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NEWS

Russian Anti-Transgender Bill Compared to Republican Efforts in U.S.

BY **ANDREW STANTON** ON 7/15/23 AT 4:50 PM EDT



REPUBLICANS

Russia's newly proposed anti-transgender legislation is drawing comparisons to Republican efforts to restrict LGBTQ+ rights in the United States.

On Thursday, the Russian State Duma passed a bill that would ban gender affirming health care regardless of age, ban transgender people from becoming foster or adoptive parents, and annul marriages involving transgender people, the Associated Press reported. The bill, widely expected to be approved by the Federation Council and Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#), comes as LGBTQ+ advocates warn of new global attacks on rights for the community, specifically those who are transgender.

viewed as hostile toward LGBTQ+ rights, tout the legislation as protection from "the Western anti-family ideology." However, critics say the bill will cause undue harm to Russia's transgender community.

Maria Sjödin, the executive director of the international LGBTQ+ advocacy organization Outright International, told *Newsweek* on Saturday afternoon that Russia's new law "takes matters even further" for a community already under "enormous pressure" by existing anti-gay and anti-transgender laws.

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LGBTQ+ rights advocates march in St. Petersburg on May 1, 2013. Russia is poised to pass a new law cracking down on transgender rights, with many critics comparing the legislation to efforts to restrict LGBTQ+ rights in the United States.

OLGA MALTSEVA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

At least 491 anti-LGBTQ laws have been introduced in state legislatures so far in 2023, and 77 have been signed into law, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). These bills target a number of LGBTQ+ rights including

limiting the discussion of LGBTQ+ identities in schools and preventing public drag performances.

Some conservative lawmakers also introduced bills aimed at limiting access to gender affirming care for adults, but these efforts have struggled to garner enough support to pass state legislatures or have failed legal challenges. For instance, [a judge struck down a Florida law](#) that prevented the use of Medicaid for gender-affirming health care last month.

Sjödín told *Newsweek* that anti-LGBTQ+ laws in Russia and the U.S. are driven by the same ideology.

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"The ideology behind the prohibition on gender affirming care for youth in the US and for every trans person in Russia is the same. It is also the same kind of ideology that drives the anti-LGBTQ legislation and bills in Uganda and other countries in Africa," Sjödín said in a statement. "Under the false pretense of protecting 'youth,' governments are trying to eradicate trans people, ignoring medical science that

Improves quality of life for trans people.

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Meanwhile, others took to social media to compare Russia's law to Republican LGBTQ+ bills.

"The transgender genocide is global. Russia has banned ALL gender affirming care, for all people, youth and adults. They will annul marriages and ban adoption. This is what the US Right wants to do to trans people here. Stop the genocide before it's too late," tweeted Erin Reed, a journalist and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights.

@ErinInTheMorn · [Follow](#)

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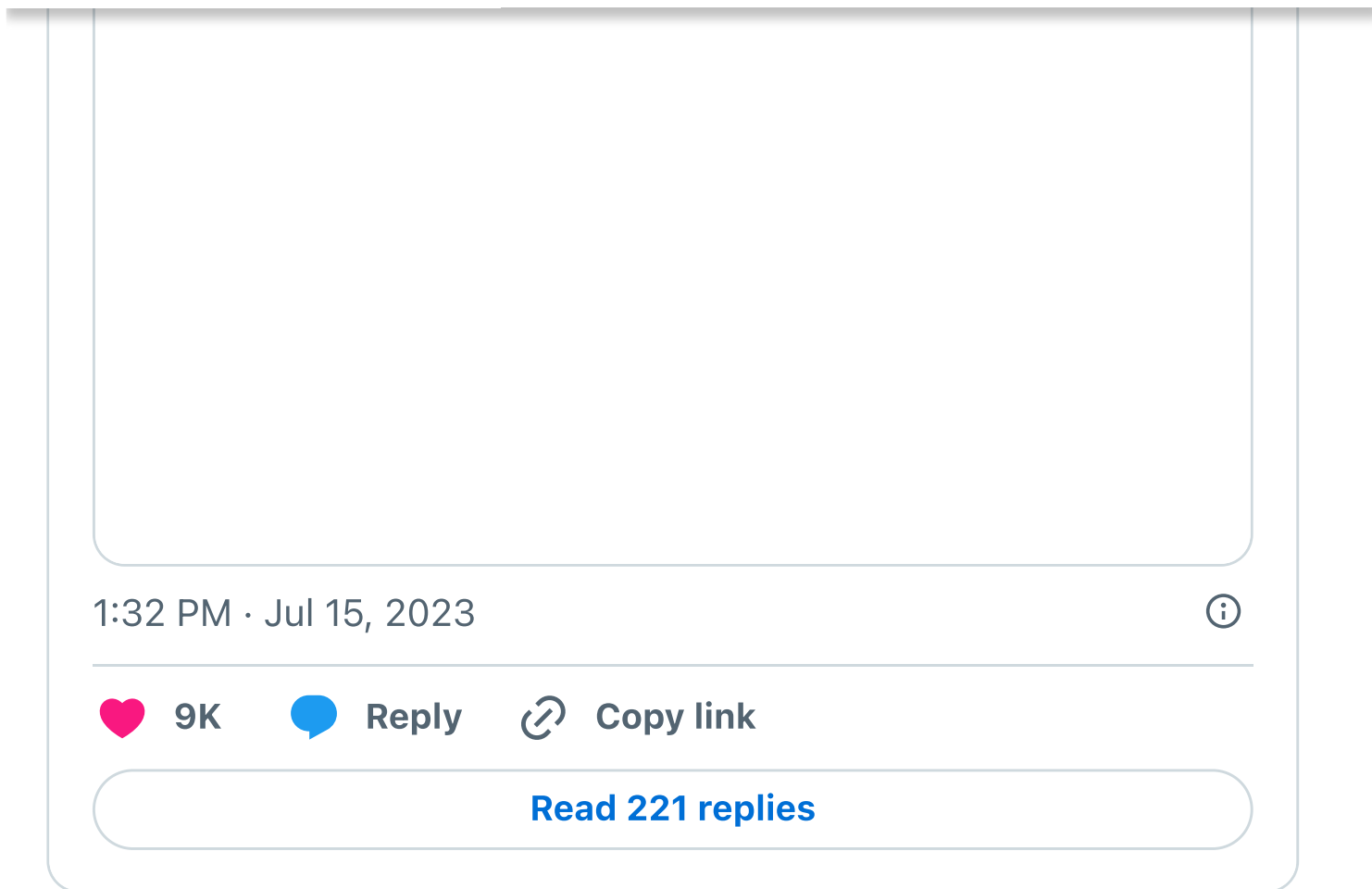
Stop the genocide before it's too late.

