

To the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

To the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

17.06.2020.

Complainant 1: Russian Civil Society Mechanism for Monitoring of Drug Policy Reforms.

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Complainant 2: Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice

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Complainant 3: Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (Eurazijos žalso mažinimo asociacija)

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Offending State: Russian Federation

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Brief description of the Complaint.

1.1. The Government of the Russian Federation pursues a consistent policy of restricting information on narcotic substances, drug dependence and humane and science/evidence-based methods of harm reduction, treatment and prevention, including harm reduction programmes¹, frequently labelling this information “drugs propaganda”. The Government of the Russian Federation routinely employs extrajudicial methods to declare any such information illegal, blocking online publications about harm reduction, imposing crippling fines on media outlets and

¹ Hereinafter, harm reduction programs are defined as various practices aimed at reducing the negative medical, social, and economic consequences of substance use for consumers, their families and their environment, which do not require mandatory abstinence or reduction of drug use, such as street outreach, syringe and needle exchange programs, distribution of overdose prevention medications, substitution therapy programs, counselling and testing. (see, for example: HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care. Clinical protocols for the WHO European Region. Ed. by: I. Eramova, S. Matic, M. Munz. WHO, 2007. Available at: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/78106/E90840.pdf P. 70).

non-profit organizations that publish them, and stigmatizing non-profit organizations involved in harm reduction. This is happening despite the fact that harm reduction, as an evidence-based approach, is endorsed and promoted by all UN agencies including WHO and UNODC². The State Duma (the lower house of the Russian parliament) is set to consider a bill that could make "drugs propaganda" a criminal offence. Russia's existing laws and practices already contradict Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as they infringe both upon the right to public expression of opinions on drug policy issues and upon the right to seek and receive this information, and Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) by infringing upon the right of vulnerable groups (people who use drugs) and professionals working with them to obtain and circulate reliable and vital medical information. The main rules that restrict or prohibit receiving and circulating drug-related information and the procedures for declaring such information illegal (as well as some other laws mentioned in this complaint), are listed in Annex 1. This complaint is filed jointly by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) and the Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice (ARF).

1.2. The Russian Civil Society Mechanism was formed in 2009 in Moscow with a mandate to monitor drug policy reform in Russia. It unites more than 150 people from across Russia, including people who use drugs, people who live with drug dependence, people living with HIV, lawyers, medical doctors, researchers and social workers; all members are equal. About 15 percent of the Russian Civil Society Mechanism members are people living with disabilities. Since 2009, the Russian Civil Society Mechanism has made submissions to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Universal Periodic Review, and the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

1.3. The Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) is a non-profit public organization registered in 2017 by harm reduction activists and organizations from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA). EHRA brings together some 250 institutional and individual members from the region and works to ensure sustainability of harm reduction programs. EHRA implements projects that make services for key populations more sustainable, carries out monitoring and advocacy activities and acts as a financial agent for regional community networks.

1.4. Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice (ARF) is a non-profit organization that was registered in the Russian Federation in 2009. ARF provides harm reduction services in Moscow such as distribution of sterile syringes, other medical equipment and naloxone – an opioid overdose reversal drug – to people who use drugs; it also provides legal advice and social support services. ARF is the only organization in Moscow and one of the few and most prominent in Russia that provides such services to people who use drugs. ARF is also involved in advocacy on national and international level: it campaigns for legalising opioid substitution therapy in Russia in line with the above-mentioned approaches already employed by UN agencies, for making criminal legislation on drug trafficking more proportionate and fair, and for providing people with drug dependence with access to treatment for comorbidities (such as HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis). ARF regularly submits shadow reports on violations of the rights of people who use drugs to UN committees. It helped prepare a number of complaints to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), in particular: *Abdyusheva and Others v. Russia* - in the judgement dated November 26, 2019, the Court concluded that the ban on substitution therapy in Russia did not violate the European Convention on Human Rights.³; *Y.I. v. Russia* - in the judgement dated 25 February 2020, the court ruled to pay 20,000 euros to a woman with drug dependence in Moscow whose

² See, for example, overview in: Reducing the Harm of Drug Use and Dependence and HIV Risk Reduction in: UNODC and Treatnet Drug Dependence Treatment Training Package, available at: https://www.unodc.org/ddt-training/treatment/VOLUME%20D/Topic%204/1.VoID_Topic4_Harm_Reduction.pdf

³ Application No. 58502/11 *Abdyusheva and Others v. Russia*.

three children had been taken away by social services⁴; Konstantinov v. Russia – a case communicated on 5 June 2018 disputing the ban by the Moscow authorities on a marijuana legalization march on the grounds of it being "drugs propaganda"⁵. ARF has been subject to regular harassment by the Russian authorities in recent years, which has significantly hampered its work. This complaint will detail a case of drugs propaganda-related persecution faced by an ARF-run newspaper that provided information on harm reduction to people who use drugs. The case illustrates the barriers to accessing key life-saving harm reduction interventions that are being created by repressive legislation on "drugs propaganda" and its selective application, and how these barriers help infringe upon the rights enshrined in the Article 19 of ICCPR and Article 12 of ICESCR.

2. General information on "drugs propaganda" regulations.

2.1. "Drugs propaganda" is defined by article 46 of Federal Act No. 3-FZ of 8 January 1998 on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (annex 1, para. 2, hereinafter referred to as article 46), and is also prohibited by it. Part 2 of article 46 prohibits "propaganda" of drug use "for medical purposes", which is generally understood as a ban on advocacy for opioid substitution therapy. The liability for "drugs propaganda" is established by Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation (Annex 1, paragraph 5). This provision has existed since the Code was introduced in 2001, but until recently it was mainly used against entrepreneurs who sold goods displaying a hemp leaf, for example⁶.

2.2. Information published online is subject to control by Roskomnadzor - the Federal Service for Supervision in the Sphere of Communications, Information Technologies and Mass Media. In 2012 this executive body was granted powers to ban certain information based on its own decisions and decisions of other government bodies such as courts (Annex 1, paragraph 6). The web addresses hosting the information that is deemed illegal are included in the register of prohibited information or the so-called Internet Blacklist, and Roskomnadzor requires Russian internet providers to block access to such web addresses. Up until recent years however those powers were rarely used against socially relevant information on drugs. The blocking of the Andrey Rylkov Foundation website in 2012, described in Section 2.1 below, was carried out with the help of other legal mechanisms and Roskomnadzor was not involved. In recent years, it has become common practice for Roskomnadzor to demand the removal of certain information, and to threaten to block the website (restrict access in Russia) if it doesn't comply.

3. Persecution of ARF.

3.1. By 2012, the ARF had prepared and submitted four complaints to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and a shadow report to the UN Committee against Torture in respect of the 5th periodic report of the Russian Federation. ARF took part in the preparation of I. Abdusheva's complaint to the ECHR. That work was part of the advocacy effort for the approval of substitution therapy in Russia. AFR registered the domain name rylkov-fond.ru and launched a website to post information about its activities, best practices in the field of harm reduction, especially opioid substitution therapy, and problematic aspects of Russian drug policy. In February 2012, the Head of the Moscow office of the Federal Drug Control Service decided to delete the ARF's domain because it was said to "promote the introduction of substitution therapy ("methadone programs"). The ARF filed an appeal against the decision, but the courts ruled that it complied with Article

⁴ Application No. 68868/14 Y.I. v. Russia.

⁵ Application No. 25465/16 Konstantinov v. Russia (communicated on 5 June 2018 and merged with No. 2064/10 Fedotova v. Russia).

⁶ See, for example, the review of the cases of administrative offences under part 1 of Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation at <http://hand-help.ru/doc25.18.html>.

46.⁷ All attempts to relaunch the website failed. ARF launched a new site outside of the .ru domain zone at <http://www.rylkov-fond.org>. Subsequently, someone registered this domain anew, and for a time it featured a site advertising sex services (there is a reason to believe that it was done on purpose to undermine ARF activity in Russia). The domain is still held by someone, but as of now kept inactive.

3.2. The 29 June 2016 decision of Russia's Justice Ministry listed ARF as a non-profit organisation acting as a "foreign agent". The Federal Law N 121-FZ adopted on 20.07.2012 (Annex 1, paragraph 3), requires non-profit organizations that receive foreign funding and engage in "political activities" to register as "foreign agents". The Law is much criticized for allowing a selective approach to law enforcement, use of stigmatizing vocabulary, the broadest possible definition of "political activities" and burdensome fines that can accumulate. The fines can be imposed on NGOs for failure to mention their "foreign agent" status in publications, for example⁸. ARF lodged an appeal but the court dismissed it. The Justice Ministry and the courts ruled that the following actions by ARF constituted political activity: online commentary on the draft Federal Law "On agencies controlling the trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" that described it as a bill aimed at "further strengthening the position of the Federal Drug Control Service as a repressive body with virtually unlimited powers, whose activities go far beyond police functions"; submitting a shadow report to the UN Human Rights Committee in connection with the review of the 7th periodic report of the Russian Federation with the following recommendation: "The government of the Russian Federation should develop and adopt a human rights-based federal law regulating drug-demand reduction and drug-related harm reduction through social and medical measures, rather than through law enforcement"; publishing proposals in relation to a draft amnesty document suggesting that people diagnosed with addiction to a narcotic or psychotropic substance and prisoners found guilty of certain offences under the Criminal Code should be included in an expanded list of persons subject to amnesty⁹.

