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PO "Kyrgyz Indigo"
Eurasian Coalition on Health,
Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity (ECOM)

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Committee Against Torture
Review of the Third Periodical Report of Kyrgyzstan

ALTERNATIVE REPORT
On hate crimes and torture in relation to LGBT+ people in Kyrgyzstan

The report describes the situation related to torture and cruel, inhuman treatment against representatives of LGBT communities in Kyrgyzstan and recommendations for their prevention.

The report was prepared by the LGBT+ organization "Kyrgyz Indigo" based on documented cases of torture against communities, and on the results of the activities of the Urgent Response Group (URG) of the public association "Kyrgyz Indigo", which deals with emigration and legal proceedings in relation to cases of rights violations and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

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Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Kyrgyzstan (CAT/C/KGZ/CO/2):

Ill-treatment and torture based on sexual orientation and gender

19. The Committee is concerned at [...] reports of police harassment, arbitrary arrest, ill-treatment and torture, including through sexual violence, perpetrated against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons [...].

The State party should ensure prompt, impartial, and thorough investigations of all allegations of ill-treatment and torture committed by police and detention officials against LGBT persons or others on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and prosecute and, upon conviction, punish perpetrators with appropriate penalties.

List of issues prior to submission of the third periodic report of Kyrgyzstan (CAT/C/KGZ/QPR/3):

25. With reference to the Committee’s previous concluding observations (para. 19), please provide specific information on:

- (a) Steps taken by the State party to ensure prompt, impartial and thorough investigations of all allegations of ill-treatment and torture committed by police and detention officials against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, among others, on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- (b) The number of prosecutions and convictions for such acts as well as on the types of penalties imposed on the perpetrators;
- (c) Any training provided to law enforcement officials and the judiciary in order to prevent ill-treatment and torture, including sexual violence, and deal with cases concerning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons; [...]
- (e) Current status of the draft law regarding “propaganda of non-traditional sexual orientation”.



SUMMARY

In 2013, the Committee recommended to Kyrgyzstan a number of measures related to torture and the ill-treatment of LGBT+ persons. The list of issues before the submission of reports included questions on the implementation of this recommendation, including in relation to the investigation of incidents, trainings for law enforcement agencies and judges, and to the status of the bill on the “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations”.

The report of Kyrgyzstan contains only two phrases in relation to these recommendations and issues: “Every allegation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is reviewed irrespective of [...] orientation” (CAT/C/KGZ/3, para. 68), and “To date, the legislature has not adopted any law regulating legal relations in the field of the propaganda of non-traditional sexual orientation” (CAT/C/KGZ/3, para. 450).

This report fills this gap in information regarding the Committee's recommendations and questions.

The report contains information on torture and violence against LGBT+ people by law enforcement agencies; the situation of LGBT+ people in prisons; and on the current state of the draft law on the “propaganda of non-traditional sexual orientation” and changes in the legislation of Kyrgyzstan in relation to LGBT+ people.

Information in this report is provided by the following organizations:



PA “Kyrgyz Indigo” is a Kyrgyz LGBT+ organization, and one of the largest in Central Asia. We are 40 LGBT+ activists and allies, implementing rights defending, advocacy activities and providing services for the community. We fight for equality and improvement in the quality of life of LGBT+ people.



Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity (ECOM), an international non-governmental organization based in Tallinn, Estonia. We are a membership organization open to non-profit organizations and activists working in the areas of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for men who have sex with men and transgender people in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region. The network currently has 76 members from 19 countries, stretching from Estonia to Tajikistan.

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

ARTICLE 2 OF THE CONVENTION

- *Introduce measures to combat torture against LGBT+ people in the national plan for the prevention of torture and implement them in partnership with LGBT+ organizations;*
- *Adopt comprehensive antidiscrimination legislation with the inclusion of SOGI as protected characteristics;*
- *Introduce the concepts of hate crimes and SOGI as protected characteristics into the criminal code;*
- *Give trans* people back their ability to change their gender marker.*

ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONVENTION

- *Collect and publish statistics on torture against different groups, including LGBT+ people;*
- *Ensure a fair investigation of cases of torture against LGBT+ people.*

ARTICLE 10 OF THE CONVENTION

- *Provide training on working with LGBT+ people for law enforcement officers with the involvement of community-based organizations;*
- *Adopt instructions for working with LGBT+ people for law enforcement agencies.*

