

AT A CROSSROADS

SAFEGUARDING MEDIA FREEDOM TO PROTECT DEMOCRACY

24TH OSCE CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE
6-7 JULY, 2023
BISHKEK



SPEAKER BIOS



Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Teresa Ribeiro, of Portugal, is the fifth Representative on Freedom of the Media. She has vast political, diplomatic, human rights and media experience.

Prior to this position, she was Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, while serving as President of the National Commission for Human Rights.

She was also Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and Deputy Secretary General at the Union for the Mediterranean, positions that gave her extensive experience in dealing with the EU institutions and Member States, as well as with its close neighbourhood. Throughout her career, Teresa Ribeiro has held different positions in media, both in Portugal and in multilateral organizations, such as President of the Institute of the Media of Portugal, Chairperson of the Steering Committee on Mass Media of the Council of Europe, as well as co-founder and first elected President of the Executive Board of Obercom – Media Observatory.

She holds a degree in Philosophy from the University of Lisbon.



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H.E. Altynbek Maksutov, Minister of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic

He was born in the village Kazarman of Toguz-Torou district of Jalal-Abad region on October 13, 1972. Higher education. M.S. Shchepkin Higher Theater School (Moscow) – 1993; M.Kurenkeev Special Music School – 2000 «Acting Art».

Career:

1993-1998 - actor of the II category, Bishkek City Drama Theatre named after A. Umralliev;
1998-2003 - actor of the I category, Bishkek City Drama Theatre named after A. Umralliev;
2003-2007 - Leading master of the stage, Bishkek City Drama Theatre named after A. Umralliev;
2004-2014 - Head of the Association, Creative Association «Makal-Art»;
2010-2013 - Director of Photography, Bishkek City Drama Theatre named after A. Umralliev;
2013-2014 - Chief Director, Kyrgyz National Philharmonic named after T. Satylganov;
2014- President of the Makal-Art Public Foundation;
2014-2016 - Minister of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic;
2016-2022 - Artistic Director, Kyrgyz National Philharmonic named after T.Satylganov.

Knight of the Order of Manas, III degree, has the honorary title of People's Artist of the Kyrgyz Republic, was awarded the Badge of Honour «For Merits in the Development of Culture and Art» — for a significant contribution to the formation and development of the common cultural space of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the implementation of ideas of cooperation in the field of culture and art and the certificate of honour of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Kyrgyz Republic (2004).



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Jürgen Heissel, Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Jürgen Heissel is Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. He has two decades of experience in the Austrian Foreign Service, covering human rights and security policy issues. He has been working in multilateral settings with organizations including the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. His posting prior to RFOM was with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE, where in 2017 he was the co-ordinator of the Human Dimension during the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship.

Jürgen holds a degree in Law from the University of Salzburg and is a graduate of the Vienna School of International Studies (Diplomatische Akademie) and the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation.



Ambassador Alexey Rogov, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek

Mr. A. Rogov was born on 22 May 1961 in Moscow, Russia

In 1984 Mr. A. Rogov graduated from the School of oriental studies – Moscow State University with specializations in Political Science, Islamic Law and Islamic Culture.

In 1984 Mr. A. Rogov joined the MFA of USSR – Russia. He has been dealing with the following issues: UN affairs, human rights and humanitarian law, NGOs and Civil society, gender equality, non-discrimination, minority rights, indigenous people, environment, climate change, green economy, renewable energy, electoral process, Arctic co-operation.

His foreign posts included:

1993 -1997 – Russian delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights, Geneva (counsellor);

1997 – 2002 Russian Mission to the UN, New York (head of the desk – human rights and civil society);

2008 – 2013 Russian Embassy in Denmark, Copenhagen (Minister – Counsellor).

His previous position: Deputy Director of the Department on new Challenges and Threats, MFA of Russia.

Fields of specialization: counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, crime prevention, Afghanistan and Central Asia, border control, UNODC, OSCE, CARICC, Paris Pact Process.

He speaks Russian, English, German and Arabic.





Antje Grawe, UN Resident coordinator in Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Grawe brings more than 20 years of experience in international cooperation, sustainable development and peace and security with the United Nations and other international and bilateral organizations.

Prior to her appointment as UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Grawe served for three and a half years with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, first as Deputy Chief Monitor leading the Mission's work in the fields of human rights, gender, environment and dialogue facilitation, since April this year as Acting Head of Mission.

