institutional aspects of persecution based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Since 2013, the Russian Federation has pursued a consistent policy of stigmatization and criminalization of LGBTQI+ identity. This includes the adoption of repressive legislation, restrictions on freedom of expression, and large-scale human rights violations. The culmination of this process came with the ruling of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on November 30, 2023, which declared the so-called “international LGBT movement” as an extremist organization. This ruling has enabled criminal prosecution under Article 282.2 of the Russian Criminal Code against a broad and undefined group of individuals, solely based on their actual or perceived affiliation with the LGBTQI+ community.

In the absence of effective legal protection, official statistics, or independent government oversight, the collection, analysis, and expert evaluation of data regarding systemic persecution, threats, and violence against LGBTQI+ persons becomes critically important.

This report is based on:

- Over 100 documented asylum cases involving LGBTQI+ individuals from Russia;
- Legal analysis of current Russian legislation and judicial practices;
- Verified testimonies and reports from human rights organizations;
- International human rights reports and open-source publications;
- Ongoing collaboration with immigration attorneys, professionals, and affected community members.

Purpose of this Report:

To present an evidence-based, legally substantiated account of the situation of LGBTQI+ persons in Russia, to demonstrate the presence of systemic persecution, and to provide a legal and expert foundation in support of asylum claims in the United States of America.

## II. Expert Biography

My name is Dmitrii Tur. I am the President of the Board of Directors of the nonprofit organization Ours in the USA, based in Los Angeles, California. I am actively engaged in the protection of the rights of Russian-speaking LGBTQI+ individuals residing in the United States. My work includes human rights advocacy, coordination of support services, assistance to persecuted individuals, preparation of expert reports, and collaboration with immigration attorneys, courts, and NGOs.

Since February 2023, I joined an existing informational support network for Russian-speaking LGBTQI+ migrants, which was transformed in January 2024 into a nonprofit organization – Ours in the USA. I became one of its co-founders and was later elected President of the Board of Directors.

Under my leadership, the organization exclusively supports members of the LGBTQI+ community who have completed an internal identity verification interview and confirmed their vulnerability. Our key areas of activity include:

- Preparing letters of support and expert reports;
- Documenting cases of persecution and discrimination;
- Assisting individuals held in immigration detention facilities;
- Providing human rights support in collaboration with immigration attorneys and advocacy initiatives.

To date, I have personally documented and analyzed over 100 cases involving LGBTQI+ asylum seekers from the Russian Federation.

Prior to emigration, I studied at the Russian State University of Justice for three years before deciding to leave due to deep disillusionment with the corrupt and repressive Russian legal system.

My human rights work is focused on defending the rights and freedoms of Russian-speaking LGBTQI+ individuals, ensuring their access to reliable information, legal and social assistance, and increasing the visibility and protection of the community in the eyes of international institutions and legal systems. This report is part of my expert contribution toward the systematization and legal assessment of the situation of LGBTQI+ people in the Russian Federation.

### III. Systemic Analysis of the LGBTQI+ Situation in the Russian Federation

The situation of individuals who identify as members of the LGBTQI+ community in the Russian Federation is characterized by systemic discrimination, violence, lack of legal protection, and persecution – both by state authorities and private individuals acting with the tacit approval of the government.

#### 1. Legislative Foundations of Repression

Since 2013, Russian legislation has progressively restricted the freedom to express sexual orientation and gender identity:

- **Federal Law No. 135-FZ of June 29, 2013** introduced a ban on the so-called “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships among minors.”
- **Federal Law No. 442-FZ of December 5, 2022** expanded this ban to cover all audiences, including adults, and extended restrictions to media, the internet, literature, art, advertising, and education.
- **On November 30, 2023, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation**, in case No. AKPI23-1003, declared the so-called “international LGBT movement” an extremist organization. This ruling opened the door for criminal prosecution under **Article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of Russia** – without providing any clear definition of who qualifies as a participant in this “movement.”

