



August 9, 2013

Dr. Jacques Rogge
President
International Olympic Committee
Château de Vidy
Case postale 356
1001 Lausanne
Switzerland

Dear President Rogge:

We write as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) elected officials from New York City with respect to the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Like many in the international community, we are gravely concerned about the safety and civil rights of LGBT athletes and their allies who visit Russia for the Olympic Games. But we are also very concerned about the horrendous treatment of the LGBT community in Russia and the clear human rights abuses under which they are being made to suffer.

Legislation recently signed into law by Russian President Vladimir Putin criminalizes gay people and supporters and denies basic human rights to LGBT people in Russia. This has promoted an atmosphere of hate where LGBT people fear for their lives and safety. Police are also allowed to arrest foreigners who support gay rights and detain them for up to 14 days.

Tenet #6 in the mission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is to act against any form of discrimination affecting the Olympic Movement.

We therefore call upon the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to publicly condemn this civil rights crackdown on LGBT citizens and visitors to Russia.

The IOC should also obtain explicit, written assurances from President Putin stating that LGBT visitors and their allies will not be subjected to these discriminatory laws while in Russia for the Olympic Games. If President Putin does not acceptably respond to this request, the IOC should be open to exploring alternatives.

Finally, the IOC should publish protocols for visitors to the Games describing what to do if singled out by the Russian police and punished for behavior that constitutes a basic human right. This should be done regardless of whether or not you're able to obtain assurances from President Putin that that won't happen.

Russia's assault on human rights is an affront to both people in that country and around the world.

The IOC must take these and any other steps necessary to maintain the principles of the Olympic Movement and guarantee the safety and civil rights of those participating in the games. Anything less will be unacceptable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



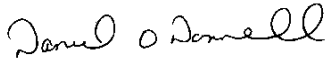
Brad Hoylman
NYS Senator



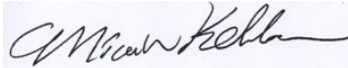
Deborah J. Glick
NYS Assembly Member



Matthew Titone
NYS Assembly Member



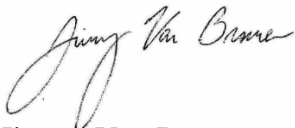
Daniel J. O'Donnell
NYS Assembly Member



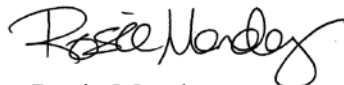
Micah Kellner
NYS Assembly Member



Christine C. Quinn
NYC Council Speaker



Jimmy Van Bramer
NYC Council Member



Rosie Mendez
NYC Council Member



Daniel Dromm
NYC Council Member