3.3. At the same time, since the ARF had failed to apply for the status of a foreign agent, it was accused of committing an administrative offence under Part 1 of Art. 19.34 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation (Annex 1, paragraph 5) (punishable by a fine between 300,000 and 500,000 roubles, which was equivalent to 4,630 – 7,715 U.S. dollars at the time). ARF was accused of violating the law by holding public events (picketing) to draw attention to drug policy issues, actions of authorities and those of the civil society. Special mention was made of the project titled "Strengthening the response of NGOs to the growing needs of women who use drugs", the main objectives of which were to assess access to HIV, harm reduction, drug treatment and social support for women who use drugs, carry out relevant advocacy activities, provide case management services and outreach work to women who use drugs. As part of this project ARF picketed the headquarters of the Federal Drug Control Service, holding signs that read "Support, Don't Punish". The courts dismissed the administrative offence case on formal grounds: the Ministry of Justice filed it based on findings of an audit which had been carried out in violation of the law, i.e. before the expiration of the three-year period after the previous scheduled audit.¹⁰

3.4. In October 2017, Moscow's Khoroshevskiy inter-district prosecutor filed a report on an administrative offence under Art. 20.33 of the Code of Administrative Offences over the "activities

⁷ The judgement of the Khoroshevskiy District Court of Moscow of January 25, 2013 and the appeal ruling of the Moscow City Court of 06.08.2013, case number 11-24656/2013.

⁸ See, for example, the materials of the European Commission for Democracy through Law [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL\(2016\)025-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL(2016)025-e)

⁹ The judgement of the Khoroshevskiy District Court of 5 December 2016, case number 02a-6749/2016, Judgement of the Moscow City Court of 22 October 2018, case number 33a-8292/2018.

¹⁰ Ruling of the Moscow Khoroshevskiy District Court of 30 August 2016, case number 05-1201/2016, judgement of the Moscow City Court of 12 October 2016, case number 05-1201/2016.

of undesirable organizations” (Annex 1, paragraph 5). The proceedings were launched because the ARF article stating that the significant number of female prisoners were women convicted of drug-related non-violent crimes contained a link to a relevant report by the Open Society Foundation.

The article was published on the ARF website in 2012, the definition of "undesirable organization" was introduced in 2015 (Federal Law N 129-FZ (Annex 1, p. 4) of 23.05.2015), and the Open Society Foundation was recognized as an "undesirable organization" in 2015 (Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation № 1778-r dated 01.12.2015, based on the decision of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation № 2 dated 26.11.2015).¹¹ Even if we disregard the controversial and arbitrary branding of organisations with a rich history of educational and human rights activities as "undesirable"¹², and the apparent disproportionality of prosecution for posting links to the websites of such organizations, it is undeniable that the case against ARF was launched retroactively. Despite that, the magistrate's court found ARF guilty and fined 50,000 roubles (approx. \$840 at the rate on the date of the ruling). The higher courts upheld the decision, the defence's arguments that the prosecution was unlawful were rejected.¹³

3.5. In 2018, Roskomnadzor blacklisted four of ARF's publications: a journalistic article about safe injection rooms in Amsterdam, two articles telling first-hand stories of people who use drugs, and the article titled "The World of Salts" published in the ARF's underground newspaper for drug users "Hat and Bayan" («Шляпа и баян»; bayan is a type of accordion) about harm reduction services for users of "bath salts" (synthetic cathinones). ARF had to remove all four publications at the request of Roskomnadzor.

3.6. In March 2020, Moscow's Deputy Prosecutor launched a new case against ARF under Article 20.33 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation for the publication in 2017 of the material titled "Survival Instructions" on the ARF website. The article contained legal advice on how to behave during a search (stop and search, both in the street and during police checks at nightclubs, is standard practice in Russia). The publication was prepared by Open Russia, an unregistered public movement, with the help of an ARF lawyer. However, after a namesake British organization linked to Mikhail Khodorkovsky was declared undesirable by the Prosecutor General's Office and the Justice Ministry, the administrative and criminal persecution of the activists of the Moscow's Open Russia increased. As of today, it is known that the material submitted by the prosecutor to the magistrate court was returned to the prosecutor, but it may be submitted to the court again.¹⁴

3.7. In April 2020, human rights media outlet Mediazona published an article on how the COVID-19 lockdown and "self-isolation" affected people who use drugs. It was reported that it became even harder to obtain drugs under quarantine and users still had no access to harm reduction services and evidence-based dependence treatment (mainly substitution therapy). The article was prepared with the participation of ARF and used data from a survey conducted on the ARF

¹¹ The list of foreign and international non-governmental organizations whose activities were deemed undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation, with the dates of relevant judgements, is available at: <https://minjust.ru/ru/activity/nko/unwanted>

¹² See, for example, the materials of the European Commission for Democracy through Law [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-REF\(2016\)037-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-REF(2016)037-e)

¹³ Ruling of the magistrate at the judicial district 427 of Shchukino district of Moscow on 13.11.2017 case number 05-0404/427/2017, judgement of the Khoroshevskiy District Court of Moscow on 05.02.2018 case number 12-71/18, ruling of the Moscow City Court on 27.08.2018 case number 4a-4596/2018, ruling of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on 25 January 2019 № 5-AF18-7732.

¹⁴ Information on case No. 05-0141/427/2020 of judicial district 427 in the Moscow's Shchukino district is available on <http://mos-sud.ru/services/caseinfo/caseinfoas/?id=2242476&year=2020>

Telegram channel.¹⁵ The article was met with a sharp reaction from the state. First, the Federal News Agency (the outlet linked to Evgeny Prigozhin's "troll factory") published an article under the title "Western NGOs promote drug addiction in Russia through "human rights defenders" and local media." The article accused ARF and Mediazona of drugs propaganda and linked their material with the activities of George Soros (among other things, it mentioned various cases against ARF described in sections 3 and 4 of this complaint).¹⁶ On April 16, 2020, the prime-time hour-long news broadcast on the Rossiya 24 state television channel (part of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company) began with a story reciting the Federal News Agency's publication and laying stress on what it called the "propaganda of drug addiction" in Russia by Western NGOs, including EHRA, and George Soros personally¹⁷. The next day ARF came under attack from Vasily Piskarev, the chairman of the Commission on Foreign Interference in Russia's Internal Affairs, who had also given a comment in the "Russia 24"'s story. According to Piskarev's quote on the State Duma website, the Commission "discovered new attempts to influence Russia's drug policy from abroad," the ARF and the previous bans on the information it distributes were also mentioned¹⁸. As a result ARF was forced to remove the absolute majority of publications from its website, leaving only basic information about the organisation and its financial accountability, due to the high risk of new administrative or even criminal cases being launched against it (including on charges of drugs propaganda) which, in light of the statements coming from the state media and the State Duma, seems quite likely¹⁹.

4. The drugs propaganda case against ARF.

4.1. "The World of Bath Salts" article mentioned in 3.5 above (Appendix 3) that had been published in the ARF's "Hat and Bayan" newspaper and on the ARF website was promptly removed at the request of Rospotrebnadzor. However, the Drug Control Department of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs filed a report under Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences and referred the case of "drugs propaganda" to court. The publication provided basic information on bath salts and advice on how to use safely. On 25 October 2018 (see Annex 4), the Zuzinskiy District Court of Moscow fined ARF 800,000 roubles. (approx.12,190 USD at the rate on the day of the judgement).

4.2. The decision was based on the fact that the publication (a .pdf file with the issue of "Hat and Bayan"), available on the ARF website, contained information on drug use which, according to a linguistic expertise requested by the Drug Control Department, constituted "positive attitude" towards drug use. ARF argued that the publication was aimed at people who already know how to use drugs, that the purpose of the publication was to prevent them from harming their health and lives, and that the publication described the harm caused by the use of bath salts to a sufficient extent so as not to be considered drugs propaganda, but all of the arguments were rejected. The

¹⁵ Н. Сологуб, «Тысячи на метадонowych кумарах. Как карантин повлиял на наркопотребителей». ("Thousands on methadone withdrawals. How quarantine affected drug users"). «Mediazona», 3 April 2020. Available at: <https://zona.media/article/2020/04/03/covid-19-vs-hydra>

¹⁶ «Западные НКО пропагандируют наркоманию в России через «правозащитников» и местные СМИ» ("Western NGOs promote drug addiction in Russia through "human rights defenders" and local media."), Federal News Agency, available at <https://riafan.ru/1268023-zapadnye-nko-propagandiruyut-narkomaniyu-v-rossii-cherez-pravozashitnikov-i-mestnye-smi>

¹⁷ Vesti (News) at 23:00 with Alexey Kazakov, 16.04.2020, available on YouTube channel "Russia 24" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnmbdZVPjLk> 0:34-6:00.

¹⁸ «Профильная Комиссия выявила новые факты попыток зарубежного влияния на антинаркотическую политику РФ». ("Special Commission discovers new attempts to influence Russia's drug policy from abroad") Russian State Duma, 17 April 2020. Available at: <http://duma.gov.ru/news/48326/>

¹⁹ Russian NGO Accused of "Narco-Propaganda" Over COVID-19 Advocacy For People Who Use Drugs TalkingDrugs, 21 April 2020. Available at: <https://www.talkingdrugs.org/russian-ngo-accused-of-e2%80%9c-narco-propaganda-e2%80%9d-over-covid-19-advocacy-for-people-who-use-drugs>

higher courts upheld the decision²⁰. The minimum amount of the fine stipulated by Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences was too much for ARF, the Foundation had difficulty in finding the money to pay the fine, the funds were raised through crowdfunding. The present complaint focuses on this case because despite being just one point of pressure on ARF as a harm reduction organisation, it clearly illustrates the following: the applied legal norms (Article 46 and Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences) and the established practices fail to comply with the standards set out in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); this failure results in specific barriers to harm reduction in general.

