



PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND  
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org)

Mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination  
based on sexual orientation and gender identity

## Call for Inputs

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### **Report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**

#### **Peace, Security, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

Kyrgyzstan is located in Central Asia and shares common borders with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Although all countries in the region have close diplomatic and economic ties with each other, from time to time there are conflicts on the border between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

In April 2021, a four-day armed conflict took place, as a result of which 44 people died, 36 of whom were citizens of Kyrgyzstan. 180 Kyrgyzstan citizens and 110 citizens of Tajikistan were injured. Buildings of educational and medical institutions, infrastructure facilities, 170 residential buildings, and other movable and immovable property of Kyrgyz citizens were destroyed. Children were also among the dead<sup>1</sup>.

The second armed conflict took place on January 27, 2021. On the morning of January 28, 2021, the evacuation of the civilian population from the border areas began. The parties to the peaceful settlement of the conflict and on the same day most of the evacuees returned to their homes. As a result of the collision, 12 people were injured, including civilians<sup>2</sup>.

Turning to the gender aspect. During armed conflicts, residents were left without access to electricity and clean water. Most of the victims among the civilian population are women and children.

It is also necessary to pay attention to interethnic conflicts in the same southern regions of Kyrgyzstan. In 2010, there was a very large conflict between representatives of two ethnic groups: Kyrgyz and Uzbeks, who are one of the largest national diasporas in Kyrgyzstan. To date, no expert assessment of the causes of the conflict has been given, but as a result of this, 470 people died<sup>3</sup>. Eyewitnesses shared not only cases of murder, but also cases of rape of women. However, the official sources of Kyrgyzstan did not keep such statistics.

The situation in the country is also affected by conflicts in which Kyrgyzstan is not a party. With the outbreak of the war in Syria, according to the media, active recruitment of women from the southern regions, as well as from among labor migrants in Russia, began for

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<sup>1</sup> Available here: <https://www.bbc.com/russian/news-56955467>

<sup>2</sup> Available here: <https://rus.azattyk.org/a/31674620.html>

<sup>3</sup> Available here: <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/desyat-let-besporjadkam-v-oshe/30659317.html>

“jihad”. The official authorities in this case, despite the calls of civil society to resolve this issue, did not take any active steps<sup>4</sup>.

Since the society in the southern regions of the country is more conservative and there is a strong influence of Islam on people's lives, LGBT+ people remain invisible to statistics and it is impossible to get data on how many victims and killed are LGBT+ people.

Kyrgyzstan is a lower middle income country. In Kyrgyzstan , there is:

- low economic activity,
- increasing poverty,
- aggravation of socio-economic, gender and regional inequality.

If we consider social indicators for 2021-2022, then there are such data<sup>5</sup>:

- The average annual number of available population (thousand people): 2021 - 6458.4; 2022 - 6600.4;
- Poverty (as a percentage of the population): 2021 - 21.8%; 2022 - 21.5%.

In the medium term, the available population is projected to grow by an average of 137.0 thousand people per year, the number of employed people will increase annually by an average of 1.0%. GDP per capita will increase by 4.4% on average per year and will amount to \$1,578.8 in 2022.

The real growth of the average monthly wage is projected on average by 0.3% and will amount to 19682.9 soms in 2022. The real growth of monetary incomes of the population is projected at an average annual rate of 0.9% and will amount to 506.7 billion. soms in 2022.

The poverty rate in the medium term will decrease by an average of 0.23 percentage points per year and will amount to 21.5% in 2022.

With such indicators, Kyrgyzstan will not be able to help civil society and resist the consequences of armed conflicts.

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<sup>4</sup> Available here: <https://kloop.kg/blog/2014/10/27/azattyk-devushki-v-sotssetyah-prizyvayut-k-dzhihadu/>

<sup>5</sup> The main directions of the fiscal policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020-2022, URL: <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/157292>