EQUAL POSTOST | European Queer Alliance of PostOst Community
is a human rights organization working to support LGBTIQ people facing persecution from Eastern Europe and Central Asia

EQUAL PostOst e.V.
Email: info@equal-postost.org
Rg.Nr. VR 40345 B

Ministries of Foreign Affairs of EU Member States and Allied Nations

European Commission (Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers / Task Force for Equality)

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, Ms. Marianne Katzarova

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

EU and UN Special Mandate Holders and Commissioners for LGBTIQ+ / Queer Rights

Subject: URGENT: Leak of Internal ILGA-Europe Documents Endangering Human Rights Defenders and LGBTIQ+ Community Members in the Russian Federation and Central Asia

Dear Ministers, Commissioners, Special Rapporteurs, and Distinguished Colleagues,

We are writing to urgently inform you of a critical data leak that directly jeopardizes the safety and lives of human rights defenders, civil society activists, and members of the LGBTIQ+ community in the Russian Federation and countries of Central Asia.

On November 19, 2026, a propaganda outlet affiliated with the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), known as *Underside*, published internal documents belonging to the international organization ILGA-Europe. The leaked files contain highly confidential operational data, grant applications, internal correspondence, and project reports. This compromised information makes it possible to identify approximately 30 grassroots initiative groups operating across Russia (including in Nizhny Novgorod, Yekaterinburg, the Far East, and other regions), as well as partner networks in Central Asia.

Following the decision by Russian authorities to designate the "international LGBT movement" as an "extremist organization," along with the January 2026 inclusion of ILGA World in the

official register of "undesirable organizations," any individual linked to the leaked documents faces immediate arrest and severe criminal prosecution. For citizens of the Russian Federation, the criminal charges and potential penalties under the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (UK RF) include:

Participation in or Organization of the Activities of an Extremist Organization (Article 282.2 UK RF)**:** 2 to 10 years of imprisonment.

Financing of Extremist Activity (Article 282.3 UK RF): 3 to 8 years of imprisonment (the leaked grant applications and financial reports serve as direct evidentiary grounds for prosecution).

Participation in the Activities of an "Undesirable" Organization (Article 284.1 UK RF): 1 to 5 years of imprisonment.

Confidential Cooperation with a Foreign State or International/Foreign Organization / High Treason (Articles 275.1 and 275 UK RF)**:** 3 to 20 years of imprisonment (stemming from the explicit mention of Western institutional donors in the compromised files).

Beyond lengthy prison sentences, detention in Russian pre-trial detention centers (SIZO) and penal colonies poses an acute threat to the physical safety and lives of individuals targeted on the basis of their LGBTIQ+ identity. Within the informal prison caste system—which penal colony administrations not only fail to curb but actively exploit as an instrument of coercion and pressure—individuals convicted under "LGBT-related articles" are forcibly relegated to the lowest social caste (known as *"opushchennye"* / *"obizhennye"*). This subjects them to systematic humiliation, extortion, forced assignment to the most grueling and degrading labor, and severe physical and sexualized violence. For transgender individuals, this additionally entails the complete denial of essential medical care (including the forced cessation of hormone replacement therapy) and placement in facilities inconsistent with their gender identity. Furthermore, immediately following doxxing and public de-anonymization, individuals face a heightened risk of extrajudicial violence and physical attacks by far-right and radical vigilante groups while still at liberty.

We are currently consulting people affected by these leaks and, if necessary, organizing their emergency evacuation. We will be grateful for any assistance in expediting the procedures for issuing humanitarian visas and travel documents, protecting victims from risks of extradition in

transit countries, as well as for any other emergency support that your department/organization can provide within its mandate.

We would also like to draw your attention to the critical fact that there is currently still no systemic EU-wide visa support program for individuals at risk from Russia, Belarus, and Central Asian countries.

We stand ready to promptly transmit verified lists of individuals at high risk via secure communication channels and to assist in coordinating emergency evacuations.

EQUAL PostOst e.V. Team

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info@equal-postost.org

Board
Evelina Chayka
Olga Golovina
Anastasia Gorokhova

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@equal_postost_bot
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www.equal-postost.org