4.3. The "Hat and Bayan" is distributed in the framework of peer education. This method is often used to inform hard-to-reach and marginalised groups such as people who use drugs and people affected by HIV.²¹ The peer-to-peer method has proved effective and plays an important role in raising awareness about safer drug use among people who use drugs. In particular, the peer-to-peer approach is effective for people who avoid seeking treatment for a variety of reasons, including fear of prosecution or lack of access to adequate health care. The most appropriate peer-to-peer method would be for drug users to prepare and circulate harm reduction materials with the help of professionals, so that "an appropriate message is delivered by a trusted messenger".²² Although there is some caution in involving people who use drugs as "counsellors", they occasionally provide a "befriending" or "buddy" service to drug users who do not wish to come into contact with official service providers.²³ At the court hearing the ARF explained in detail the context in which the newspaper is distributed but at no stage did the police and court analyse and evaluate that context.

5. Cases of drugs-related materials being blocked extrajudicially.

5.1. One of the most high-profile attempts to block socially important information was the attempt by Roskomnadzor to shut down the Russian section of Wikipedia in August 2015 over a page related to drug use. The regulator wanted to force the community of the internet encyclopaedia to remove an entry about charas, an Indian form of cannabis, as it contained illegal information. It proved technically impossible to remove a specific page of Wikipedia, and Roskomnadzor demanded that internet providers block the entire site. After a public outcry Roskomnadzor lifted the ban saying the forbidden information about charas had been redacted. Other articles about drugs were also blacklisted (however without any actual attempts to block access to them). The Reddit forum was briefly blocked as well because of a page dedicated to marijuana cultivation. Reddit complied with Roskomnadzor's requirements and restricted access to the offending page for users in Russia.²⁴ Since 2017, the government regulator has been using the mechanism called Criteria for Evaluation of Materials (Annex 1, paragraph 6) to decide which materials should be blacklisted (for being "drugs propaganda", for example).

²⁰ Judgement of the Zuzinsky District Court of Moscow of 25 October 2018 case number 05-1129/2018, Moscow City Court's appeal ruling of 24 December 2018 case number 7-14938/2018, Moscow City Court ruling of 12 August 2019 № 4a-3090/2019.

²¹ Rivett, D. "The work on young people in the WHO Regional Office for Europe". Does peer education work in Europe? *Entre Nous*. The European Magazine for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research Programme. WHO Regional Office for Europe. No. 56 (2003)

²² Bottomley, Tim et al. "Crack cocaine – tailoring services to user need." *Addiction Research and Theory*. Vol. 5(3), 1997.

²³ Bottomley, T., Smith, M. and Wibberley, C. (1995) Not so cracked. *Druglink*, 10(3). 9-12).

²⁴ The blocking of Wikipedia received a lot of media attention in Russia and other countries. See, for example: J. Smirnova, "Russia's war with Wikipedia". *Washington Post*, August 25, 2015. Available online at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/08/24/russias-war-with-wikipedia/>

5.2. In 2017, Roskomnadzor reported that in the five years since the launch of the mechanism, about 275,000 pages had been blacklisted, where about 74,000 pages (27%) contained propaganda of drugs. Some 178,000 pages were deleted from the Blacklist after illegal information was removed, however there are no specific statistics on the pages that were blacklisted for containing drugs propaganda and then unblocked²⁵. According to Roskomnadzor statistics, by June 2019 court judgements and decisions of the FSKN and, after the abolition of the FSKN, decisions of the Interior Ministry, saw Roskomnadzor blacklist 122,000 pages (the information was subsequently deleted from 115,000 pages).²⁶ During 2019, access to 21,000 pages was restricted based on decisions of the Interior Ministry.²⁷ Although we believe that many of those pages were possibly related to drug trafficking or similar offences, this mechanism is routinely used to extrajudicially block socially significant information (media publications, materials of non-profit organizations, etc.). (see Annex 2). We have not been able to find a single case where the regulator's decisions were formally declared unlawful by the regulator itself or successfully challenged in court. Next we describe two typical cases where Roskomnadzor's decisions to ban journalistic publications and artistic expressions based on the Criteria for Evaluation of Materials were appealed against in court but were found to be lawful. In both cases, courts formally applied the text of the Criteria.

5.3. In late 2018 an article titled "Heroin is the Property of the Model" caused a stir among the public.²⁸ The material published by the independent Russian online publication batenka.ru («Батенька, да вы трансформер») was the first in a series of materials dedicated to the problems of drug policy in Russia. The article told the story of a girl who, despite a heroin dependence, led an active life which she described in her blog on the VK.com social network. The publication was widely discussed on blogs and social networks, the girl was criticized for "glamorizing" drug dependence. The public debate covered a wide range of issues about experiences of drug use and how drug use is reflected in art and in the media. As part of the same series, other journalists later published articles and personal memories, including those presenting different points of view. The controversial article was later removed at the request of Roskomnadzor, based on paragraph 2.1.6 of the Criteria for Evaluation of Materials (information "aimed at developing a positive attitude towards people who use drugs among the target audience). The publisher of Batenka.ru challenged the request and the article 2.6 of the Criteria in court however the judges found both Roskomnadzor's demand²⁹, and the norm that it was based on³⁰ to be lawful.

5.4. Also in 2018, based on a decision of the Interior Ministry, Roskomnadzor banned a YouTube page featuring video clip "Judas" by rap-performer Husky (Dmitry Kuznetsov) for "containing information about the ways and methods of developing, producing and using narcotic drugs", namely, for "a consistent description of the actions related to the use and trafficking of narcotic

²⁵ «Роскомнадзор за пять лет заблокировал около 275 тыс. ресурсов с запрещенной информацией». ("Roskomnadzor blocks some 275 thousand resources with prohibited information over five years"). TASS, July 27, 2017. Available at: <https://tass.ru/politika/4445476>

²⁶ «В России с 2012 года пресечено распространение информации с пропагандой наркотиков на более чем 122 тыс. сайтах». ("Since 2012, Russia has stopped circulation of drugs propaganda materials on more than 122 thousand sites"). Roskomnadzor, 26 June 2019. Available at: <https://rkn.gov.ru/news/rsoc/news67938.htm>

²⁷ «В России в 2019 году заблокировали около 21 тыс. сайтов с информацией о наркотиках». ("Russia blocks some 21 thousand sites containing drug-related information in 2019"). TASS, January 8, 2020. Available at: <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/7471225>

²⁸ Н. Абросимова, «Героин – собственность модели» ("Heroin is the property of the model"). "Batenka", December 12, 2018. The text was available at: <https://batenka.ru/resource/booze/heroine-on-heroin/>, but has since been removed.

²⁹ Judgement of the Tagansky District Court of Moscow of April 2, 2019 case number 02a-0057/2019, appeal ruling of the Moscow City Court of 24 July 2019 case number 33a-3573/2019, ruling of the Moscow City Court of 14.10.2019 N 4ga-892/2019 on refusal to transfer cassation appeal for consideration in the court of cassation.

³⁰ Judgement of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation of 20.01.2020 N АСР119-869 <The refusal to satisfy the application to recognise paragraph 2.1.6 of the Criteria for Evaluation of Materials and (or) Information ..., approved by the Order of Roskomnadzor N 84, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia N 292, Rospotrebnadzor N 351, FTS Russia MMV-7-2/461@ of 18.05.2017>.

drugs". The character in the video distributes drugs by planting them in special hiding places to be later recovered by customers (the so-called "zakladki"). YouTube restricted access to the video for users from Russia. Husky challenged the decision in court, citing a violation of his right to freedom of expression and creative activity, as well as a violation of the right of the public to have unrestricted access to artistic and musical works. The court upheld the decision³¹.

5.5. We believe it is necessary to highlight cases when bans were imposed on harm reduction information. In several cases Roskomnadzor targeted non-profit organizations and unregistered associations that were founded outside of Russia and/or act mainly outside of Russia. In 2019, at the request of Roskomnadzor, YouTube blocked access to the video titled "Mephedrone: Staying Alive" by the Russian-language Drug User News channel.³² In 2020, based on a decision of the Interior Ministry, Roskomnadzor blacklisted EHRA's page dedicated to drug feminism (the page is still available at a new address).³³ In February 2020, the public association HIV.LV (Apvienība HIV.LV) (Latvia) removed the Russian-language material "Sex on Drugs" at the request of Roskomnadzor.³⁴ EHRA is also aware of a requirement received by the Civil Health Alliance (Ukraine) to remove the material on distribution of drugs through the so-called "zakladki". The Civil Health Alliance removed it from their website. In all cases, according to Roskomnadzor, the publications violated various provisions of the Evaluation Criteria (including information on methods of drug use, positive attitude towards people who use drugs, etc.).

