RESPONDING TO PROJECT 2025's

THREATS TO SCIENCE RIGHTS AND RESOURCES









HIV prevention research - a new forum for advocacy on the latest

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The clock is ticking on our democracy.

#STOPPROJECT2025 stopthecoup2025.org

Stop The Coup 2025 was launched in fall 2023 as a nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign to Stop Project 2025, the US conservative movement's blueprint for autocracy. Project 2025 will have a devastating impact on US and global health and science, among its many threats.

Our campaign has a focused mission of public education and mobilization. -- and preparedness You can see all out materials at www.stopthecoup2025.org. We are releasing a Toolkit for Community Mobilization to support activists and stakeholder to talk about Project 2025.

We believe it's imperative to do three things at once, pro-actively: -- a Plan A, B, and C.

Plan A: do all we can, as fast as we can now, to stop Project 2025. It is already unfolding in our courts.

Plan B: prepare communities and stakeholders for possible losses IF Project 202 is implemented.

Plan C: Regardless of who wins the US presidency, the Christian Nationalist movement pushing Project 2025 will not stop. Progressive America needs a longer-term plan to counter their vision. We must vision and talk about What We Want, and revisioning of our democracy -- as we fight a threat of autocracy.

As Einstein famously said, In the midst of crisis lie the seeds of opportunity.

We must resist, revision and build progressive solidarity, at home and globally.

What Is Project 2025?

P<u>roject 2025</u> is a US conservative movement plan for remaking America. It is also known as the "Presidential Transition Project of the US Conservative Party," a radical electoral playbook for a GOP 2025 victory. It is led by the Heritage Foundation, witih 100 conservative Advisory Groups. It represents an extremist Christian Nationalist agenda.

Project 2025 is backed by \$1.6 billion of dark money being managed by Leonard Leo, a Catholic activist and lawyer who put 6 conservative US Supreme Court justices on the bench. Other right-wing billionaires including Charles Koch are funding this plan. Much of the money is now going to support court cases -- judicial activism.

Project 2025 has 4 pillars:

1) an 887-page policy blueprint to restructure all 30 departments of the federal government, and realign US policy to advance Christian "Pro-Life" principles.

Pillars 2, 3 and 4 comprise an online recruitment database of conservative Christian loyalists, a training program, and a "180-day Playbook" of instructions to completely restructure federal government, and strip Americans of many federal protections and civil rights.

The groundwork is being laid quickly for Project 2025.

Project 2025 has a radical anti-democracy, anti-gender agenda to:

- systematically dismantle the federal government all 30 departments -- a soft coup
- reassign 50,000 career federal workers to be temporary political appointees.
- give the next Republican president new "supreme powers" an autocracy and gives "acting" recruits put in power new "decision-making" authority to rewrite policy
- use Executive Orders to "legally" reverse laws and policies. The Heritage Foundation reportedly has 150 Executive Orders now ready to be signed on "Day One" in 2025.
- criminalize & erase gender & LGBTQ+ identity from federal government protection
- seeks to outlaw abortion to the extent Congress will support restictions (widely interpreted to suggest a future federal ban)
- reverse racial equality, attack diversity (anti-DEI), and reverse environmental gains
- replace secular education with Christian theocracy and a pro-life agenda
- realign all US policy to reflect "pro-life" Christian principles -- anti-gay, anti-diversity, anti-reproductive freedom. Restricts public school sexual education to be replaced with Christian views.
- cut funding from Medicaid, Medicare and federal departments including Health and Human Services, CDC, FDA, with major health implications, and also eliminating vaccine mandates

GLOBALLY

- Change USAID to become a "pro-life" "Department of Life."
- Cut all US federal funding to any group providing services to LGBTQ+ people or those providing abortion services. (also seeks to ban some contraception, and in-vitro fertilization (IVF), and sexual education.
- Would not reauthorize PEPFAR and HIV programs unless they adhere to Project 2025's pro-life" principles -- forbidding services to LGBTQ+ people, women seeking abortions.
- Resurrects the global gag rule, or Mexico City Policy, banning federal funding for abortion and extending it globally.
- Criminalizes transgender identity, forbids gender-affirming surgery.
- "Day One" freezes Biden climate treaties; would eliminate all climate protection policies

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM



"White Christian Nationalism is the most urgent threat to democracy and the witness of the Church in the United States today."

