



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on LGBT Rights in the Russian Federation

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 31, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We are deeply concerned about proposed national legislation in Russia that would reportedly restrict freedoms of expression and assembly for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals, and indeed all Russians.

The United States opposes any legislation that singles out people for discriminatory treatment due to their sexual orientation. The United States places great importance on the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people. LGBT persons have the same human rights as all other individuals.

We call on the Russia Federation to meet its obligations to respect and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to fulfill its OSCE commitments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.