6. Administrative cases for "drugs propaganda"-related offences.

6.1. In 2018 administrative proceedings were launched against the Chelyabinsk Publishing Group, the publisher of the Internet media outlet lentachel.ru. The branch of Roskomnadzor in the Chelyabinsk region sued it for the article titled "Finished off by a TV over the head. Two Kusa residents violently kill drinking companion". In the article the editor expressed the opinion that alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana (according to the regulator, the article talked about the advantages of consuming marijuana over those of alcohol, failed to mention harm caused by marijuana consumption and mentioned therapeutic properties of the drug). The court found the media outlet guilty and imposed a penalty of five days' suspension of operations - apparently because a fine of 800,000 roubles would spell the end of the media outlet's operations³⁵. Editor-in-Chief German Galkin was issued a fine of 40,000 roubles and later filed an appeal with the ECHR³⁶. In fact, the "alcohol is more dangerous both to users and others than marijuana" concept is supported by scientific evidence and has been profoundly discussed, at least after publications of D. Nutt³⁷.

³¹ Judgement by the Tagansky District Court of Moscow of 19 March 2019 case number 02a-0042/2019, Moscow City Court of Appeal of 6 May 2019 case number 33a-2420. The music video "Judas" by performer Husky is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e9JgyzCIBc>.

³² The video "Mephedrone: Staying Alive" on Drug User News is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndRy7G1-BLY>.

³³ Narcofeminism. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association. Page Address: <https://harmreductioneurasia.org/narcofeminism/>

³⁴ Used to be available on the Apvienība HIV.LV website at: <http://www.apvienibahiv.lv/?lang=886>

³⁵ Ruling of the Sovetsky district court of Chelyabinsk of June 7, 2018 case number 5-227/2018.

³⁶ А. Бородин, «Удар телевизором и челябинская марихуана в Страсбурге. Журналист обжаловал в ЕСПЧ штраф за «пропаганду наркотиков». (A. Borodikhin, "Blow by TV and Chelyabinsk marijuana in Strasbourg. Journalist appeals "drugs propaganda" fine at ECHR. "Mediazona", January 25, 2019. Available at: <https://zona.media/article/2019/01/25/chelweed> The article in question is available at: <https://lentachel.ru/news/2018/01/11/dobili-televizorom-po-golove-dvoe-kusintsev-raspravilis-so-svoim-sobutylnikom.html>

³⁷ See: Nutt D, King LA, Saulsbury W, Blakemore C (March 2007). "Development of a rational scale to assess the harm of drugs of potential misuse". *Lancet*. 369 (9566): 1047–53. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(07)60464-4. PMID 17382831 http://www.antoniasella.eu/archila/NUTT_2007.pdf; Nutt DJ, King LA, Phillips LD; Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs. (November 2010). "Drug harms in the UK: a multicriteria decision analysis". *Lancet*.

6.2. In August 2018, Roskomnadzor in the Komi Republic filed a report under Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences against the editors of the Internet publication "7x7" and its editor-in-chief, Sofia Krapotkina (Yezhova), for publishing a video interview with libertarian politician Mikhail Svetov. Talking to blogger Alexander Smoleev, Svetov discussed the legalisation of drugs. According to the publication, three minutes out of an almost half-hour interview were devoted to the discussion of the legalisation of drugs.³⁸ On June 20, 2018, a magistrate of Krasnozaton court district in the city of Syktyvkar imposed a fine of 800,000 roubles on the publication and 40,000 roubles on the editor-in-chief. On 30 August 2018, the Syktyvkar City Court upheld the fine.³⁹ In 2020, the ECHR communicated the 7x7 complaint as part of a group of complaints from the publication about fines for various other articles⁴⁰.

6.3. In September 2019, the Zyuzinsky District Court of Moscow imposed a fine of 800,000 roubles on the internet media outlet Lenta.ru under Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences. The court ruled that the material "Bad money. Marijuana strengthens European economy. It will help develop technology and bring in billions" carried "a positive evaluation of the cultivation of drug-containing cannabis plant" and "violated drug safety". The higher courts agreed with this.⁴¹

7. Projects to tighten liability for "drugs propaganda" in Russia.

7.1. As shown above, the existing legislation enables authorities to block drug-related information and prosecute publishers almost without restriction. However, it's highly likely that we'll see a further tightening of liability measures. In October 2019, President Putin gave several instructions to the government, including the following: *«Take additional measures to counteract the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including the following: Promptly implement the Russian Federation out-of-court statutory restrictions on access to the information published on the Internet pertaining to the ways and methods of processing, producing, manufacturing, and using narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, new potentially harmful psychoactive substances, as well as their distribution locations; Introduce amendments to the Russian Federation law to establish criminal liability for inducing others [to use], or for promoting ("the propaganda of") narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues using the Internet<...>»*⁴².

7.2. On January 9, 2020, the government submitted a 'lighter' draft law to the State Duma. The new version suggests amending Article 6.13, Part 1.1, of the Code of Administrative Offences with an additional qualifying characteristic, namely, "propaganda of narcotic drugs using the information and telecommunications network Internet," with a following range of sentences: for citizens – an administrative fine of RUB5,000 to RUB30,000 (approx. USD 70 - 410 USD);

376 (9752): 1558–65. CiteSeerX 10.1.1.690.1283. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(10)61462-6. PMID 21036393 <http://www.ias.org.uk/uploads/pdf/News%20stories/dnutt-lancet-011110.pdf>.

³⁸ М. Поляков, «Суд в Сыктывкаре оштрафовал «7x7» на 800 тысяч рублей за «пропаганду наркотиков» в интервью политика Светова. Что об этом известно». (M. Polyakov, "Syktyvkar court fines "7x7" 800,000 roubles for "drugs propaganda" over interview with politician Svetov. What we know "). "7x7", 20 June 2018. Available at: <https://7x7-journal.ru/articles/2018/06/20/sud-v-syktyvkare-oshtrafoval-7h7-na-800-tysyach-rublej-za-propagandu-narkotikov-v-intervyu-politika-svetova-cto-ob-etom-izvestno>

³⁹ Ruling of the Stavropol City Court of the Komi Republic dated August 30, 2018 case number 12-1323/2018..

⁴⁰ Application No. 9578/19 OOO Redaktsiya sem na sem and Yezhova v. Russia (communicated on 28 January 2020 together with several other applications by the same applicants).

⁴¹ Ruling of the Zyuzinsky District Court of Moscow of 9 September 2019 case number 05-1398/2019, judgement of the Moscow City Court of 14 November 2019 case number 7-14216/2019, ruling of the 2nd Court of Cassation of 10 April 2020 case number 16-1057/2020 (16-1876/2019).

⁴² The list of instructions following the meeting with members of the public in the Far East on October 25, 2019, is available at: <http://kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/61916>

for officials - a fine of RUB50,000-RUB100,000 (approx. USD 680 - 1360); for individual entrepreneurs - either a fine of RUB50,000-RUB100,000 or a suspension of business activities for a period of up to 90 days; for legal entities, either a fine of RUB 1-1.5 million (approx. USD 13,600 - 20,410) or an administrative suspension of activities for a period of up to 90 days. Relevant amendments are made to Part 2 of the Article, with the clause about “administrative expulsion of foreign nationals” left unchanged. The first reading of the bill was scheduled for March 2020 but has not yet passed⁴³. At the same time, during the legislative process, significant changes could be made to the original bill.

7.3. At a board meeting of the Interior Ministry on February 26, 2020, President Putin requested that the Duma and the Government “return to a focused development of a legislative initiative to establish criminal liability for the propaganda of narcotic drugs via the Internet”⁴⁴. On February 13, 2020, Vasily Piskarev, the chairman of the Commission on Foreign Interference in Russia's Internal Affairs, accused foreign NGOs and foreign media outlets broadcasting in Russian of drugs propaganda, of lobbying for a decriminalisation of drugs in Russia, etc. His speech was a prime example of the “besieged fortress” rhetoric linking harm reduction activities with foreign interference in Russia's internal affairs, among other things.⁴⁵ (see also p. 3.7 above). In light of this, fears that the bill will make drugs propaganda a criminal offence seem to be justified.

7.4. In February 2020, the Interior Ministry published draft “Strategies of the State Anti-Drug Policy of the Russian Federation up to the year 2030” (published on the state portal for the publication of draft laws and regulations). The document showcases ideological trends of the current Strategy of the State Anti-Drug Policy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020 (Annex 1, paragraph 8), such as a ban on “substitution therapy methods in the treatment of drug dependence in the Russian Federation, involving the use of narcotic drugs”. The list of threats starts with “attempts to destabilise the existing international drug control system and to revise it in view of liberalisation and legalisation of drugs”. The strategy must be approved by presidential decree that has not yet been issued⁴⁶.

