

BRIDE-KIDNAPPING

The status quo and public opinion: approaches, practices, challenges, opportunities



25 October, 2017

OSCE Academy in Bishkek

The event is organized by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA) as part of the project aiming at changing attitudes towards bride kidnapping. Financially supported by the **IFA CCP Plus program (Germany)** this multi-disciplinary dialogue platform will take place on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 bringing together representatives of human rights organizations, religious circles and law enforcement agencies, as well as researchers, historians, writers, sociologists, journalists and wider audience.

In Kyrgyzstan the ugly practice of Ala Kachuu-Zorduk (bride-kidnapping) still prevents many smart and promising young women from education, from leading a decent life, from seeing the world beyond her abusers' household and chores. The criminal code of Kyrgyzstan provides for up to 7 years of imprisonment for kidnapping of a person under 17 to enter marriage relationship. Despite legislation, law enforcement authorities do not consider kidnapping and forced marriage a serious crime. The main idea behind is to change the perception of the practice from generally accepted tradition to illegal crime.

This project is aimed at informing and involving young people - our main audience. As a result of discussions, several trips to the regions are planned for work with high school pupils and students. Open lectures, movie nights and discussions, and debates on a given topic with participation of IDEA Central Asia are planned.

The format of the event: two thematic panels and Q/A sessions, group work and a final general discussion.

Working language: Russian

Date: October 25, 2017

Time: 08:30-17:00

Venue: OSCE Academy

Bishkek, Botanichesky Pereulok, 1A

PROGRAMME

8:30-9:00	REGISTRATION
9:00-9:30	Welcoming address Altybaeva Aynuruu , Parliament of KR Dr. Alexander Wolters , OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Director Svetlana Dzardanova , OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Research and Training Coordinator
9:30-11:00	SESSION: BRIDE-KIDNAPPING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF JUDICIAL, TRADITIONAL AND RELIGIOUS LAW Moderator: Rimma Sultanova , NGO "Women's Aid Center" Nazikbek Kadymyshev , Director, OS «Elbilge», historian, "Bride kidnapping as a crime in customary Kyrgyz law" Gulyaim Ayylchy , Entrepreneur, feminist "Abduction of a person - Article 154, 155 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic" Chinara Aidarbekova , NGO "Kyrgyz Women's Association of Judges" Zhamal Frontbek kyzy , Mutakalim, "Bride kidnapping from the religion point of view"
11: 00- 11:15	Coffee-break
11:15-12:45	SESSION: ALA-KACHUU PROCESS: PARTICIPANTS, PUBLIC OPINION AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES Moderator: Altyn Kapalova , Institute for Mountain Communities Studies, UCA, researcher Gulshan Abdylidaeva , Ministry of education and science of KR, «Rights learnt via education process» Elena Kim , AUCA, Faculty of Psychology, professor, Elena Molchanova , AUCA, Faculty of Psychology, associate professor, "The role and experience of men in the practice of bride kidnapping" Marat Aliyaskarov , Director, PF "Men against violence" "Correction programmes for men" Ayzat Shakieva , Chairman of the Board, Bishkek Feminist Initiatives (BFI) "Feminist practices through art and role of the media in public opinion shaping"
12:45-13:45	Lunch, Dolce Vita Pizzeria
13:45- 15:15	WORK IN GROUPS / RECOMMENDATIONS Group 1: State and international programs, laws, and their implementation Moderator: Rimma Sultanova , NGO "Women's Aid Center" Problem: Adoption of the law in 2010 (and amendments to Article 155 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2013) became yet another milestone in the fight against numerous violations against women's rights in the country. At the moment, there are a number of state and international initiatives aimed at informing and involving the population to solve the issue. Despite the work done and projects completed, cases of bride kidnapping are still ubiquitous. Objectives: Discuss projects and programs at the state and local levels, assess the law and the relevant regulatory framework, identify weaknesses and

changes to be introduced. Offer recommendations to stakeholders of the process from the legislature to the local government, general public, the media, NGOs and international organizations.

Group 2: Public opinion shaping through art and social media

Moderator: Altyn Kapalova, Institute for Mountain Communities Studies, UCA, researcher

Problem: Bride kidnapping as a phenomenon is associated with numerous stereotypes and myths, while for some it is a tradition it is crime for others. So far, there is no common opinion in the society and attitude towards the issue. The situation may be associated with lack of public awareness, the fact that society receives confusing messages from main information sources like the state, media, civil activists, artists and bloggers. While some information campaigns are aimed at censoring, others romanticize the phenomenon through films, advertising, songs. Often the problem is ill-posed and only few people know how the law actually works.

