COUNCIL			
Report Title	Motion 4 in the name of Councillor Copley to be seconded by Councillor Walsh		
Key Decision			Item No.
Ward			
Contributors	Acting Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)		
Class	Part 1	Date: February 27 2019	

“”Russia: End the persecution of LGBT people in Chechnya

This Council believes:

- Chechen Authorities under the auspices of the Russian Government have been carrying out large-scale arrests of individuals believed to be gay or lesbian.
- LGBT people in Chechnya are being abducted, locked up in secret detention sites, tortured and sometimes killed - purely because of their sexual orientation.
- Two people have already been tortured to death during a recent revival of the crackdown on LGBTI people that started two years ago. This must stop now.
- People are living in fear of humiliation, torture and death at the hands of the authorities. Their passports are being confiscated and destroyed by the authorities, so even when people are released, they are trapped in Chechnya.
- Chechen authorities deny that gay people exist but also incite homophobic violence by telling people to murder their own family members because of their sexual orientation. This means anyone who is suspected of being LGBTI in Chechnya is at extreme risk.

This Council further believes:

Lewisham in its aspiration to act as borough of sanctuary, should not only house those dispossessed by natural disaster, war or persecution, but should also shine a light on those that create regimes that force those to flee their country.

This Council resolves:
- To ensure that our role as a sanctuary borough is fully inclusive, and welcomes and fully understands the needs of LGBT+ Asylum Seekers.
- To work with LGBT+ Asylum/immigration charities such as UKLGIG to help build our understanding, and theirs, as Lewisham as s a sanctuary Borough
- For the Mayor of Lewisham to write to the The Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs and the The Secretary of State for International Development & Minister for Women & Equalities, copying their Shadow Ministerial counterpart, asking how they’re planning on responding to this humanitarian crisis and to publish that response back to Council.