



BULAN INSTITUTE
for PEACE INNOVATIONS

Dear distinguished delegates,

Dear colleagues,

The Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations is a non-profit, non-governmental organization with two offices: in Bishkek and Geneva. We work to promote human rights and peace through research and advocacy but the Bishkek office works mainly on children`s right thus our submission to UPR was on children`s right in Kyrgyzstan. And today in the pre/sessions we want to draw attention of the delegates to violence against children and their right to education. The Bulan Institute in Bishkek has been working to protect children`s right to civic education in light of poverty, growing Islamization and child labor in the country. Since 2017, The Bulan Institute in Bishkek published 5 reports about problems of education of children in Kyrgyzstan.

General context. There is growing Islamization in Kyrgyzstan and subsequently more parents prefer their children to receive Islamic religious education. There is poverty which is affecting many rights of children. The number of school age children is 1 million 260 thousand, and 800,000 of them live in poverty. The next challenge is corruption in law enforcement agencies which results in impunity.

Right to education. Article 45 of the Constitution of Kyrgyz Republic stipulates that every child needs to go to school and receive education. Other legal norms also confirm and support this norm. “Law about Education of Kyrgyz Republic” has several provisions about compulsory education in school, which means that both government and parents are obliged to guarantee children`s right to civic education. However, there is an urgent need to take appropriate measures to guarantee and implement children`s right to civic education. There is growing Islamization in Kyrgyzstan and different religious movements. Some parents join religious movements which are against civic education thus deprive their children from school education. And some parents are deciding that children should study in madrasah instead of school. To give under-age children to madrasah, which is a Islamic religious education institutions that is a private entity, violates legal norms and children rights to education. Ministry of Science and Education of Kyrgyz Republic says that in 2017/2018, 800 children did not go to school by religious reasons, which means religious parents did not allow their children to go to school, or they preferred madrasah instead of school. The Kyrgyz government is taking some measures to return these children to school, but we urge Kyrgyz government to take more confident steps. There is no concrete mechanism in the Ministry of Science and Education to find out, register and monitor out-of-school children, and the madrasahs has not been monitored in order to prevent under-age children`s study.

Violence against children. In Kyrgyzstan, violence against children has been widespread and children of migrants left behind have been exposed to physical and psychological violence. As UNICEF confirms, children of labour migrants who are left behind with relatives, acquaintances or put into institutions are extremely vulnerable to abuse and violence. There are dozens of cases that occur frequently when 2 years old boy beaten to death or five years girl was raped while being left with relatives. Trauma caused physical and psychological violence has irreversible damages on children's development and also deprive them opportunities to get school education. Currently, about 300,000 children have been left behind by their parents in Kyrgyzstan for labour migration and there is an increase each year.

There is no actions or policies have been taken by the government of Kyrgyz Republic to stop violence against children and to reduce sufferings of children of migrants' children. The Bulan Institute supports the call of the UNICEF to start building a system of guardianship of children left behind by migrants. There should be put on place other legal and social measures to decrease the number of children left behind by labor migrants and to control the living conditions of children so to eradicate violence. The Kyrgyz government has to start working closely with international organizations and NGOs to build special institutions to take care and protect these children and also adopt stricter legal norms to prevent and punish perpetrators. There is impunity because there is corruption in law enforcement agencies, and moral pressure on a child and their parents. Poverty is positively correlated with maltreatment of children since children living in poor families are exposed to violence. In Kyrgyzstan, 30% of children live in poverty, most families have income below the poverty line.

Recommendations:

- 1. We urge Kyrgyz government and Parliament to establish Ombudsman institution for children's right**
- 2. To organize a full-scale information campaign involving media, civil society and community leaders to raise awareness about children's right to civic education.**
- 3. Ministry of science and Education needs urgently set up an appropriate and effective mechanism to find out, register and monitor out-of-school children in every city and village of the country.**
- 4. Kyrgyz government should monitor all religious education institutions to subject of studying under-age-children and warn their administration all time about legal norms about children's right to civic education.**
- 5. There are no early warning mechanisms in communities to prevent violence against children. Local authorities should find out families with high level risk of violence, register children whose parents are absent and observe them and work with them. The special social care programs should be built in order to protect a child and help parents to avoid violence. They should visit frequently home, school of these children and build a concrete action plan on every child to help. Any sign of maltreatment, which includes all forms of abuse and neglect, should be take into account and to be a starting point for prevention.**
- 6. There is no foster care program to rehabilitate victim of violence and the foster families needed to**

Previous recommendations:

HUNGARY:

Completely eliminate the practice of child labour and ensure that all children have access to free and compulsory education/ 2nd cycle

IRAN: Focus on the development of an efficient education system for all throughout the country /1st cycle

ROMANIA: Allocate enough resources for education in order to ensure the right to education/ 2nd cycle

Sierra Leone: Implement strategies to promote better access to education for girls at all levels/2nd cycle

ALBANIA: Develop a comprehensive strategy to address violence against children/2nd cycle

PORTUGAL: Further enhance its efforts to effectively prevent and prosecute violence against children/2nd cycle

AFGHANISTAN: Establish a juvenile judiciary / 1st cycle

BRAZIL: Strengthen its policy for the full guarantee of the rights of the child, with attention to implementing the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, according to resolution 11-7 of the Human Rights Council and 64-142 of the General Assembly /1st cycle

DENMARK: Ensure that measures are in place to fight and eradicate child labour / 1st cycle

EGYPT: Raise the minimum age for marriage and establish a juvenile judiciary / 1st cycle

HUNGARY: Implement urgently the provisions enshrined in the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, with special emphasis on articles 1 and 6 /1st cycle

CANADA: Take further measures to combat bridal kidnappings and child, early and forced marriage/2nd cycle

LITHUANIA: Further protect children's rights - in particular, fully implement the prohibition of child labour and adopt legislation providing for responsibility for the use of child labour / 1st cycle

SRI LANKA: Expedite efforts towards prohibition of all forms of child labour /2nd cycle

SWEDEN: Ensure the full legal protection of the freedom of children from physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including corporal punishment in any setting, and take further practical measures to stem the occurrence of violence against children /1st cycle