STATEMENT OF CLAIM AND DEMANDS

8. Analysis of the "drugs propaganda" case against ARF.

8.1. As the above analysis and the text of the court judgement suggest, the facts establishing the case of "drugs propaganda" were examined in a rather superficial manner. From the law enforcement point of view, it was of no importance that the article in question was posted on the website of a harm reduction organisation and was aimed at people who use drugs. The expert employed by the police only singled out instances of "positive evaluation" of drugs and failed to carry out a comprehensive examination (to establish presence of negative evaluations, to take into account who the audience are, etc.); arguments about the specific context of harm reduction were not considered, as wasn't the fact that the audience were people whose drug addiction had formed before they read "The World of Bath Salts". For example, the ECHR requires that, when assessing the risks associated with the circulation of controversial materials and the possibility of them being

⁴³ The text of the draft law No. 876368-7, accompanying documents and the history of its progress are available in the "Legislation Support System" database at: <https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/876368-7>

⁴⁴ A meeting of the board of the Russian Interior Ministry. Website of the President of Russia, February 26, 2020. <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/62860>

⁴⁵ State Duma reveals facts of foreign NGOs' involvement in drug propaganda among youths. Russian State Duma, February 13, 2020. Available at: <http://duma.gov.ru/news/47790/>

⁴⁶ The draft of the “Strategies of the State Anti-Drug Policy of the Russian Federation up to the year 2030” is available on the state portal for the publication of draft laws and regulations at: <https://regulation.gov.ru/projects#npa=98716>

banned for the reason of protection of health and public morals, account must be taken of how widely the text was circulated and to whom it was addressed (*Handyside v. United Kingdom*, Judgment No. 5493/72, § 52). The handling of the ARF case does not meet this standard. Much of the article is devoted to an unvarnished description of the dangers associated with the use of "bath salts", from long-term health hazards to the risks of overdose, but this was also overlooked.

8.2. The established practice of interpreting the law suggests that the law must be accessible and understandable (with the help of appropriate consultation, if necessary) to those it addresses, and be foreseeable as to its effects so that people could adjust their behaviour (ECHR judgment in *Terentyev v. Russia*, No. 10692/09, § 52). If we look at the text of the law (the literal meaning) and at the meaning of the court judgement, it may appear that, from the law enforcer's point of view, to avoid breaking the law the harm reduction organisation should have omitted the detailed description of the drug and its use in the article and should have unconditionally condemned drug use. The examples (sections 5 and 6 above) show that this is not a one-off incident but rather an established way of interpreting and applying Article 46 and Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences by regulators and courts. In general, they fail to account for the context, whether it is an opinion piece about drug policy, a harm reduction article aimed at people who already use drugs, or an artistic statement.

8.3. We believe that the approach described in paragraph 8.2 makes it impossible to offer actual and true harm reduction services, as defined in modern evidence-based treatment guidelines (1.1 above), as it contradicts the basic principle of harm reduction which is providing assistance on the understanding that the recipient may continue to use drugs and in turn understands this and trusts the provider.

8.4. Alarmist and stigmatizing statements by high-ranking politicians and articles by state media outlets (para. 4.6), repressive legislation on "foreign agents" and "cooperation with undesirable organisations" (para. 4), massive fines in the broader context of the Strategy of State Anti-Drug Policy of the Russian Federation up to 2020 (Annex 2, para. 8) suggest that the authorities are consistently working to create unbearable conditions for the ARF because they reject the very idea of harm reduction and an evidence-based drug policy. Such persecution is also legally possible within the current framework of the "drugs propaganda" legislation.

9. General conclusions about the practical application of the "drugs propaganda" laws. Violation of the Covenants.

9.1. Crucially, no changes were required to the main applicable legal norms - Article 46 and Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation – to make the transition to the systemic blocking of harm reduction information (see also Sections 5 and 6 above). That suggests that it wasn't a change to the laws that came first but the change in the government policy which was made possible thanks to the vague, "elastic" law.⁴⁷ At the same time, the actions of the authorities (the Interior Ministry, Roskomnadzor) in prosecuting for "drugs propaganda" are not subject to any meaningful judicial control: as this review shows, the courts always agree with the assessments made by the authorities if they provide justification of their actions in any way and comply with the procedure. Many publishers choose to comply with Roskomnadzor's demands

⁴⁷ It's indicative that back in 2005, I. B. Levontina, a leading researcher in the sector of theoretical semantics at the Institute of Russian Language named after V. V. Vinogradov at the Russian Academy of Sciences and an expert in forensic linguistics, noted that the word "propaganda" has different meanings in two parts of Article 46 of the Federal Law of 08.01.1998 N 3-FZ: "dissemination of information" in Part 1 and "in-depth explanation" in Part 2. See: "Letter and law. Forensic linguistic expertise: tasks and perspectives". («Буква и закон. Судебная лингвистическая экспертиза: задачи и перспективы».) «Отечественные записки» (2005. No. 2). Available at: <https://polit.ru/article/2005/09/27/levontina/> Since then the controversial terms have not changed.

and remove controversial materials, because they realise that any attempts to challenge the regulator would be futile (as ARF did when it received Roskomnadzor's demand to remove "The World of Bath Salts" and other materials). The vagueness of the legal norms enables the authorities to selectively apply the law (not every publication on substitution therapy attracts the regulator's attention, but those that do are blocked), and deprives the accused of any means of defence, including defence against arbitrary decisions. These cannot be called lawful and necessary restrictions and, therefore, violate the obligations of the Russian Federation under Article 19 of the ICCPR.

9.2. Furthermore, the sweeping use of the "drugs propaganda" laws suggests that its aim is not to protect public health or morals as it targets not only genuinely harmful information such as offers of drug sales or the advertising of unproven and dangerous treatment methods. ARF was fined for publishing material which couldn't have reasonably been expected to harm the health of its target audience as they were already causing harm to their health, the harm which the article could have reduced, not aggravated. Neither the police nor the court attempted to establish whether the recommendations put forward in the article were useful or harmful, they only assessed the expressed attitude towards drugs. This clearly suggests that the laws against "drugs propaganda" and their application, including in the case of ARF, are incompatible with the right of everyone, including people who use drugs, to receive reliable information about the existing healthcare options, the right that arises from Article 12 of the ICESCR.

9.3. Part 2 of Article 46 of the Code of Administrative Offences expressly prohibits the "propaganda" of substitution treatment, despite the fact that its effectiveness in treating opioid dependence and in preventing infectious diseases transmitted by injecting drug use is widely recognised.⁴⁸ Article 16 of Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of the Russian Federation (CCPR/C/RUS/CO/7) links the legal ban on opioid substitution therapy with systemic violations of the rights of people with drug dependence to protection against torture or ill-treatment, referring to "allegations that the police sometimes deliberately cause arrested drug users to suffer withdrawal symptoms in order to elicit forced confessions or coerce them into cooperating with the police – actions that would also ultimately lead to violation of their rights under article 14 of the Covenant." With that in mind, a side-effect of the restrictions on public debate about methods to reduce the pain and suffering associated with withdrawal syndrome, including on facilitating access to drugs, ways to legalise the possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use, or allowing substitution therapy is that Russia continues to violate its international obligations, something that cannot be justified on the grounds of protection of public morals. Meanwhile, as things stand, even meeting the obligation stated in article 25 of the Concluding Observations, namely to "widely disseminate the concluding observations among the judicial, legislative and administrative authorities, civil society and nongovernmental organizations operating in the country, as well as the general public" could constitute a violation of the ban on "drugs propaganda".

9.4 It's particularly concerning that such actions of the Russian authorities badly affect the most vulnerable and marginalised group - people who use drugs, who, as a result of their illness, are constantly risking criminal prosecution and transmitting HIV, hepatitis and / or tuberculosis. At the same time, the authorities do nothing about prevention, the burden of which falls on service organisations that operate in a hostile environment (for example, the authorities' attitude to syringe exchange programs is clearly expressed in the State Anti-Drug Policy of the Russian Federation until 2020 – there are no state syringe exchange programs in Russia). The ban on harm reduction information is a missed opportunity for the authorities and the people who use drugs to preserve

⁴⁸ This has been confirmed numerous times by various UN agencies, see, for example: HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care. Clinical protocols for the WHO European Region. Ed. by: I. Eramova, S. Matic, M. Munz. WHO, 2007. Available at: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/78106/E90840.pdf P. 176.

life and health, a missed opportunity to discover a different drug policy, one that is not based on the stigmatisation of people who use drugs. Massive fines for "drugs propaganda" imposed on non-profit organisations deprives people who use drugs of help and knowledge about preservation of life and health.

10. Demands.

10.1. The present complaint is an appeal by the Russian Civil Society Mechanism for Monitoring of Drug Policy Reforms, together with the EHRA and ARF, to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

10.2. The Russian Civil Society Mechanism urges for this complaint to be responded to with utmost urgency because, as shown in Section 7, the Russian State Duma is expected to debate a bill on tightening the liability for "drugs propaganda". The comments from the President of the Russian Federation and other officials lead us to believe that the bill could be approved in the near future and in its strictest version (with "drugs propaganda" partially or fully becoming a criminal offence).

10.3. Bearing in mind that the "drugs propaganda" laws are already repressively used against media outlets and non-profit organisations in Russia, and remembering the series of damning reports in the state media against ARF as one of the leading harm reduction organisations in Russia, we have sufficient reason to believe that the legal environment surrounding harm reduction activities may deteriorate in the very near future.

10.4. The actions of the Russian authorities described in this review constitute a systematic violation of the State's obligations to comply with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as they infringe upon the right to freedom of expression on drug policy issues, and article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by infringing upon the right of vulnerable groups (people who use drugs) and professionals working with them to obtain and circulate reliable and vital information on scientific and technological developments.

10.5. In our opinion, a joint appeal by the Special Rapporteurs to the Government of the Russian Federation with recommendations to respect the rights of the mass media and non-profit organisations to freedom of expression and opinion on drug policy issues, the rights of affected groups to receive reliable and scientifically proven information on medical and preventive programmes, harm reduction and substitution therapy, based on the para. 3 of the Human Rights Council Resolutions No. 34/18 of 24 March 2017, para. 5 of Human Rights Council Resolution No. 42/16 of 26 September 2019, would serve as a timely and justified measure aimed at restoring the obligations violated by the state.

