

UN Rights Panel Rules Against Russian Gay Propaganda Law

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A UN human rights panel has ruled that a Russian regional law banning gay propaganda among minors is in violation of a legally binding international treaty on human rights.

Russia introduced nationwide legislation banning "the promotion of non-traditional relationships to children" in 2013, building on older legislation on individual Russian regions. The law has been criticized by rights activists as well as the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

Related article: [European Court Condemns Russia's 'Homophobic' Gay Propaganda Law](#)

The UN Human Rights Committee [ruled](#) last month that the anti-gay propaganda law in Russia's Arkhangelsk region was "ambiguous, disproportionate and discriminatory," citing a Russian court case in which the law had been used to prosecute Kirill Nepomnyashchy, a gay

rights activist.

An Arkhangelsk court had charged Nepomnyashchy with an administrative offence for displaying a poster reading “Homosexuality is a healthy form of sexuality. This should be known by children and adults!” in a picket against the law outside a children’s library in 2012.

The UN committee ruled that Nepomnyashchy had been discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation, violating his rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

“This is our third victory against Russia in the UN Human Rights Committee on LGBT cases. There can no longer be any questions about Russian gay propaganda legislation,” Nikolai Alexeyev, the founder of GayRussia.ru, [wrote](#) on social media after the ruling.

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