

QUICK GUIDE TO ADDRESSING SEXUAL RIGHTS ISSUES DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON RUSSIAN FEDERATION^[1]

These Guides include:

- A list of issues mentioned in the National Report, the Compilation of official UN Documents and the Summary of Other Stakeholders Submissions, with references to the particular paragraphs in which they can be found.
- The full text of those paragraphs
- In those cases in which the Sexual Rights Initiative has submitted reports, we have included an Annex with our recommendations.
- In all cases we have included suggested questions and recommendations

References in the two working languages of the Council (English and French) have been kept in their original language.

Issues are highlighted, while **recommendations** are in bold and underlined. References in the National Report are *in Italics*.

All sexual rights issues that do not relate specifically to women are referred to in this Guide. Sexual rights' issues referring specifically to women –as well as other women's issues- are referred to in the Guide on Women's Issues

| Issue | National Report | Compilation | Summary |
|--|-----------------|---|---|
| HIV/AIDS | | Several Ministries involved in planning (7); infected and affected children abandoned in hospitals (53), their right to education violated (60), need to seek assistance (84) | Improvements in access to ARV. Failures in HIV prevention /treatment for injection drug users (55). Need to improve services and equipment in remand establishments and penal colonies (21) |
| Sexual orientation and gender identity | | | Campaign against homosexuality limiting rights; Refusal to register sexual minorities' NGOs. (46) |
| Trafficking/sexual exploitation | | High prevalence (33) Abuse by educators (22) | |

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| /violence against children | | | |
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HIV/AIDS

A 2007 UNAIDS report noted that the **Ministries** of Transport, Regional Development, Finance and Defence have started to be **involved in AIDS strategic planning** (Para 7, Compilation).

UNICEF informed that **HIV-infected and affected children face stigma that lead parents to abandon them in hospitals**. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) raised similar concerns (Para 53, Compilation). UNICEF informed that HIV-infected and affected children's **rights to education are often violated** (Para 60, Compilation). CRC **recommended that the Russian Federation seek technical assistance from, inter alia, UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF** (Para 84, Compilation).

Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated that hundreds of thousands of people in Russia, many of them youths and young adults, are dependent on drugs and at immediate risk of HIV **infection**. While the Russian Federation has made considerable **progress expanding access to antiretroviral (ARV) treatment** for people living with HIV, its **efforts to ensure that injection drug users have access to effective drug dependence treatment services**, a key factor in both general HIV prevention and treatment for injection drug users, **have fallen far short** (Para 55, Summary).

The Commissioner of Europe (Commissioner) **recommended that the Russian Federation improve medical services in remand establishments (SIZOs) and penal colonies; and modernize and provide them with the equipment needed to combat illnesses, in particular (tuberculosis and) AIDS** (Para 21, Summary).

Sexual orientation and gender identity

Russian NGOs stated that the **ongoing campaign against homosexuality limits the rights of homosexuals** to freedom of conscience and expression and to freedom of assembly. It alleged that in 2007, there were two cases of **unlawful refusal to register NGOs** of sexual minorities (Para 46, Summary).

Trafficking/sexual exploitation/violence of/against children

CRC was concerned about the **large number** of children and young people being **sexually exploited** and the increasing number of children living and/or working on street. (Para 33, Compilation). In 2005, CRC was concerned about the **use of torture and ill-treatment in boarding and other educational institutions, including abuse** by educators (Para 22, Compilation).

Suggested Questions and Recommendations

- Ask if any specific programs exist for stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS and to assist those already infected among the drug-injecting populations and among jail inmates/Recommend

that the Russian Federation implements specific programs to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS among the drug-injecting populations and among jail inmates and to assist those already infected while fully protecting the human rights of these groups.

- Recommend that the right to freedom of assembly be fully guaranteed to civil society organizations working for the rights of sexual minorities.
- Recommend that the RF conducts investigations in boarding and other educational institutions to identify cases of abuse against children, sanctions those found responsible and provide sensitivity training to the staff, to prevent such incidents from occurring again.

[1] These Guides were produced by the Sexual Rights Initiative, a coalition of organizations based in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and North America whose mandate is to advance women's issues broadly and sexual rights issues in the Human Rights Council. For questions, comments, suggestions please contact Alejandra Sardá-Chandiramani at alejandra@mulabi.org.