The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Feminism Is Very Dangerous, Patriarch Kirill Says

By The Moscow Times

April 10, 2013

Kirill, in blue, speaking during a service at a Moscow cathedral in 2009. **Igor Tabakov**

The head of the resurgent Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, says feminism is a "very dangerous" phenomenon offering an illusion of freedom to women, who he says should focus on their families and children.

Some three quarters of Russians consider themselves Russian Orthodox and Kirill has fostered increasingly close ties with President Vladimir Putin, who has portrayed the church as the guardian of Russia's national values.

"I find very dangerous this phenomenon called feminism, because feminist organizations proclaim a pseudo-freedom of women that should in the first place be manifested outside marriage and outside the family," Kirill told a meeting with an Orthodox women's group on Tuesday, according to Interfax.

"Man turns his sight outward, he should work, make money, while a woman is always focused inward toward her children, her home. If this exceptionally important role of a woman is destroyed, everything will be destroyed as a consequence — family and, if you wish, the homeland," he said.

Kirill and Putin have both criticized a protest by the all-female Pussy Riot punk band last year that saw women dressed in colorful dresses and balaclavas performing at the altar of Russia's most sacred Orthodox cathedral. In their impromptu, noisy "punk prayer," they called on the Virgin Mary to rid Russia of Putin.

Three members of the collective were sentenced to two years in jail for hooliganism motivated by religious hatred over their stunt, though one has since had her sentence suspended.

In Germany on Monday, members of the women's rights group Femen, which has protested around Europe against Russia's detention of Pussy Riot, disrupted Putin's visit to a trade fair with a topless protest.

Putin laughed off the demonstration by the trio, who stripped to the waist and called him a "dictator." He even said he had liked what he had seen.

Kirill once likened Putin's rule over Russia to a miracle of God, and the president has said the Orthodox Church should play a bigger role in the country.

The State Duma on Tuesday passed in a first reading a bill that would make offenses against religion punishable by up to five years in prison.

Related articles:

- Topless Women, Gay Rights Activists Greet Putin in Europe
- Topless Femen Activists Face Up to 5 Years for Putin Protest
- Duma Approves 'Blasphemy Bill' in First Reading

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2013/04/10/feminism-is-very-dangerous-patriarch-kirill-says-a23137