

# St. Petersburg Anti-Gay Law

March 28, 2012



Revelers enjoying a stage show at the city's largest gay club, Central Station. **Sergio Ivanov**

## [St. Petersburg's Gay Nightlife Is Alive and Kicking](#)

By Tom Masters

Perhaps what's most surprising amid the homophobic rhetoric and the new law targeting the "promotion" of gay lifestyles is the fact that St. Petersburg's gay scene has never been more visible or felt less threatened than it does today.

## [Back to 1992, When Being Gay Was Still a Crime](#)

By Alexander Belenky

It was a long time ago, at the beginning of the 1990s. It was a wild, difficult time, but a time that was of great interest to photographic journalists because entirely new, incredible subjects, previously banned and impossible to cover, were opening up.

## [A Russian History of Homophobia](#)

By Dan Healey

Russian laws against homosexuality have a long history. Orthodox clerics condemned sex between men and youths. They also condemned men who shaved, used make-up, or wore

gaudy clothing as devotees of the "sodomitical sin."

[Perils of a Gay Law That Lacks Definition](#)

By Dmitri Bartenev

The paradox of the St. Petersburg legal code is that homosexuality is normal and lawful but disseminating information about it is unlawful.

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