



incidents — including the use of far-right banners and physical violence — has continued to decline, according to the report.

Meanwhile, hate crimes carried out by Russian far-right football fans remain a problem, with two cases recorded in the 2017–18 season, including an attack on a group of Iraqi students in Oryol.

"There is reason to hope that during the 2018 FIFA World Cup, the authorities will not allow serious violent incidents involving football hooligans to take place," the report says.

"However, we do not have as much confidence in the prevention of non-violent racist incidents, despite the many well intentioned reassurances."

The data in the report was collected between June 2017 and May 2018 using public sources, closed discussion groups and online fan forums, and covers professional football competitions, including Russian clubs in the UEFA Champions League and Europa League and Russian Football Premier League games.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/05/31/racism-and-homophobia-on-the-rise-in-russian-football-report-says-a61631>