- Dr. Jemar Tisby, public historian, author, cofounder of The Witness: A Black Christian Collective

SOURCE: Christian Nationalism 101
A Basic Overview of Key Concepts
Author: Faithful America.

What Can I Do?

- Plan A: Read the Plan. (We have short summaries on our website)
- Tell Others. Use your networks to sound the alarm. Host town halls. Spread the messages.
- Plan B: Prepare. Examine your / your group's/NGO/government/ clients vulnerability to Project 2025 -- how might it impact you? What might you lose? Stockpile resources, foster new alliances, take legal and legislative action to be ready.
- Work intersectionally: so many are targeted, we have many allies, at all levels Find them. There is strengh in numbers. Pool resources. Build solidarity.
- Join the Resistance. Learn and apply the lessons of others, and your own movements.
- Plan C: Vision What You Want and talk about it, and fight for it. New leadership will emerge, new ideas. Champion the voices of those most affected, marginalized. The most targeted have the most at stake. You will find community leaders in many places.

FINAL MESSAGE:

WE REPRESENT THE **MAJORITY** OF AMERICA - AND THE WORLD -- THAT

<u>DOES NOT SUPPORT</u> PROJECT 2025.

WELCOME TO THE RESISTANCE!



The clock is ticking on our democracy.

#STOPPROJECT2025 stopthecoup2025.org



Email us:

stopthecoup2025@gmail.com

How Project 2025 impacts global health and PEPFAR

Beirne Roose-Snyder Council for Global Equality

The Now

- U.S. political and human rights landscape has rapidly deteriorated.
- The Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), where Trump and Republican
 Congressional leaders were also speaking, recently included a speaker openly calling for
 "overthrowing" democracy in favor of Christian Nationalism
- The U.S. House of Representatives passed a Transgender Gag Rule that uses the same formula to restrict funds to organizations providing gender affirming surgery, care, or "promoting transgenderism" (it did not become law because of the Senate and White House)
- Former Trump Administration officials are drafting plans and traveling the world to promote anti-rights "alternatives" to internationally agreed upon agreements and standards

- PEPFAR 5-year reauthorization was derailed, for the first time in its 20-year bipartisan history, because of the GGR and intentional misinformation
- It has been reauthorized and funded, with no new anti-abortion restrictions, through March 2025

McCaul met with former President George W. Bush to discuss PEPFAR's fate earlier this fall, and had been optimistic his colleagues would come around.

But he now admits that Smith and his allies "will not settle for anything less than Mexico City-plus" — a reference to the Trump-era restrictions that President Joe Biden repealed. Additionally, he said, "a lot of the Freedom Caucus guys would not want to give aid to Africa."

The Next

Project 2025

- Sections drafted by previous Trump Administration officials
- Explicitly anti-democratic
- They intend to expand the Global Gag Rule to:
 - All of U.S. foreign assistance including humanitarian aid, democracy and human rights funding
 - Multilateral organizations Directly to U.S. NGOs

 - **Government to Government funds**
- Increased monitoring and compliance requirements
- Broad anti-UN sentiment throughout, with particular vitriol for the World Health Organization

- Expansion of the GGR is intended to be part of broad anti-rights actions
 - Re-signing and leadership on the so-called **Geneva Consensus Declaration** (disrupting actual international treaties including the Maputo Protocol)
 - Aligning foreign policy with the Commission on Unalienable Rights (hierarchy of human rights erasing sexual and reproductive health and rights and all of ICPD and Beijing)
- Expect that Transgender Gag Rule in foreign assistance will be turned into a separate Executive Action
- The anti-LGBTQI+ vitriol throughout makes it hard to believe that there won't be more concerted efforts in foreign assistance and foreign policy
- "The next conservative President must make the institutions of American civil society hard targets for woke culture warriors. This starts with deleting the terms sexual orientation and gender identity ("SOGI"), diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI"), gender, gender equality, gender equity, gender awareness, gender-sensitive, abortion, reproductive health, reproductive rights, and any other term used to deprive Americans of their First Amendment rights out of every federal rule, agency regulation, contract, grant, regulation, and piece of legislation that exists."

