

Refugee Review Tribunal

AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

- 1. Please provide an update with regard to the law which came into effect in January 2004 which relates to alternative service for new military recruits (conscripts)?**
- 2. Are Christian conscientious objectors generally being allowed to do alternative service?**
- 3. What are the typical alternatives available?**
- 4. What are the views of the main human rights groups about the implementation of the new law?**
- 5. Please provide evidence as to the possible treatment by fellow soldiers of conscripts who are Orthodox Christian, have a Jewish background or have lived abroad and have poor Russian language ability. Is it any worse than that of other conscripts?**

RESPONSE

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Alternative service is also known as alternative military service and alternative civil service. Information on alternative service in Russia was scarce amongst the sources consulted.

The Quaker Council for European Affairs provides extensive information on conscientious objection in Russia in 2004 and 2005.

Legal basis

The right to conscientious objection is enshrined in Article 59.3 of the 1993 Constitution, according to which citizens “whose convictions and faith are at odds with military service (...) shall have the right to the substitution of an alternative civil service for military service”. In

addition, Article 17.1 of the Constitution recognises and guarantees “the commonly recognised principles and norms of international law”.

Although the right to conscientious objection was included in the Constitution in 1993, further legislation was only introduced in 2002 when the State Duma passed the Federal Bill on Alternative Civilian Service. The Law on Alternative Civilian Service entered into force on 1 January 2004.

Scope

Both religious and non-religious grounds for conscientious objection are legally recognized. According to Article 2 of the Law on Alternative Civilian Service “A citizen has the right to perform alternative civil service as a substitute for military service if the performance of military duties is in conflict with his convictions or religious beliefs”.

Time limits

The Law on Alternative Civilian Service contains a strict time limit for submitting CO applications. Applications must be made at least six months before receipt of call-up papers (Article 11.1).

...Procedure

CO applications must be made to the military draft commission (Ministry of Defence). Applications must include a curriculum vitae and a written explanation of the reasons for conscientious objection. The military draft commission conducts a personal interview with the applicant, after which it makes a decision.

If the application is rejected, the decision can be appealed in court through procedures set out in Russian law (Article 15).

Substitute service

The length of substitute service is 42 months, and 21 months for graduates of higher education institutes. This is 1.75 times the length of military service, as laid down in Article 5.1 of the Law on Alternative Civilian Service. The Law also provides for an unarmed service within the armed forces, which lasts 36 months, and 18 months for graduates.

Substitute service is administered by the Ministry of Defence. According to Article 4, substitute service consists of “civilian work outside the armed forces”.

The Law on Alternative Civilian Service does not specify the workplaces where substitute service may be performed. The workplaces and positions for performing substitute service are listed in a regulation that was issued by the Ministry of Labour in March 2004. According to the Regulation, there are 23,500 vacancies for substitute service in over 700 organisations at federal and regional level. The list includes organisations in federal military departments, such as the Ministry of Defence, the Federal Service of Specialised Construction, the Russian Agency for Conventional Weapons and the Russian Organisation for Ammunitions.

Substitute service may also be performed with organisations that are connected to federal civilian ministries, such as the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Justice Department of the Penitentiary and the Russian Weather Forecasting Service. The Ministries of Health, Education and Culture have so far not offered any workplaces for substitute service. There are also workplaces available with regional authorities, in health care and social institutions.

COs cannot choose themselves where they perform substitute service, but are assigned to a workplace by the Ministry of Defence. According to Article 14 of the Law on Alternative Civilian Service, the military authorities may assign COs to either civilian work outside the armed forces or to non-combatant duties within the armed forces.

According to Article 4.2 of the Law on Alternative Civilian Service, COs perform substitute service “as a rule” outside their home area. Concerns have been raised as to whether the Ministry of Defence is able to provide COs with accommodation. Of the 23,000 available vacancies for substitute service, only 3,400 reportedly have housing assigned to them. As the army is actually the government body that is most able to provide accommodation, it is in fact most convenient for the Ministry of Defence to assign most COs to serve in military units or workplaces connected to the military authorities. So far, most COs perform substitute service within federal military organisations.

While performing substitute service, COs are not allowed to take part in strikes or to leave the city where they perform substitute service. In such cases, CO status may be withdrawn (Law on Alternative Civilian Service, Article 21.2).