Anton Gerashchenko  @Gerashchenko_en

Gender reassignment is banned in Russia, Russian media report.

Russian parliament has passed the relevant law in its final reading.

The law establishes a ban on any medical interventions, both surgical operations and the use of medicine aimed at the formation of primary or...



Attorney Ron Filipkowski tweeted: "Once again, Putin and the US Republican Party are in lock-step with each other. The Russian law also bans transgenders from adopting children. Since they supply new policy ideas for the GOP, that will be introduced in Congress soon."

@RonFilipkowski · [Follow](#)

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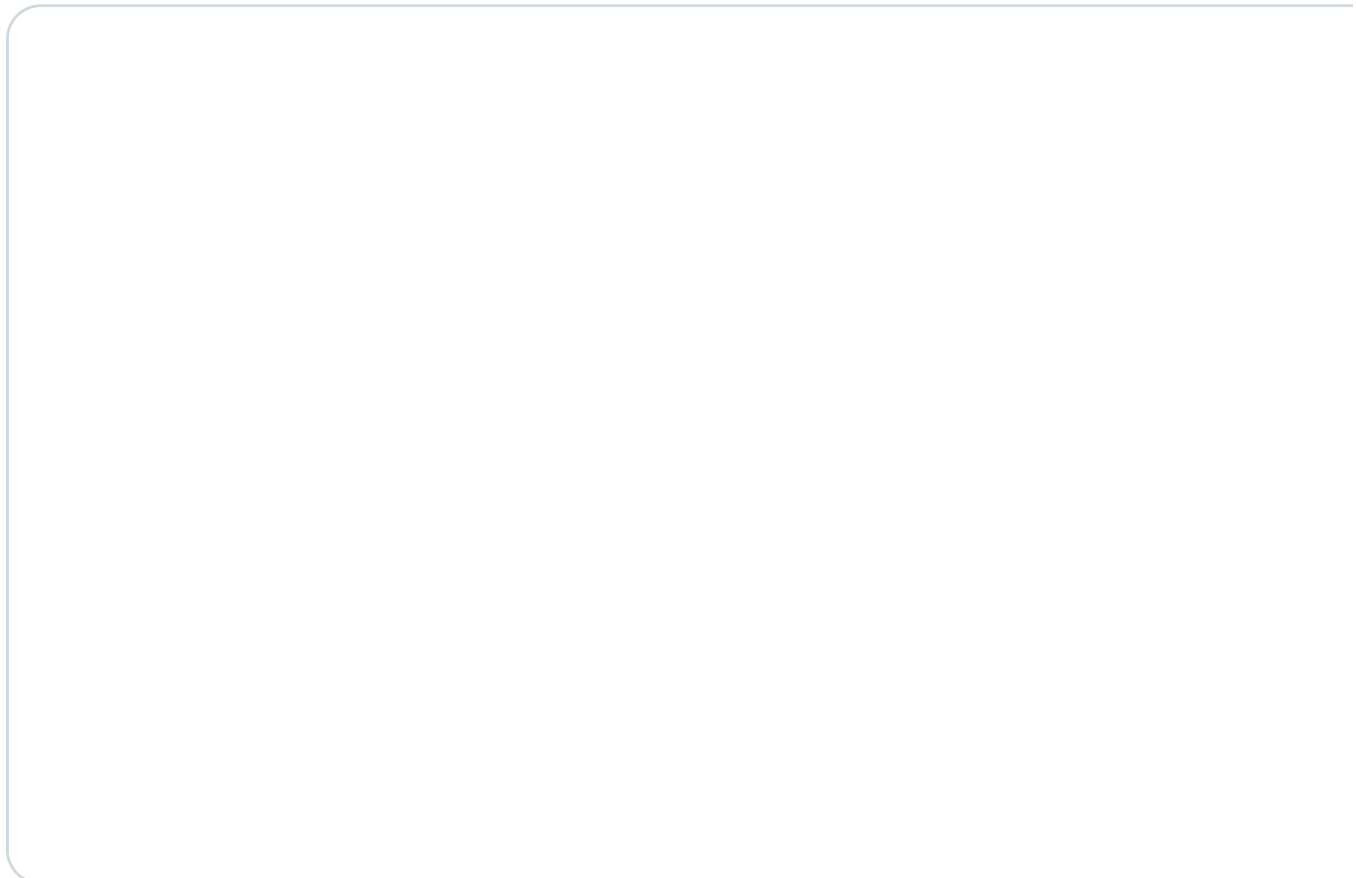
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"This is a terrifying set of developments in Russia that heavily mirrors legislation in the United States. Includes banning medical transition at any age, prohibiting name and gender marker changes, and bans trans people from adopting or being guardians," tweeted therapist Jessica Kant.

