

Coming Out
St. Petersburg LGBT organization
St Petersburg
Russia

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Ref: EUR/RUS

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Re: Queerfest 2011

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To the organising committee,

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF QUEER CULTURE

Amnesty International would like to express our full support for the 3rd International Festival of Queer Culture which will be held in St Petersburg from 15 – 25 September 2011.

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than three million supporters, members and activists in over 150 countries. We believe that human rights abuses anywhere are the concern of people everywhere. As an organisation, we believe that the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals are human rights, and are committed to defending and championing the rights of all.

We would like to congratulate you on your courage and dedication in organising the International Festival of Queer Culture, especially in the face of the very real risks of discrimination and violence faced by LGBTI individuals in Russia, which Amnesty International has documented and continues to document. We strongly support the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and freedom of association which allow for culturally and socially important events such as the International Queer Culture Festival to take place, as well as the rights to freedom from violence that are held by all, including LGBTI individuals. Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the Russian Government to protect the rights of LGBTI individuals to freedom of expression, as well as to protect individuals from violence or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Amnesty International sincerely hopes that the 3rd International Festival of Queer Culture will be a successful and safe celebration of queer culture, as well as an event that promotes awareness and tolerance of LGBTI individuals. We wish the Organising Committee every success.

Yours sincerely,

Javier Zúñiga
Acting Head of Research & Regional Programmes