After completing substitute service, COs are transferred to the reserves. According to Article 24 of the Law on Alternative Civilian Service, COs shall not be subject to periodic military training. The Law does not specify the position of COs during wartime.

Practice

The Law on Alternative Civilian Service entered into force on 1 January 2004.

Of the conscripts who were called up during the spring draft of 2004, approx. 100 made a CO application. Because of the six months’ time limit, conscripts who expected to be called up during the spring draft of 2004 had to have already made their application by October 2003. Most of the applications during the spring draft of 2004 were in fact made by COs who had already applied for substitute service in previous years, and who had been granted deferment.

Of the conscripts who were called up during the autumn draft of 2004, 1,445 CO applications were made. Out of these, 953 applications were granted, approx. 200 were rejected and approx. 200 applicants were granted a deferment.

Of the conscripts who were called up during the spring draft of 2005, 616 CO applications were made.

The figures for the autumn draft of 2004 indicate that approx. 15 per cent of CO applications have been rejected. According to the military draft commissions, applications have been rejected because they did not meet the formal criteria or because the applicants did not manage to prove their convictions to the military draft commission.

According to various reports, it is not clear if the members of the military draft commissions have received instructions and criteria for assessing CO applications. Some draft commissions have reportedly refused to accept CO applications. Some draft commissions have reportedly required applicants to prove membership of a religious organisation that forbids its members to bear arms. These draft commissions are thus restricting the right to conscientious objection to religious grounds, which is in contradiction with provisions of the Law on Alternative Civilian Service.

The authorities have been criticized for not informing conscripts about the possibility of applying for substitute service. Some draft commissions deliberately misinform conscripts

about the application procedure for substitute service. In many draft commissions there is no information available about the workplaces where substitute service can be performed. In fact, regional authorities and draft commissions themselves, particularly outside the big cities, do not seem well informed about the possibilities of performing substitute service.

So far, most COs appear to come from big cities like Moscow and St Petersburg where there are NGOs offering legal support to COs. In the provinces, conscripts seem far less aware of their right to conscientious objection.

The first 80 COs started performing substitute service during the spring of 2004. As outlined above, Article 4.2 and Article 14 of the Law on Alternative Civilian Service do not ensure that substitute service has a civilian character. (See: Substitute service). Until now, most COs have in fact been assigned to perform substitute service with organisations in federal military departments, in particular with the Federal Service for Special Construction and other defence related institutions. So far, only a small number of COs serve in civilian institutions.

Several COs who were assigned to substitute service have in fact refused this, and required a civilian substitute service. In 2004, there were at least 12 of such cases, all of them Jehovah's Witnesses. An administrative court case results when a conscientious objector files a request to reverse the decision of the draft commission to induct him into the military. Criminal cases result from a conscientious objector being charged with "draft evasion" after he does not report for military service. Their cases are believed to be still pending.

Background

...In January 2004, a conscientious objector from Perm submitted a complaint to the Constitutional Court in which he submitted that the duration of substitute service is a violation of the Constitution. His complaint was rejected for formal reasons, but the Federal Ombudsman has agreed to appeal to the Constitutional Court in support of the CO's petition. By February 2005, the case is believed to be still pending.

So far, the Russian government has not shown any intention of amending the law and improving the conditions of substitute service to ensure that it is genuinely civilian (Quaker Council for European Affairs 2005, 'Russian Federation', *The Right to Conscientious Objection in Europe*, War Resisters' International website <http://www.wri-irg.org/co/rtba/russia.htm> – Attachment 1).

An Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada response dated 29 November 2004 mentions a report dated 1 November 2004 by the Democratic Alternative Civil Service entitled *The Situation with Alternative Civil Service in Russia in 2004* (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2004, *Russia: Follow-up to RUS43138.E of 17 November 2004 on alternative military service in Russia (2002-2004)*, 29 November http://www.irb.gc.ca/cgi-bin/foliocgi.exe/refinfo_e/query=?realquerydlg – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 2). A copy of the report was requested from the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada on 18 October 2005 and was received on 20 October 2005. It provides the following information on alternative service in Russia in 2004:

1. Changes in ACS Legislation

On January 1, 2004, the Federal Law on Alternative Civil Service entered into force.

