

Russians Celebrate LGBT Pride in Front of U.S. Embassy's Rainbow Flag

July 01, 2020

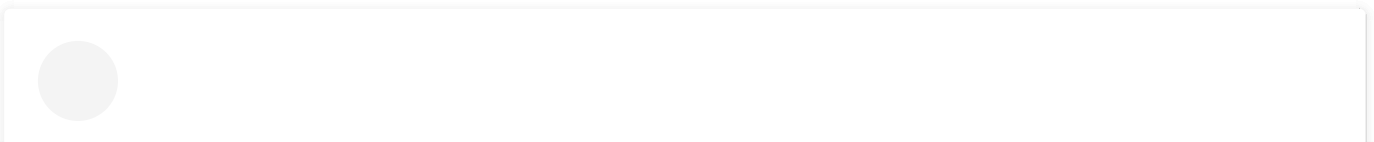
The U.S. Embassy in Moscow hung a rainbow flag, the symbol of the LGBT community, from its front facade last week in honor of Pride month. The flag is not often displayed in public in Russia due to a controversial law that prohibits “homosexual propaganda toward minors” and persistent anti-LGBT attitudes across the country. Despite backlash against the flag from Russian lawmakers and right-wing groups, Muscovites snapped some photos in front of the flag in a show of support for gay rights:



sasha.fedekha / Instagram

Russians posted photos of themselves in front of the flag dressed up in bright rainbow outfits and makeup, or kissing their same-sex partners.

Embed:





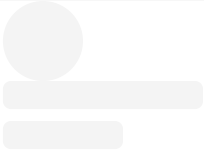
[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)

Публикация от Alina Lutsenko (@avishneva) 28 Июн 2020 в 10:01 PDT

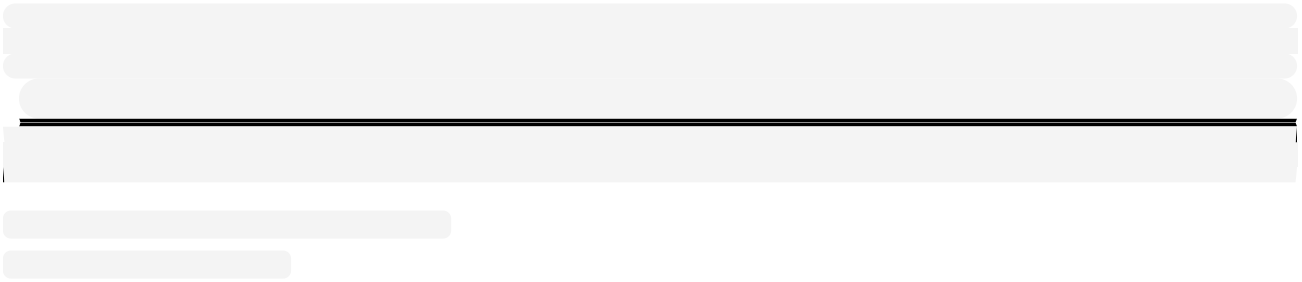
The flag was unveiled on the day that Russians nationwide started voting on constitutional amendments that would add a clause defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman to the Constitution.

Critics say the clause would effectively prevent gay marriage from ever being legalized in Russia.

Embed:



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Публикация от Sasha Fedøha (@sasha.fedekha) 29 Июн 2020 в 8:12 PDT

U.S. President Donald Trump banned American embassies from hanging Pride flags on official embassy flagpoles in early June, contradicting the Trump administration's official statements in support of the LGBT community for Pride month.

Embed:





Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

[Redacted content]

Публикация от [Redacted] (@n.severikova) 25 Июн 2020 в 11:42 PDT

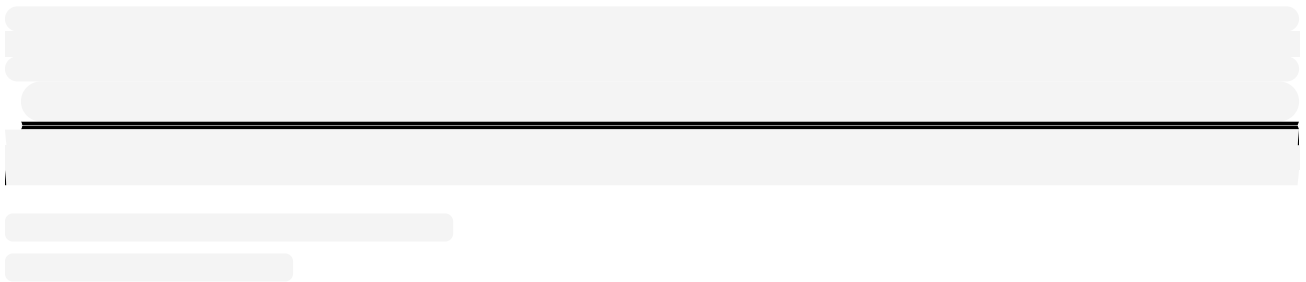
The U.S. Embassy [wrote](#) in a statement that "June is Pride Month and we celebrate that everyone deserves to live a life free from hatred, prejudice and persecution."

Embed:

[Redacted embed area]



[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Лосося кусок [] (@singingsalmon01) 30 Июн 2020 в 10:58 PDT

According to public [polling](#), young Russians tend to be more tolerant of the LGBT community than older generations.

