



## **Declaration**

To: the All-Russian Confederation of Labour (Всероссийская конфедерация труда)  
the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (Федерация Независимых  
Профсоюзов России)  
the Confederation of Labour of Russia ( Конфедерация труда России)

Copy: European Trade Union Confederation

The Dutch Trade Union Confederation FNV sends its regards and wishes to use the occasion of the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi to express its deepest concern about the deteriorating social climate in the Russian Federation in the past year.

Through our media, we see that intolerance, hatred and violence against people who do not live or think in accordance with traditional family norms have increased tremendously.

The new federal legislation prohibiting "promotion of non-traditional sexual relations towards minors" does not just restrict the freedom of expression, it encourages hate crimes, especially since the Russian police does not seem to be willing to take serious action against homophobic or transphobic violence.

We do not agree with this new Russian legislation at all, but most of all we are appalled by its apparent message that lesbian women, gay men, bisexuals, transgenders and intersex people, or those who defend sexual diversity, must be excluded from society and can brutally be beaten up.

If it comes to protection of children, we do not think that these should be raised in a climate in which hatred and violence rules.

Deeply concerned about these developments, we urge you to protect the positions of workers who are affected as victims of the hatred unleashed by this new legislation. It is our firm conviction that trade unions should protect workers rights, and defend human rights, and we strongly recommend that you do this without discrimination or bias.

Wishing you success and prepared to support with our experiences in this area.