

## **Russian Targeting of LGBT People, Including Olympics Participants**

**WHEREAS**, the national and local government of Russia IS aggressively targeting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in laws banning “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations,” criminalizing action and positive messages (including online) affirming LGBT status, and other laws, that violate fundamental rights of speech, assembly, expression and equality; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 20, 2013, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a new law allowing the police to arrest and detain for up to 14 days tourists, other Russians and foreign nationals suspected of being gay, lesbian, or even just “pro-gay,” then expel the foreign nationals from Russia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Russian Federation will host the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, and representatives of the International Olympic Committee, rather than condemn those discriminatory anti-LGBT laws, declared that statements supporting LGBT people and rights would violate Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter, which prohibits political demonstrations and political, religious, or racial propaganda;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Democratic Party of Orange County (DPOC) condemns Russia’s attacks on the LGBT people, laws targeting LGBT and “pro-LGBT” tourists and Winter Olympics participants; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Democratic Party of Orange County calls on Congress and President Obama’s administration to make LGBT-status in Russia grounds for asylum, and urges other nations to do the same, and calls on all Orange County federal officeholders, as well as Senators Boxer and Feinstein, to assist in this matter.

Submitted By: Denise Penn and Jeff LeTourneau on behalf of the DPOC LGBT Caucus