Earlier, she served with UN Political and Peace Operations in various leadership and senior advisory roles in Afghanistan, Haiti and for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OESGY). In Afghanistan, she led the Regional Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMA) in Herat and was the Head of the Mission's Analysis and Planning Unit. In the OESGY, she served as Senior Peacebuilding Officer after having advised the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) as Senior Special Assistant for nearly four years.

Ms. Grawe also worked with the German Government at the Embassy in Pakistan as Counsellor for Economic Cooperation and Development and as Desk Officer for Afghanistan in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Bonn, in addition to positions with the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) at its Headquarters in Germany and in Afghanistan.

Ms. Antje Grawe holds a master's degree in Political Science and History from the University in Trier, Germany. She also holds a certificate in political science from the Institut d'Études Politiques in Bordeaux, France, and studied at Universities in Krakow and Warsaw in Poland.



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Shiri Shiriev, Director, Centre for Strategic Studies of the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

Shiri Shiriev was born on February 10, 1972 in the city of Kizylarbat, Balkan velayat.

In 1978 he went to secondary school No. 1 of the city of Kizylarbat to graduate in 1988.

In 1988-1993, he studied at the Faculty of Foreign Languages of the Turkmen State University named after Makhtumkuli, obtaining the qualifications of a philologist and teacher of Farsi, Turkmen language and literature.

In 1993, he began his career as an assistant at the Department of International Relations of the Magtymguly Turkmen State University.

In 1993-1995, he was a Farsi teacher at the Department of Oriental Languages of the Magtymguly Turkmen State University.

In 1995, he joined the Consular Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and worked as an attaché.

In 1995-2002 he worked as an assistant at the Consulate of Turkmenistan in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

In the period 2002-2008 — Vice Consul of the Consulate of Turkmenistan in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

In 2008-2010 — First Secretary and Counselor of the Consular Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

In 2010-2012 — Advisor to the Middle East Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

In 2012-2018 — Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In 2018-2022 — teacher of Farsi at the Department of World Languages of the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

From 01.2022 to present — Head of the Scientific Center for Strategic Studies of the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

Diplomatic rank: Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Turkmenistan.





Ilkhom Abdullaev, Chairman of the Committee on Innovations, Information Policy and Information Technologies of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Born on May 18, 1965, ethnic Uzbek. Born in Chorzhui, Turkmenistan (USSR). Graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics, Turkmen State Pedagogical University. He is a candidate of physical and mathematical sciences, as well as a doctor of political sciences. Speaks Russian and English. He has sports achievements in triathlon, cycling and basketball.

Author of more than 100 scientific papers in the field of theory of operator algebras and political problems of global digitalization. One of the leading analysts in the field of national legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the information field. Initiator of 6 Laws of Uzbekistan. Author, member of research groups for the preparation of analytical reviews of the state and prospects of various sectors of the information market of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Professional experience:

Since 2010 – Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Innovations, Information Policy and Information Technologies of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

2006-2010 – Executive Director of the Association of Enterprises and Organizations of Information Technologies Uzbekistan

2004-2006 – Head of Department of the Agency for Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Uzbekistan

2003-2004 - First Deputy Director of the “Uzinfocom” Center

2002-2003 - Vice-Rector of the University Tashkent University of Information Technologies

2001-2002 - Chief Specialist of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan

1994-2001 - Senior Research Fellow at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Dean of the Master's Program, Acting Vice-Rector for Scientific Affairs

1989-1994 - Researcher at the Institute of Mathematics of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan

1988-1989 - Lecturer at Tashkent Road University



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Ton van den Brandt

Principal Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Ton van den Brandt is Principal Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. He holds a degree in Dutch law and (cum laude) in International Law, and in Journalism. Van den Brandt worked as a journalist for a national newspaper and a weekly magazine for many years, and is the published author of two journalistic books.

Van den Brandt worked as an ad interim legal adviser with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Netherlands Red Cross, before taking up a position as senior political adviser with Amnesty International. Before moving to the OSCE, he led and managed the Communications Department of the Amsterdam District Court of Law. In his free time, he chaired the Dutch branch of the International Commission of Jurists and was a member of the Supervisory Board of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee.



Erica Marat, Member of RFoM AGEEFOM (Advisory Group of Eminent Experts on the Freedom of the Media)

Dr. Erica Marat is a Professor at the College of Security Affairs of the National Defense University. Her research focuses on violence, mobilization and security institutions in Europe, Central Asia, India, and Mexico. Before joining NDU, Dr. Marat was a visiting scholar at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center. She is an author of several books, including *Transformative Violence: When Routine Cruelty Sparks Historic Mobilization* (forthcoming, OUP 2024) and *The Politics of Police Reform: Society against the State in Post-Soviet Countries* (OUP 2018). Her articles appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Washington Post*, *Just Security*, and *Open Democracy*.