ARTICLE 11 OF THE CONVENTION

- *Ensure the protection of human rights for incarcerated people rejected by the prison subculture;*
- *Provide protection from other prisoners for incarcerated LGBT+ people;*
- *Provide timely access to ARV treatment for HIV positive people in prisons;*
- *Provide timely access to hormone therapy to trans * people in prisons;*
- *Equate to torture, lack of access to timely ARV treatment and hormone therapy.*

ARTICLE 12 OF THE CONVENTION

- *Conduct a fair and impartial investigation into the unlawful detention of and use of torture against participants of the March;*
- *Punish police officers and attackers for obstructing the conduct of a peaceful assembly or participation in it, in accordance with the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic;*
- *Punish the attackers for group hooliganism, as well as for causing harm to the health and property of some participants;*
- *Dismiss the police officers who obstructed the staff of the Ombudsman's Office and the National Center for the Prevention of Torture, and lawyers.*

ARTICLE 16 OF THE CONVENTION

- *Remove the law on gay propaganda from the agenda of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic;*
- *Stop the practice of public outings of LGBT+ people;*
- *Legally prohibit conversion therapy for LGBT+ people.*

ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC OF THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

ARTICLE 2 OF THE CONVENTION

Kyrgyzstan is taking measures to combat torture and to establish accountability for the use of torture, but these measures do not cover the LGBT+ community. At the same time, Kyrgyz Indigo continues to document cases of torture and cruel, inhuman treatment by law enforcement officials against members of the community. The state does not keep statistics on torture in relation to various groups, including LGBT+ people.

CASE:

In 2021, two gay men were detained by police. They were taken to a drug addiction clinic for a test. They were in handcuffs in the car. Then the police officers began to beat and strangle them. By the time the lawyer came to the police building, the victims arrived beaten. After some time, the victims wanted to file a statement about the use of torture, and the police responded by opening a case against them for an attack on an official. The victims face prison terms.

This case demonstrates that police officers can use their power to torture LGBT+ people and then intimidate victims with prison sentences if they decide to file a complaint.

The Special Rapporteur on the right to health, in his report on the results of his visit to Kyrgyzstan in 2018, also noted that “lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons are subjected to psychological violence, sexual abuse and physical harm by family members, law enforcement officials and healthcare personnel. This significantly affects their physical and mental integrity.”¹

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2017 does not mention groups that could be interpreted as vulnerable communities, including LGBT+ people. It should be noted that there is no antidiscrimination legislation in Kyrgyzstan that would meet international standards. This results in the impunity of law enforcement officials in their use of discrimination against vulnerable groups. The anti-torture action plan expired in 2015² and has not been updated. However, even the expired plan did not include measures to prevent torture against LGBT+ people.

Moreover, Kyrgyzstan not only fails to improve current legislation, which should aim to combat torture, but has also adopted legislation that may contribute to torture. For instance, on June 17, 2020, the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted amendments to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “*On acts of civil status*”. The new version of the law came into force on August 1, 2020. Article 72 of the previous version of the law made it possible for trans* people to change their passport gender: *The determination of making a correction or amendment to the civil registry record shall be drawn up by the civil registry office:*

- *if the civil registry record contains incorrect or incomplete information, or spelling errors;*
- *if the civil registry record was made without taking into account the rules established by the laws of the Kyrgyz Republic;*
- *if a document of the established form for changing one’s sex, issued by a medical organization, is provided.*

In the new version of the Law “*On acts of civil status*”, only the first two points remain, while the third “*if a document of the established form for changing one’s sex, issued by a medical organization, is provided*”, has disappeared. At the same time, the Republican Center for Mental Health continues to examine trans* people, and issues certificates attesting to a person’s transsexuality in accordance with the ICD-10. In addition, Article 38 “*Change, correction of sex*” of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “*On the protection of the health of citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic*”, enables trans* people to undergo corrective operations. Before the amendment to the Law “*On acts of civil status*”, trans* people could change their gender in their passport documents. Now, trans* people are being rejected from doing so. The inability to change the gender marker in their documents adversely affects

¹ A/HRC/41/34/Add, para. 45.