@jessdkant · [Follow](#)

This is a terrifying set of developments in Russia that heavily mirrors leg in the United States. Includes banning medical transition at any age, pro name and gender marker changes, and bans trans people from adopting being guardians.

[cnn.com/2023/07/14/eur...](https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/14/eur...)



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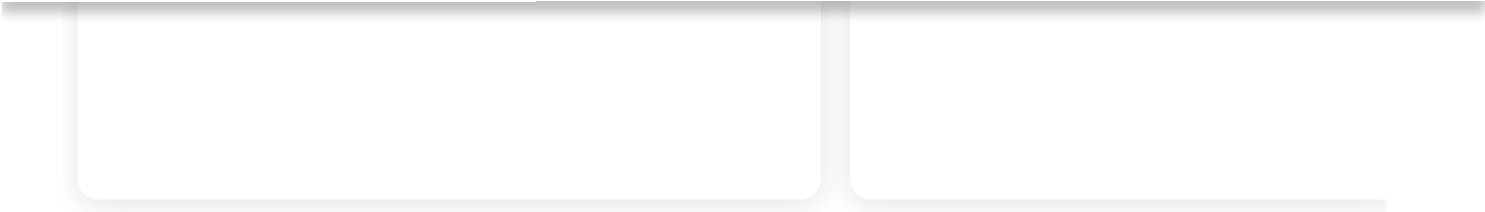
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Committee (RNC) for comment via email.

Russia is viewed as having among the world's most restrictive laws regarding LGBTQ+ rights.

Equaldex's LGBTQ+ rights index places Russia as the 23rd worst country to live in for the LGBTQ+ community. There have been reports for years that authorities in Russia's Chechnya region have violently persecuted LGBTQ+ people. The State Duma has previously worked to [ban LGBTQ+ "propaganda,"](#) and one Russian commander has [cast the invasion of Ukraine as a "Holy war"](#) against the LGBTQ+ community.

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G

GOPnomore ...

1 day ago

Just like I've been saying again and again, there is literally no difference between Russians and Republicans, because they are the SAME people. They just happen to live in two different countries, but they are exactly the SAME. And both Republicans and Russians have the same feelings towards this ...

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Cassie D ...

1 day ago

I am pretty sure Russia has a lot more to worry about right now, than this.

Glad to see their priorities are in order.

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↳ 2 replies

w

WaywardScythe ...

1 day ago

republicans almost always fall on the side of fewer rights for more people.

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Uncle_Paul ...

1 day ago

Little dictators at heart, all of them. Let's hope a good hurricane season cleans Florida up a bit. Climate change heat waves should help with Arizona and Texas too.

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↳ 1 reply

Uncle_Paul ...

1 day ago

(Edited)

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ChestRockwell ...

19 hours ago

I love the notion that the Republicans are in favor of russia. If this is true then the strategy of the vast majority of them supporting continuing to give Ukraine billions sure is a curious one. One would think it would be easier for russia to beat them if they didn't get that support, but maybe...

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Gordon ...

1 day ago

I've asked people what LGBTQ means but have never gotten a *straight* answer.

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Uncle_Paul ...

1 day ago

Welcome to the GOP, the Pravda version. Not as dangerous as the Fox News version, for sure.

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1 day ago

Mathew 19:12 For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.”

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E

EADOMan ...

1 day ago

The sheople are so easily duped by NW propaganda. The vast majority of Republicans could care less what you call yourself or what you want to pretend to be. All they want you to do is leave the children out of it. If you think that by restricting peoples ability to mutilate children is somehow i...

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 1 reply

U

Ultra ...

1 day ago

Gender affirming care in Russia impacts all ages; in the US it only targets minors. But it's the same? Propaganda. Trans adults in the US have the same rights as non-Trans. There are LOTS of 'rights' minors are not allowed. Voting, alcohol purchase, taking out a loan,,, for just a few examples. ...