Action

Assess your own risk in 2025

- If foreign assistance/PEPFAR funds:
 - Do you get money from the U.S. government?
 - Do you get money from partners who get money from the U.S. government?
 - If so, assess the U.S. government funded projects:
 - i. how much \$\$ is involved?
 - ii. what is the timeline of the project?
 - iii. when are funds dispersed?
 - iv. what are the relationships involved like? With U.S. government and partners
- Assess your partners' risks
 - Who funds your partners?
 - Can sub-recipients continue to do the work with you?
 - Will consortiums be able to continue their work?
- Assess now how the GGR may conflict with national laws, constitution, and treaty obligations
- Education reduces over-implementation and the chilling effect

Action

- Talk with governments about their treaty and constitutional obligations
 - National governments are bound to treaties, their national constitutions and laws, and medical ethics over U.S. contract language. But they need education and advocacy to hold them accountable.

- Multilaterals cannot be poisoned by a single government's policy priority
 - Multilaterals need to be prepared and coordinated for formal and informal threats from the U.S. government.

"Hope is a discipline"

-Mariame Kaba

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE



PROJECT 2025'S THREAT TO LGBTQI+ HEALTH EQUITY AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Sean Cahill, PhD

Responding to Project 2025's Threats to Science, Rights and Resources

July 9, 2024

thefenwayinstitute.org

PRESENTER

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Affiliate Associate Clinical Professor, Bouve College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University

Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Health Law, Policy and Management, Boston University School of Public Health



FENWAY HEALTH

- FQHC in Boston
- Focus on LGBTQIA+ health, sexual health
- Ryan White Part C clinic, HIV research
- Fenway Institute: Research, education & training, policy



OUTLINE

- Background on Project 2025: Real potential it will be enacted, role of Religious Right groups and activists
- Plans for HHS, including HRSA, CDC, NIH, FDA, HIV policy and LGBTQI+ equity
- Call to action: Educate our communities about very real threat

POTENTIAL PLAN FOR SECOND TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FROM INFLUENTIAL FORMER STAFFERS AND RIGHT-WING ADVOCATES

- If former Trump is elected, key elements of Project 2025 have a good chance of being implemented.
- Russ Vought: Director of the Office of Management and Budget in Trump Administration. A self-described Christian nationalist, he now runs the Center for American Renewal.
- Vought, who wrote part of the Project 2025 report, is being considered for White House Chief of Staff in a second Trump Administration, and was recently appointed to Policy Director for the Republican National Committee's 2024 Platform Committee.

RUSS VOUGHT, CENTER FOR AMERICAN RENEWAL



POST-CONSTITUTIONAL VISION

The Washington Post reports that

Trump personally blessed Vought's agenda at a Mar-a-Lago fundraiser for his group and said Vought would "do a great job in continuing our quest to make America great again."...Project 2025 [is] an initiative...to lay the groundwork for a second Trump term. Vought wrote the chapter on the executive office of the president in Project 2025's 920-page blueprint, and he is developing its playbook for the first 180 days, according to the people involved in the effort. (emphasis added)

Reinhard B. "Trump loyalist pushes 'post-Constitutional' vision for second term," Washington Post, June 8, 2024.

HHS CHAPTER WRITTEN BY ROGER SEVERINO

- Long-time Religious Right activist, ran HHS Office of Civil Rights in Trump Administration.
- Described by The Atlantic as "an outspoken advocate against abortion and same-sex marriage," and by the Human Rights Campaign as "a radical anti-LGBTQ rights activist."
 - Green E. The man behind Trump's religious-freedom agenda for health care. *The Atlantic*. June 7, 2017.
- Served as legal counsel in court cases vs. marriage equality.
 - Diamond D, Haberkorn, J. Administration to shield health workers who refuse to perform abortions or treat transgender patients. *Politico*. Jan. 16, 2018.
- At Heritage Foundation, argues SOGI can be changed, should not be included in nondiscrimination laws and regulations, that such laws and regulations violate religious freedom of conservatives.

ROGER SEVERINO, HERITAGE FOUND.



PROJECT 2025 ADVISORY BOARD A WHO'S WHO OF RELIGIOUS RIGHT

- Alliance Defending Freedom
- American Center for Law and Justice (led by Jay Sekulow)
- Concerned Women of America
- Ethics and Public Policy Center
- Family Policy Alliance
- Family Research Council

ADL – LEADING OPPONENT OF LGBTQ EQUALITY, INCLUDING MARRIAGE

Marriage And Family Are Protected

Ensuring the law respects God's created order for marriage, the family, and human sexuality.