² The plan is available at: <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/214065?cl=ru-ru#%D1%801>

the lives of trans* people. The difference between their appearance in person compared to in their documents is a reason for bullying in educational institutions and at work, and can lead to discrimination by state authorities. “Kyrgyz Indigo” known cases when trans * people, whose documents did not correspond to gender expression, were forced to undress by police, customs and other government officials, which can be equated with torture.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Introduce measures to combat torture against LGBT+ people in the national plan for the prevention of torture and implement them in partnership with LGBT+ organizations;*
- *Adopt comprehensive antidiscrimination legislation with the inclusion of SOGI as protected characteristics;*
- *Introduce the concepts of hate crimes and SOGI as protected characteristics into the criminal code;*
- *Give trans* people back their ability to change their gender marker.*

ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONVENTION

According to “Kyrgyz Indigo”, from 2014³ to October 1, 2021, 118 cases of crimes and human rights violations based on SOGI were documented.

It should be noted that the available statistics do not provide an accurate view of the actual state of affairs. The real scale of inhuman treatment and torture towards the LGBT+ community is almost impossible to establish, including because of the state’s move towards institutionalizing homo/transphobia⁴, stigma in society, and ongoing cases of discrimination against LGBT+ people by law enforcement officials⁵. These factors lead to the fact that representatives of the LGBT+ community who are subjected to torture do not file reports with official bodies, because they fear a worsening of the situation, and do not believe in justice.

*“This is how the police realized that we were gay. Two officers began to beat us; the investigator did not beat us, but he watched it all and insulted us. They held us for four hours, insulted us, did not allow us to sit down, and said that we can only stand”.*⁶

According to a study on violence by PA “Kyrgyz Indigo”⁷ almost 96% of respondents experienced psychological abuse when someone used threats and blackmail against them to gain control over them. A very large number of people experienced physical violence: 84% of the respondents. 35% of respondents said they had experienced sexual violence and/or sexual threats in connection with SOGI. All respondents of the study noted that the police and other law enforcement agencies pose the greatest danger to them. Most of the stories in which violence and discrimination were experienced were associated with law enforcement agencies

*“When I was hit, my wig flew off... One of the employees began to bite my neck. Then they pulled off my dress, then one pulled back the elastic of my bra and abruptly let it go... They all took pictures with me, then put me in the trunk. Three minutes later, they brought me to the police station. Many staff members were there, and they told them: “Whoever wants to use her... do it”... They realized I had nothing for them to take, so they put me in the trunk. We drove around for about two hours.”*⁸

Often, the fear of disclosing someone’s SOGI status is a way for law enforcement officers to manipulate and blackmail people. Every third registered case where the perpetrator is a law enforcement official involves blackmail, which becomes systematic, so the victim is forced to pay money after a certain amount of time otherwise they will be outed to their relatives.

³ The last time Kyrgyz Indigo reported to the CCPR Committee and UPR was in 2014.

⁴ Examples available at:
<http://kloop.kg/blog/2014/06/17/komitet-zhk-po-pravam-cheloveka-odobril-antigejskij-zakonoproekt/>
<https://rus.azattyk.org/a/28159019.html>

⁵ Human Rights Watch, article “Kyrgyzstan: Police abuse, Extortion of Gay Men”, available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/01/28/kyrgyzstan-police-abuse-extortion-gay-men>

⁶ The case was documented by a Kyrgyz Indigo. The victim turned to the organization for psychological help after refusing to file a complaint with law enforcement agencies to punish the perpetrators. Bishkek, September, 2017.

⁷ The study was conducted in 2016 among LGBT people and covered the city of Bishkek, including internal migrants.

⁸ The case was documented by a Kyrgyz Indigo, in which the perpetrators included from 12 to 14 law enforcement officers. Bishkek, March, 2016.

“...when I asked for my telephone back, [one] of the officers hit me several times in the stomach, and then, when I fell, kicked me so hard that I lost consciousness. Later, when I came to, I was sitting at my boyfriend’s house, and he said that he gave all of his cash and watch so that they would not send these photos around and distribute them. We didn’t file a statement...”⁹

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Collect and publish statistics on torture against different groups, including LGBT+ people;
- Ensure a fair investigation of cases of torture against LGBT+ people.

