Resolution tabled by INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBERAL WOMEN

**Russia**

**Deterioration instead of improvement of Women’s rights in Russia**

**Noting**

-Russia does not have a single legal act specifying the provision of Article 19 of the Russian Constitution on equal rights and opportunities for men and women,

-Nor is there a single state organization specializing in protection of the rights of women or gender equality issues, though there is a commissioner for children's rights, and even entrepreneurs’ rights.

**Consequently there is a witnessing of**

-the feminization of poverty,

-difficulties in career growth for women,

-domestic violence, harassment and sexism, whereas the latter is considered to be “normal”. –

-Women earning on average 65% of men's wages.

-14,000 women die each year from domestic violence.

-Child benefits are minimal, there are not enough kindergartens.

**Concerned that**

-The state and the religious organizations promote patriarchal ideas and influence the legislation further restricting reproductive rights.

-The entry into force of the law on foreign agents this year led to a situation when a number of the most influential women’s organizations (NGOs) were declared “foreign agents” and ceased to exist.

**Noting**

Only YABLOKO among the 74 registered Russian political parties, has a gender faction/organization and offers a gender part of the party program.

**Calls upon**

-other Russian political parties to take over the good example of YABLOKO’s gender faction to politically have more and better influence on gender issues.

-all Liberal International members to take note of this sometimes hidden slamming back on women’s rights and in general human rights.

-all Liberal International members to bring these worrying developments to the attention of their Leaders and Parliamentarians in order for them to take steps toward their Ministries of Foreign Affairs to press on the Russian Government officials to redress the achieved women’s rights and to take steps forward in these rights instead of backwards.

-all Liberal International members to call upon their governments to protest towards the Russian Government against the recent “law on foreign agents”, which has made the work of many women’s NGO’s impossible in Russia , cutting of all links to the outside world for the women in Russia.

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