



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

August 1, 2013

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Mr. Brad Grey
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Mr. Barry M. Meyer
Chairman
Warner Bros. Entertainment
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Burbank, CA 91522

The Honorable Christopher Dodd
Chairman and CEO
Motion Picture Association of America
1600 I St. NW
Washington, DC 20006

Gentlemen,

There is no denying Hollywood's ability to drive positive change on issues of international importance. For decades, your industry has stood up and led on issues of human rights and basic dignity—from the fight to end Apartheid in South Africa to the fight against global warming around the world. You're successful because you understand that the stories you tell and the global economic benefits you generate have the power to improve the lives of hundreds of millions of people when channeled effectively and ethically.

Today I am writing to ask you to continue that proud tradition and to use the power of your advocacy once more.

Right now, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are suffering throughout the Russian Federation because of an ongoing, nationwide and government-led campaign of institutional homophobia and transphobia. Most recently, that effort was marked by the passage of a law that criminalized even the most basic gestures of support for LGBT people and their equality. Russian citizens and visitors alike face harsh punishment for simple actions—everything from holding hands with someone of the same gender to suggesting publicly that all people should be treated equally and with dignity.

The bloody results of this law are already emerging. All across Russia, LGBT people—especially youth—are being goaded, entrapped and beaten by thugs. Dutch tourists were arrested for filming a documentary about the nation's LGBT population. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church declared marriage equality a “sign of the Apocalypse.” And representatives of the Russian government are publicly threatening LGBT Olympic athletes and visitors with arrest during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

WORKING FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER EQUAL RIGHTS

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Hollywood has always been a dauntless supporter of LGBT equality—well before public support was easy or politically popular. Now that progress is speeding up here at home, I know you'll agree that we have a moral responsibility not to ignore backsliding abroad.

So, today I am writing to inform you of the situation in Russia in case you were not aware—but also to make two requests of you and your studios:

- First, to take advantage of all currently-scheduled film premieres in Russia to make clear and visible statements of support for Russia's beleaguered LGBT community and of opposition to the Russian government's campaign of institutionalized hate.
- Second, to meet with representatives of the Russian government and advocate for the repeal of these laws—and the chilling effect that these laws could have on future film production, shooting, publicity and distribution within the Russian Federation.

Let me be clear, there are few industries better positioned to help bring justice to LGBT Russians than yours. You have never failed to lead in the past. Now, I'm asking you to act again and to act quickly—before even more Russians have their lives destroyed by an unjust law.

Please see our organization as a resource as you engage with this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,



Chad Griffin
President, Human Rights Campaign

CC: Sanford Panitch
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