The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Designates George Washington University 'Undesirable' Organization

December 29, 2025



The George Washington University. **Wikicommons**

Russia's General Prosecutor's Office on Monday designated the George Washington University an "undesirable" organization, accusing the U.S.-based institution of helping promote anti-Russian sentiment and spread false claims about the war in Ukraine.

The designation effectively bans the university from having any presence in Russia. Under Russian law, individuals found to be affiliated with an "undesirable" organization face up to four years in prison, while those deemed to organize its activities risk up to six years.

The George Washington University hosts a prominent Russian studies program that prosecutors in Moscow accused of providing funding to media outlets and individuals labeled "foreign agents."

In a statement, prosecutors said the program "launched a media platform that compiles materials produced by foreign agents and undesirable organizations on Russia's socio-political situation... and calls on authorities in Washington increase sanctions pressure."

While prosecutors did not name the outlet, the description appeared to refer to Russia Post, an expert journalism platform linked to the university's Russian studies program. Russia Post's website has previously been blocked in Russia.

Russia introduced its "undesirable" law in 2015, using it to crack down on independent media, opposition groups and foreign-funded organizations. Hundreds of organizations are currently blacklisted, including The Moscow Times.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/12/29/russia-designates-george-washington-university-undesirable-organization-a91577