



**Resolution on the Protection of Human
Rights
of Conscripts in Russia**

**Adopted by the Executive Committee,
3-5 April 1998, Vilnius, Lithuania**

Considering

That at the conference of Youth Ministers of the Council of Europe Member States, to be in held in April 1998 in Bucharest, Romania, human rights will be one of the central issues of discussion

That in many Member States of the Council of Europe, human rights of young people are violated.

That human rights violations take place despite the commitment of members states to the European Convention on Human Rights

Taking note of the following

- That young people in Russia are confronted on a structural basis with incidents of ill-treatment and even deaths in the Russian armed forces outside military conflicts, and that Russia has clearly not lived up to the commitment it entered into with the Council of Europe upon becoming a member in 1996, namely to 'reduce, if not eliminate, incidents of ill-treatment and deaths in the armed forces outside military conflicts' (doc EOPIN 193.WP/1403, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe)

Demanding

- That the Russian Government and the military leadership take quick and comprehensive action to eliminate the occurrence of harassment and human rights violations in the armed forces.
- That conscripts in the Russian armed forces must be enabled to enjoy all basic human and civil rights that other Russian citizens can enjoy as well. An important aspect in this regard is that conscripts shall have the right of association in order to protect their rights.
- That the Russian Government recognises the right to conscientious objection against military service, and that a real alternative to military service is introduced in non-military sectors of society.

Decided on and truly supported by the Extraordinary General Assembly of the European Youth Forum, in Vilnius, Lithuania, 5 April 1998.

Need for Political Support

Amendment to Resolution on the Protection of Human Rights of Conscripts in Russia submitted by ECCO

Within the Parliamentary Assembly there is at this moment a discussion going on on 'rights of conscripts'. The rapporteur on human rights of the

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Council of Europe, Mr Juergens, (of the Netherlands) has made a draft resolution on this topic.

He reported to ECCO that two countries are making obligations to these rights: Spain and Russia.

Especially Russia, which was urged when they became a member, to take decisive steps to stop the violation of human rights of Russian conscripts. They are denying all accusations made by organisations like Amnesty International and ECCO.

They (Russia) have done nothing to fulfil the demands of the Council of Europe in this matter.

The report will be discussed in the Parliamentary Assembly in May and/or June. Mr. Juergens stressed that we needed as much political support as we can get.