



ANNUAL REPORT LGBT-INITIATIVE GROUP “STIMUL” 2019

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СТИМУЛ
ЛГБТ ГРУППА

ANDREI PETROV

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LGBT-GROUP "STIMUL"

ON MARCH 15 THERE WILL BE OUR 5TH ANNIVERSARY. THE PREVIOUS YEAR WAS NOT EASY FOR US. IN CONDITIONS OF ACUTE SOCIAL HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE LGBT COMMUNITY IN RUSSIA, THE AUTHORITIES ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR REASONS TO DEHUMANIZE THE LGBT COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR THE OPENING OF CASES AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE AND ACTIVISTS.

NEVERTHELESS, WE CONTINUE TO WORK AND PROVIDE PROTECTION TO THE COMMUNITY. TODAY, AFTER 5 YEARS OF WORK, I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT THE LGBT GROUP "STIMUL" IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE LGBT ORGANIZATIONS IN RUSSIA



ANDREI PETROV,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LGBT-GROUP "STIMUL"



OUR TEAM



Andrey Petrov,
executive director



Anton Ryzhov,
head of legal services



Georgy Pyankov,
financial manager



Artyom Lapov,
lawyer (cooperate with us)



Ekaterina Svetashkova,
monitoring department



Marina Fadeeva,
psychologist



Svetnala Bondarenko,
project manager



Sergey Romanovski,
communication manager



Alexander Kochetkov,
lawyer

ADVOCACY

IN 2019, STIMUL SENT AN APPEAL TO THE MOSCOW POLICE LEADERSHIP ON BRINGING TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION THE PERSON GUILTY OF LOSING THE CASE RELATED TO THE MINING OF THE «SIDE BY SIDE» LGBT FILM FESTIVAL. BESIDES, AFTER 3 YEARS, THE INTRUDERS TRYING TO DISRUPT THE FESTIVAL WERE NEVER FOUND, THE POLICE BEGAN TO LOSE THE CASE MATERIALS THEMSELVES.

AS A RESULT, WE PUBLISHED THE REPORT «TREE YEARS OF MOSCOW POLICE INEFFICIENCY».

IN IT THE ORGANIZATION REPORTED SYSTEMATIC VIOLATIONS OF THE STANDARDS FOR INVESTIGATING THREE CASES RELATED TO THE DISRUPTION OF THE “SIDE BY SIDE” FILM FESTIVAL IN 2016. THE REPORT EXAMINED THE VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY THE STATE AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION INTO FALSE REPORTS OF AN ACT OF TERRORISM AND THE ENTIRE CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS WAS RESTORED. THE REPORT WAS PRESENTED ON JULY 11, 2019.



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ORGANIZATION PROGRAMS

**LEGAL
ASSISTANCE**

**EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES
AND DEVELOPMENT
FOR LGBT-ACTIVISTS**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL
SUPPORT**

**THE PROSECUTION
OF CASES**

MONITORING

**HELPING LGBT-
ASYLUM SEEKERS**

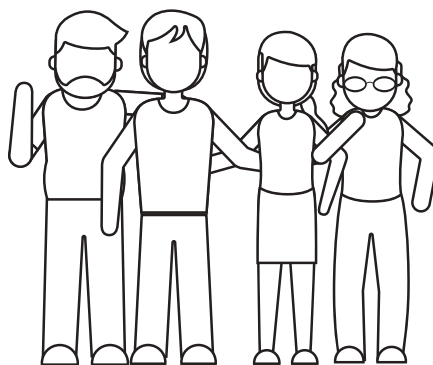
LEGAL ASSISTANCE

WE CONDUCT INTRAMURAL AND REMOTE LEGAL ADVICE FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES, PROVIDE MAINTENANCE TO PUBLIC AUTHORITIES: THE POLICE, PROSECUTORS, THE INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE, MIGRATION SERVICES, REPRESENTATION IN COURTS, APPEAL TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AS ALSO ADVISE LGBT INITIATIVES IN MOSCOW AND IN THE MOSCOW REGION.

