

UPR 16, April 29, 2013  
Recommendations by Canada

88

Russia

Question

Recent Russian legislation applicable to civil society appears to run counter to Russia's international obligations and standards and contradicts Russia's acceptance of recommendations regarding NGOs during the 2009 UPR cycle. What steps is Russia taking to empower civil society actors in the region, and to foster a positive climate for their efforts?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Russia:

1. Bring existing regional and draft federal-level legislation related to homosexuality into conformity with its commitment to the principles of non-discrimination and take steps to ensure that the rights of all minorities, including gays and lesbians, are protected and respected.
2. Take measures to foster a safe, respectful, enabling environment for civil society, including through adopting laws and policies that support the rights to peaceful assembly, association, expression and information, and through promptly investigating and prosecuting attacks on journalists and members of civil society organizations.
3. Continue efforts on judicial reform, ensuring meaningful, independent accountability mechanisms and improved transparency throughout the judicial process.

Observations (if time allows):

Canada is concerned by arbitrary reprisals against activists critical of the government, by ongoing reports of human rights abuses in the North Caucasus, and by the implications of continued state control over media.

We acknowledge the step taken by Russia to address the rights of people with disabilities in ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in May 2012 and encourage Russia to continue its efforts to combat discrimination against disabled persons.

Canada notes steps taken by the Russian government to increase political pluralism and restore direct election of regional governors. We encourage Russia to take further steps to guarantee free and fair elections, and to uphold the right to expression, including through peaceful political protest.