One year in, Trump Administration amasses striking anti-LGBT record

By Sean Cahill, Sophia Geffen, and Tim Wang

EXAMPLES OF TRUMP'S ANTI-LGBT POLICIES

- Prohibited military service by transgender people
- Repealed SOGI nondiscrimination regulations governing health care access, insurance, Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly
- Promoted religious refusal policies in >\$500B a year in HHS funded services
- Reversed nondiscrimination guidance for transgender youth in schools
- Relentless attacks on ACA, which helped millions of PLWH, LGBTQ people, BIPOC, others access health care

II. PLANS FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- "HHS needs to restore and enhance conscience protection regulations that allow medical practitioners to participate in federal health care programs without being compelled to provide sex changes or similar services."
 - Roger Severino, HHS chapter of *Project 2025*, pp. 451-452, 464
- In fact, no provider is forced to provide gender affirmation surgery or other forms of gender affirming care. They are expected to provide basic health care services to transgender patients.
 - HHS, Section 1557 Final Rule: Frequently Asked Questions, May 20, 2024.

https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/section-1557/1557faqs/index.html

II. PLANS FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

Proposes splitting the CDC into two pieces, one focused on collecting and analyzing state epidemiologic data, the other focused on making public health recommendations and policy, claiming there is a conflict of interest by having both in one agency.

Says there should be a firewall between the two new agencies, and that the new piece of the CDC should have "a severely confined ability to make policy recommendations"

Roger Severino, HHS chapter of Project 2025, pp. 451-453

II. PLANS FOR THE CDC



"The CDC can and should make assessments as to the *health* costs and benefits of health interventions, but it has limited to no capacity to measure the *social* costs or benefits they may entail. For example, how much risk mitigation is worth the price of shutting down churches on the holiest day of the Christian calendar and far beyond as happened in 2020? What is the proper balance of lives saved versus souls saved? The CDC has no business making such inherently political (and often unconstitutional) assessments and should be required by law to stay in its lane." (emphasis added)

- Ibid, p. 453

II. PLANS FOR THE CDC

"The CDC should immediately end its collection of data on gender identity, which legitimizes the unscientific notion that men can become women (and vice versa) and encourages the phenomenon of ever-multiplying subjective identities." (emphasis added)

Roger Severino, HHS chapter of Project 2025, p. 454-456

II. PLANS FOR NIH



- Calls for ending NIH "monopoly" on funding health research, calls on Congress to block grant NIH funding to states
- Denounces "woke policies" that hold sway at NIH
- Abolish NIH Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- "NIH has been at the forefront in pushing junk gender science." Instead, it should fund research on alleged harms caused by gender affirmation.

Roger Severino, HHS chapter of Project 2025, p. 462

III. OPPOSITION TO LGBTQI+ EQUALITY

- Calls for HHS to repeal SOGI nondiscrimination rule implementing ACA Section 1557, the nondiscrimination provision.
 - Roger Severino, HHS chapter of Project 2025, p. 475

- Calls for removal of sexual orientation, gender identity, DEI, reproductive health, abortion from all federal law, regulation, contracts, grants; huge implications for research, HIV prevention
 - Kevin Roberts, PhD, Forward: A Promise to America, pp. 4-5

III. MILITARISTIC LANGUAGE

- The next conservative President must make the institutions of American civil society hard targets for woke culture warriors. This starts with deleting the terms sexual orientation and gender identity ("SOGI"), diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI"), gender, gender equality, gender equity, gender awareness, gender-sensitive, abortion, reproductive health, reproductive rights, and any other term used to deprive Americans of their First Amendment rights out of every federal rule, agency regulation, contract, grant, regulation, and piece of legislation that exists.
 - Kevin Roberts, PhD, Forward: A Promise to America, pp. 4-5

