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Verband der
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british association for slavonic
and east european studies

Minister for Science and Higher Education
of the Russian Federation
Mikhail Kotiukov

Open letter

1 October 2019

Dear Minister,

We have been very concerned to learn that the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation has issued an ordinance that the rules of collaboration with foreign academics have been made significantly more stringent. As academic organisations, we look back on three decades of successful binational and international collaboration with individuals and institutions from the Russian Federation. This collaboration has opened up new research perspectives and has created a spirit of mutual trust, from which everyone involved has benefited to a high degree.

As societies for eastern European research in Germany and Britain, we have a great interest in further expanding and strengthening cooperation with colleagues from the Russian Federation. The new regulations issued by your ministry threaten to destroy this trustworthy international collaboration in the academic and research fields. This has been a cause of major concern and misgivings in the academic community. We therefore ask you to clarify the intention behind the above-mentioned ordinance, and to refrain from imposing any restrictions on international academic exchange.

Yours Sincerely,

Ruprecht Polenz
President
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde

Prof. Dr. Julia Obertreis
Chairwoman
Verband der Osteuropahistorikerinnen
und -historiker

Prof. Dr. Monika Wingender
Chairwoman
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Dr. Matthias Neumann
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