This law, adopted by the State Duma in June 2002, provides the longest civilian service in the world. Its duration is 1.75 times longer than compulsory military service, thus making it 42 months. Conscientious objectors are not given a choice between real civilian service in social

institutions and mere non-combatant duty within military organisations. In violation of the Constitution, the law obliges young men under age to submit their application for civilian service to a military commissar's office and to prove their convictions in front of a draft board half a year before conscription.

In the spring of 2004, Russian executive authorities approved a number of administrative acts regulating the implementation of ACS.

- On March 3, 2004, the Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Development approved a list of organisations, where alternative civil service can be performed (hereinafter – *List of Organisations*), and a list of jobs, professions and positions which persons in alternative civil service may fill (hereinafter – *List of Professions*).

The List of Organisation contains more than 700 military and civilian organisations at federal and regional levels. The federal military departments on the list include: the Ministry of Defence (24 organisations), the Federal Service of Specialised Construction (38 organisations), the Russian Agency for Conventional Weapons (27 organisations), and the Russian Agency for Ammunitions (29 organisations).

The federal civilian ministries which applied for participation in the ACS system include only the Ministry of Natural Resources (26 organisations), the Ministry of Labour (17 organisations), the Ministry of Justice Department of the Penitentiary (87 organisations), and the Russian Weather Forecasting Service (6 organisations). Those which did not apply include the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Culture, which limits the possibility to use ACS for public benefit.

Most applications by regional authorities came from health care and social institutions.

The list of professions contains more than 20 thousand jobs, but only a small number of ACS vacancies come along with housing accommodation, and most jobs with housing are in military-related organisations. The Federal Law on ACS provides that ACSers must serve away from home, so it is likely that most men will be assigned to organisations providing jobs with housing accommodation.

- On May 28, 2004, the Russian Government approved the Regulation on the Procedure of ACS implementation.

2. How ACS is organised

The Russian Law on ACS says that ACS applicants should submit their applications no later than six months before the drafting campaign (Art. 11 of the ACS Law). Drafting campaigns in Russia take place twice a year, between April 1 and June 30, and between October 1 and December 30. Therefore, applicants expecting to be drafted in October–December must apply for ACS before April 1, while those expecting to be drafted in April–June must apply before October 1 of the previous year.

2.1 Spring draft of 2004

Between January 1 and April 1, 2004, was the time for applications from those young men who expected to be drafted in the autumn of 2004. About 1500 applications for ACS were submitted to draft committees before the beginning of the spring campaign.

In addition, approximately 80 young men were sent to ACS in the spring of 2004 (data provided by the Federal Agency for Labour and Employment, *Rostrud*). Those were young men who had defended their right to ACS in courts before there was a law, so their service

was deferred. We have information on organisations and jobs 59 men of this group have been assigned to (see Appendix 1). As seen from the table, most objectors perform their ACS in military-related organisations, and only a small number serve in civilian social institutions.

2.2 Autumn draft of 2004

During the autumn 2004 draft, draft commissions sent 953 young men to ACS, out of the 1445 who had applied in the spring of 2004 (according to the Ministry of Labour). About 200 applicants were allowed to defer their service, and about 200 had their applications rejected. The draft commissions gave two main reasons for the rejections – firstly, some applications did not meet formal requirements, and secondly, some applicants, allegedly, were not able to prove their convictions.

Currently, we do not have accurate information on how many applications were turned down for either of the two reasons.

2.3 Problems of drafting for ACS

The first practical experience of ACS revealed the following violations:

firstly, in many regions, conscripts cannot access full and accurate information on ACS. In some cases, draft committees do not have this information, and in some others, they deliberately misinform conscripts.

secondly, a number of cases have been documented where the draft committee refused to accept an application for ACS, which is a violation of the ACS Law.

thirdly, in some cases, draft commissions have refused to satisfy an ACS application, allegedly, because young men failed to prove their convictions underlying their choice of alternative, rather than military, service. Such acts by draft commissions are unlawful. The law does not say that a conscript must prove their convictions. Denial of the right to ACS may be appealed in court (the applicant cannot be drafted before the final court decision is passed). However, few conscripts are informed of the possibilities provided by the law.

