

Gender discrimination on education and professional occupation is of great concern to our program and based on the statistics by the National Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan and our work experience we would like to provide several recommendations for the government officials and the OSCE mission in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The first recommendation is to provide school teachers and university professors with training on gender-sensitivity, which will mainly focus on the explanation of the right of every person to study and do any type of job despite a person's gender. Kyrgyzstan is dominantly a patriarchal country. There are still cases when women are kidnapped and forced into marriage by the kidnapper and kidnapper's family. Moreover, this violent practice is approved by some part of society, as most of the cases never get reported to the police. So as you can see, most people in Kyrgyzstan are not introduced to gender equality and women's rights are violated. This also greatly affects men's and women's choice of major and career path, because there are proved cases when school and university teachers were discouraging girls to study well because girls are expected to get married and support their husbands, meaning that girls will sacrifice their education and career for the sake of getting married, giving birth to children and being the most responsible for the care of children. The society also holds the belief that women are better in soft subjects such as languages, history, art, and music and boys are better at STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). This belief is greatly affecting the choice of the occupation. This can be proved by the latest report on men and women of the National Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan. In accordance with the data provided there, medicine and education are mainly occupied by women. IT and engineering are mainly occupied by men. The number of unemployed women is slightly higher than the number of unemployed men.

Another recommendation is to create short campaign videos that will explain the benefits of both educated boys and girls and that every person is worth any occupation despite gender. These videos would benefit greatly if broadcast widely on TV. The society has to see that the government supports gender equality and promotes equal educational rights for all.

The final recommendation is to create a commission that will be able to evaluate the content broadcast on TV, published in media and officially stated by government officials on the issue of gender discrimination. The Public Broadcasting Corporation of the Kyrgyz Republic, which has the most popular TV channel in the Kyrgyz Republic broadcast a TV series called Akshoola, which was romanticizing bride kidnapping, physical and emotional abuse of women. And this TV series was broadcast on the national channel, funded by the government, and it happened after six months of the murder of the girl, whose name was Burulai Turdaaly kyzy, who was kidnapped in order to be forced into marriage and then murdered in the police department.

I hope these recommendations will be taken into account and greatly contribute to gender equality in Kyrgyzstan. Thank you!