STATISTICS OF APPEALS FOR LEGAL AID

150

PEOPLE APPLIED FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE
TO STIMUL (THERE WERE ONLY 64
OF THEM IN 2018)



330 000 ₺

RUBLES OF NON-PECUNIARY COMPENSATION WERE AWARDED
BY THE COURT TO OUR COMPLAINANTS WITH OUR HELP

912

LEGALLY SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS (THIS FIGURE INCLUDES ORAL AND WRITTEN CONSULTATIONS, PREPARATION OF COMPLAINTS AND CLAIMS, PARTICIPATION IN COURT HEARINGS, ESCORTING CITIZENS TO THE POLICE).

AT THE SAME TIME, IN 2017 THERE WERE 85 SUCH ACTIONS TAKEN,
AND 318 IN 2018



LEGAL SERVICES ACHIEVEMENTS

ACCOMPLISHED THE ELIMINATION OF THREE GANGS INVOLVED IN ROBBERIES AND ASSAULT ON THE FAKE DATES WITH GAY MEN

CONTRIBUTED TO THE DETENTION OF THREE ATTACKERS (ONE FROM EACH BAND), WHICH LATER ENDED UP IN JAIL. ONE OF THE BANDITS WAS CONVICTED, CRIMINAL CASES ON 2 OTHERS ARE PENDING WITH THE COMPETENT COURTS. THE REST OF THE CRIMINALS ARE WANTED.

ACCOMPLISHED THE DISMISSAL OF TWO SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RED TAPE BEING ALLOWED DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF ONE OF OUR CASES

AT THE INITIATIVE OF LGBT-GROUP "STIMUL" IN MOSCOW REGION THE HEAD OF LENIN DISTRICT AND THE HEAD OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION WERE FIRED. AS FOLLOWS FROM THE RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF RUSSIA MOSCOW REGION, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION FOR INADEQUATE CONTROL OVER THE WORK OF THEIR SUBORDINATES THE CHIEF OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AD INTERIM, MISTER KOROTKOV WAS DISMISSED. IN TURN, HIS SUPERVISOR, THE CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE LENINSKY DISTRICT IN MOSCOW REGION, POLICE COLONEL SUBMITTED A REPORT ON THE DISMISSAL FROM THE BODIES IT HAPPENED AFTER THE APPEAL OF THE LAWYERS OF "STIMUL", WHICH DEMANDED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MOSCOW POLICE TO DEAL WITH THE LOSS OF THE CASE OF ASSAULT ON A GAY MAN FROM UZBEKISTAN IN 2017.

7 OF OUR APPLICANTS HAVE RECEIVED REFUGE ACROSS THE BORDER OR LEFT FOR A SAFE COUNTRY

5 COMPLAINTS WERE SENT TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND 2 COMPLAINTS TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE UN

