

Russian Lawmaker Convicted in U.S. of Being Foreign Agent Seeks to Regulate Dolls' Diversity

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Maria Butina, a deputy from the United Russia faction (C). **Moskva News Agency**

Russian lawmaker Maria Butina [said](#) she is working on legislation to regulate dolls, pointing to growing diversity and representation in the children's toys.

Butina was jailed in the United States for working as a foreign agent and deported to Moscow, where she was elected to the lower-house State Duma in this September's parliamentary elections.

In a Telegram post Tuesday, Butina [contrasted](#) a white-skinned Russian doll to a dark-skinned, pink-haired Barbie with a caption saying "Maybe it's time to think?"

"While the Education Ministry closely monitors school textbooks, there are no standards for educational toys for kindergartens, which is a shame," she wrote.

"I hope it doesn't turn out in a couple of years that our children are being raised on [foreign]

dolls and emulating them,” Butina added.

In comments to the Znak.com news website, the newly elected lawmaker said she chose doll standards as a pet issue after speaking with the worried parents in her native Kirov region.

“This is a national issue and there can be no opponents here,” Butina was quoted as saying.

“As a woman and a teacher by education, I understand that the future of our children depends on their formation in the first years of life,” she said.

Butina, who was hired by the state-funded RT television to host an online show that mocks the opposition following her return to Russia, vowed to work with the Education Ministry on drafting a set of standards for dolls.

“There’s no specific initiative yet, but I don’t rule out its appearance,” she said.

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