ARTICLE 10 OF THE CONVENTION

In Kyrgyzstan, it is necessary to introduce a training manual and instructions for active police officers on working with LGBT+ people. The instructions should clearly state that outing (disclosing information about SOGI to third parties without the permission of the LGBT+ person) is a violation of the confidentiality of the victim or suspect. The instructions should also address issues related to detention and the conditions of detention of trans* people.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Provide training on working with LGBT+ people for law enforcement officers with the involvement of community-based organizations;
- Adopt instructions for working with LGBT+ people for law enforcement agencies.

ARTICLE 11 OF THE CONVENTION

Situations in places of detention and the restriction of freedom, where LGBT+ people are subjected to double violence and intolerance, both from law enforcement agencies themselves and from other detainees (prisoners or suspects), require close attention.

The purpose and motive for most cases of torture by operational officers of internal affairs bodies is to compel the victim to confess, in conditions of arbitrary detention and with the complete ignorance of the relatives of the victim of torture.

“Three transgender women were detained. According to them, they were not given the opportunity to call someone they know to tell them where they were.”¹⁰

Often, law enforcement officers out people (disclose the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBT+ people against their will), and other prisoners or suspects find out about the SOGI of members of the LGBT+ community.

“We were sent to a pre-trial detention center. There, my friend was often beaten because the police told other prisoners about his sexual orientation. We asked to be provided with a separate cell, as we were often beaten and insulted, but we were refused.”¹¹

Trans* women who have not (or have only partially) transitioned to their perceived gender are often faced with terrible conditions. For example, they may be placed in the male ward, where they are sexually and physically abused and bullied by other prisoners or suspects. At best, they may be provided with a separate cell¹².

In addition to being outed and abused by other prisoners and suspects, law enforcement agencies may bully members of the community and deny them human living conditions while in detention. A transgender girl complained that during her stay in a pre-trial detention center she was denied food and a chance to smoke¹³.

⁹ Case documented by “Kyrgyz Indigo”. Spelling and stylistics preserved. Bishkek, December, 2016.

¹⁰ Representative of URG – documented by “Kyrgyz Indigo”. Bishkek, February, 2017.

¹¹ Case documented by “Kyrgyz Indigo”. Bishkek, September, 2017.

¹² “Kyrgyz Indigo” knows a case where a transgender woman was placed in the women’s ward. Bishkek, February, 2017: <http://svodka.akipress.org/news:1364031?from=kgnews&place=newstoplast>

¹³ Interview of “Kyrgyz Indigo” with one of the victims. Bishkek, February, 2017.



In 2015, the **Human Rights Committee** came to a decision on the case, *Ernazarov v. Kyrgyzstan*,¹⁴ which dealt with the harassment and physical abuse suffered by prisoners charged with certain sexual offenses, or those deemed to be “homosexual”. The Committee found a violation by the state of a number of articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the prohibition of torture.

“On 1 October, 2020, they detailed us and kept us in the preliminary detention ward on raw concrete for 2 days. On 3 October, they took us to the temporary detention center after the imposition of a preventive measure. There, we were mocked by police officers: they deliberately put us in a cold cell, pitted other prisoners against us, and left us without food. We were not given soap or toilet paper.

I was beaten and went to the medical unit and explained that I was a trans woman. The woman there told me: “fuck your mother,” and gave me paracetamol. On October 12, I filed a complaint about the torture, and handed over the clothes that my friend and I hung ourselves with, but did not receive any response for 6 months. On October 21, we were taken to the pre-trial detention center where we were put into the toilet. I was stripped and insulted. Then, I was put with the women based on my female documents. The abuse started there. One woman wanted to cut my face.*

I am also an HIV-positive woman. My ARV treatment was provided to me with a delay of 5 days, which negatively affected my viral load and also constitutes torture. When I was given the medicine, they spoke about this loudly so that the other inmates knew that I had HIV.

I did not receive hormone therapy in time because I was not allowed to see anyone and ask for it. I faced trouble with the health because of that. The therapist told me that hormone therapy should not be stopped abruptly and that influence to my heart and liver.