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JUST IN

CAMPAIGN

McCarthy calls Jeffries a 'thermometer' amid debate over Biden

4 MINUTES AGO

Senate panel to hold privacyfocused AI hearing

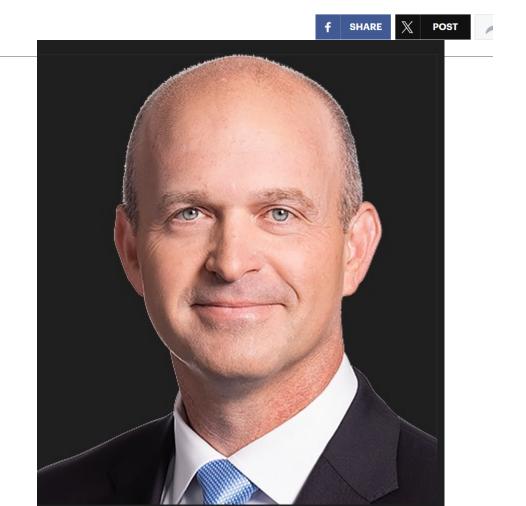
7 MINUTES AGO

California must ratira das-

Heritage faces blowback after 'bloodless' revolution comment

BY EMILY BROOKS - 07/06/24 6:00 AM ET

...an ongoing second American revolution will "remain bloodless if the left allows it to be."



II. DANGEROUS, EXTREMELY IRRESPONSIBLE, DEHUMANIZING LANGUAGE; CRIMINALIZATION OF THOSE SUPPORTING TGD YOUTH

Pornography, manifested today in the omnipresent propagation of transgender ideology and sexualization of children...Its purveyors are child predators and misogynistic exploiters of women. Their product is as addictive as any illicit drug and as psychologically destructive as any crime. Pornography should be outlawed. The people who produce and distribute it should be imprisoned. Educators and public librarians who purvey it should be classed as registered sex offenders. And telecommunications and technology firms that facilitate its spread should be shuttered.

Forward: A Promise to America, by Kevin Roberts, PhD, pp. 4-5

II. ATTACKS ON LGBTQ+ EQUITY

Goal #3: Promoting Stable and Flourishing Married Families. Families comprised of a married mother, father, and their children are the foundation of a well-ordered nation and healthy society. Unfortunately, family policies and programs under President Biden's HHS are fraught with agenda items focusing on "LGBTQ+ equity," subsidizing single-motherhood, disincentivizing work, and penalizing marriage. These policies should be repealed and replaced by policies that support the formation of stable, married, nuclear families.

Roger Severino, HHS chapter of *Project 2025*, p. 451

II. ATTACKS ON TRANS HEALTH EQUITY

- Repeatedly calls on HHS to declare gender-affirming care harmful, end support for GAC for adults
- Calls on HRSA Ryan White Program to rescind guidance allowing use of funds for GAC
- Calls on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to issue strong policy opposing GAC for beneficiaries, portraying it as dangerous
 - –Roger Severino, HHS chapter of *Project 2025*, pp. 474-492.





III. CALL TO ACTION: EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITIES ABOUT VERY REAL THREAT

- Trump strategically distancing himself from this effort—don't believe it
- Project 2025 authors are former and likely future Trump Administration officials; more extreme version of policies from first Trump Administration.
- These are priorities of Religious Right, which is a core constituency of the GOP
- We must be honest about the threats that face LGBTQ+ people, BIPOC people, women, immigs.
- Be prepared to resist if they regain power; they will be unrestrained in second Trump Administration

THANK YOU

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Thank you to Connor DiBlasi and Whitney Crebase for research and editing assistance.

Thank you to Jim Pickett, other organizers of this webinar.





ABOUT SAC

- SAC is a non-partisan coalition of government, community, and business leaders working alongside thousands of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and their allies to end the epidemic in the South.
 - Public Health Advocacy
 - Capacity Building Assistance and Education
 - Research and Evaluation
 - Strategic Grantmaking
- We operate as both a bridge and a megaphone for communities.



Project 2025's attacks on underserved

- communities Project 2025 is an intricate whole of government strategy. It is a lot of things.
 - A strategy that can be countered.
 - Things to keep in mind:
 - ► This is not new.
 - What can we do about it.



H ISTO RICAL CONTEXT

- Project 2025 is not an isolated incident
 - ▶ 1960s Southern Strategy
 - ▶ 1970s Rise of the Christian Right and the Moral Majority
 - Paul Weyrich cofounder of the Heritage Foundation
 - *The new political philosophy must be defined by us [conservatives] in moral terms, packaged in non-religious language, and propagated throughout the country by our new coalition, When political power is achieved, the moral majority will have the opportunity to re-create this great nation."
 - ▶ 1980s Reaganomics
 - ▶ 1990s Contract with America

All of these strategies, advocated for whole government change, at the expense of diminished rights for already underserved or marginalized communities.



