

Universal Declaration of the Rights of LGBTQ+ Persons and Sex Workers in Russia

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Recognizing the inherent dignity, autonomy, and equality of all human beings,
Affirming that diversity in gender identity, sexual orientation, gender expression, and livelihood constitutes a natural and legitimate expression of human existence,
Rejecting all systems of law and institutional practice that criminalize identity, expression, or consensual adult activity,
This Declaration establishes a comprehensive framework of inalienable rights and freedoms for LGBTQ+ persons and sex workers within the Russian Federation and in all jurisdictions, and calls upon all governmental, institutional, and private entities to recognize, uphold, and actively protect these rights without exception, qualification, or temporal limitation.

Article I — Equality and Non-Discrimination

All individuals possess equal dignity and inalienable rights. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex, perceived sex, or any form of livelihood, including sex work, is prohibited in all spheres: legal, social, economic, educational, healthcare, and institutional.

Article II — Freedom of Sexuality and Bodily Autonomy

Every individual possesses absolute sovereignty over their own body and sexuality. No state, institution, or authority shall criminalize, restrict, surveil, or otherwise interfere with private, consensual sexual expression or activity between adults. Bodily autonomy is non-negotiable.

Article III — Freedom of Gender Identity and Expression

Every person has the unconditional right to define, experience, express, and live in accordance with their gender identity. Legal, administrative, and social systems must recognize and respect self-identified gender without coercion, forced classification, medical gatekeeping, or institutional interference. Recognition includes legal documentation and institutional accommodation.

Article IV — Freedom of Presentation and Expression

All individuals retain the right to present themselves in accordance with their identity through clothing, appearance, grooming, behavior, and public self-expression. Cross-dressing, gender nonconformity, and any form of self-presentation shall not be subject to restriction, punishment, discrimination, or state interference.

Article V — Freedom from Institutional Discrimination

Discrimination in employment, housing, education, healthcare provision, financial services, or public accommodations on the basis of identity, expression, sexuality, or profession is strictly prohibited. All persons are entitled to equal access and equal treatment without prejudice.

Article VI — Rights and Protections for Sex Workers

All persons engaged in consensual adult sex work are entitled to full protection under human rights law, including:

- **Freedom from criminalization** for consensual adult sexual labor and commerce
- **Protection from violence, coercion, and exploitation** with full recourse to law enforcement and justice systems
- **Safe and dignified working conditions** without surveillance, harassment, or retaliation
- **Access to comprehensive healthcare** including sexual health, mental health, and occupational safety services
- **Equal protection under law** without stigma, bias, or institutional prejudice
- **Labor rights and economic protections** equivalent to all other professions

Article VII — Protection from Violence and Persecution

No individual shall be subjected to harassment, detention, arrest, violence, torture, or targeted enforcement on the basis of identity, expression, sexuality, or profession. The state bears full responsibility for prevention, protection of victims, investigation of perpetrators, and accountability through criminal and civil law.

Article VIII — Right to Privacy and Protection from Forced Disclosure

Personal identity, relationships, sexual orientation, gender history, and professional activities shall not be subject to unlawful surveillance, unwanted disclosure, blackmail, or forced revelation. Privacy rights extend to all aspects of private life and relationships.

Article IX — Access to Affirming and Competent Healthcare

All individuals have the right to competent, respectful, and non-discriminatory healthcare, including:

- **Gender-affirming medical care** provided without gatekeeping or institutional obstruction
- **Sexual and reproductive health services** provided with full respect for autonomy
- **Mental health support** that affirms identity and respects autonomy
- **Occupational health and safety protections** for all professions, including sex work

Article X — Freedom of Assembly, Organization, and Advocacy

All persons have the right to organize, assemble peacefully, advocate collectively, and publish information regarding their rights without governmental interference, surveillance, criminalization, or reprisal.

Article XI — Right to Relationships, Partnership, and Family

All individuals have the right to form consensual relationships and families of their choosing, with full legal recognition, protection, and equality. Family formations of all structures shall receive equal institutional and legal recognition.

Article XII — Protection from Defamatory and Dehumanizing Narratives

No person or group shall be publicly labeled as immoral, criminal, dangerous, pathological, or socially undesirable solely on the basis of identity, expression, sexuality, or profession. Public institutions, media, and officials are obligated to refrain from promoting narratives that dehumanize, stigmatize, or justify harm against these communities.

Article XIII — Institutional Accountability and Affirmative Obligation

All governmental, judicial, law enforcement, educational, healthcare, and private institutions bear affirmative responsibility to:

- **Uphold equality and enforce non-discrimination** in all operations and services
- **Prevent systemic harm, exclusion, and violence** through policy, training, and accountability
- **Actively promote dignity, inclusion, and respect** in institutional culture and practice
- **Provide remedy and restitution** to persons harmed by institutional discrimination or violence

Article XIV — Universality and Inalienability

These rights are universal, indivisible, and inalienable. They derive from human dignity itself and cannot be restricted, suspended, or negated by any system of law, tradition, religion, or state power. Their denial constitutes a violation of fundamental human rights and international ethical standards.

Final Proclamation

This Declaration affirms that freedom is inseparable and indivisible: the right to identity, the right to expression, the right to livelihood, and the right to exist without fear or persecution are all expressions of a single fundamental principle—human dignity.

No system of power, law, tradition, or authority may justly override these rights, nor may any claim of sovereignty, security, tradition, or cultural value be invoked to diminish them.

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