

U.S. Consulate General St. Petersburg, Russia
SECURITY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS
DEMONSTRATION ADVISORY
May 17, 2013

The Consulate General has received information that supporters of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights will hold a rally on the central Field of Mars in St. Petersburg on Friday, May 17, 2013, beginning at 2 p.m. in observation of the International Day Against Homophobia. Counter-demonstrations may also take place at the same location.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Russia enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Russia at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter at <https://mobile.twitter.com/travelgov> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/travelgov>, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8> to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg is located at 15 Furshatskaya Street and is open 9:00 am – 17:30 pm, telephone 7- 812- 331-2600. Appointments are required for all non-emergency services. The American Citizen Services Unit at the Consulate General assists U.S. citizens in northwest Russia. We can help you with passport issuance and renewal, voter assistance, notarials, and registering a child born abroad. We also provide emergency services for U.S. citizens in case of a disaster or in case of illness, arrest, death or destitution while in northwest Russia. You may obtain additional information, and make appointments online, at our website: <http://stpetersburg.usconsulate.gov/>. You may contact our American Citizen Services Unit by e-mail at StPetersburgACS@state.gov, by fax at 7-812-331-2646 or by telephone at 7- 812- 331-2600. If you have an emergency after normal business hours, please call our telephone number and you will be given instruction on how to contact the Consulate Duty Officer.