

No 'Gay Propaganda' Found in Schoolchildren's Art, Police Say

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Ura.ru

Police found no violations of Russia's gay propaganda laws in confiscated children's drawings from a school art exhibition after parents complained that they depicted same-sex couples.

Russia outlawed "homosexual propaganda" among minors in 2013, a move that allowed courts to ban gay pride events and led to a surge in anti-LGBT sentiment. In November, police in Russia's fourth-largest city of Yekaterinburg [seized](#) 17 drawings for inspection into gay propaganda.

The Yekaterinburg branch of the Interior Ministry ruled that there were "no elements of a crime," Interfax [reported](#) Wednesday.

Related article: [Four out of Five Russians Find Gay Sex 'Reprehensible' — Poll](#)

Photographs of the drawings submitted by fifth- to 11th-graders for an art contest marking the International Day of Tolerance divided observers into two camps.

The local news website ura.ru claimed the silhouettes of a female couple, a male couple and a mixed couple [portrayed](#) “gays and lesbians.” Some regional authorities had said the accusers saw gay propaganda that “wasn’t there.”

“The pictures reflect human values: friendship, respect, mutual understanding and acceptance of other people’s values and attitudes,” a spokesperson for the mayor’s office [told](#) ura.ru at the time.

“Some works depict a rainbow,” the spokesperson added. “[It is] a symbol of purity, childhood and friendship, embodying the unity of different nationalities.”

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