

# Russian Kids Are Patriotic, Apolitical and Tolerant of LGBT People – Study

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Seven in 10 young Russians are patriotic and two-thirds aren't interested in politics, according to the study. **Kirill Zykov / Moskva News Agency**

Russian schoolchildren are largely unwilling to participate in political protests but are concerned about the environment and tolerant of LGBT people, according to a newly published sociological study on the views of youngsters in the country.

The report follows the [involvement](#) of thousands of young activists in anti-government protests that gripped Moscow this summer. Russian authorities have targeted the youth with several recent initiatives, including a ban on minors attending protests, funding for military and patriotic education and a plan to [monitor](#) youngsters' online behavior.

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According to the Mikhailov & Partners study [cited](#) by the *Kommersant* newspaper Wednesday, 62% of young Russians say they are patriots of the country.

A total of 70% say they heard about the recent wave of protests in Russia but three-quarters say they wouldn't themselves participate in unsanctioned demonstrations. Another 67% say they aren't interested in politics.

Regarding views toward members of the LGBT community, 13% of Russian youth say they trust sexual minorities, 68% say they have normal views and 17% say they have negative views.

"This means that our conception about the patriarchal nature of the country is more likely coming from above than below," psychologist Alexander Kolmanovsky told *Kommersant* in comments about the study.

A total of 46% Russian schoolchildren named ecological problems as an area of concern, though nine out of 10 say they believe Russia needs new environmental protection laws. Only 31% named corruption as a problem that needs to be immediately addressed.

Among politicians, President Vladimir Putin elicited the most respect among respondents (15%) followed by nationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky (7.3%) and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev (2.8%). Another 56.5% of young Russians struggled to come up with an answer and 15% said there are no politicians who deserve their sympathy and respect.

Mikhailov & Partners polled 1,057 respondents aged 10-18 in 52 Russian regions in September.

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