



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO REGIONAL LEGISLATION
IN ST. PETERSBURG AND MOLDOVA BANNING AGGRESSIVE PROPAGANDA
OF NON-TRADITIONAL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 15. March 2012

Mr Chairperson,

I am speaking on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Switzerland and Norway.

We raised our concerns about the new regional legislation in the Russian Federation banning the promotion of homosexuality, bisexuality and transgender identity for the PC on February 16th. We regret its recent adoption. Today we are equally concerned by reports that cities in Moldova have adopted similar legislation.

Our reactions are based on the fact that International Human Rights law clearly recognises that each and every one of us is entitled to the same rights, regardless of our sexual orientation or gender identity. They are also based on the 1990 Copenhagen Document which forms part of the OSCE acquis and our collective commitments on non-discrimination, more specifically: 5.9 of the Copenhagen Document which states: “all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law will prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground.”

These principles of non-discrimination were explained in detail in the Like-minded Group’s statement in February, and we will continue to stand up for these principles whenever they are challenged in any of the OSCE participating states.

We urge the Russian and Moldovan delegations to convey our concerns to the regional authorities involved in this case.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.