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Bettina Ruigies, Senior Media Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Bettina Ruigies joined the OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media as a Senior Media Advisor in 2021. Prior to this, she worked as an Operations Officer at the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, where she was part of the operations team supporting daily patrols in Luhansk oblast. Before that, she served as the Regional Coordinator for Europe/Central Asia at Deutsche Welle Akademie in Germany. With nearly 30 years of experience in the media industry, Bettina has collaborated with journalists, independent and public service media in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and South Caucasus. Her professional background in TV journalism and media management began with her role as a producer for RTL German Television in Moscow in 1993, where she covered daily news topics from all over Russia and its neighboring countries. Later on, she reported TV stories from Germany. Bettina transitioned from journalism to media development during her travels in Asia and Central Asia, supporting community radio development as an international expert in Talas, Kyrgyzstan. She conducted journalism trainings on conflict-sensitive reporting for journalists from Central Asia and coordinated media projects in the Eastern Partnership countries, Western Balkans, and Central Asia for DW Akademie in Bonn.



Lola Islamova, Chief Editor, Anhor.uz, Uzbekistan

Lola Islamova is a journalist, researcher, founder and editor-in-chief of the information and analytical publication Anhor.uz, Chairperson of the Board of the Center for the Development of Modern Journalism of Uzbekistan. Since 2023, she has been leading the community of fact-checkers in Uzbekistan as part of the Mahalla project, the main goal of which is to increase the information media literacy of young people to counter disinformation. Co-author of the study “Media and information literacy in the field of freedom of speech in the countries of Central Asia: analysis and recommendations” (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan)”.



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Asel Sooronbaeva, Chief Editor of Checkit Media, Kyrgyzstan

Asel Sooronbayeva is a journalist, media trainer, editor-in-chief of the Checkit Media fact-checking association. She has works published on such resources as Politmer, Cabar Asia, Factcheck.kg, Bulak.kg, etc.

Asel conducted more than 50 trainings and workshops on data journalism, media information literacy and fact-checking.

Twice she was a finalist of the Central Asian MediaCampAward competition.



Ariuntuya Ayurzana

Project manager for the News for Equality journalists' network, Mongolia

Ariuntuya Ayurzana is a communication specialist and project manager of promoting gender equality in public decision making and women's empowerment in Mongolia, UNDP/KOICA.


The Media Council of Mongolia, with the support of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, in cooperation with the Deutsche Welle Academy launched the "Crisis Communication Chapter (CCC) and Cooperation between Stakeholders" project. This project was implemented under the slogan "Reliable information saves lives" and it was characterized by the inclusion of local communities in the second year of implementation.

Ariuntuya Ayurzana worked as a project coordinator of the action team in Selenge province, a border region of Mongolia. The CCC project aimed to reduce information inequality, produce customized information packages and create a structure to disseminate reliable information.

Moreover, Ariuntuya Ayurzana is now project manager of Promoting gender equality in public decision making and women's empowerment (WPP). It is an on-going project that the MCM promotes responsible,



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	<p>ethical, and pluralistic media and cooperates on the WPP project within the framework of ensuring gender equality in media content, the development of gender-sensitive journalism, and the avoidance of stereotypes.</p> <p>Prior to current projects, she was a Public-Private Dialogue Specialist of USAID/BPI, Communication and Partnership Specialist of the Press Institute of Mongolia and Coordinator of Economic Journalists' Club/EJC/. Later, she became an E-tutor of DW Akademie on the Investigative Reporter project.</p>
	<p>Duman Smakov, Editor-in-Chief of Factcheck.kz</p> <p>Duman Smakov, Master of Social Sciences, is the Editor-in-Chief of Factcheck.kz.</p> <p>He studied at the Faculty of Journalism of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Since 2015, he has been working at MediaNet International Centre for Journalism. Since 2018, he has been the editor-in-chief of Factcheck.kz.</p> <p>Duman focuses on the following topics: fact-checking, methods of applying fact-checking to information campaigns, information security and the role of fact-checking in it, open sources and their reliability, the work of non-governmental organizations in Kazakhstan, priority in working with national languages, crisis communication, effective management of non-governmental organizations, countering hate speech aimed at minority groups, features of monitoring of information in national languages, journalistic and media education, media and information literacy, features of the dissemination of information in national languages, repressive methods in national laws and the creation of an information campaign against them.</p>



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Deniz Wagner, Advisor, Office of the OSCE RFoM

Deniz is Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, working on media freedom and security at the intersection of digital technologies.

