



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LIBERAL YOUTH

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## **Resolution on the issue of freedom of speech and political prisoners in Russia**

Submitted by Youth democratic movement – Vesna (Russia)

International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY),

Today in Russia, under the pretext of fighting extremism and protecting the feelings of believers continues the struggle with dissent, both online and on the streets. New federal laws, infringing not only the freedom of assembly, but also freedom of speech. According to the human rights organization, "Memorial" the number of political prisoners in the Russian Federation for the 2016 year has doubled compared to the previous year. Today in Russia, there are 102 people serving sentences in prisons or under house arrest for the public expression of their opinions or participating in people's assemblies. Thus, the Russian Constitution that guarantee the rights to freedom of opinion, freedom of association in the organization and freedom of assembly is undermined by the adoption and application of tighter laws.

Moreover, the political prisoner Ildar Dadin, convicted for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of opinion, publicly declared about torture and abuse in prison, where he is being held. According to the testimony of other prisoners, such cases are common in many prisons and usually go unpunished.

Taking into account the fact that the situation with freedom of speech and freedom of assembly in Russia is extremely unfavorable, but the authorities deny the existence of political prisoners in Russia, IFLRY:

- strongly urges the Russian authorities immediately and unconditionally release prisoner of conscience Ildar Dadin;
- urges to release all who have been detained in Russia for expressing their opinions or participating in people's assemblies;
- recommends the IFLRY members to invite the political parties, which they are members, to speak out on the topic of political prisoners in Russia;
- recommends to the European liberal parties in any official contacts with the Russian authorities concern the topic of political prisoners in Russia.