Objectives: Discuss the pros and cons of information campaigns, attempts of the state to explain the law, discuss the influence of the media and art on the shaping of public opinion. Develop clear recommendations for the process stakeholders from the state to media and civil activists, to international organizations.

Group 3: Rights through education

Moderator: Elvira Kalmurzaeva, Executive Director of IDEA CA

Problem: Awareness and understanding of one's rights and freedoms is one of the main tools for combating violence and discrimination. Education is increasingly recognized as a method of communication and preventive work. There are examples of successful practices of introducing information campaigns into the school curriculum. The fight against home violence and bride kidnapping can and should be introduced at the level of schools and universities, through the involvement of young people and the use of various methods-from debates to public speeches-to inform and change attitudes toward this crime.

Objectives: Discuss existing international approaches and programs aimed at preventing violence and bride kidnapping through education, examples of success and existing work with schoolchildren and students. Develop recommendations for government agencies, the Ministry of education and science, and municipalities.

15:15-15:30

Coffee-break

15:30-16:30

Group presentations

16:30-17:00

Wrap-up session

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

№	NAME	AFFILIATION
1	Abakirova Gulzinat	Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Student
2	Abdrahmanov Azamat	MoI KR, Chief, Colonel
3	Abduvalieva Aygoul	IBC, Financial Manager.
4	Abdyldaeva Gulshan	Ministry of education and science of KR, Leading Specialist
5	Ahumbaeva Aziza	OSCE Academy, Student
6	Akmatova Asel	"Art Initiatives", Director
7	Aliyaskarov Marat	PF "Men against violence", Director
8	Asanova Bayan	Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Student
9	Aslanova Indira	Religious scholar, researcher
10	Ayylchy Gulyaim	Entrepreneur, feminist
11	Bayhodjaeva Altyнай	International University of Kyrgyzstan, Deputy Head of Postgraduate Studies Department
12	Chikalova Lidiya	Trainer, PR-specialist
13	Duysheeva Nurila	Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Student
14	Dzardanova Svetlana	OSCE Academy, Research and Training Coordinator
15	Emilbekova Meriza	UN-Women, Communication and Advocacy Specialist
16	Erkinbek kyzy Ayday	Program "Mineral Resources for Development", GIZ, Program Assistant
17	Eshiev Asylbek	PF "Equal rights and opportunities", Director
18	Galkina Rada	Crisis Centre «Sezim»
19	Ilibezova Larisa	Gender Expert
20	Irsakova Jamilya	NISS KR, Researcher
21	Israilova Chinara	Inform Agency Ferghana.Ru, Freelance journalist
22	Jamanbaeva Nellya	Media-coordinator в IDEA Central Asia
23	Jedigerova Ilyana	NGO "Partner Group Precedent", Lawyer, Project Coordinator
24	Kadymyshev Nazikbek	«Elbilge», Chairperson
25	Kalmurzaeva Elvira	IDEA Central Asia, Executive director
26	Kapalova Altyн	Институт Исследования горных сообществ, УЦА, исследовательница
27	Khamidova Sevara	IDEA Central Asia, Intern
28	Kim Elena	AUCA, Professor
29	Kuvatova Jyldyz	UN-Women, National Program Coordinator
30	Lord Simon	WHO, Consultant
31	Molchanova Elena	AUCA, Associate Professor
32	Muratalieva Nargiza	Editor in Chief, CABAR.asia
33	Nurlanbekova Meerim	AUCA, Student
35	Nurumbetov Ulugbek	Peaceful Dialogue Youth Organization, Director
35	Osmonova Asel	MoI KR, Advisor on gender policy
36	Saltanatova Dovlatsulton	OSCE Academy, Student
37	Sergeeva Elena	NGO "Hands of Love" coordinator of the Day Center
38	Ayzat Shakieva,	Chairman of the Board, Bishkek Feminist Initiatives (BFI)
39	Sultanova Rimma	Gender Expert

40	Tegizbekova Jyldyz	International University Alatau, Associate Professor
41	Toktobekov Chingyz	KRSU, Political Scientist
42	Toktonaliev Timur	IWPR in Kyrgyzstan, Editor
43	Wolters Alexander	OSCE Academy, Director