She currently leads the OSCE's project on Artificial Intelligence and Freedom of Expression, and is Rapporteur for the OSCE's Advisory Group of Eminent Experts for Media Freedom. She has led projects establishing independent oversight bodies for the media industry, and supported legal reform initiatives to enhance media pluralism in numerous OSCE countries and developed strategic communications initiatives.

Previously, Deniz was a Senior Adviser for Human Rights at the Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. She has a diverse background in human rights and security, and holds a Master Degree in Globalization and Development.





Krisztina Rozgonyi, Professor, Department of Communication at the University of Vienna & Senior Scientist, at the Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies (CMC at the Austria Academy of Science)

Dr Krisztina Rozgonyi is Senior Scientist at the Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies (CMC) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) and a senior international media, telecommunication and IP legal and policy expert.

She works with international and European organizations (such as the ITU/UN, UNESCO, Council of Europe, European Commission, World Bank InfoDev, OSCE and BBC MA), with national governments, and regulators as an adviser on media freedom, spectrum policy and digital platform governance.

Before her academic engagement, she was a regulator leading a Telecommunication Regulatory Authority in an EU Member State. Her expertise lies in media and telecommunications policy-making and regulation, with extensive experience in legal reform work.

	<p>Dr Rozgonyi also manages a platform at the Department of Communication of the University of Vienna to bridge research with policy agendas.</p>
	<p>Noah Giansiracusa, Professor of mathematics and data science at Bentley University</p> <p>Noah Giansiracusa (PhD in math from Brown University) is a tenured associate professor of mathematics and data science at Bentley University, a business school near Boston. His research interests range from algebraic geometry to machine learning to empirical legal studies.</p> <p>After publishing the book "How Algorithms Create and Prevent Fake News" in July 2021, Noah has gotten more involved in public writing and policy discussions concerning data-driven algorithms and their role in society. He's written op-eds for Scientific American, TIME, Barron's, Boston Globe, Wired, Slate, and Fast Company, and he has appeared on BBC Radio 4, Slate, and TechCrunch podcasts.</p> <p>Noah is currently working on a second book, "Robin Hood Math: How to Fight Back When the World Treats You Like a Number", under contract with Penguin Press.</p>
	<p>Yelzhan Kabyshev, Director of «Digital Paradigm» PF, drfl.kz and Internet Freedom (ifkz.org) Project Manager</p> <p>Yelzhan Kabyshev is a director of “Digital Paradigm” PF, a human rights defender, manager of “Internet Freedom Kazakhstan» (https://ifkz.org) and “Digital rights and freedoms landscape” (https://drfl.kz) projects. Author of a number of researches in the field of digital rights, regulation/management of the Internet, personal data in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.</p>



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Ruslan Daiyrbekov, Co-founder, Eurasia Digital Foundation, Kazakhstan

Ruslan Dayirbekov founded the Eurasian Digital Foundation (EDF), a platform that unifies the leading experts to build and support a network of digital rights leaders in Kazakhstan and across Central Asia (www.digitalrights.asia).

The Eurasian Digital Foundation (EDF) is a Kazakhstani non-profit organization that works to promote and protect human rights in the digital age. The EDF aims to increase public awareness and understanding of digital rights, and to support initiatives that promote digital freedom and privacy. The organization provides legal assistance and advocacy on digital rights issues, and conducts research and analysis on the impact of technology on human rights. The EDF also collaborates with international organizations and advocacy groups to promote digital rights at the regional and global levels.

Ruslan is a Data Privacy Professional (GDPR DPP). His background consists of Master of International Law degree as well as graduation from the Media Law Advocates Training Programme at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies' Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy of University of Oxford. Also, he completed the Draper Hills Summer Fellows on Democracy and Development Program, hosted by the Center for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) at Stanford University, USA.



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Begaim Usenova, Director of PF Media Policy Institute, Kyrgyzstan

Begaim Usenova is a Director of PF Media Policy Institute, media law expert with more than fifteen years of professional experience. In 2017 and 2019 led a research projects on media literacy in Kyrgyzstan. Distinguished Humphrey Fellowship Program Alumni (2021), Chevening Scholar (2021-2022). She holds an academic degree in law (Kyrgyz State Academy of Law, 2009-2012) and a master of science in media and communications (London School of Economics, 2021-2022).



Aidar Botagarov, Adviser with the Office of the Representative on Freedom

Aidar Botagarov works as an Adviser with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) and covers issues pertaining to freedom of expression, freedom of the media and safety of journalists, including in their political, legal and judicial dimensions, in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Russia.