As a result, virtually any public or private manifestation of LGBTQI+ identity may now be treated as “extremism,” “propaganda,” or another offense.

#### 2. State Practices of Persecution

Based on the findings documented in this report, and supported by the **2023 U.S. Department of State Report** and **the December 2023 legal review by the Moscow Community Center**:

- Police, the FSB (Federal Security Service), and the Investigative Committee have participated in raids, searches, interrogations, and forced confessions involving LGBTQI+ individuals.
- Large-scale raids have been conducted in clubs, bars, and even private gatherings (notably in Moscow, Krasnoyarsk, Kazan, and Makhachkala).
- There are confirmed cases of torture, threats of rape and murder, and illegal detentions without external contact (e.g., the case of Olga Moskvitina).

- A criminal case was opened for “extremism” even posthumously against activist AndreiKotov, who died in pre-trial detention.
- In Chechnya and other regions, individuals suspected of homosexuality have been forcibly conscripted or have disappeared without a trace.

### 3. Lack of Protection from State Authorities

When victims approach law enforcement, they are often ignored or subjected to further persecution. According to human rights attorney Maksim Zaverbiaev, law enforcement agencies:

- **Routinely refuse** to register complaints from LGBTQI+ victims;
- Verbally abuse, intimidate, and threaten individuals during case “reviews”;
- In some cases, **initiate criminal investigations** based on anonymous tips, social media activity, or media publications.

### 4. Social Stigmatization and Institutional Discrimination

According to the 2023 U.S. Department of State Human Rights Report:

*“LGBTQI+ individuals reported significant societal stigma and discrimination... Medical practitioners continued to limit or deny LGBTQI+ persons health services due to intolerance and prejudice... Many believed they were more vulnerable and unsafe after the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.”*

Additional issues include:

- Denial of medical care, especially for transgender individuals;
- Job dismissals and expulsion from educational institutions;
- Annulment of marriages, bans on adoption, and prohibition of legal gender transition (Federal Law of July 24, 2023).

The Russian government’s policy toward LGBTQI+ individuals is thus systemic, repressive, and life-threatening, as confirmed by numerous domestic and international sources.

## IV. Documented Cases of Persecution and Violence

This section presents concrete examples of repression targeting LGBTQI+ individuals in the Russian Federation. These examples demonstrate the systemic, non-isolated nature of threats, violence, arbitrary detention, and criminal prosecution. The data is drawn from both open sources and the author's personal human rights work, including over 100 asylum cases involving Russian LGBTQI+ applicants in the United States.

### 1. Cases Documented Through Ours in the USA

As part of my human rights work, I have collected and verified evidence of:

- Physical assaults against LGBTQI+ people in public spaces and at private events;
- Threats of outing, blackmail, and coercion to conceal sexual orientation;
- Relatives cooperating with police to report LGBTQI+ family members and force them into "treatment";
- State authorities ignoring or refusing to act on violence complaints filed by LGBTQI+ victims;
- Open threats and pressure in schools, universities, and workplaces, often resulting in expulsion or dismissal;
- Beatings, rape, and kidnappings that were never investigated by police
- Criminal prosecutions under Article 282.2 of the Criminal Code for alleged ties to the "extremist" LGBTQI+ movement.

Among these are testimonies from transgender individuals who have faced humiliation by police, unlawful detention, denial of medical care, threats from family members, and abuse by law enforcement.

### 2. Cases from Open Sources (see Section VII for references)

#### a) Direct Threats and Violence by Police:

- *Olga Moskvitina*, a transgender woman from Makhachkala, was detained without explanation, threatened with rape and murder by police, and held for over 24 hours without food or communication ([parniplus.com/news/olga-moskvitina](http://parniplus.com/news/olga-moskvitina)).
- *Raid at Sisters Club in Moscow*: police aggressively threatened criminal charges and mistreated LGBTQI+ guests ([parniplus.com/news/sisters-moskva-241207](http://parniplus.com/news/sisters-moskva-241207)).