Annex 1. The list of regulations regarding the prohibition of "drugs propaganda"-related information.

1. The Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Article 15.

1. The Constitution of the Russian Federation shall have the supreme juridical force, direct action and shall be used on the whole territory of the Russian Federation. Laws and other legal acts adopted in the Russian Federation shall not contradict the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

<...>

4. The universally-recognised norms of international law and international treaties and agreements of the Russian Federation shall be a component part of its legal system. If an international treaty or agreement of the Russian Federation fixes other rules than those envisaged by law, the rules of the international agreement shall be applied.

Article 29.

1. Everyone shall be guaranteed the freedom of ideas and speech.

<...>

4. Everyone shall have the right to freely look for, receive, transmit, produce and distribute information by any legal way. The list of data comprising state secrets shall be determined by a federal law.

5. The freedom of mass communication shall be guaranteed. Censorship shall be banned.

Article 41.

1. Everyone shall have the right to health protection and medical aid. Medical aid in state and municipal health establishments shall be rendered to individuals gratis, at the expense of the corresponding budget, insurance contributions, and other proceeds.

2. In the Russian Federation federal programmes of protecting and strengthening the health of the population shall be financed by the State; measures shall be adopted to develop state, municipal and private health services; activities shall be promoted which facilitate the strengthening of health, the development of physical culture and sport, ecological and sanitary-epidemiological well-being.

3. The concealment by officials of the facts and circumstances posing a threat to the life and health of people shall entail responsibility according to the federal law.

Article 55.

1. The listing in the Constitution of the Russian Federation of the fundamental rights and freedoms shall not be interpreted as a rejection or derogation of other universally recognized human rights and freedoms.

2. In the Russian Federation no laws shall be adopted cancelling or derogating human rights and freedoms.

3. The rights and freedoms of man and citizen may be limited by the federal law only to such an extent to which it is necessary for the protection of the fundamental principles of the constitutional system, morality, health, the rights and lawful interests of other people, for ensuring defence of the country and security of the State.

2. Federal Law of 08.01.1998 N 3-FZ "On narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances".

Article 31: Use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical purposes

1. Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances included in Lists II and III and registered in the Russian Federation in accordance with the procedure established by legislation on the circulation of medicines may be used for medical purposes.

<...>

6. Treatment of drug addiction by narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances included in List II is prohibited in the Russian Federation.

Article 46. A ban on propaganda in the sphere of trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances and in the sphere of cultivation of plants containing narcotic drugs.

1. Propaganda of narcotic substances, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances, cultivation of narcotic plants, carried out by legal entities or individuals and aimed at dissemination of information on methods of development, production and use of narcotic substances, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances, places of their purchase, methods and places of cultivation of narcotic plants, as well as the production and distribution of books and mass media products, dissemination of the information described above by means of information and telecommunication networks or any other actions for this purpose are prohibited.

2. The propaganda of any advantages of the use of certain narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, analogues or precursors thereof, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances, plants containing narcotic substances, including the propaganda of medical use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances, plants containing narcotic substances that suppress the will of a person or adversely affect their mental or physical health, is prohibited.

3. The distribution of samples of medicines containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is prohibited.

4. Violation of the standards set out in this Article shall incur liability in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

5. In case a legal entity repeatedly violates the norms laid out in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Article, the activities of the said legal entity may be suspended or terminated by a court decision.

6. A request to suspend the activities of a legal entity on the grounds specified in clause 5 of this Article may be brought to court by the authorities specified in clause 1 of Article 41 of this Federal Law, or by relevant local authorities.

3. Federal Law of 12.01.1996 N 7-Φ3 “On Non-Profit Organisations”

Article 2. Non-Profit Organisation

<...>

6. According to the present Federal Law, a non-profit organization that acts as a foreign agent is a Russian non-profit organization that receives monetary funds and other assets from foreign states, their state bodies, international and foreign organisations, foreign citizens, stateless persons or persons authorised by them and/or from Russian legal entities that receive monetary funds and other assets from the above sources (except for open joint-stock companies with state participation and their daughter companies) (hereinafter - foreign sources), and which takes part in political activities in the Russian Federation, including on behalf of foreign sources.

A non-profit organization, with the exception of a political party, shall be deemed to be involved in political activities carried out in the Russian Federation if, irrespective of the goals and objectives specified in its constituent documents, it is involved in state-building, protection of the foundations of the constitutional order of the Russian Federation, the federal structure of the

Russian Federation, protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, ensuring law and order, state and public security, national defence, foreign policy, socio-economic and national development of the Russian Federation, development of the political system, activities of State and local government bodies, legislative regulation of human and civil rights and freedoms in order to influence the development and implementation of State policy, the formation of State and local government bodies, their decisions and actions.

The above-mentioned activities are carried out in the following format:

- participation in the organisation and holding of public events such as meetings, rallies, demonstrations, processions or pickets, or in various combinations of these formats, organisation and holding of public debates, discussions, speeches;
- participation in the activities aimed at achieving a certain result in elections, referendums, in the monitoring of elections, referendums, in the forming of election commissions, referendum commissions and political parties;
- public appeals to state bodies, local government bodies, their officials, as well as other actions affecting the activities of these bodies, including those aimed at the adoption, amendment, cancellation of laws or other regulatory acts;
- dissemination, including with the use of modern information technologies, of opinions on decisions taken by state bodies and the policies pursued by them;
- forming public opinion on social and political issues, including by means of public opinion polls, by publishing the results of the polls or of other sociological research;
- Involving citizens, including minors, in the aforementioned activities;
- Providing funding for the aforementioned activities.

Activities in the fields of science, culture, art, health care, prevention and protection of public health, social services, social support and protection of citizens, protection of motherhood and childhood, social support for disabled persons, promotion of healthy lifestyles, physical culture and sports, protection of flora and fauna, and charitable activities do not constitute political activity.

Article 24. Types of activity of non-profit organisation

1. <...> Materials published and/or distributed by a non-profit organisation acting as a foreign agent through the mass media and/or Internet, should contain a statement saying that these materials were published and/or distributed by the non-profit organization acting as a foreign agent.

4. Federal Law of 28.12.2012 N 272-FZ "On sanctions for individuals violating fundamental human rights and freedoms, rights and freedoms of citizens of the Russian Federation".

Article 3.1

(introduced by Federal Law No. 129-FZ of 23.05.2015)

1. Activities of a foreign or international non-governmental organisation (NGO) that threaten the foundations of the constitutional order of the Russian Federation, its defence capability or security, including those contributing to or impeding the nomination of candidates or lists of candidates, the election of registered candidates, referendum initiative and the holding of a referendum, the achievement of a certain result at an election or referendum (including other forms of participation in election campaigns and referendum campaigns except for acting as foreign (international) observers, may be deemed undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation.

2. The activity of a foreign or international NGO shall be deemed undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation from the date the decision on the matter is made public in accordance with the procedure established by this article.

3. The listing of a foreign or international NGO as undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation shall entail:

- 1) a ban on the founding (opening) of affiliated branches of a foreign or international NGO on the territory of the Russian Federation and suspension of such affiliated branches in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of the Russian Federation;
 - 2) legal consequences specified in Article 3.2 of this Federal Law;
 - 3) A ban on distribution of materials published and (or) disseminated by a foreign or international NGO, including by means of mass media and/or Internet, as well as production or storage of such materials for distribution purposes;
 - 4) A ban of programmes (projects) for a foreign or international NGO whose activities are deemed undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation;
 - 5) a ban on the establishment of or participation in legal entities by a foreign or international non-governmental organisation in the Russian Federation.
4. The decision to recognise as undesirable the activities of a foreign or international NGO on the territory of the Russian Federation shall be taken by the Prosecutor-General of the Russian Federation or by his deputies with the approval of the federal executive body responsible for developing and implementing the State policy and statutory regulation in the area of international relations.
5. The decision to declare a foreign or international NGO undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation shall be reversed by the Prosecutor-General of the Russian Federation or by his deputies with the approval of the federal executive body responsible for developing and implementing State policy and statutory regulation in the area of international relations.
6. When a decision to declare a foreign or international NGO undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation is made or reversed, the Office of the Prosecutor-General of the Russian Federation requests the federal executive authority responsible for developing and implementing the State policy for the registration of non-profit organisations to include a foreign or international NGO in the list of foreign and international NGOs whose activities are deemed undesirable, or to exclude a foreign or international NGO from the list.

5. Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation of 30.12.2001 N 195-FZ

Article 6.13. Propaganda or unlawful advertising of psychotropic substances, or precursors thereof, plants containing narcotics, or psychotropic substances, or precursors thereof and their parts containing narcotics, or psychotropic substances, or precursors thereof, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances

1. Promoting or unlawful advertising of drugs, psychotropic substances, or of precursors thereof, plants containing narcotics, or psychotropic substances, or precursors thereof and their parts containing narcotics, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances, or precursors thereof, - shall result in an administrative fine upon citizens in the amount of four thousand to five thousand roubles with the confiscation of advertising products and of the equipment used for its manufacture, or without such; upon official persons - of forty thousand to fifty thousand roubles; upon the persons engaged in business activity without creating a legal entity - from four thousand to five thousand roubles with the confiscation of advertising products and of the equipment used for its manufacture, or without such, or in a suspension of the activity for a term of up to ninety days with the confiscation of advertising products and of the equipment used for its manufacture, or without such; upon legal entities - from eight hundred thousand to one million roubles with the confiscation of advertising products and of the equipment used for its manufacture, or an suspension of the activity for a term of up to ninety days with the confiscation of advertising products and of the equipment used for its manufacture, or without such.
2. The same actions performed by a foreign citizen or stateless person - shall result in an administrative fine in the amount of four thousand to five thousand roubles with an administrative exclusion from the Russian Federation or an administrative arrest for a term up to fifteen days with an administrative exclusion from the Russian Federation.

