

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

HE Mr Yury Viktorovich Fedotov
6/7 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QP

June 4th 2007

Your Excellency,

We are writing to express our great concern at Russia's apparent failure to uphold the human rights of its citizens, as well as those visiting your country from London, the South-East of England and elsewhere in the EU, exemplified by events in Moscow over the weekend.

As we are sure you are aware, the Mayor of Moscow banned a peaceful 'Gay Pride' rally, fearing but not discouraging discriminatory violence. A rally did take place, and was indeed marred by violence, directed at the marchers themselves and carried out with, in some cases, the complicity of the police and Moscow authorities.

Claims that city authorities were right to have sought to have prevented the clashes have been undermined by those who were present and gave eye witness accounts stating that in many cases the police did nothing to prevent the violence, implicitly condoning it. Other accounts so far also imply it was victims, not aggressors, who found themselves in court.

Banning a peaceful, Gay Pride march in a country bound by the Council of Europe, the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights is completely unacceptable.

This is just the latest in a growing number of human rights abuses in Russia and there is now a heightened need for clear signals from the Russian Government that it views the protection of human rights as a vital component of democracy.

Recent events effectively challenge President Putin to change his policy and behaviour in order to demonstrate that human rights are upheld and valued as an essential part of everyday life in Russia.

We would be grateful if you could keep us informed when he does so, or if, indeed, he confirms that he will make no such commitment.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP
for South East England.



Jean Lambert MEP - Green Party MEP for London