Prior to joining RFoM, he worked as a National Political and Media Officer with the OSCE Centre in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Aidar holds a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford; and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the Kazakhstan's Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research.





Julie Posetti, Deputy VP and Global Director of Research, International Center for Journalists

Dr. Julie Posetti is a multi-award-winning Australian journalist and academic based in Oxford. She is Deputy Vice President and Global Director of Research at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), where she leads a team producing critical research on the contemporary crises and opportunities within the field of journalism. Julie is the author of UNESCO's landmark global study, *Protecting Journalism Sources in the Digital Age* (2017), which found that the legal frameworks to protect confidential journalism sources are outdated and inadequate. She is also the lead author of the groundbreaking study *The Chilling: A global study of online violence against women journalists* (UNESCO-ICFJ, 2022), co-author of the report *Finding the Funds for Journalism to Thrive: Policy options to support media viability* (UNESCO, 2022) and co-editor of both *Journalism, Fake News and Disinformation* (UNESCO, 2018) and the UN Broadband Commission study *Balancing Act: Countering Digital Disinformation While Respecting Freedom of Expression* (2020). Prior to joining ICFJ, Julie was Senior Research Fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, where she led the Institute's Journalism Innovation Project. She remains academically affiliated with the University of Oxford, and she is also a Senior Researcher with the Centre for Freedom of the Media at the University of Sheffield. Additionally, she sits on the board (elect) of the International Fund for Public Interest Media. Julie's journalism has been published by the Washington Post, Foreign Policy, The Atlantic, CNN, BBC, ABC, the Sydney Morning Herald and others. Earlier in her journalism career, she was a news editor, documentary and current affairs reporter for the ABC in Australia, and head of digital editorial capability for Fairfax Media. She also taught journalism for 15 years at Australian universities, and she was Research Fellow and Editor at the World Editors' Forum/WAN-IFRA in Paris 2014-2015.



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Gulmira Birzhanova, Legal Adviser, Media Legal Centre, Kazakhstan

Head of legal service Media Qoldau. Co-founder and lawyer of the Legal Media Center Foundation. Expert in the field of national and international media law. Member of the working groups on the draft laws "On Access to Information", "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Information and Communications", "On informatization." Member of the digital rights group.

Author and co-author of guides: "Hate speech in Kazakhstan: statistics, judicial practice, recommendations", "Legal framework and practice of blocking Internet content in the Republic of Kazakhstan", "Defamation and Insult Laws in the OSCE Region: A Comparative Study" (section on Kazakhstan).



Semetei Amanbekov, Editor-in-chief, Bulak.kg internet platform

Semetei Amanbekov, editor-in-chief of the information and analytical portal Bulak.kg, deputy chairman of the Commission on complaints against the media, deputy chairman of the Independent Union of Journalists of Kyrgyzstan.


Media expert, investigative journalist, analyst, fact checker. Winner of the Ulana Egizbayeva National Award in the field of investigative journalism.

Graduated from the Law School of the Kyrgyz-Russian (Slavonic) University, specializing in civil law and process.

2002 - 2005 worked as a journalist, executive secretary, editor-in-chief of the RIF newspaper.

2005 - 2008 worked as a journalist, executive secretary, deputy editor-in-chief of the Komsomolskaya Pravda Kyrgyzstan newspaper.



	<p>2018 - 2021 worked as the editor-in-chief of the information and analytical portal Elgezit.kg</p>
	<p>Ilkhom Khamidov, Media lawyer, Uzbekistan</p> <p>Hamidov Ilkhom Erkinovich graduated from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent (2033 – bachelor’s degree, 2012 – master’s degree).</p> <p>Since 2003, he has been carrying out his professional activities in the field of intellectual property law. Participated in the development of a new version of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Copyright and Related Rights" (adopted in 2006), as well as other draft laws, including in the field of media.</p> <p>He started his activity in the Uzbek Republican Copyright Agency (2003-2005), then continued in a large media holding. In 2006, he initiated the creation of the first organization for the collective management of the property rights of authors, performers and other right holders (public association "The Guild of Authors and Performers of Uzbekistan"), and then managed the activities of this organization.</p> <p>In 2015-2017 worked as a legal manager in the UNDP project for the development of e-government in the Republic of Uzbekistan.</p> <p>In 2018, he created his own legal consulting company Perspective Consulting LLC, the main areas of activity of which are intellectual property law, media law, IT law.</p> <p>Since 2019, he has been actively cooperating with the "Center for the Development of Modern Journalism" NGO, in particular, he participated in the launch of the "Legal Clinic for Journalists, Media and Bloggers",</p>

participated as a trainer in more than 15 trainings and seminars, is a co-author of several manuals, research and educational courses in the field of legal issues of the media, journalists, bloggers, as well as in the field of Digital Law.