3. Judicial practice

In March 2004, Mikhail Fadeyev, an objector from Perm, submitted a complaint to the Constitutional Court, challenging the constitutionality of the Law on ACS which established discriminatory duration of alternative service (42 months). The complaint was rejected by the Secretariat of the Constitutional Court on formalistic grounds. An agreement has been reached with the Federal Ombudsman, Vladimir Lukin, who agreed to appeal to the Constitutional Court in support of Mikhail Fadeyev's petition (Sannikova, Maria on behalf of the Coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations for Democratic Alternative Civil Service 2004, *The situation of alternative civil service in Russia in 2004*, 1 November – Attachment 11).

An article dated 14 June 2005 in *The St Petersburg Times* reports that the “two principal reasons for draftees not wanting to perform alternative service are its long term and there are no opportunities to serve in their home town.” The article also provides information on alternative service in St Petersburg.

The two principal reasons for draftees not wanting to perform alternative service are its long term and that there are no opportunities to serve in their home town. The draftees apply for alternative service in their regions, but the decision where they will serve is taken in Moscow.

“If only people were allowed to serve where they live or anywhere close, I am sure there would have been plenty of requests,” Gurov [a leading specialist with the St Petersburg Government’s Labor and Social Policy Committee] said.

Gazaryan [21 year old conscript from Maikop performing alternative military service in St. Petersburg] said he was told that he couldn’t refuse the placement Moscow made for him to serve unless he had a very serious reason.

“You can’t just say you don’t like the city or that the social home doesn’t sound appropriate,” he said. “You could end up in court.”

This year, St. Petersburg’s medical and social organizations have offered 1,000 requests for alternative servicemen. After careful selection, 419 places were offered, but this summer the city will get a total of only eight draftees.

...This year, the list of available places includes medical orderlies, cleaners and workers in several local old people’s homes, hospitals, including a psychiatric ward and several psychoneurological wards. But there are requests for a qualified personnel, too. For instance, the Prometheus center, which is dedicated to helping orphans, offered placements for a librarian, a medical sister, a doctor, a computer programmer, a joiner, a carpenter and a cook (‘Alternative Service No Pushover’ 2005, *St Petersburg Times*, 14 June <http://www.sptimes.ru/story/3838> – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 3).

An article dated 17 March 2004 by *RIA Novosti* reports on alternative service in Moscow.

It would be no exaggeration to say that Moscow offers the largest choice of possibilities. According to the Labour and Employment Ministry’s list of organisations where alternative civil service can be done, Moscow has 2,700 vacancies at almost 50 organisations. The most important of them are social and special education institutions, such as special secondary boarding school No.20, the “Detskaya Lichnost” centre for psychological and educational rehabilitation, orphanages for mentally retarded children, the Konkovo vacation home for war veterans, vacation homes for labour veterans, as well as city hospitals. Apart from them, there are the gerontologic and psychiatric charity centre, a rehabilitation centre for the disabled and a number of psychological and neurological hospitals.

Alexei Vovchenko, head of the alternative service division of the Russian Labour Ministry’s employment department, who has all the information on the vacancies and wages for alternative servicemen, told this RIA Novosti observer, that young men were offered the lowest wages of 1,500-3,000 roubles a month and the lowest positions of orderlies, dishwashers, caretakers (yard keepers, rubbish collectors) and the like. This is not because somebody wants to punish those who do not want to do military service, but because there are not enough of these unskilled or low skilled workers.

However, Moscow, like other large cities, needs very different professions and it is potentially a good career move for alternative servicemen. For example, they are offered work at the 1st trolleybus park that needs drivers, rolling stock repairmen and plumbers. Lyubov Rusetskaya, head of the alternative service division of the Federal State Employment Service’s Moscow department, says that the trolleybus park has a fairly good hostel with rooms for 2 or 3 people and with all modern amenities and that it is quite prestigious to work there.

It is hard to believe, but even the celebrated Alexandrov Academic Song and Dance Ensemble of the Russian Army is inviting alternative servicemen to fill vacancies for the position of a

first category ballet dancer or an orchestra musician. The Labour Ministry's list also contains such organisations as the Russian Defence Ministry's magazine *Orientir*, the Cultural Centre of the Russian Armed Forces, the Central Museum of the Armed Forces and the headquarters of the Moscow military district. The available positions are for repairmen, drivers, cleaners, and supervisors of museum exhibitions (Litovkin, Viktor 2004, 'Only 2,000 Russians Want To Do Alternative Service', *RIA Novosti*, 17 March <http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20040317/39911085.html> – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 4).

