

Alekseyev and Others v. Russia?

[Case Law](#), [Safety](#), [Bias-motivated Speech](#), [European Court of Human Rights](#), [Russia](#), [Strategic Litigation](#)

Hate speech

(Application No. 39954/09), 11 April 2018

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- The applications concern two interviews with public officials published in the national press, during which heinous statements against homosexuals were made. The Russian authorities refused to open criminal proceedings, finding that homosexuals were not a social group and that the applicants were not personally targeted by the contested statement.
- ILGA-Europe submitted the following:
 - There is widespread recognition within Europe and beyond that homophobic and transphobic statements amount to **hate speech**. The ECtHR and other human rights bodies have highlighted the particular responsibility of politicians to avoid disseminating words likely to foster intolerance.
 - **Homophobic and transphobic statements have a humiliating and stigmatising effect.** The ECtHR has considered that violence perpetrated with homophobic and transphobic overtones was capable of meeting the threshold required for a violation of **Article 3**. Homophobic and transphobic statements can also have extremely serious repercussions for the enjoyment of other rights and freedoms, notably, the right to respect for private and family life and the prohibition of discrimination under **Articles 8 and 14 of the Convention**.
 - International and European law and standards support the need for **action against particular uses of hate speech** through the application of administrative, civil and criminal law.