



PLANETARIUM 1

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Shawn Laatsch, President
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Dear IPS Officers and Council,

In this letter we respond to your request of 24 July regarding the safety of the LGBTQ+ community and other participants of the IPS2022 conference for which we are bidding.

In the beginning, I would like to say a few words about the World Cup 2018 that Russia was hosting, because it has become very indicative for the whole world. While there were some unfortunate incidents which did occur, these do not represent the Russian people's beliefs and isolated problems like this can occur anywhere.

Russia citizens are known for their extraordinary warmth of reception, high level of security and friendliness. The Japanese publication "Mainichi Shimbun" published materials of journalist Hitoshi Omae. He described the negative Western press of Russia and urged not to pay attention to it: "If you judge Russia only by the image formed by Western countries, you can miss the changes that have occurred in it. This world championship gives us a chance to see the current Russia and taste it."

Attitude to LGBTQ + at the world Cup

LGBTQ+ Fans were allowed to hold hands and kiss at stadiums during the 2018 FIFA WORLD Cup. "Any expression of emotions and feelings that do not violate public order and comply with the General cultural principles of behavior is a natural and integral part of football. The 2018 FIFA world Cup isn't exception and is designed to become the most comfortable and hospitable for all guests and participants of the tournament," the organizers announced. In addition, there were possibilities for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people to stay in a special house of LGBT pride during the event if they chose to do so.

Attitude to LGBTQ + in Russia

Many representatives of LGBTQ+ sexual orientation openly declare it, and achieve excellent results in their profession. Moreover, they have state awards. Russian President Vladimir Putin said:

"If they achieve outstanding merits, such as Elton John achieves. He is an outstanding person, an outstanding musician. And millions of people sincerely love him regardless of his orientation".

In the interview to American Director Oliver Stone, our President noted that LGBTQ+ community orientation people are supported by good and friendly relations, and there are no restrictions in the country: representatives of sexual minorities in Russia are full members of society and their rights aren't infringed.

Yes, in Russia there is a law banning the promotion of homosexuality among minors. This is to protect them from any manipulation or possible abuse and has nothing to do with the persecution of people for their sexual orientation.

Human rights

The Constitution of the Russian Federation guarantees equality of human and civil rights and freedoms. Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited, as is any other discrimination, and the rights of LGBTQ+ citizens are protected by existing legislation.

We draw your attention to the fact that in Russia there is no criminal liability LGBTQ+ orientation, unlike more than a third of the world's states. In 70 countries of the world, homosexuality is criminalized. Seven countries of the world provide for the death penalty.

And at the 24th session of the UN human rights Council in September 2013, Russia committed itself to protect the rights of LGBTQ+ and intersex citizens, including their rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

Homosexuality is not officially a disease or a disorder. This is the position of the WHO (World Health Organization), the WPA (World Psychiatric Association), all the authoritative national medical and psychiatric communities, including the RPA - the Russian Psychotherapeutic Association, as well as the Ministry of health.

Homosexuality is not an obstacle to military service in Russia. Unlike the US, where a Memorandum banning service in the transgender army entered into force on March 12, 2018.

Thus, taking into account all the above, we want to emphasize that people LGBTQ+ community are not treated like second-class people in Russia or discriminated against. There should be no fear for the representatives of the LGBTQ + community who are going to come as guests or participants of the IPS2022 conference in St. Petersburg.

IPS conference from the beginning to the present time

According to the statistics on the website: <https://www.ips-planetarium.org/page/history>

11 of the 24 conferences were held in the US, which is 45.83 % - almost half of the total. In 2010, the host country was Egypt, in 2014 it was China.

We believe that the presence in other regions of the world, for example, in Russia, is important for IPS. It should be noted that the Council of IPS was held in 2011 in Nizhny Novgorod:

<http://www.apr.planetariums.ru/old/sobytiya-goda/19-konferentsiya-kosmos-zemlya-kosmos.html> where the President of IPS David Weinrich was addressing the participants and said: "We are part of a uniform world, and we have the opportunity to share with the viewers and listeners of the planetariums love of astronomy. It is very important for us to know as much as possible about Russia and all my colleagues want to talk here with colleagues from numerous Russian planetariums."

IPS2022 and Planetarium No. 1

Planetarium No.1 will abide by the IPS Code of Conduct <https://www.ips-planetarium.org/page/codeofconduct> and do our best to insure all attendees of the IPS2022 conference are safe from any discrimination or harm.

We are committed to providing a conference that is inclusive for all members of the planetarium community. As you can see from our values and principals this is a common belief we share.

Values and principles of Planetarium No. 1

Responsibility:	Commitment to comply with the principles of sustainable development, shared by all whose actions have an impact on the environment, economic activity and social progress.
Inclusiveness:	the practice of fair and equal treatment for all, as well as the constructive engagement of all stakeholders. Inclusion applies to all stakeholders, regardless of their skin color, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, age, relationship, religion, political or other opinion, welfare, social status, sexual orientation or any other distinction.
Information transparency:	openness to decisions, actions and their consequences affecting society, economy, environment; willingness to report them in a clear, accurate, timely and complete form.
Fair business practice:	conduct that complies with generally accepted standards good business conduct in a particular situation, including international.
Respect:	respect for the rule of law, review and consideration of the interests of the parties concerned and prevention of violations of the rights of others.

We sincerely wish to host IPS2022 in St. Petersburg and share Russian hospitality with all members of the global planetarium community. We hope the IPS Officers, Council, and members will consider our bid and the possibility of attending an IPS conference for the first time in Russia in 2022.

CEO of LLC «ART-Technologies»



Evgeny Gudov