

INFO SHEET AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CENTRAL ASIA (CA): Human Rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people (LGBTIQ).

KYRGYZSTAN (Sources: Public Associations “Labrys”, “Kyrgyz Indigo”, Bishkek Feminist Collective SQ):

- 1) Extortion, blackmail, threats, physical and sexual violence against LGBTIQ by the representatives of law enforcement agencies;
- 2) The lack of clear rules to change the passport information for transgender individuals. This situation leads to violation of their rights and greater vulnerability, when they are not able to receive education, to access health services, to find a job, to go abroad;
- 3) Kyrgyzstan received recommendations to protect women against discrimination and violence based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) under CEDAW (2008) and UPR (2010), but to date nothing is done to meet these recommendations, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women in 2009 recommended that Kyrgyzstan takes measures to protect lesbian, bisexual women and transgender people from violence, but to date nothing is done to meet these recommendations;
- 4) LGBTIQ people are not able to seek for remedies and support from the state, when their rights are violated
- 5) “Corrective rape” is practiced against lesbian and bisexual women, as well as against transgender individuals.
- 6) Between January and August 2013 at least 11 LGB people became victims of human rights violations based on their sexual orientation. Out of eleven, 5 gay men and 2 lesbian women were victims of police abuse. In 4 cases the perpetrators were unidentified assailants. In July 2013 case a 20-year-old gay man was followed by four men after he left a store, they dragged him into Bishkek botanical garden, broke his hand, gave him a concussion, two of them raped him. The man did not report this incident to the police

KAZAKHSTAN (Source: Public Fund “Azimut Plus”,)

- 1) Discrimination at work, education and health service providers
- 2) Intimidation, blackmailing, extortion by the police
- 3) Physical violence in families, in the streets
- 4) Forced outing of somebody’s sexual orientation and/or HIV-status
- 5) Unsystematic monitoring and reporting of cases of hate crime, violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ
- 6) Highly homophobic and unsensitized mass media

UZBEKISTAN (Sources: Central Asian Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Network):

- 1) Consensual sexual relations between men are criminalized by Article 120 of the Criminal Code. Such criminalization violates the rights of LGBTIQ to security, health, private life, freedom of assembly, association and expression and increases their vulnerability, leading to more cases of violence, hate crime and discrimination against them;
- 2) Students at medical institutions are taught how to identify gay people during the medical examination and then to transfer information to law enforcement authorities;
- 3) Gay men and lesbian women are harassed by the police (blackmail, intimidation, physical and sexual violence);
- 4) Non-governmental organizations are subject to restrictions, harassment and repression.

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LGBT organization “Kyrgyz Indigo” – KG // indigo.kg // kyrgyzindigo@gmail.com

Bishkek Feminist Collective SQ – KG // bishkekfeminists.kloop.kg // bishkekfeminists@gmail.com

TURKMENISTAN (Source: Central Asian Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Network)

- 1) Consensual sexual relations between men are criminalized by the Criminal Code. Such criminalization violates the rights of LGBTIQ to security, health, private life, freedom of assembly, association and expression and increases their vulnerability, leading to more cases of violence, hate crime and discrimination against them;
- 2) Representatives of the civil society are de facto forbidden to gather into organizations or initiatives and to represent and protect the rights of their fellow citizens.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES FROM CENTRAL ASIA:

- 1) Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between men;
- 2) Follow human rights based approach in policies, laws and programs and reaffirm that cultural, traditional and religious values can't justify any form of violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ;
- 3) Eliminate any legal and policy limitations to freedom of assembly, association and expression of LGBTIQ;
- 4) Introduce comprehensive laws, policies and mechanisms on the protection of LGBTIQ individuals from hate crime, violence and discrimination;
- 5) Provide necessary remedies and support to victims of violence or hate crime on a basis of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- 6) Introduce necessary laws and regulations that ease the procedures of changing gender markers and names in the passports for transgender people;
- 7) Together with the civil society systematically monitor cases of violence, hate crime and discrimination against LGBTIQ;

RECOMMENDATIONS TO OTHER MEMBER STATES:

- 1) Inform the country delegations and representatives from CA region about the urgency of responding to violence, hate crime and discrimination against LGBTIQ in the region;
- 2) Actively condemn any policies and laws that criminalize consensual same-sex sexual relationships, promote violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ;
- 3) React to cases of violation of rights of LGBTIQ human rights defenders in CA and to individual cases;
- 4) Share experiences and best practices of protecting the rights of LGBTIQ with the representatives of the Governments of Central Asia;