CALLS ABOUT FALSE MINING OF INTERNATIONAL LGBT FILM FESTIVAL "SIDE BY SIDE" DID NOT GO UNNOTICED

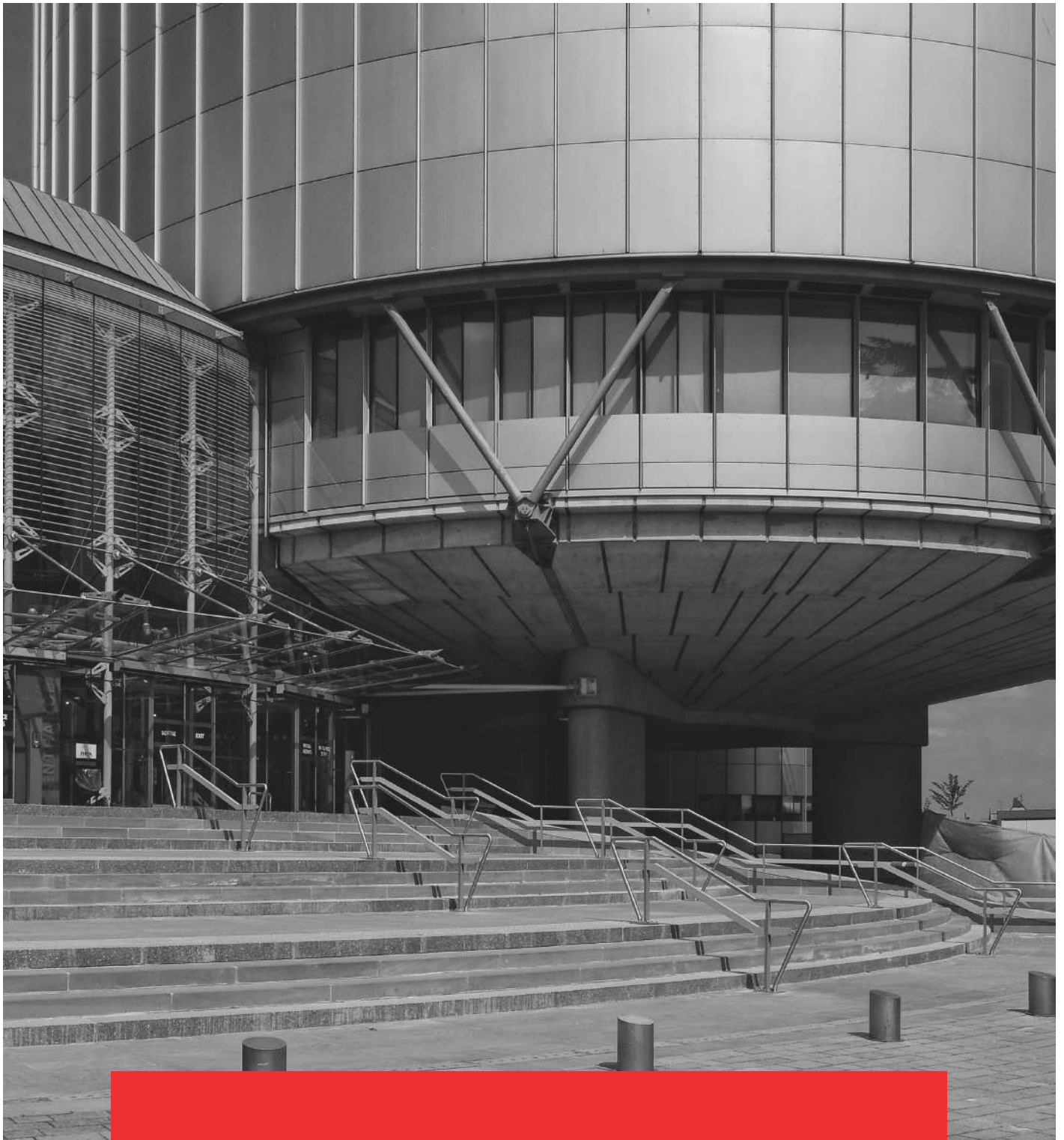
It should be reminded that that the VIII international LGBT film festival "Side by Side" was held in Moscow from 23 to 26 may 2019. The event was officially incorporated by the Ministry of culture of the Russian Federation in the Compendium of international film festivals held in the territory of the Russian Federation in 2019. LGBT-group "Stimul" provided legal support for the festival and spent a tour of duty at the event. During all days of the festival attention was paid not only by film viewers (the entire event was visited by over 1200 people), but by radical homophobes, who tried to disrupt the screenings in different ways. So, there were pickets at the doors of cinemas (not agreed by the authorities of the city and preventing the passage of citizens), attendees were poured with unknown odorous liquid.



