

Press Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General condemns recent violence against gays and lesbians in Moscow

Strasbourg, 15.05.2006 – "I strongly condemn the recent violent incidents against gays and lesbians in Moscow, and I call on the authorities to investigate these attacks and prosecute the people responsible for them, and prevent any such violence in the future. This is particularly important in view of the series of events currently being organised by the Russian gay and lesbian community to raise awareness about the difficult situation in which they live. They are entitled to call for full and unequivocal respect for their basic rights and freedoms.

The violent homophobic protests in recent weeks were neither isolated nor spontaneous. They have taken place against the background of a sustained campaign against the rights of gay and lesbian citizens. It is regrettable that several people who should normally be the first to speak out against such blatant injustice, have decided instead to endorse and actively support homophobic ideas" concluded Terry Davis.

Le Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe condamne les actes de violence récemment perpétrés contre des gays et des lesbiennes à Moscou

Strasbourg, 15.05.2006 – « Je condamne vigoureusement les incidents violents visant des gays et des lesbiennes qui se sont produits récemment à Moscou. J'invite les autorités à enquêter sur ces agressions, à engager des poursuites contre leurs auteurs et à faire en sorte que de telles violences ne se reproduisent pas. Cela est particulièrement important au moment où la communauté gay et lesbienne russe organise une série de manifestations pour sensibiliser le public aux difficultés qu'elle rencontre. Ces citoyens sont fondés à exiger que leurs droits et leurs libertés fondamentaux soient pleinement et clairement respectés.

Les violentes manifestations homophobes de ces dernières semaines n'étaient ni isolées ni spontanées. Elles s'inscrivaient dans le contexte d'une campagne soutenue contre les droits des gays et des lesbiennes. Il est regrettable que plusieurs personnes qui auraient dû être les premières à dénoncer cette injustice criante aient au contraire choisi d'approuver et de soutenir activement les idées homophobes », a conclu Terry Davis.

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