Dane Koruga
Senior Advisor, Office of the RFoM

Dane Koruga is a Senior Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, with 16 years of experience in democratization, human rights, media development, and public relations across various regions. He recently served as the Deputy Director and Chief of Section, Media, at the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. Dane holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Master of Science in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics. His expertise and commitment contribute to advancing media freedom and democratic principles globally.



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Zulzaya Nyamkhuu, Communications Officer, Globe International Centre, Mongolia

Zulzaya Nyamkhuu is Communication Specialist at Globe International Center (GIC) in Mongolia. She seeks to improve public access to information and transparency through increasing public awareness and digital technology in Mongolia. She has more than 10 years of experience in journalism and media communications and has implemented over 10 projects as a project and communications manager in the fields of access to information, press freedom, and the safety of journalists in Mongolia.

She was a journalist for television and website in Mongolia and is passionate about improving press freedom in Mongolia since she has changed her career path to work in civil society. She is the author of books about her travel in Australia “820 Days in Australia” and a book for children “Adventure of Budi”. She is a mother of three.



Nabeelah Shabbir, Freelance Journalist, Senior Research Associate, International Centre for Journalists

Nabeelah Shabbir is a British-Pakistani journalist and Senior Research Associate at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) and co-editor of the November 2022 ICFJ/UNESCO report *The Chilling: A global study of online violence against women journalists*. At *The Guardian*, she shared a British Journalism Award in 2015 with the "Keep it in the Ground" team and has a European Young Journalist award for her writing in Kosovo in 2008. She is co-author of a series of reports at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism on digital-born news media in Europe and innovation in media in the Global South. She has worked at the *Financial Times*, *The Correspondent* and Twitter amongst others, and has lived in Cologne, Brussels, Paris, London, Oxford, and Amsterdam.



Elira Turdubaeva, President, Association of PR communicators, Kyrgyzstan

Dr. Elira Turdubaeva has a PhD degree in Media and Communications from Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University. She worked at several universities, including a prior appointment as Department Head of Journalism and Mass Communications at American University of Central Asia. She is also the founder of a new start-up Online University in Kyrgyzstan and Association of Communicators of Kyrgyzstan. Currently she is the Head of Journalism and Mass Communications Program at International Ala-Too University in Kyrgyzstan. Her research focuses on media uses, political participation and media, election campaign analysis, protests and social media, social media uses, network analysis, new media studies, ICT and youth, propaganda analysis, representations of gender, journalism education, media and migration, media and activism, surveillance technologies and privacy in Central Asia, hate speech and social media, etc. She co-edited the book “Mapping the Media and Communication Landscape of Central Asia”.



Inga Sikorskaia, Director, School of Peacemaking & Media Technologies, Kyrgyzstan

Inga Sikorskaia is a director and founder of the School of Peacemaking and Media Technology in Central Asia. Her areas of expertise include freedom expression, conflict sensitive journalism, countering hate speech, research and trainings on these issues. Mrs. Sikorskaia has implemented ongoing monitoring of hate speech and leads the studies in Kyrgyzstan and other countries.

She spent more than 15 years working as a professional journalist and editor in international and local media. Falling back on her own experience covering wars and conflicts, Inga has developed a series of training courses and hand books for the media workers.

Inga also a mentor of the OSCE Young Policy Advisers Central Asia. She holds B.A. in Mass Communications and Journalism and M.A. in Law.





Jennifer Jackson-Preece, Associate Professor of Nationalism at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Dr Jackson-Preece is an expert on problems and practices of nationalism, minorities and migration, and has published extensively on these topics in books, journals and blogs. She also has an established track record as a policy advisor to governments, international organisations and NGOs, and previously cooperated with the OSCE HCNM on the Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies (2012), the Graz Recommendations on Access to Justice for National Minorities (2017) and the Tallinn Guidelines on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age (2019).



Gulnara Babadjanova, Director, In-Service Training Centre for Journalists, Uzbekistan

Babadzhanova Gulnara Director of the NGO "In-Service Training Centre for Journalists of Uzbekistan", candidate of philological sciences.


1971 – 1997 — editor-in-chief at the International Uzbek Radio (Department of broadcasting to foreign countries of Uzteleradio), then deputy director of Foreign Broadcasting of Uzbekistan.

