

Russians Threatened With Conscription and Gay Homestays in Presidential Campaign Ad

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Youtube

A video calling on Russians to vote in the presidential elections next month has raised controversy over appeals to fear based on homophobia and racism.

The three-minute video paints a dystopian future facing those who fail to show up at the polls on March 18, with a slew of comically absurd laws. A 52-year-old man dreams that he is drafted into a multi-ethnic army, harassed by a communist son for donations and forced to limit his daily number of bathroom visits.

Embed:

Arguably the most egregious outcome of the man's decision not to vote is a law assigning each family with a "gay homestay" for a week.

“If he doesn’t find himself a pair, then you’ll have to be with him,” the man’s wife says.

“The law is the law,” a flamboyantly-dressed homestay tells him before suggestively biting into a banana.

Svetlana Galka, the actress who played the wife in the video, [told](#) the Govorit Moskva radio station that she was unaware of who had ordered the campaign ad and dismissed accusations of homophobia.

“This is simply a humorous promo, so what?” she said.

Russia’s Metro newspaper [claimed](#) in an article Sunday that the “viral” video was viewed more than 3 million times, although the actual video it [linked](#) to only had 3,500 views in the two days since it appeared online. The same video published under a different title a day earlier [had](#) just over 128,000 views.

The outlet said it did not have information about who was behind the video.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/02/19/russians-threatened-with-conscription-gay-homestays-presidential-campaign-ad-a60555>