

52



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**Statement by Sweden in the
interactive dialogue on Russia**

*Delivered by H E Ambassador Jan Knutsson
Geneva, April 29, 2013*

Mister President,

Sweden wishes to thank XX and his/her delegation for the presentation of your national report and welcomes this opportunity to continue our dialogue regarding the advance questions raised.

We are seriously concerned about the discriminatory treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals in Russia. The recently adopted draft law on banning "propaganda in favour of homosexuality among minors", is an example thereof. How does the Government intend to ensure that the freedom of speech of LGBT individuals is not impeded due to the legislation now being considered?

Sweden recommends the Government of Russia to introduce legislation prohibiting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and to take measures to ensure that it is fully and effectively implemented.

In July 2012, the Russian Law on Non-commercial organizations was amended, i.a. through the introduction of the concept of "foreign agent" as a designation which Russian NGOs that receive foreign funding and are conducting vaguely defined "political activities" must use to describe themselves.

Sweden, in line with the resolution by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted on 2 October, 2012, recommends the Russian Federation to amend the new law on NGOs so that it cannot be used as an instrument of repression and intimidation of NGOs and civil society.

Thank you Mr President,