

URGENT ACTION

CASE AGAINST JOURNALIST “MUST BE CLOSED”

On 21 February a court in the Urals city of Nizhnii Taghil ruled that the case against journalist Elena Klimova under “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations” law must be closed. It means that work on her online project “Children404” aimed to support LGBTI teenagers will continue.

Elena Klimova was accused of “creating a page on the Internet-resource VKontakte which was promoting non-traditional sexual relations”. The defence lawyer argued that Elena did not create the page, but was only its administrator. In addition, the police record of the “offence” was drafted with significant violations. Further to this the defence presented the expert opinion of a psychotherapist who concluded that the web page does not contain any “propaganda on non-traditional relations”. Moreover, the expert stated that the web resource helps teenagers exploring their homosexuality to deal with emotional issues and other problems that they may encounter.

The court followed the defence’s arguments and ruled that the case must be closed. St Petersburg Deputy Vitaliy Milonov, who originally submitted complaints against Elena, announced that he would appeal against this decision.

No further action is required from the Network, although we will continue to monitor the situation. Thanks to the UA Network for all the actions taken and letters of support sent to Elena Klimova.

Name: Elena Klimova

Gender m/f: f

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