

Take Action with #EyesOnChechnya¹

In the year since the world first learned about the horrific anti-LGBTQ atrocities taking place in the Russian republic of Chechnya, HRC members have taken action to help put an end to the human rights violations.

From working with Congress to activating our membership and raising up our voices together, HRC has sent a clear message that we have our #EyesOnChechnya, the human rights violations must stop, the perpetrators must be held accountable, and the international community must recognize that this is a crime against humanity. The #EyesOnChechnya campaign is a partnership of the Human Rights Campaign and Human Rights First.

What can you do?

- 1 Take Action.** Join HRC in [urging](#) the White House to speak up about the ongoing atrocities in Chechnya - appropriately labeling them a Crime Against Humanity. While U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations [Nikki Haley](#) and the State Department have issued statements, neither the President nor Vice President have issued statements in the year since the news first broke.
- 2 Learn More.** Our #EyesOnChechnya [background document](#) contains information about the situation in Chechnya. You can also keep up to date by subscribing to HRC's daily [A.M. Equality](#) email, and keeping up with our [blog](#) and our [website](#).
- 3 Speak Up.** Whether speaking to a co-worker or to your social media network, we must raise our voices and focus the world's attention on Chechnya. Below is sample social media language you can use to join the public outcry:
 - Twitter
 - Over the past year, @realDonaldTrump and this White House have refused to publicly condemn the attacks against gay and bisexual men in Chechnya. Enough is enough. #EyesOnChechnya <hrc.im/chechnya>
 - Facebook
 - LGBTQ people in Chechnya have been detained, tortured and killed on suspicion of being gay or bisexual. Why are U.S. leaders so silent in the face of these crimes against humanity? Take action today. #EyesOnChechnya <hrc.im/chechnya>
- 4 Support the Survivors.** HRC is [calling on the U.S. government](#) to take in those fleeing the violence. However, to date, we are unaware of any refugees having been resettled in the U.S. HRC encourages people to donate to the [Russian LGBT Network](#), the Canadian organization [Rainbow Railroad](#) or [ILGA-Europe](#), organizations doing critical work to help evacuate vulnerable people out of Chechnya and move them to safety.

HRC's Ongoing Efforts

From the day the news about detentions and abuse of gay men in Chechnya broke, HRC has been in contact with advocates in Chechnya and Russia to better understand how we can support

¹ Published April 1, 2018. This document will be updated as needed to reflect new actions and information.

their efforts. After consultations with them and with coalition partners in the U.S., HRC has taken a number of actions:

- HRC launched its [#EyesOnChechnya](#) webpage and campaign, in partnership with Human Rights First, to help draw further attention to the issue.
- Just days after the news broke about the atrocities occurring in Chechnya, HRC president Chad Griffin sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson asking him to raise these human rights violations with the Russian government during his visit to the country that month.
- HRC has worked to bring visibility to the issue through statements by influencers like former U.S. Vice President [Joe Biden](#) and the [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum](#).
- HRC has called on [President Trump](#) and the [Secretary of State](#) to raise the crimes with their Russian counterparts, [urged the U.S. State Department](#) to provide visas to Chechen LGBTQ refugees, and [demanded that the State Department release a letter](#) that then-Secretary Tillerson sent to the Russian government.
- Within weeks, HRC sent out a [membership action email](#), asking HRC members to take action and urge President Trump to call on Russia to immediately stop the detention and murder of LGBTQ people in Chechnya. Thousands of HRC members responded.
- In May, HRC joined together with Amnesty International and Human Rights First to stage a protest [rally](#) outside the Russian Ambassador's residence.
- The following week, HRC [penned an op-ed in The Advocate](#), calling further attention to the situation and connecting it with the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) on May 17.
- HRC staff have also met with and spoken repeatedly with officials at the U.S. State Department and the U.N. to urge them to take further steps.
- HRC staff worked closely with members of Congress on issuing and amplifying statements. Ultimately, working closely with HRC, the U.S. [House](#) and [Senate](#) each passed unanimous, bipartisan resolutions that condemned the atrocities; called on the Russian government to investigate the human rights violations and hold the perpetrators accountable; and called on the U.S. to condemn the violence and impose sanctions against the perpetrators. The U.S. Treasury Department announced sanctions against two Chechen officials in December 2017.
- HRC joined a [Voices4Chechnya march](#) in New York City in October 2017, which began at the historic Stonewall Inn and ended at Trump Tower.
- In December 2017, HRC and Human Rights First [honored](#) Tatiana Vinnichenko and the Russian LGBT Network for their courageous work in helping Chechens to flee the violence.
- Following HRC's advocacy to pass the Global Magnitsky Act through Congress in 2016, the U.S. government in December 2017 imposed Magnitsky sanctions against the president of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, and one of his associates, Ayub Kataev.
- In March 2018, HRC launched a [campaign](#) marking the anniversary of the news first breaking about the atrocities in Chechnya, and calling on the U.S. government and the world community to call the Chechen government's actions a crime against humanity.
- HRC President Chad Griffin sent a [letter](#) to President Trump in March 2018 calling on him to condemn the atrocities in Chechnya and call them a Crime Against Humanity.