1997 – present — director of the NGO "In-Service Training Centre for Journalists of Uzbekistan".

Throughout her career, she has managed numerous educational programs for journalists and bloggers, she is an expert on media and NGO issues, organizes and conducts training workshops for media workers and students of journalism, representatives of civil society institutions. On the basis of the Center, she created a team of experienced media trainers and contributes to their capacity building, professional growth and research in the field of journalism. Within the framework of various international and domestic projects, she herself is also a media trainer, an active member of the Association of NGOs of Uzbekistan. Since 2021, she has been a member of Public Councils of the Committee for the Development of Competition and Protection of Consumer Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

She defended her thesis at the School of Journalism of Lomonosov Moscow State University and holds a Ph.D. in Philology with a degree in Journalism. She continues analytical research in the field of mass media and is the author and editor-in-chief of a number of manuals and guides for journalists and students of journalism.



	<p>She completed internships at various international TV and radio broadcasting channels and other media organizations in a number of foreign countries. Participated as an expert in various international forums held by international and national organizations. Collaborates with numerous international organizations and colleagues in the Central Asian countries on media projects.</p>
	<p>Elmira Toktogulova, Director of the MediaConsult Public Foundation, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>She began her professional career as a correspondent, editor of a youth radio program with the National Television and Radio Company of Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>As a project manager, media expert and consultant, Elmira Toktogulova contributed to the development of manuals for the media, press services, users in various areas. The projects implemented by the Foundation, informed the norms and standards for covering election processes, children and youth topics, socially significant events in the country, border conflicts, the work of community media, and press services of state bodies in Kyrgyzstan. She also headed printed and online outlets as the editor-in-chief. Since 2001, she has led a regional media development project, which included media organizations and outlets from 4 countries of Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. In 2004 she joined forces with like-minded colleagues to create the Fund for the Development of Media Consulting in Central Asia.</p> <p>It is a non-governmental Kyrgyz organization working to support the freedom of expression and the development of journalism in the country. It conducts training, does research, offers consultations for the media, journalists, government agencies and public organizations. The MediaConsult Foundation is also involved in content analysis, evaluation and analysis of projects and programs in the field of media development, and conducts various studies in the field of freedom of expression, access to information, hate speech and disinformation, conflict-sensitive journalism. The organization serves to support independent media, protect the rights of journalists, freedom of speech and expression in Kyrgyzstan.</p>



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Bekdurdy Amasaryyev, Editor-in-Chief, Orient media agency, Turkmenistan

1976-1979 — editor of the youth programs of the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting

1979-1994 — Researcher at the Institute of Language and Literature of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan

In 1986 defended his PhD thesis

1994-2000 — Deputy Director of the private enterprise Delo

2000-2005 — Head of the Department of Science, Culture and International Relations of the newspaper "Neutral Turkmenistan"

In 2008-2009 — editor-in-chief of the newspaper "Neutral Turkmenistan"

2009-2021 — Chairman of the State News Agency of Turkmenistan (TDH)

Currently, he is the editor-in-chief of the ORIENT website and the general director of the MEDIA TURKMEN news agency.

He is the recipient of numerous Turkmenistan state awards (total of 7) and was winner of the nationwide creative competition 3 times.

Has been to many countries of the world with official visits as part of the governmental delegation of Turkmenistan.



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Zarina Akhmatova – media adviser, SCARF Program manager (Internews)

Zarina has more than 15 years of professional experience in media. Since 2005 she has worked as a journalist, editor, producer for Kazakh media (“Vremya” newspaper, 31 TV Channel, Stan.TV), as an editor-in Chief for HOLA News outlet (2020-2021), as a managing editor for Vlast.kz (2012-2017). She has also contributed to the Russian news outlets (Nezavisimaya gazeta, ANNEWS). In 2018-2020 she worked as a Business Media Adviser in Central Asia for Internews in Kazakhstan.

Zarina Akhmatova edited the books “Forging God’s signature” A.Davidov (fiction) and “Jusan” Operation” Y. Karin (non-fiction). She produced several documentaries KarLAG, #IDont’AfraidOfSpeakingOut: 5 real stories of Kazakhstani women about violence, The Teacher: Profile of Yuri Park, and others. She also was the author of the multimedia project “Afghanistan is not far away” (stories from Kabul (2016-2017). Since 2010 has been a trainer at the international center of journalism MediaNet, mentoring various public policy projects, including the Making New Experts project by the Teach and Share media laboratory. She also provides consultations for the media. She is a graduate of the University of International Business in Almaty, Kazakhstan with BA in media and communications. In 2019 she got her master’s degree with Kazakh-German University. (Regional studies, Managing the processes in Central Asia). Sphere of research interests – deradicalization, media, security.