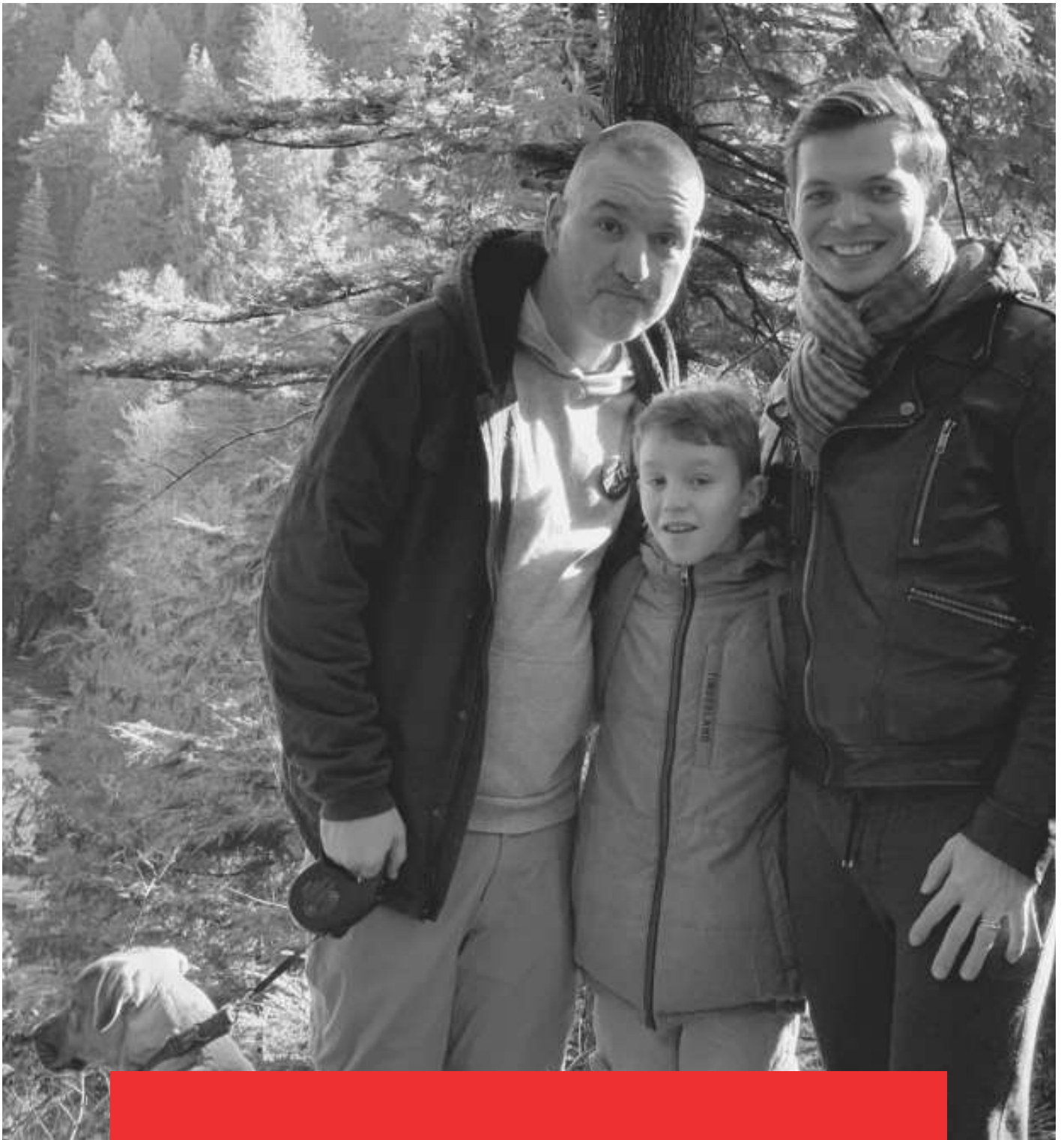
CALLS ABOUT FALSE MINING OF INTERNATIONAL LGBT FILM FESTIVAL "SIDE BY SIDE" DID NOT GO UNNOTICED

Three of the four days of the festival were marked of unknown calls received by the police concerning a bomb threat in the premises of the festival. Police and the Emergencies Ministry had to conduct the evacuation of buildings, and not only the festival visitors suffered from actions of attackers, but also the nearby cafés, offices and other institutions stopped working for hours.

With the help of lawyers from LGBT group “Stimul” the organizers of the festival contacted the police with the relevant allegations of crimes committed. Within a few months the law enforcement agencies kept silent regarding their investigation against the caller. In this regard, the “Stimul” had to send several complaints about the inaction of the police, including complaints went to the Prosecutor's office, Federal and regional Ombudsman. And here the Moscow Prosecutor's office in the person of the head of Department for the activities of bodies of internal Affairs, D.I.Tkachev, eventually informed the organization that the relevant criminal proceedings were instituted both by the Ministry of Internal Affairs on the Khamovnichesky district and Tver area. Investigation was launched. In addition, the prosecution revealed several violations by the police while considering the application of “Stimul”, in this regard a service check was carried out within the agency.



