

2.4.1. Expansion of anti-extremism and anti-terrorism legislation

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In June 2024, the Supreme Court of Russia declared the 'Anti-Russian Separatist Movement' an extremist organisation,227 following a similar ruling of November 2023 regarding 'the international LGBT movement,'228 even though neither organisation exists in Russia.229 As noted by researchers Stefan Ingvarsson and Ekaterina Kalinina, because these designations do not correspond to any real movement or organisation, the interpretation 'is entirely arbitrary', creating uncertainty for LGBTIQ-related initiatives and Russia's nearly 200 ethnic groups amid unpredictable enforcement.230 As reported by Novaya Gazeta – Europe, it could also apply to anyone denying that Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine.231 No information on prosecutions under the 'Anti-Russian Separatist Movement' extremist designation was found within the timeframes of this report. For information on the impact of the legislation on the LGBTIQ community, see chapter 3.7 LGBTIQ persons.

In December 2024, the authorities expanded the criteria for adding individuals and organisations to the list of extremists, extending it to cases involving 'fake news' and actions 'discrediting' the army when they were considered to be 'motivated by hatred.'232 In July 2025,233 Alexey Navalny's posthumous memoir was added to the federal list of extremist materials after a linguistic expertise ordered by a court found that it contained extremist content intended to incite hatred toward the Russian government.234

On 31 July 2025, President Putin signed a law to punish online searches for content officially deemed extremist235 (Article 13.53 of the Code of Administrative Offences) by fines of up to 5 000 rubles [51 euros].236 The law has further tightened state censorship237 and control of the internet.238 Sources noted that the scope of content that could be punished was extensive 239 due to the broad definition of extremist activity.240

As of July 2025, the list of extremist materials maintained by the MoJ comprised over 5 400 entries.241 While the law reportedly intends to target people who 'knowingly search' for extremist content,242 and officials have clarified that law enforcement would need to establish intent in such searches,243 sources noted that it was unclear how authorities would determine whether someone accessed content intentionally.244 The law came into force on 1 September 2025.245 In early November 2025, media sources reported that the first case under this law was initiated against a 20-year old man in Sverdlovsk region,246 after the internet provider informed

the FSB that he had viewed content about Ukraine's Azov Brigade and the Russian Volunteer Corps, both considered 'terrorist' organisations by the Russian authorities.247

In October 2025, the Russian Prosecutor General's Office applied to the Supreme Court to declare the US-based legal branch of Alexei Navalny's-established the Anti-Corruption Foundation (ACF, Russian: *Fond borby s korryptsiyey*, FBK) – the legal successor of Russia-based FBK248 – a terrorist organisation. The hearing is scheduled for 27 November 2025 and will be held behind closed doors,249 presided over by the same judge who previously designated the non-existent 'international LGBT movement' and 'international satanism movement' as extremist organisations.250 The ACF has been listed as an extremist organisation' since 2021. 251 As noted by AI, the designation of the ACF as a terrorist organisation 'would expose anyone associated with the ACF to criminal prosecution with the harshest penalties, including up to life in prison'.252

As reported by Meduza in October 2025, the list of individuals designated as terrorists and extremists is 'expanding almost faster' than the list of 'foreign agents.'253 As noted by OVD-Info, the authorities have introduced a simplified mechanism for adding people to the extremist list and designating organisations as extremist, which creates additional difficulties for Russian nationals abroad, such as 'potential denial of banking services.'254

As further noted by Meduza, legal experts describe inclusion on these lists as a form of 'civil death' due to the severe financial and social restrictions such a designation brings. While the designation often hinders future employment, the most significant impact is financial:255 the persons included on the list of extremists and terrorists have their bank accounts blocked for incoming transfers, while their monthly withdrawals are limited to 10 000 rubles [102 euros] to cover personal needs.256 In practice, the accounts of their relatives may be also blocked.257 As noted by a human rights lawyer, restrictions in the access to banking and other services due to the inclusion to the list of terrorists and extremists are also faced by those living abroad. In addition, the Russian authorities use this list to ask for their extradition.258

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