- *20 people detained in Krasnoyarsk* during a raid on the Elton queer bar. Detainees were interrogated about their sexual orientation and taken to police stations ([parniplus.com/news/v-krasnoyarske-politsiya-zaderzhala-20-posetitelej-kvir-bara-elton](http://parniplus.com/news/v-krasnoyarske-politsiya-zaderzhala-20-posetitelej-kvir-bara-elton)).

#### **b) State Coercion to Join the War:**

- *In Chechnya*, gay men are detained and told to choose between prison or conscription. In some cases, criminal charges and family pressure are used as threats ([parniplus.com/news/v-chechne-geev-otpravlyayut-na-vojnu](http://parniplus.com/news/v-chechne-geev-otpravlyayut-na-vojnu)).

#### **c) Legal Absurdity:**

- *Andrei Kotov*, an LGBTQI+ activist, was found dead in pre-trial detention. Yet, a criminal case against him for “LGBT extremism” continues posthumously ([parniplus.com/news/andriya-kotova-budut-sudit-posmertno-za-lgbt-ekstremizm](http://parniplus.com/news/andriya-kotova-budut-sudit-posmertno-za-lgbt-ekstremizm)).

#### **d) Suicide Due to Social Pressure:**

- *The father of Nika Nikulshina* committed suicide out of fear of being outed as gay: “He chose death because being gay in Russia is scarier than dying” ([parniplus.com/lgbt-movement/nika-nikulshina-papa-vybral-smert](http://parniplus.com/lgbt-movement/nika-nikulshina-papa-vybral-smert)).

#### **e) Persecution of LGBTQI+ Event Organizers and Clients:**

- *Clients of Men Travel*, a gay travel agency, were interrogated by police, and participant lists were seized. Clients received threats of criminal prosecution ([parniplus.com/lgbt-movement/discrimination/klienty-men-travel-ekstremisti](http://parniplus.com/lgbt-movement/discrimination/klienty-men-travel-ekstremisti)).

#### **f) Refusal to Participate in Persecution:**

- *Salman Mukaev*, a former law enforcement officer, refused to take part in the arrest of gay men in Chechnya and was placed on the federal wanted list ([parniplus.com/news/sud-v-armenii-v-chetverg-reshit-sudbu-salmana-mukaeva](http://parniplus.com/news/sud-v-armenii-v-chetverg-reshit-sudbu-salmana-mukaeva)).

### **3. International Confirmations**

According to the **2023 U.S. Department of State Country Report**:

“There were reports state actors committed violence against LGBTQI+ individuals... Law enforcement officials were sometimes the source of violence themselves... LGBTQI+ persons had extremely low levels of trust in courts and police.”

Also mentioned:

- Forced medical examinations and “conversion therapy”;
- Court bans on adoption by transgender people;
- Prohibition of gender transition recognition;
- Mass website blocks and arrests for “propaganda of non-traditional relations.”

These examples are only a fraction of the documented violations. Their consistency and frequency confirm the existence of a deeply entrenched, institutionalized, and life-threatening system of persecution.

## V. International Assessment

The human rights situation of LGBTQI+ individuals in the Russian Federation has received widespread international condemnation. Independent human rights organizations, intergovernmental bodies, and foreign government departments have systematically documented repression, discrimination, and violence against members of the LGBTQI+ community. This section highlights the key findings of the most authoritative sources.

