Biography
Denis Davydov, Immigration Equality Spokesperson and Asylum Winner

Denis Davydov is a gay, HIV-positive asylee from Russia. Denis fled to the U.S. due to the passage of Russia's anti-gay propaganda law and the brutal violence that followed. He arrived in the U.S. on a tourist visa in 2014, then applied for asylum. Denis took a trip to the U.S. Virgin Islands, traveling on his valid California state ID. When he tried to fly home, he was arrested by immigration officials and held for 46 days in an ICE detention facility. Even though Denis developed an opportunistic infection, which was life threatening due to his compromised immune system, ICE refused to release him. After advocacy on behalf of Immigration Equality and Speaker Pelosi's office, he was released. In July 2019, five years after arriving in the U.S., Denis finally won asylum. He is now working his dream job as a sommelier in California. He is also a spokesperson for Immigration Equality and advocate for LGBTQ and HIV-positive asylum seekers.