Statement

I plan to make my own research of local materials and do a paper based on its results. I do hope that this paper will allow me to develop this theme further and probably make our world a little better.

Anastasia Vepreva

Lately I have been interested in queer theology.

One of my recent projects was devoted to Queer-Jesus. Originally, there were stickers with anonymous appeal to passengers of the Metro, which we secretly pasted on the walls of the carriages. Then stickers were transformed into a pocket calendar with LGBT-community holidays and memorable days. Initially, we wanted to leave these calendars in the church shops, as at first sight they looked like traditional ones. However, due to some risk, we had to give up this idea. So we started distributing them during different cultural events with a great number of potentially interested people. After that an attempt had been made to introduce Jesus to a greater audience by means of graffiti. It was a higher risk, but we managed to do it.

For me, queer is, first of all, the freedom of one’s identity choice, regardless of their sex assignment. There is nothing definite and stable in the world and to make it artificially means to destroy the nature itself. I consider Jesus to be a great character, a propagandist, a revolutionary, a Man, who appeals to people to love each other. If one looks at the experience of the first Christian communities, he will glean a lot of important and actual information for today.

The theme of queer theology is extremely taboo nowadays in Russia, because it involves two prohibitive laws: The Russian LGBT propaganda law and Blasphemy law. Because of this, any activities in this sphere face a risk. I think it is unfair. That is why I would like to get valuable experience of overcoming similar society conflicts being in Sweden, in a country, that is a symbol of success and freedom of LGBT-movement for many countries of the world. I understand that it is impossible to reach an absolute success, as each stage brings new problems, but I am sure all the problems have common background and after finding those out you can discover a solution.