Note. Circulation of information about drugs, or psychotropic substances, or precursors thereof, allowed to be used for medical purposes, through specialised printed materials for persons engaged in medical or pharmaceutical activity, shall not be deemed an administrative offence.

Article 19.34. Violation of the procedure of activities of a non-profit organization acting as a foreign agent (introduced by the Federal Law from 12.11.2012 N 192-FZ).

1. Failure by a non-profit organization acting as a foreign agent to register as such - shall result in an administrative fine on officials in amount of one to three hundred thousand roubles; on legal entities in amount of three to five hundred thousand roubles.
2. Publication and/or distribution by a non-profit organisation acting as a foreign agent of materials, including by means of mass media and/or the Internet, without specifying that the materials were published and/or distributed by the non-profit organisation acting as a foreign agent - shall result in an administrative fine on officials of one to three hundred thousand roubles; legal entities of three to five hundred thousand roubles.

Article 20.33. Activities on the territory of the Russian Federation by a foreign and international non-governmental organization in respect of which the decision to deem its activity undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation has been made (introduced by the Federal Law of 23.05.2015 N 129-FZ).

Activities on the territory of the Russian Federation by a foreign and international non-governmental organisation in respect of which the decision to deem its activity undesirable has been made, or participation in such activity, or the violation of prohibitions listed in the Federal Law # 272-FZ On Sanctions for Individuals Violating Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Citizens of the Russian Federation of December 28, 2012, if such actions do not contain a penal act, - shall result in an administrative fine on citizens in amount of five to fifteen thousand roubles; on officials in amount of twenty thousand to fifty thousand roubles; and on legal entities in amount of fifty thousand to one hundred thousand roubles."

6. Federal Law of 27.07.2006 N 149-FZ "On information, information technologies and information protection"

The Unified Register of the domain names, website references and network addresses that allow identifying websites containing information circulation of which is forbidden in the Russian Federation (Automated Information System of the Russian Internet Blacklist).

1. The Automated Information System of the Russian Internet Blacklist (hereinafter the Blacklist) shall be created for the purpose of restricting access to the Internet sites containing information circulation of which in the Russian Federation is prohibited.
2. The following shall be included in the Blacklist: 1) domain names and/or website references containing information circulation of which in the Russian Federation is prohibited; 2) network addresses that allow identifying websites containing information circulation of which in the Russian Federation is prohibited.
3. The Blacklist shall be created, formed and kept by the federal executive body authorised by the Government of the Russian Federation according to the procedure established by the Government of the Russian Federation.

<...>

5. The data cited in Part 2 of this Article shall be included in the Blacklist based on:
 - 1) decisions of federal executive bodies authorized by the Government of the Russian Federation, taken in accordance with their competence and the procedure established by the Government of the Russian Federation in respect of the following information distributed via the Internet:

<...>

b) information on ways, methods of development, manufacture and use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances, places of their distribution, methods and places of cultivation of narcotic plants;

<...>

7. Immediately after receiving a notification from the Blacklist operator that a domain name and/or website reference are included in the Blacklist, the hosting provider is required to inform the Internet site owner thereof and to request that the Internet page containing information circulation of which is prohibited in the Russian Federation to be deleted.

8. Immediately after receiving a notice from the hosting provider about the inclusion of a domain name and/or the website reference in the Blacklist, the owner of the Internet site is required to delete the Internet page containing information circulation of which is prohibited in the Russian Federation. In the event of the refusal or inaction of the Internet site's owner, the hosting provider is required to restrict access to the Internet site without delay.

9. In the event of failure of the hosting provider and/or the owner of the Internet site to take the measures cited in Parts 7 and 8 of this Article, the network address that allows identifying websites containing information circulation of which is prohibited in the Russian Federation shall be included in the Blacklist.

10. Within 24 hours as from the time the network address is included in the Blacklist, the communications operator that provides access to the Internet is required to restrict access to the Internet site, except in the case provided for in the third paragraph of clause 5.1 of Article 46 of the Federal Law of July 7, 2003 N 126-FZ "On Communications".

11. The federal executive body exercising control and supervision of mass media, mass communications and information technologies or the Blacklist operator engaged by it in compliance with Part 4 of this Article shall delete from the Blacklist the domain name, the website reference or the network address that allows identifying websites containing information circulation of which is prohibited in the Russian Federation upon application by the Internet site owner, hosting provider or Internet provider within three days from the date of such application after the information circulation of which is prohibited in the Russian Federation is deleted, or on the basis of a court ruling reversing the decision by the federal executive body authorised by the Government of the Russian Federation to record onto the Blacklist the domain name, the website reference or the network address that allows identifying websites containing information circulation of which is prohibited in the Russian Federation.

7. Criteria for evaluation of materials and/or information necessary for the Federal Service for Supervision in the Sphere of Communications, Information Technologies and Mass Communications, the Interior Ministry, the Federal Service for Supervision in the Sphere of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare, the Federal Tax Service to decide whether to include domain names and/or website references, as well as network addresses that contain prohibited information into the Automated Information System of the Russian Internet Blacklist.

(Criteria for evaluation of materials).

(approved by Order of Roskomnadzor N 84, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia N 292, Rospotrebnadzor N 351, FTS Russia MMV-7-2/461@ of 18.05.2017)

II. Criteria for evaluation of materials on methods of development, manufacturing and use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof, analogues of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances, places of their distribution, methods and places of cultivation of narcotic plants, necessary for making decisions that serve as the basis for the inclusion of domain names and/or website references, as well as network addresses in the Blacklist.

2.1. Information on methods of development, manufacturing and use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, analogues of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances, places of their distribution, methods and places of cultivation of narcotic plants comprises information posted on the Internet that meets one or more of the following criteria:

2.1.1. Information describing or giving the idea of the procedure for manufacturing, developing and using certain types of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, analogues of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances (including a description of the processes and/or instructions on how to develop, manufacture and use them), as well as methods of using precursors to produce narcotic drugs (except for artworks where use of such information is justified by the genre);

2.1.2. Information describing or giving the idea of how to create special conditions for sowing and growing plants containing narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof, improve growing technology, breed new varieties, increase the yield and improve resistance to adverse meteorological conditions;

2.1.3. Information describing or giving the idea of places of cultivation of plants containing narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, as well as places where they grow wild, including routes by transport and/or walking itineraries to such places;

2.1.4. Information on how to avoid criminal and administrative liability for offences related to trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof, analogues of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances;

2.1.5. Information on places of distribution, prices and methods of obtaining certain types of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof, analogues of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances (including using their slang names);

2.1.6. Information aimed at developing a positive attitude towards persons engaged in production, development and use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof, analogues of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, new potentially hazardous psychoactive substances, selling/distributing them or cultivating plants containing narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors thereof (except for artworks, where use of such information is justified by the genre).

8. Strategy of the State Anti-Drug Policy of the Russian Federation up to the year 2020 (approved by Presidential Decree N 690 of 09.06.2010)

32. Key measures for increasing the effectiveness and developing drug-related medical treatment:
<...>

e) prohibition of the use of substitution methods in the treatment of drug addiction in the Russian Federation using narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances registered in Lists I and II of narcotic substances, as well as the legalization of the use of certain drugs for non-medical purposes;

<...>

48. <...> Partially manageable risks: development of a tolerant approach in the society towards illicit drug use; discrediting the activities of federal government bodies and government bodies of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation engaged in combating illicit drug trafficking; increased attempts to legalise substitution therapy based on the use of narcotic drugs and promote drug use under the pretext of syringe exchange programmes; and increasing the number of persons involved in illegal drug use.

Annex 2. Review of data on the information published by the Russian media and non-profit organizations or by foreign Russian-speaking media and non-profit organizations removed or blocked following demands from the Russian State authorities in the framework of Russia’s drugs propaganda legislation.