**IN 2019 WE HAVE LODGED
5 COMPLAINTS TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
2 COMPLAINTS TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE UN**



**CHALLENGES: THE CASE OF GAY
COUPLE WITH CHILDREN**

THE CASE OF GAY COUPLE WITH CHILDREN

LGBT-group “Stimul” and the LGBT group “Coming Out” (St.-Petersburg) have joined forces to protect homosexual couple with two children. Earlier, the police carried out checks in relation to the parents. The family was given a legal and informational support. The family was forced to leave Russia. Lawyers and psychologists have studied the documents⁶ talked with parents and with children, and came to the conclusion that the state's claim to the family is baseless. Today the children are with their parents safe, alive and well abroad, but the incident describes the whole situation in the region: LGBT families with children are vulnerable to the Russian legislation.

We will remind, on July 17, 2019, the Moscow Department of the Investigative Committee of Russia reported on the criminal case about negligence of the guardianship for the co-residence of two adopted children in same-sex family. This is the first case of this kind known to us.



THE CASE OF GAY COUPLE WITH CHILDREN

In June, the parents came with the child to the hospital with suspected appendicitis, and the doctor heard the words 12-year-old boy that he lives with "two dads", reported it to authorities. Both partners were interviewed by investigators; in the following weeks the family was repeatedly disturbed with phone calls and subpoenas by the Investigative Committee of Russia and police. Information about this was spread by the media, which brought increased attention to the situation.

"FIRST, THE INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE BEGAN TO CHECK THE VERSION ABOUT VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST THE BOY, THEN IT ALLEGEDLY WAS ABOUT THE INITIATION OF PROCEEDINGS ABOUT THE MURDER. AFTERWARDS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE SWITCHED TO THE GUARDIANSHIP, ALTHOUGH, JUDGING BY THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, WARD ACTED IN GOOD FAITH. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MUST NOT FORGET THAT THE VERY FACT THAT CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP IN A SAME-SEX FAMILY IS NOT A CRIME!" - ANDREY PETROV, THE HEAD OF THE "STIMUL" STATED.

The family Code of the Russian Federation does not prohibit the adoption of children by single people. In 2013, Russia adopted a law banning "propaganda" that has been repeatedly condemned by the UN Committees and the European Court of human rights as discriminatory against LGBT people. International bodies have repeatedly urged Russia to repeal the law and enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation. LGBT organizations believe that the law in this situation must be interpreted in favor of preserving families in which children receive the necessary support and development.

HELPING LGBT ASYLUM SEEKERS

WE ARE WORKING WITH LGBT REFUGEES WHO COME TO RUSSIA AND SEEK ASYLUM THERE OR IN A MORE SECURE COUNTRY. BASICALLY, IT IS HOMOSEXUAL MEN WHO LEFT THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO ESCAPE PERSECUTION BY SOCIETY AND THE STATE. THEY MOSTLY CAME FROM COUNTRIES WHERE HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS PUNISHED BY IMPRISONMENT, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OR THE DEATH PENALTY.

CHALLENGES: LGBT ASYLUM SEEKERS ARRIVING IN RUSSIA ARE STILL IN DANGER

EVEN THOUGH HOMOSEXUALS CAME TO RUSSIA FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, HAVE DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND ARGUMENTS, THE MOSCOW COURTS HAVE REFUSED TO PROTECT ALL OF THEM, WITHOUT EXCEPTION. PREVIOUSLY, THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE EXPLAINED THEIR REFUSALS BY THE FACT THAT APPLICANTS ALLEGEDLY ASKED FOR ASYLUM NOT IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND DIDN'T CONFIRM THE FACTS OF THE PERSECUTION IN THEIR HOMELAND BY THE DOCUMENTS. MORE THAN THAT, THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ALSO REFERS TO THE FACT THAT THE RELATIVES OF ASYLUM SEEKERS STILL RESIDE SAFELY IN THEIR COUNTRIES AND ARE NOT PERSECUTED.

"STIMUL" LGBT – GROUP APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS FOR LGBT REFUGEES TO FEEL SAFE AND STAY IN RUSSIA LEGALLY.

DISCRIMINATION MONITORING

We conduct a monitoring of human rights violations, discrimination and hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Regular monitoring and documenting discrimination against LGBT people allow to fix the current situation with human rights in Moscow and the Moscow region.