4. What are the views of the main human rights groups about the implementation of the new law?

The major human rights groups such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights have not yet published any reports on the implementation of the Russian alternative service law. The only information is provided by news reports.

An article dated 14 June 2005 in *The St Petersburg Times* provides the following information on the implementation of the alternative service law.

Lawyer Yelena Filonova from Legal Consultancy No. 65 of the St. Petersburg Collegium of Lawyers, who advises local human rights group Soldiers' Mothers, said that people are not queuing up for alternative service because they find the law governing it repressive.

"The law on alternative service was initially designed for the people not to use it," she said. "The complete list of jobs and locations, although it does exist in Moscow isn't always available at military commissions. The law is so loose that someone could end up working as a cleaner on a military base or work on a construction site in the north."

Comparing alternative service to the Soviet-era practice of exile, Filonova also said that the process of getting it is both humiliating and illegal. When applying for it, a draftee needs to prove they are a conscientious objector to military service by either being a pacifist or belonging to a religious confession that forbids it.

"But how on earth can you prove that," Gurov wonders. "By bringing a paper from the police that you were detained while causing a trouble at an anti-war demonstration? It is not clear what papers they can bring to show they are religious or a pacifist."

The military commissions request a certificate from a religious community saying you are a member of that community. Such is the case of Gazaryan who is a member of Jehovah's Witnesses.

"But it is clearly not that it is only by belonging to a religious community that you can have a conscience," Filonova said adding that such requests by the military may violate Article 24 of the Constitution, because religious belief is part of a people's private life ('Alternative Service No Pushover' 2005, *St Petersburg Times*, 14 June <http://www.sptimes.ru/story/3838> – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 3).

An article dated 24 March 2004 by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reports that the "Russian human rights community is convinced that the Defense Ministry, local military registration and enlistment offices, and the Russian public are all unprepared to implement" the new alternative service law.

A new coalition of human rights groups called For Democratic Alternative Civilian Service conducted a survey of 72 enlistment offices in military commissariats in 18 cities to determine whether personnel there are familiar with the new rules regarding alternative service. In one office, a researcher was told that both representatives of ethnic groups that are numerically small and religious believers must first get the endorsement of a clergyman]. Another official said that one could perform alternative civilian service only after serving a stint in the army (Corwin, Julie A. 2004, '...As NGO Says Military Is Unprepared For New Alternative Civilian-Service Program', *RFE/RL Newsline – Russia*, Volume 8, Number 56, 24 March <http://www.rferl.org/newsline/2004/03/1-RUS/rus-240304.asp> – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 5).

An article dated 3 February 2004 by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, sourced from uralpolit.ru, reports that Sverdlovsk Oblast Military Commissioner Aleksandr Kudryavtsev believes it will be difficult for draftees to prove their right to alternative service.

The law, which came into force on 1 January, says young men can opt for alternative civil service according to their religious or moral beliefs. "However, not a single world religion prohibits taking up arms," Kudryavtsev said, noting the exception of Krishnaism. As for moral reasons, Kudryavtsev continued, candidates must "prove their beliefs in documentation. There is no similar mechanism, and alternative service will hardly become large," he added ('Military Official Skeptical About Prospects Of Alternative Service' 2004, *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Tatar-Bashkir Weekly Report*, source: uralpolit.ru, 3 February <http://www.rferl.org/reports/tb-weekly-report/2004/02/0-030204.asp> – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 6).

An article dated 20 January 2004 by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reports that the Moscow Military Commissioner's Office "are demanding bribes to accept applications for alternative service":

Tatyana Kuznetsova, chairwoman of the Moscow Committee of Soldiers' Mothers, said on 19 January that military commissioner's offices in Moscow are demanding bribes to accept applications for alternative service, Interfax reported. "The parents of those potential draftees who have decided to discharge their military duty in alternative civil service are...complaining to us that Moscow military commissioner's offices demand up to \$800 for accepting an application," Kuznetsova told reporters (Bransten, Jeremy 2004, 'Activist Claims Officials Ask Bribes For Alternative Service', *RFE/RL Newsline – Russia*, Volume 8, Number 11, 20 January <http://www.rferl.org/newsline/2004/01/1-RUS/rus-200104.asp> – Accessed 14 October 2005 – Attachment 7).