On October 31, I was again taken to the pre-trial detention center, and kept there in the toilet. Then, they brought me to cell 136 for people with mental disorders. The police officers watched me go to the toilet, called me “faggot,” and threatened that they would kill us and that no one would be able to help. One day guard A. beat us. I could not stand the humiliation, and attempted to hang myself. After this, a person from the Ombudsman's office came, and the police apologized, and then gave me a separate cell. Only after this did I receive treatment”

I wrote to the director with the names of the employees who mocked me, but I received an answer that they did not find any basis for my claims. I tried to forget a lot of the torture, this is what I still remember¹⁵.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Ensure the protection of human rights for incarcerated people rejected by the prison subculture;
- Provide protection from other prisoners for incarcerated LGBT+ people;
- Provide timely access to ARV treatment for HIV positive people in prisons;
- Provide timely access to hormone therapy to trans * people in prisons;
- Equate to torture, lack of access to timely ARV treatment and hormone therapy.

ARTICLE 12 OF THE CONVENTION

The March for Women's Rights, organized by the 8\365 movement, was supposed to be held on March 8, 2020¹⁶. Five minutes before the start of the March, an unknown group of men in masks and traditional hats attacked the participants and organizers¹⁷. Then, the police began to arrest the victims, including journalists, rather than the attackers. Approximately 70 participants of the March were taken to the Sverdlovsk police department. They were kept in the courtyard of the police department for a long time, and were not given the opportunity to sit. The participants were not given water or food, and were not told of the charges against them¹⁸. Lawyers, representatives of the National Center for the Prevention of Torture, and employees of the Ombudsman's office were not allowed into the building of the police department.

¹⁴ Communication no. 2054/2011, [views](#) of 25 March 2015.

¹⁵ Case documented by “Kyrgyz Indigo”. Bishkek, September, 2021.

¹⁶ Movement 8\365 - formed in 2019 on the basis of feminist and intersectional agendas in order to jointly conduct the annual Solidarity March for the International Women's Day on March 8.

¹⁷ The information provided by Movement 8\365.

¹⁸ Human Rights Watch, Kyrgyzstan: Women's activist detained <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/12/kyrgyzstan-womens-activists-detained>

One participant became ill, but the police refused to call an ambulance. When the participants called the ambulance on their own, they refused to come, claiming that they could only come to the police station if the police officers themselves called them. The participants were released a few hours later.

Many statements were sent to the State National Security Committee about the illegal detention and torture by the police officers, however, there has still been no fair investigation. Some officials have expressed support for the attack on the March participants. Deputy Zhyldyz Musabekova commented on the incident: *"It was a good thing. I am tired of these gays who turn the holiday into a mess. They did the right thing to get rid of them. No, we need to drive them out of the country"*¹⁹, *"I thank the police and the brave Kyrgyz men. We must not forget that traditions, values, and history are above everything."*

At the same time, the Kyrgyz Republic states in its report that all cases, regardless of SOGI, are reviewed (CAT/C/KGZ/3, paragraph 68).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Conduct a fair, impartial investigation into the unlawful detention of and use of torture against participants of the March;*
- *Punish police officers and attackers for obstructing the conduct of a peaceful assembly or participation in it, in accordance with the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic;*
- *Punish the attackers for group hooliganism, as well as for causing harm to the health and property of some participants;*
- *Dismiss the police officers who obstructed the staff of the Ombudsman's Office and the National Center for the Prevention of Torture, and lawyers.*

ARTICLE 16 OF THE CONVENTION

On May 6, 2014, the Jogorku Kenesh registered a draft law *"On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic"* (to the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, to the Code of the Kyrgyz Republic on Administrative Responsibility, to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic *"On peaceful assemblies"*, and to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic *"On the media"*). This bill, according to its preamble, *"defines the inadmissibility of popularizing homosexual relations in society and the propaganda of a 'homosexual lifestyle'"*.

Four UN Special Rapporteurs expressed concern about the draft law and its possible implications, and sent a corresponding communication to Kyrgyzstan in 2014.²⁰

In 2015, the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** expressed concern that *"[the] draft law No. 6-11804 / 14, which has passed the first reading stage in the parliament, introduces criminal and administrative sanctions for the "formation of a positive attitude to non-traditional sexual relations", which may discriminate against certain groups of women, including lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women"*. The Committee recommended to Kyrgyzstan *"to ensure that the discriminatory draft law No. 6-11804/14 is not adopted."*²¹

In the same year, the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** expressed concern about the bill, and recommended that the state withdraw it.²²

The process of adopting the draft bill was accompanied by opposition from the civil sector, as a result of which the bill was withdrawn and, with minor changes, was returned by its authors for consideration to the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. To date, the bill has not been removed from the agenda of the Parliament²³. The bill undoubtedly increased cases of violence and discrimination

¹⁹ Musabekova's statement is available at:

https://kaktus.media/doc/407534_jyldyz_mysabekova_nadoeli_eti_gei_kotorye_prevrashaut_prazdnik_v_besporiadok.html

²⁰ The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. *KGZ 1/2014*, 6 May 2014.

