

Abstract

This work is focused on development of anti-homosexual legislation and conditions of decriminalization in the newly established Russian federation. It is focused on attempts to organize Gay Pride festival in Moscow in 2006 and negative reactions of Russian authorities and subsequent lawsuit. The work informs on change in rhetoric with respect to LGBT community, which was caused by medialization of Gay Pride affair as well as conservatism that was being established. It describes Russian conservatism that set itself in contrast to the West by its traditional values, which are in alleged conflict with homosexuality. This development reached its summit in 2013 when anti-propagation law was enacted on federal level. We then focus on immediate reaction to enactment of this legislation and its effects. The work draws from academic articles that appeared after enactment of the act and, importantly also news articles that could capture ensuing events in real time. It becomes apparent that ostracizing of homosexuals in Russia is a long-term trend that is supported by state-controlled news agencies and legislative steps. We explain behavior that is subjected to recently enacted anti-propagation act and reasons for its enactment. In addition, we review how this act is criticized by LGBT activists all over the world. We also focus on deficiencies of Western criticism – by which we do not support enactment of this legislation or increase in anti-homosexual tendencies, that are linked to this legislation.