

**DUMP  
STOLI**

**STOP RUSSIAN  
PERSECUTION OF  
QUEERS & ALLIES**

**DUMP  
RUSSIAN  
VODKA**



## **RUSSIA HAS DECLARED WAR ON GAYS AND THEIR ALLIES**

Russian President Putin has just enacted new laws to persecute gays, lesbians, queers and allies - even tourists - for being openly gay or speaking positively about gay people.

Russian police now can jail people on the suspicion of being gay. Parents can be charged and fined for talking with their children about being gay. And more laws are reportedly in the works to let the Russian government remove kids from their own families if they have gay parents. This is a new evil - and it is happening NOW.

Harvey Fierstein wrote in Sunday's New York Times (see reverse) that "The rest of the World remains almost completely ignorant of Mr. Putin's agenda... This must change."

Gay rights groups around the world have started calling for such a boycott within the last few days. Here's what we can do:

Show the world that Russian persecution of gays is unacceptable **BOYCOTT RUSSIAN VODKA** until persecution of gays and their allies ends.

**DUMP STOLI** and **DUMP RUSSIAN VODKA!** Grab your bottles at home, dump 'em out, switch to a great non-Russian vodka.

Ask your bartender and favorite bar to **DUMP STOLI** and **DUMP RUSSIAN VODKA**. Given what is happening in Russia right now, **NO GAY BAR IN THE WORLD SHOULD STOCK OR SERVE RUSSIAN VODKAS.**

**SPREAD THE WORD!** Tweet your support using the hashtags **#DUMPSTOLI** and **#DUMPRUSSIANVODKA**

**Post a picture** on your favorite social media site showing your Russian Vodka upside down being dumped out!

Tell your friends about what is happening now in Russia - the world needs to know about it - and Russian companies need to stop profiting from the gays, lesbians, queers and allies their government is persecuting!

# **#DUMPRUSSIANVODKA**

# Russia's Anti-Gay Crackdown

The New York Times  
July 21, 2013

By HARVEY FIERSTEIN

**RUSSIA'S president, Vladimir V. Putin, has declared war on homosexuals. So far, the world has mostly been silent.**

On July 3, Mr. Putin signed a law banning the adoption of Russian-born children not only to gay couples but also to any couple or single parent living in any country where marriage equality exists in any form.

A few days earlier, just six months before Russia hosts the 2014 Winter Games, **Mr. Putin signed a law allowing police officers to arrest tourists and foreign nationals they suspect of being homosexual, lesbian or "pro-gay" and detain them for up to 14 days.** Contrary to what the International Olympic Committee says, the law could mean that any Olympic athlete, trainer, reporter, family member or fan who is gay — or suspected of being gay, or just accused of being gay — can go to jail.

Earlier in June, **Mr. Putin signed yet another antigay bill, classifying "homosexual propaganda" as pornography. The law is broad and vague, so that any teacher who tells students that homosexuality is not evil, any parents who tell their child that homosexuality is normal, or anyone who makes pro-gay statements deemed accessible to someone underage is now subject to arrest and fines.** Even a judge, lawyer or lawmaker cannot publicly argue for tolerance without the threat of punishment.

Finally, **it is rumored that Mr. Putin is about to sign an edict that would remove children from their own families if the parents are either gay or lesbian or suspected of being gay**

**or lesbian.** The police would have the authority to remove children from adoptive homes as well as from their own biological parents.

Not surprisingly, some gay and lesbian families are already beginning to plan their escapes from Russia.

Why is Mr. Putin so determined to criminalize homosexuality? He has defended his actions by saying that the Russian birthrate is diminishing and that Russian families as a whole are in danger of decline. That may be. But if that is truly his concern, he should be embracing gay and lesbian couples who, in my world, are breeding like proverbial bunnies. These days I rarely meet a gay couple who aren't raising children.

And if Mr. Putin thinks he is protecting heterosexual marriage by denying us the same unions, he hasn't kept up with the research. Studies from San Diego State University compared homosexual civil unions and heterosexual marriages in Vermont and found that the same-sex relationships demonstrate higher levels of satisfaction, sexual fulfillment and happiness. (Vermont legalized same-sex marriages in 2009, after the study was completed.)

Mr. Putin also says that his adoption ban was enacted to protect children from pedophiles. Once again the research does not support the homophobic rhetoric. About 90 percent of pedophiles are heterosexual men.

Mr. Putin's true motives lie elsewhere. Historically this kind of scapegoating is used by politicians to solidify their bases and draw attention away from their failing policies, and no doubt this is what's happening in Russia. Counting on the natural backlash against the success of marriage equality around the world and recruiting support from

conservative religious organizations, Mr. Putin has sallied forth into this battle, figuring that the only opposition he will face will come from the left, his favorite boogeyman.

**Mr. Putin's campaign against lesbian, gay and bisexual people is one of distraction, a strategy of demonizing a minority for political gain taken straight from the Nazi playbook. Can we allow this war against human rights to go unanswered?** Although Mr. Putin may think he can control his creation, history proves he cannot: his condemnations are permission to commit violence against gays and lesbians. In May a young gay man was murdered in the city of Volgograd. He was beaten, his body violated with beer bottles, his clothing set on fire, his head crushed with a rock. This is most likely just the beginning.

Nevertheless, **the rest of the world remains almost completely ignorant of Mr. Putin's agenda.** His adoption restrictions have received some attention, but it has been largely limited to people involved in international adoptions.

**This must change.** With Russia about to hold the Winter Games in Sochi, the country is open to pressure. American and world leaders must speak out against Mr. Putin's attacks and the violence they foster. The Olympic Committee must demand the retraction of these laws under threat of boycott.

In 1936 the world attended the Olympics in Germany. Few participants said a word about Hitler's campaign against the Jews. Supporters of that decision point proudly to the triumph of Jesse Owens, while I point with dread to the Holocaust and world war. There is a price for tolerating intolerance.

**#DUMPSTOLI**

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