### 1. U.S. Department of State – 2023 Country Report on Russia

**Source:** U.S. Department of State – *2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Russia*

Link: [www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/russia/](https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/russia/)

#### **Key points from the section “Acts of Violence, Criminalization, and Other Abuses Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Expression, or Sex Characteristics”:**

- While same-sex conduct is not criminalized per se, laws are used for arbitrary arrests under the guise of “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations.”
- State actors (especially in Chechnya) committed violence, issued threats, engaged in kidnappings and humiliation of LGBTQI+ persons.
- Arrests, intimidation, blackmail, and torture were carried out by or with the approval of security agencies.
- The July 24, 2023 law banned legal gender recognition, annulled marriages, and stripped transgender individuals of the right to adopt.
- The government blocked LGBTQI+ websites and penalized organizations and companies (including RosTelecom and publishing houses) for alleged “propaganda.”

- LGBTQI+ patients were denied medical care and subjected to accusations of mental illness and forced “therapy.”

*“LGBTQI+ individuals had extremely low levels of trust in courts and police... Many reported societal stigma, discrimination, and threats.”*

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## **2. Human Rights Watch (HRW) – February 2024 Report**

**Source:** HRW – *Russia: First Convictions Under LGBT ‘Extremist’ Ruling*, February 15, 2024

Link: [www.hrw.org/news/2024/02/15/russia-first-convictions-under-lgbt-extremist-ruling](http://www.hrw.org/news/2024/02/15/russia-first-convictions-under-lgbt-extremist-ruling)

- For the first time, individuals were convicted for “participation in an extremist movement” – in practice, for publicly identifying as LGBTQI+.
- The “extremist” designation allows for criminal prosecution of anyone who openly identifies as LGBTQI+ or defends LGBTQI+ rights.
- Courts and investigators do not require proof of organizational membership – public posts or statements are enough.

*“This ruling has become a tool of criminal persecution of LGBTQI+ individuals and allies.”*

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## **3. Moscow Community Center – Legal Position (December 2023)**

Source: *Legal Review of the Status of LGBTQI+ People in Russia*, December 2023

- The Russian legal system has created a unique phenomenon: de facto criminalization of identity without explicit criminal provisions.
- Law enforcement applies vague and broadly defined concepts such as “propaganda” and “extremism,” allowing for arbitrary persecution.
- Official rhetoric and enforcement practices incite societal violence, including “citizen raids” and public denunciations.
- Russian laws violate Articles 19, 21, and 29 of the Constitution and Articles 8 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

*“In practice, law enforcement and judicial systems form a closed vertical of persecution based on SOGI [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity], while publicly denying the existence of discrimination.”*

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#### 4. International Legal Standards and Court Precedents

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Articles 1, 7, 14
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Articles 17, 26
- 1951 Refugee Convention – Article 33
- European Convention on Human Rights – Articles 8, 14
- U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act – INA §208(b)(1)(B)(i)

#### Key U.S. Federal Court Cases:

- Karouni v. Gonzales, 399 F.3d 1163 (9th Cir. 2005):

*“An individual is not required to conceal their sexual identity to avoid persecution.”*

- Hernandez-Montiel v. INS, 225 F.3d 1084 (9th Cir. 2000):

*“Forcing a person to suppress their identity is itself a form of persecution.”*

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Together, these international sources confirm that the situation in Russia constitutes systemic persecution based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity, with clear features of a state-sponsored campaign to remove LGBTQI+ individuals from public life.

## VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

An analysis of current Russian legislation, law enforcement practices, documented cases of violence, international reports, and expert opinions clearly demonstrates the existence of a systemic, institutionalized, and state-sanctioned policy of persecution against the LGBTQI+ community in the Russian Federation.

Over the past decade, Russian authorities have created a legal and cultural environment in which any expression of sexual orientation or gender identity deviating from the “traditional norm” is perceived as a threat to the state, society, or “national interests.”

