

CANZ Statement on Russian Action on Personal Status

CANZ would like to express its deep disappointment with the proposed decision seeking to overturn the Secretary-General's authority as Chief Administrative Officer for the UN. In issuing the bulletin, the Secretary-General acted within his legitimate authority and on the advice of the Office of Legal Affairs.

CANZ recognizes that the Fifth Committee has an important voice in human resources management at the UN. The proponents of this extraordinary measure, however, seek not only to oversee the Secretariat in a way that would be completely impractical, but have also broken with the established practice of the Fifth Committee. This precedent also risks overwhelming the General Assembly with human resources issues that are within the purview of the Secretary-General.

But this decision is not just about process, nor about the SG's authority. It is also about the broader issue of discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation.

CANZ condemns all forms of discrimination, in all its manifestations. It is therefore deeply disturbing when the UN, tasked with overseeing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is asked to adopt a decision with discrimination at its very heart.

For these reasons, CANZ strongly urges all countries to oppose this unprecedented proposal.