PROJECT 2025

- A comprehensive blueprint for conservative governance.
 - An attack on public health and social services.
 - A rollback of civil rights and protections.



IMPACT ON HIV POLICY AND HEALTH OUTCOMES

- Current state of HIV policy and health outcomes
 - ▶ US has made significant strides in HIV prevention and treatment.
 - FY 24 budget cuts & looming FY 25 appropriations fight
- Specific challenges in the South.



CRIMINALIZATION OF LGBTQ & TRANS COMMUNITIES

- Recent legislation targeting LGBTQ and trans communities
- Impact on healthcare and stigma



RACISM AND ATTACKS ON THE POOR IN PROJECT 2025

- DEI and federal benefits restrictions
- ▶ Impact on Medicare and Medicaid



CALLING OUT TREATS AND CALLING TO ACTION!

- Erosion of scientific integrity and public health confidence
- Call to action!
 - ▶ Importance of advocacy and community involvement.
 - Encouraging active participation in policy discussions and elections.



THANK YOU!

Email: will@southernaidscoalition.org





Context







1,253 VIOLATIONS

reported between September 2023 and April 2024

There were 1,253 Verified Cases of **Human Rights Violations reported against LGBTQ Ugandans** between September 2023 and April 2024

The cases of violations have risen from 306 documented in the January-August 2023 period







between September 2023 and April 2024

92 cases of mental and physical health challenges were documented including conversion practices, denial and or failure to access health services, suicide attempts, self infliction of harm, abuse of harmful drugs, anxiety and panick attacks. These are directly linked with violations, violence and abuses and the general climate of fear propagated by the Apti Harmanay vality Apt. 2022

The overall number of LGBTQ individuals in Uganda affected by human rights violations almost tripled when the Anti-Homosexuality Act came into force. Key inflection paoints included times when LGBTQ persons and the law was covered extensively in the media.

Right Violated	Jan-Aug 2023	Sept 2023 - April 2024	Change
Overall number of persons involved	306	889	+191%
Right to shelter and decent housing	180	242	+34%
Right to privacy	-	233	New
Freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment	179	191	+7%
Freedom of movement	-	167	New
Freedom from discrimination	159	67	-58%
Right to health (mental & SRHR)	102	131	+28%
Freedom of expression	-	15	New
Right to work	70	22	-69%



Context



Adaptation or conformism: How to survive under autocratic rule

Presenter: Alexei Lakhov, EuroNPUD

About the speaker

- Used to work in an NGO "foreign agent" in Russia
- Relocated to Germany on humanitarian grounds
- NGO Europe delegate to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and ED of the European Network of People who Use Drugs

HIV situation in Russia

 Between 900,000 and 1,500,000 PLHIV – different government agencies provide different numbers and prognosis

 Key populations coverage by HIV testing by state-run services – less than 3%

100 harm reduction projects in 2007 – less than 10 now

Legislative barriers

- "LGBT movement" (whatever it means) an extremist entity. First

 a fine, then criminal charges. People receive fines for
 displaying rainbow flags and symbols
- Meta (Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram) an extremist entity. A human rights defender is being persecuted for displaying Facebook icons in the Telegram channel
- Laws on foreign agents, undesirable organizations, unregistered foreign NGOs, confidential assistance to a foreign state, etc. can put you in prison (first – fines, then – criminal persecution)

Survival in Russia

- Keeping low profile on social media general news about the work of an NGO, reposts of the resources that are not banned, no rainbows or references to LGBT
- Practically no engagement with mass media only with those that are not banned or blocked, on some general topics, such as HIV prevention among general population
- **Limited advocacy** no petitions, open letters, mass media advocacy campaigns, etc.
- No open criticism of the government
- **Diversifying resources** private and corporate donations, state subsidies, grants, contracts
- Keep in mind that it is your communities that you serve, not the governments. It is an adaptation, not conformism!

Future of Europe

Far-right movements gaining traction, even in such countries as Germany, the Netherlands, and Austria

To counter the trends that threaten our communities, it is a MUST to go voting, engage in advocacy on the municipal, national, and regional levels, and be proactive rather than reactive whenever possible.