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### Key Legislative Milestones:

- **Federal Law No. 135-FZ (June 29, 2013)**: Introduced a ban on “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships among minors.”
  - **Federal Law No. 442-FZ (December 5, 2022)**: Expanded the ban to all audiences and areas of public life, including media, the internet, art, and education.
  - **Supreme Court Decision No. AKPI23-1003 (November 30, 2023)**: Designated the so-called “international LGBT movement” as extremist, opening the door to criminal prosecution under **Article 282.2 of the Criminal Code**, without a clear legal definition of “participation.”
  - **Federal Law No. 360-FZ (July 24, 2023)**: Banned legal gender transition, annulled existing marriages, and deprived transgender people of adoption rights.
  - **Security agencies** (police, FSB, Investigative Committee) routinely carry out raids, interrogations, data seizures, and psychological pressure on LGBTQI+ individuals.
  - **Law enforcement often denies protection** to victims and is frequently the source of threats, insults, and violence.
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### Documented Consequences Include:

- Arbitrary detentions and humiliating interrogations;
- Mass raids on both public and private LGBTQI+ gatherings;
- Coercion into military service under threat of criminal prosecution (especially in Chechnya);

- Criminal cases against LGBTQI+ tour organizers and participants, including posthumous prosecution (e.g., Andrei Kotov);
  - Escalating social stigma, intimidation, and self-censorship at all levels.
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#### **International Norms Violated by the Russian Federation:**

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights:** Articles 1, 7, 14
  - **1951 Refugee Convention (Geneva):** Article 33
  - **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966):** Articles 17, 26
  - **European Convention on Human Rights:** Articles 8, 14
  - **U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act:** INA §208(b)(1)(B)(i)
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#### **Key U.S. Federal Case Law:**

- *Karouni v. Gonzales*, 399 F.3d 1163 (9th Cir. 2005):  
*"An individual is not required to conceal their sexual identity to avoid persecution."*
  - *Hernandez-Montiel v. INS*, 225 F.3d 1084 (9th Cir. 2000):  
*"Forcing a person to suppress their identity is itself a form of persecution."*
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#### **General Conclusions:**

1. The Russian Federation implements a state policy of isolating, suppressing, and criminalizing LGBTQI+ identity – legally, administratively, and physically.
2. Merely existing as an LGBTQI+ person in Russia entails a constant risk of persecution, regardless of one's level of visibility or public disclosure.
3. Law enforcement agencies do not act as protectors but rather as instruments of repression, including through arbitrary arrests, threats, and violence.
4. Both public and private individuals are equally vulnerable – accusations may stem from tips, photos, messages, or participation in private events.
5. LGBTQI+ asylum seekers from Russia meet the definition of a "well-founded fear of persecution" under international treaties and U.S. immigration law.

## VII. List of Sources

### 1. Legislation and Judicial Acts of the Russian Federation:

- Federal Law No. 135-FZ (June 29, 2013): "On Amendments to Article 5 of the Federal Law 'On the Protection of Children from Information Harmful to Their Health and Development.'"
  - Federal Law No. 442-FZ (December 5, 2022): "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation on the Ban of Propaganda of Non-Traditional Sexual Relations."
  - Federal Law No. 360-FZ (July 24, 2023): "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation (regarding the prohibition of gender transition)."
  - Supreme Court Ruling (November 30, 2023): Case No. AKPI23-1003 declaring the "international LGBT movement" as extremist.
  - Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, Article 282.2: "Organization of an extremist organization's activities."
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### 2. International Legal Instruments and Norms:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): Articles 1, 7, 14
  - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966): Articles 17, 26
  - 1951 Refugee Convention (Geneva): Article 33
  - European Convention on Human Rights: Articles 8, 14
  - U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA): §208(b)(1)(B)(i)
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### 3. U.S. Case Law:

- Karouni v. Gonzales, 399 F.3d 1163 (9th Cir. 2005)
- Hernandez-Montiel v. INS, 225 F.3d 1084 (9th Cir. 2000)

#### 4. International Reports and Human Rights Publications:

- **U.S. Department of State** – *2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Russia*

URL: [www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/russia/](http://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/russia/)

- **Human Rights Watch (HRW)**: *Russia: First Convictions Under LGBT 'Extremist' Ruling – February 15, 2024*