Embed:





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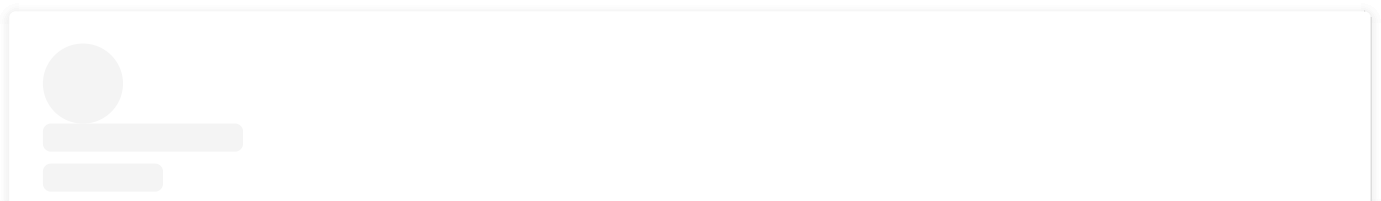


Публикация от Kate Klenina (@skate.jpeg) 30 Июн 2020 в 9:02 PDT

This photo shows two men kissing and holding the popular gay romance novel "What If It's Us."

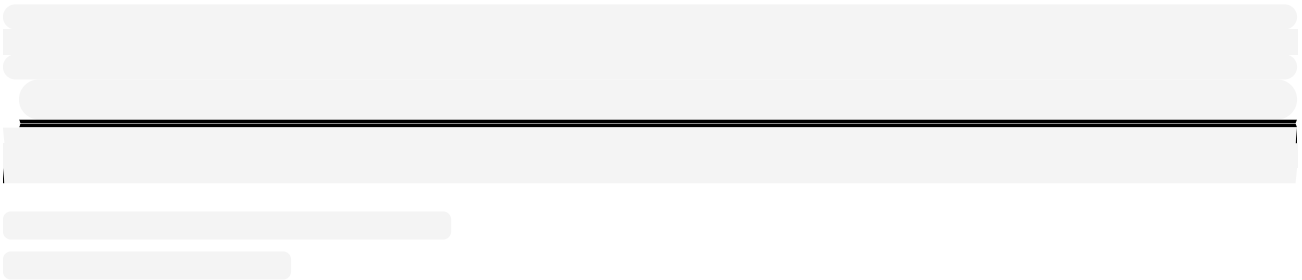
"I want this reality for all of us: Support, pride, equal treatment. Honestly, I have no hope," the Instagram user who posted the photo wrote.

Embed:





[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Просто Лу (@vostochnyveter) 29 Июн 2020 в 10:58 PDT

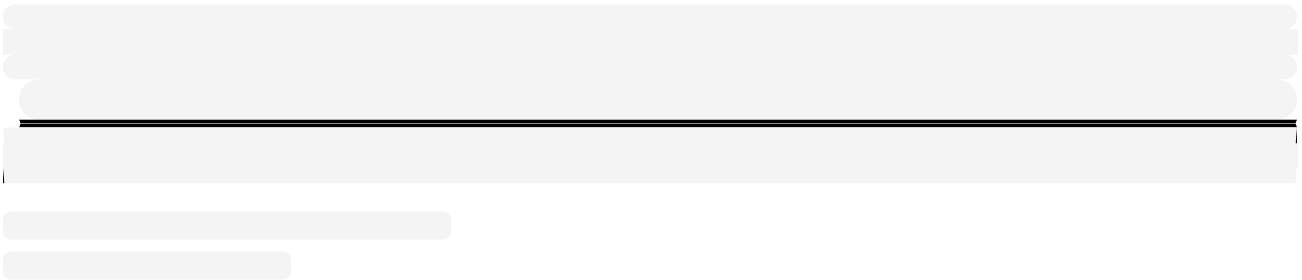
The flag's June 25 unveiling also marked the 42nd anniversary of the rainbow flag's first appearance at a gay pride parade in San Francisco in 1978.

Embed:





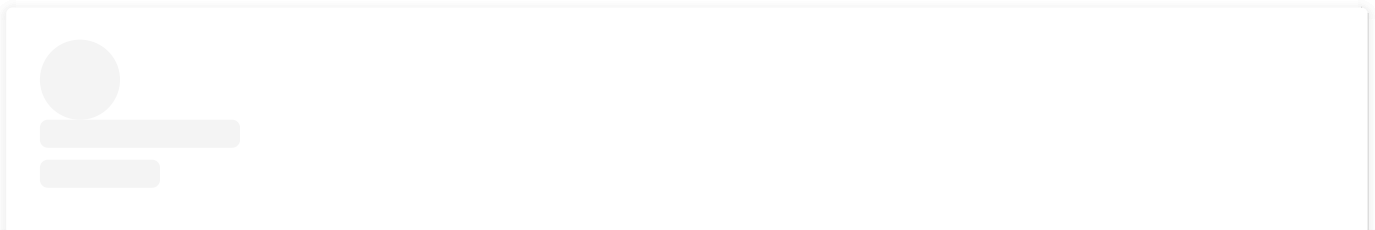
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Публикация от Ahist Corgael [] (@corgael) 30 Июн 2020 в 6:39 PDT

Despite gradually improving opinions, gay rights continue to be a contentious topic in Russia, with one in five Russians believing that LGBT people should be “eliminated,” according to a [poll](#) conducted in April. LGBT people in Russia often face discrimination, threats and violence.

Embed:





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Публикация от R.e.D (@polly_oskolkova) 30 Июн 2020 в 2:56 PDT

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/07/01/russians-celebrate-lgbt-pride-in-front-of-us-embassy-rainbow-flag-a70748>