Year	Description of the case	Disputed or not
2012	The domain name registrar "Domain Registrar" LLC cancels the domain name rylkov-fond.ru based on the order from the Head of the Moscow Department of the <i>Federal drug control service of Russia (FSKN)</i> . The domain which belonged to non-profit organization Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice was cancelled following a publication of the materials promoting opioid substitution therapy, including WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users.	The Khoroshevskiy District Court of Moscow ruled that the actions of the FSKN were lawful in the judgement dated January 25, 2013. Moscow City Court upheld the judgement on August 6, 2013 case number 11-24656/2013.
2015	Roskomnadzor bans the Russian Wikipedia entry on charas (the drug-containing resin collected from the leaves and flowers of Indian hemp) and demands that the internet encyclopaedia remove the article (based on the decision of the Chernoyarsk District Court of Astrakhan region on June 25, 2015 case number № 2-290/2015). On August 24, internet providers blocked access to Wikipedia entirely because it proved technically impossible to remove a specific page. On August 25, Roskomnadzor excluded the page from the Blacklist, and access to the page was restored.	No data
2015	Roskomnadzor, based on a FSKN decision, includes various articles in the Russian Wikipedia ("Cocaine", "Methamphetamine", "Amphetamines", "MDMA") in the Blacklist for containing information on how to develop, produce and use synthetic drugs (including process description, instructions for their development, production and use). http://rkn.gov.ru/news/rsoc/news36143.htm . No attempt to block Wikipedia was made.	No data
2015	Roskomnadzor blacklists The Village article “Spice, bath salt, mix: Who produces, uses and prohibits smoking mixes and why” (was posted at : https://www.the-village.ru/village/city/city/166825-spaysy-narkotiki). The article was deleted.	No data
2017	Roskomnadzor demands that Internet media outlet Batenka.ru removes article titled "What it's like to be a drug dealer," about the work of the people who distribute drugs by placing them in secret locations (so-called “zakladki”). The article was posted at the following address	No data

	https://batenka.ru/protection/crime/drug/ , and later removed.	
2018	Based on the Interior Ministry's decision, Roskomnadzor blocks the Batenka.ru article "Heroin is the property of the model" (was available at: https://batenka.ru/resource/booze/heroine-on-heroin/) for developing a positive attitude towards people engaged in the production, development and use of narcotic drugs among the target audience.	Roskomnadzor's decision was ruled lawful by Moscow's Tagansky District Court on April 2, 2019 case number 02a-0057/2019 and by the Moscow City Court's appeal ruling of July 24, 2019 case number 33a-3573/2019.
2018	Based on the Interior Ministry's decision, Roskomnadzor blocks the translation of The Wired article on the Russian marketplace RAMP (the original 2014 article: https://www.wired.com/2014/11/oldest-drug-market-is-russian/) in Inoblogger.	No data
2018	Roskomnadzor demands that Lenta.ru remove the material on the medical use of marijuana titled "Violating Russian laws. But Saving Our Children" (was available at: https://lenta.ru/features/no_hemp). The publisher removed the article.	No data
2018	Based on the Interior Ministry's decision, Roskomnadzor blocks the YouTube page featuring the music video "Judas" by singer Husky. (address: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e9JgyzCIBc) for "a consistent description of the actions related to the use and trafficking of narcotic drugs". The character in the video distributes drugs by planting them in special hiding places to be later recovered by customers ("zakladki"). YouTube restricted access to the video for users from Russia.	Roskomnadzor's decision was upheld by Moscow's Tagansky District Court of Moscow in the 19 March 2019 judgement case number 02a-0042/2019 and by Moscow City Court of Appeal of 6 May 2019 case number 33a-2420.
2018	The Department of Roskomnadzor for the Chelyabinsk Region launches administrative proceedings under Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation against the Chelyabinsk Publishing Group, the publisher of the Internet media outlet LentaChel.ru, and against its editor-in-chief German Galkin for the following article: https://lentachel.ru/news/2018/01/11/dobili-televizorom-po-golove-dvoe-kusintsev-raspravilis-so-svoim-sobutylnikom.html In the article, the editor expressed the opinion that alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana. The magistrate fined Galkin 40,000 roubles, the activities of the media outlet were suspended for five days by the judgement of the Sovietsky District Court of Chelyabinsk on June 7, 2018, case number № 5-227/2018. The text of the article is still available online.	Galkin appealed against the fine, the Sovietsky district court of Chelyabinsk on July 17, 2018 case number 12-515/2018 upheld the magistrate's decision.
2018	Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice (ARF) gets a fine for publishing an article about harm reduction measures aimed at users of "bath salts". "The World of Salts" article was a part of the "Hat and Bayan"	Moscow's Zuzinsky District Court fines AFR 800,000 roubles on October 25, 2018, case number 05-

	- the newspaper for drug users, which was published as Foundation's website. ARF was fined under Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation by The Drug Trafficking Control Department of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in Moscow.	1129/2018. Moscow City Court upheld the judgement on December 24, 2018 case number № 7-14938/2018, and on August 12, 2019 case number № 4a-3090/2019.
2018	Roskomnadzor blacklists four pages on Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice new website: "It's something like a lounge: how I visited a safe-injection room in Amsterdam", "Who benefits from aggressive and repressive drug policy, or Why the War on Drugs has been lost", "It's a good thing that I had my used syringe on me" and the edition of the "Hat and Bayan" newspaper for drug users. The foundation deleted the texts.	No
2018	Roskomnadzor in the Komi Republic drafts an administrative report under Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences against the editors of the Internet online media "7x7" and its editor-in-chief, Sofia Krapotkina for publishing a video interview with libertarian politician Mikhail Svetov. Talking to blogger Alexander Smoleev, Svetov discussed the legalization of drugs. On June 20, 2018, a magistrate of Krasnozaton court district in the city of Syktyvkar imposed a fine of 800,000 roubles on the publication and 40,000 roubles on the editor-in-chief.	The decision was upheld by the Stavropol City Court of the Komi Republic on August 30, 2018, case number 12-1323/2018. In 2020, the ECHR communicated the 7x7 complaint as part of a group of complaints from the publication about fines for various other articles (Application No. 9578/19 OOO Redaktsiya sem na sem and Yezhova v. Russia).
2019	The internet media outlet Lenta.ru edits the 2017 publication of an archive interview with the late Russian singer-songwriter Yegor Letov deleting parts devoted to drugs at the request of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. (address: https://lenta.ru/articles/2017/12/23/letov/). Also a 2019 interview with rap singer Ptaha (address: https://lenta.ru/articles/2019/01/21/ptaha/).	No data
2019	Based on a decision of the Interior Ministry, Roskomnadzor demands that Internet news outlet Meduza.io remove an article debunking popular myths about drugs with subheadings such as "Tried once - became an addict. Actually, he didn't", "Started with weed - will switch to heroin. Not necessarily," "Drugs make you dumb fast. Actually it's not always true." The article at https://meduza.io/feature/2019/08/08/vykuril-kosyak-uzhe-ne-brosish-esli-privyazat-cheloveka-k-krovati-on-perestanut-kolotsya-geroinom-na-samom-dele-net is unavailable to users from Russia.	No data
2019	Based on the decision of the Interior Ministry, Roskomnadzor demands that the Baza Internet media remove the article "Report from the ketamine trance"	No data

	located at the address: https://ketamine.baza.io/). The article was removed.	
2019	At the request of Roskomnadzor, YouTube restricts access to the "NFS Underground" music video by singer GSPD for users from Russia https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoWKsl341aY	No data
2019	At the request of the Interior Ministry, Roskomnadzor blacklists The Village article about a prisoner who worked distributing drugs via the "zakladki" method. (The article was available at https://www.the-village.ru/village/people/howtobe/359225-zakladchik and has since been removed.	No data
2019	At the request of Roskomnadzor YouTube blocks the video "Mephedrone: Staying Alive" by Russian-language channel Drug User News for users from Russia (available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndRy7G1-BLY).	No data
2019	Roskomnadzor blacklists the material about the so-called "zakladki" on the website of The Alliance for Public Health (Ukraine) at: http://aph.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/zakladki-preview.pdf . The article was removed.	No data
2019	LLC «Lenta.ru» (publisher of the internet media outlet Lenta.ru) receives a fine of 800 000 roubles under Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences for the material "Bad money. Marijuana strengthens European economy. It will help develop technology and bring in billions" (was available at https://lenta.ru/articles/2019/03/08/weedtechnology/ , and later removed).	Ruling of the Zuzinsky District Court of Moscow of 9 September 2019, case number 05-1398/2019, was upheld by the judgement of the Moscow City Court of 14 November 2019, case number 7-14216/2019 and ruling of the 2nd Court of Cassation of 10 April 2020, case number 16-1057/2020 (16-1876/2019)
2019	Roskomnadzor Directorate in Tambov region launches administrative proceedings under Article 6.13 of the Code of Administrative Offences against the editor-in-chief of the "Independent Publicist" internet publication Andrey Sushkov for the material on the medical experiment in treating alcohol dependence with ketamine. The article is not available on the website of the publication. The incident was reported by https://7x7-journal.ru/news/2020/02/07/tambov-propaganda-narkotikov , there's no information on the further proceeding in the case.	No data.
2020	Based on a decision of the Interior Ministry, Roskomnadzor blacklists the page on the website of Lithuania-registered Eurasian Harm Reduction Association dedicated to drug feminism https://harmreductioneurasia.org/ru/join/narcofeminism/ , for "developing a positive attitude towards persons engaged in the production, development and use of	No.

	narcotic drugs among the target audience". The page is available, its address has been changed.	
2020	Roskomnadzor demands that the public association HIV.LV (Apvienība HIV.LV) (Latvia) remove the Russian-language material "Sex on Drugs" that was available at http://www.apvienibahiv.lv/?lang=886 citing a concern that it «contained information aiding the development of a positive attitude towards persons engaged in the production, development and use of narcotic drugs among the target audience». The Association removed the article.	No data
2020	Based on a decision of the Interior Ministry, Roskomnadzor blocks the website http://chemsexcomics.com that featured a comic book on harm reduction practices in chemsex for containing information on narcotic drugs and "developing a positive attitude towards persons engaged in the production, development and use of narcotic drugs among the target audience».	No