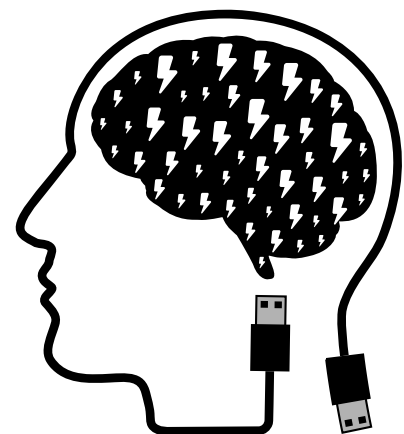
We cover an expanded range of offence and discrimination types. In the analysis there were added such areas as discrimination in the employment field, violation of the right of privacy, reparative therapy, and forced hospitalization on the grounds of homophobia and transphobia, the threat of deprivation of parental rights.

**WHILE COLLECTING DATA FOR THE REPORT THE FOLLOWING INDICATORS
WERE ESPECIALLY CONSIDERED:**

HATE-MOTIVATED ATTACKS,
"FAKE DATES" TYPE OF CRIME,
VIOLATION OF THE INVIOABILITY OF PRIVATE LIFE,
VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY,
DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLATIONS IN THE LABOR SPHERE,
REPARATIVE THERAPY OR FORCED HOSPITALIZATION,
DENIAL OF SERVICES,
THE THREAT OF DEPRIVATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS,
HOMOPHOBIA ON THE INTERNET,

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

IN 2019 WE MADE THE DECISION TO SET UP A PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE, THIS IS DUE TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RISK TO HELP SEEKERS, AND THE FREQUENT APPEALS TO THE ORGANIZATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, NOT CONNECTED WITH VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN 2020 THERE ARE CONSULTATIONS FOR LGBT PEOPLE IN “STIMUL” CONDUCTED IN PERSON AND REMOTELY.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



In the first quarter of 2019 the “We are being trusted” campaign was completed, in which we told about the organization to increase credibility in the community to her. During the campaign Ruslan Sokolovsky, blogger, became the ambassador of the organization and supported LGBT people in Russia. We printed comics for LGBT people “The ECHR for LGBT”, which clearly describes the mechanisms of applying to the ECHR in cases related to sexual orientational and gender identity.

An extensive research on the needs of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+ people in Moscow and in the Moscow region was conducted. We identified the needs of the community based on the research and improved our work. “Stimul” is involved not only in communications related to the organization affairs, but also with LGBT topics: regular work with bloggers was conducted, as well as telling about the community both in Russian and international editions.

“Stimul” also provides a platform in the office to the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+ initiatives, that do not have the opportunity to rent an office, for events and meetings.

PRESS OFFICE

18 600

USERS VISITED THE WEBSITE

150+

MAJOR MEDIA HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT
THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

200 000

VIEWS ON YOUTUBE FROM BLOGGERS,
WHO WERE TELLING ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION





HOTLINE

**DUE TO THE WORK OF HOTLINE LGBT-PEOPLE
AND THEIR LOVED ONES ARE ABLE TO REACH US
IN AN EMERGENCY**

**HOTLINE NUMBER
8 800 555 84 88**

DONATIONS

70

THOUSAND RUBLES

WAS DONATED TO THE ORGANIZATION TO HELP LGBT PEOPLE IN MOSCOW AND IN THE MOSCOW REGION. A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THESE DONATIONS IS CONDUCTED MONTHLY.

VOLUNTEERS

IN 2019 A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE “MONITORING” AND “MEDIA” AREAS HAS BEEN FORMED. AN OPEN DOORS DAY WAS HELD, ON WHICH THE TEAM TOLD ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES OF: REVIEW, TOLD A LECTURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. TODAY, MEETINGS ARE REGULAR. VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE RECOMMENDATION LETTERS AND ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE AN INTERNSHIP AT THE ORGANIZATIONS



OUR GOALS

- TO OPEN A NEW DIVISION IN ANOTHER REGION OF RUSSIA, WHERE THERE ARE NO LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS
- TO HOLD A CONFERENCE FOR LGBT ACTIVISTS AND EDUCATIONAL TRAININGS
- COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING EVENTS FOR LGBT-FRIENDLY SOCIAL WORKERS
- INTERNSHIPS FOR LGBT ACTIVISTS (INCLUDING THE EUROPEAN UNION AREA)
- INFORMATION CAMPAIGN: THE FORMATION OF HISTORICAL MEMORY ON THE HISTORY OF THE LGBT MOVEMENT