²¹ CEDAW/C/KGZ/CO/4, paras. 9 and 10.

²² E/C.12/KGZ/CO/2-3, paras. 5 and 6.

²³ Information available at: <https://rus.azattyq.org/a/27091665.html>

against LGBT+ people: “Kyrgyz Indigo” notes outbursts of violence and torture during a period of initiation of discriminatory projects²⁴.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has signed memoranda with some media outlets, which travel with them on raids. In most cases, such trips are not sanctioned, and the process is aimed at humiliating the human dignity of LGBT+ people in Kyrgyzstan.

“While the police were driving, the guards insulted us and periodically tried to beat us. When the police arrived, they began to take us away. They did not answer when asked why the victims were being taken away, and began to push us into the car. At one point, we noticed a camera that was filming us all. My friend pushed the journalist. He dropped his camera. A second friend started kicking the camera. We were afraid of being outed because we are trans people.”²⁵

Videos posted on the Internet lead to a long-term threat of experiencing violence at any time²⁶.

“I'm tired of living like this, they tell me that I will burn in hell, but if there is HELL, then it is here on earth. They recognize me on the street, terrorize me, and don't let me by. I can no longer deal with this, I do not want to experience the humiliation and insults targeting me”.²⁷

The media of Kyrgyzstan often speculates²⁸ on LGBT+ issues to raise their ratings. Print and online publications print open calls to institutionalize homo- and transphobia, and use openly degrading and offensive words.

“And in the Jogorku Kenesh, there is a law, long awaited by the public of Kyrgyzstan, which prohibits the propaganda of homosexuality in the country. Gentlemen, deputies, what are you waiting for? Or have the homosexuals already infiltrated your ranks? And hinder the adoption of this law that is important and necessary for the majority of Kyrgyzstanis?!”²⁹

In 2020, a trans* woman filed a complaint for the protection of honor and dignity in connection with a video clip. The district court granted her claim, found the video to be a violation of her honor and dignity, and awarded compensation in the amount of 10,000 soms (\$ 118). On the one hand, this is the first case where a trans* woman brought a case against the media and won. On the other hand, the compensation is extremely minimal, even though she is constantly recognized on the streets, experienced a number of attacks, and had to temporarily leave Kyrgyzstan for safety because of the video clip.

The practice of conversion therapy for LGBT+ people continues in Kyrgyzstan. Religious leaders often take part in such activities.

CASE

In 2019, a bisexual woman was brought by her relatives to a religious figure. He choked her, and beat her on the stomach to "cure" her. She vomited and fainted several times.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Remove the law on gay propaganda from the agenda of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Stop the practice of public outings of LGBT+ people;
- Legally prohibit conversion therapy for LGBT+ people.

²⁴ News release on the situation of LGBT people in the Kyrgyz Republic, 2016 <https://indigo.kg/uploads/File/2021/01/14/News-release-2016.pdf>

²⁵ Interview of “Kyrgyz Indigo” with victims. Bishkek, February, 2017.

²⁶ Examples available at:

<https://ok.ru/video/38580193893>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fldvFpLhohM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRRa1RRLEWE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IADL8x6kHSs>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAj_N47KvDU

<https://ok.ru/video/254335191660>

²⁷ Interview of “Kyrgyz Indigo” with one of the torture victims, whose video of bullying by law enforcement officials was posted on the Internet, following which she attempted suicide three times.

²⁸ Kyrgyz Indigo Digest

https://indigo.kg/uploads/File/2021/01/14/Daydzhest----3_Kyrgyziz-Indigo.pdf

https://indigo.kg/uploads/File/2021/01/14/Daydzhest----4_Kyrgyziz-Indigo.pdf

²⁹ Taken from the article “Однополые устроили шабаш” in the newspaper “Дело№” <http://delo.kg/index.php/2011-08-04-18-06-33/8635-odnopolye-ustroili-shabash>