The following reports provide general views on the alternative service law.

The Quaker Council for European Affairs reports that in 2003, the UN Human Rights Committee "expressed its concern about the duration and conditions of substitute service" in Russia:

The Law on Alternative Civilian Service does not comply with several international standards on conscientious objection. In 2003, the United Nations Human Rights Committee in fact expressed its concern about the duration and conditions of substitute service, including its possible military character, stating that "the law does not appear to guarantee that the tasks to be performed by conscientious objectors are compatible with their convictions". The Committee called upon the Russian government to "reduce the length of civilian service to that of military service and ensure that its terms are compatible with Articles 18 and 26 of the Covenant". (Quaker Council for European Affairs 2005, 'Russian Federation', *The Right to*

Conscientious Objection in Europe, War Resisters' International website <http://www.wri-irg.org/co/rtba/russia.htm> – Attachment 1).

The most recent US Department of State *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004* reports that “[s]ome human rights groups complained that the extended length of service for draftees requesting alternative assignments (1.75 times longer than regular military service) acted as a punishment for those who choose to exercise their religious or moral convictions” (US Department of State 2005, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004 – Russia*, 28 February, Section 2c – Attachment 8).

According to Amnesty International the Russian law on alternative service is “in effective punitive and discriminatory for those individuals wishing to exercise their right to conscientiously object to military service that is genuinely civilian in character” (Amnesty International 2005, *Russian Federation: Continuing Council of Europe scrutiny of Russia's human rights record is vital*, 22 June, EUR46/025/2005 <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR460252005?open&of=ENG-2U4> – Accessed 13 October – Attachment 9).

5. Please provide evidence as to the possible treatment by fellow soldiers of conscripts who are Orthodox Christian, have a Jewish background or have lived abroad and have poor Russian language ability. Is it any worse than that of other conscripts?

A Human Rights Watch dated October 2004 provides extensive information on *dedovshchina* in the Russia armed forces. According to Human Rights Watch under *dedovshchina*, “second-year conscripts force new recruits to live in a year-long state of pointless servitude, punish them violently for any infractions of official or informal rules, and abuse them gratuitously” (Human Rights Watch 2004, *The Wrongs of Passage: Inhuman and Degrading Treatment of New Recruits in the Russian Armed Forces*, October, Vol. 16, No. 8(D) – Attachment 10).

Information on *dedovshchina* indicates that all new recruits are subject to *dedovshchina* abuses. No information, to indicate that Orthodox Christians, Jews, those who have lived abroad or have poor Russian language ability were particularly targeted, was found amongst the sources consulted.

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

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Immigration & Refugee Board of Canada <http://www.irb.gc.ca/>

UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

US Department of State <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

United Nations (UN)

UNHCR <http://www.unhcr.ch/>

Non-Government Organisations

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Center for Defense Information Security Policy Research Organization

<http://www.cdi.org/about/index.cfm>

European Bureau for Conscientious Objection <http://www.ebco-beoc.org/index.htm>

European Country of Origin Information Network <http://www.ecoi.net/>

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty <http://www.rferl.org/>
War Resisters' International <http://www.wri-irg.org/from-off.htm>

International News & Politics

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The St Petersburg Times <http://www.sptimesrussia.com/>
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Search Engines

Google <http://www.google.com.au/>
The Paperboy <http://www.thepaperboy.com/>

UNHCR *REFWORLD* UNHCR Refugee Information Online

Databases:

Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA	<i>BACIS</i>	Country Information
	<i>REFINFO</i>	IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices</i> .
RRT Library	<i>FIRST</i>	RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. Quaker Council for European Affairs 2005, 'Russian Federation', *The Right to Conscientious Objection in Europe*, War Resisters' International website.
2. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2004, *Russia: Follow-up to RUS43138.E of 17 November 2004 on alternative military service in Russia (2002-2004)*, 29 November. (http://www.irb.gc.ca/cgi-bin/foliocgi.exe/refinfo_e/query=?realquerydlg – Accessed 13 October 2005)
3. 'Alternative Service No Pushover' 2005, *St Petersburg Times*, 14 June. (<http://www.sptimes.ru/story/3838> – Accessed 13 October 2005)
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