URL: [www.hrw.org/news/2024/02/15/russia-first-convictions-under-lgbt-extremist-ruling](http://www.hrw.org/news/2024/02/15/russia-first-convictions-under-lgbt-extremist-ruling)

- **HRW**: *Setting the Record Straight: Chechnya's Anti-Gay Purge – September 13, 2023*

URL: [www.hrw.org/ru/news/2023/09/13/setting-record-straight-chechnyas-anti-gay-purge](http://www.hrw.org/ru/news/2023/09/13/setting-record-straight-chechnyas-anti-gay-purge)

- **Moscow Community Center (MCC)**: *Legal Assessment of the LGBTQ Situation in Russia, December 2023*

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#### 5. Documented Media Cases:

- [parniplus.com/news/olga-moskvitina/](http://parniplus.com/news/olga-moskvitina/)
- [parniplus.com/news/sisters-moskva-241207/](http://parniplus.com/news/sisters-moskva-241207/)
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- [parniplus.com/news/sud-v-armenii-v-chetverg-reshit-sudbu-salmana-mukaeva-on-otkazalsya-lovit-geev-v-chechne-i-teper-v-rozyske/](https://parniplus.com/news/sud-v-armenii-v-chetverg-reshit-sudbu-salmana-mukaeva-on-otkazalsya-lovit-geev-v-chechne-i-teper-v-rozyske/)
  - [meduza.io/feature/2025/01/27/my-teper-vseh-vas-znaem](https://meduza.io/feature/2025/01/27/my-teper-vseh-vas-znaem)
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## **6. Interviews and Expert Opinions:**

- Attorney Maksim Zavertiaev – oral and written statements, March 2025 (referenced in Sections III and IV of this report)

## VIII. Conclusion

The analysis of Russian legislation, documented instances of violence, and domestic and international human rights sources leads to a clear conclusion: members of the LGBTQI+ community in the Russian Federation are subjected to systematic persecution, humiliation, discrimination, and threats to their lives and freedom.

Russia's legal framework and political discourse have effectively turned LGBTQI+ identity into a potentially criminalized form of expression. The designation of the so-called "international LGBT movement" as an extremist organization, the ban on legal gender recognition, criminal cases for "propaganda," and widespread police raids reflect a shift toward the state's direct control and suppression of personal identity.

This situation blatantly violates international human rights standards, including those set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Refugee Convention, and other international agreements.

Russian LGBTQI+ individuals who have fled the country and are seeking asylum abroad – including in the United States – possess a well-founded fear of persecution based on their membership in a particular social group. This fear is supported by legal analysis and the practical experience of numerous individual cases, some of which are presented in this report.

This document may be used:

- As an expert basis for evaluating LGBTQI+ asylum applications from Russia;
- As a reference for human rights reports, international communications, and public advocacy;
- As evidence of the systemic nature of human rights violations against LGBTQI+ individuals in the Russian Federation.

## IX. Expert's Declaration Under Oath

I, Dmitrii Tur, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information presented in this expert report is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I hereby affirm that:

- I serve as the President of the Board of Directors of Ours in the USA, a nonprofit organization that supports LGBTQI+ migrants from Russia and other former Soviet states currently residing in the United States;
- I possess direct and extensive knowledge of the situation of LGBTQI+ individuals in the Russian Federation, based on legal analysis, international human rights reports, victim testimonies, and my professional experience with over 100 individual asylum cases;
- This report includes references to documented legal acts, verified open sources, and confirmed personal stories, all of which demonstrate the systemic nature of LGBTQI+ persecution in Russia;
- I have no financial or personal interest in the outcome of any individual case in which this report may be submitted;
- This report was prepared by me voluntarily and independently, as part of my human rights work, and reflects my objective expert opinion at the time of signing.

Place of Preparation: Los Angeles, California, United States

Date: March 2025

Dmitrii Tur  
President of the Board of Directors *Ours in the USA*