Olga Didenko, Regional Media Law Adviser, Internews Kazakshtan

Olga has a Master’s degree in International Law, and many years of experience as a lawyer in international and local organizations in Kazakhstan.

Areas of professional interest include media, jurisprudence and law. She is a standing member of various working groups to change laws and rules for journalists, media outlets and Internet regulation.



Madina Tursunova, Media lawyer, Uzbekistan

Madina Tursunova is an independent legal expert on media and access to information legislation, intellectual property, privacy and digital rights and Internet freedom. She is a member of the expert committee of the Anti Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan involved in shaping the policy measures for better transparency and open government.

Since 2019 Madina Tursunova has been involved as a legal expert in capacity building projects to increase media, journalists and bloggers. She is one of the experts who contributed to the first report on digital rights in Uzbekistan. She is an author of a range of publications dedicated to access to information and transparency of public institutions.

She graduated from Tashkent State University of Law in 2008. She has a master's degree in commercial law (2010) and master of Intellectual property law from the University of Turin-WIPO Academy (2016).



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Ganbat Ganbold, Officer in Charge of International Mechanisms, National Human Rights Commission, Mongolia

Mr. Ganbold Ganbat works for Mongolia's National Human Rights Commission as an officer in charge of international mechanisms. Mr. Ganbat is a lawyer who graduated from the National University of Mongolia's Law School. He holds master's degrees in Public Administration from the Republic of Korea's Sungkyunkwan University and the People's Republic of China's Tsinghua University. He formerly worked for the Secretariat of the State Great Hural of Mongolia, the Mongolia Immigration Agency, the General Authority for State Registration, and the Ministry of Culture before joining Mongolia's National Human Rights Commission.



Elena Maksyuta, Judge, Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan

1993-1994 - served in the law enforcement
1994-1996 - served in the prosecutor's office of North Kazakhstan
1996-1998 - Judge of the Petropavlovsk City Court
1998-2016 - Judge of the court of Astana
Since May 2016 - Judge of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan





Liliana Vițu, Chair of Audio-visual Council, Moldova

Liliana Vițu was appointed the Chair of the Audiovisual Council, country's regulatory body for TV and Radio, in December 2021.

Ms. Vițu started her career in 1999 as a BBC World Service correspondent in Moldova. When the Communists' Party lost power in 2009, she ran to become the director of the News and Debates Department at the public TV channel "Moldova 1" to promote long overdue reforms at the public broadcaster. Recent experience includes consulting in media development for the Thomson Reuters Foundation for development of independent media in Moldova, UNDP Uzbekistan, OSCE Tajikistan and working as a Project Director for Internews in Kyrgyzstan. In 2011 she was the first journalist to be nominated by the US Embassy for the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists, USA.

She holds an MA in Modern European Studies with London Metropolitan University and BA in Journalism and Communications with Moldova State University.



Gunjidmaa Gongor, CEO of the Media Council of Mongolia (MCM)

Ms. Gunjidmaa Gongor is the first Executive director of MCM. Her background is media and journalism studies, and managing civil society organizations. She got a Master of Business Administration (MBA); currently, she is studying for a Ph.D. in a social science program at the Mongolian National University. Until 2017, she worked at the Mongolian Press Institute and she has coordinated successfully over 100 researches and training projects to support independent and professional journalism. She was one of the pioneers to establish the first independent media self-regulatory body MCM in Mongolia. In January 2018, she was appointed by the Executive director of MCM.

MCM was established in early 2015, as a result of the successful collaboration of journalists, media houses, industry, journalist associations, and professional media organizations. The Media Council of Mongolia is the independent regulator for the printed press, broadcast media, and journalistic online media in Mongolia. We uphold the highest standards of journalism by monitoring and maintaining the standards set out in the Media Code of Ethics.

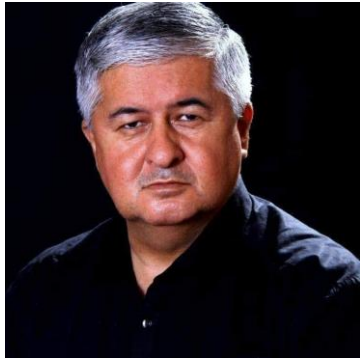


Nurgul Abdikerimova, Media Development Centre, Kyrgyzstan

For the past 10 years Nurgul Abdykerimova has worked as an expert in the field of media law and human rights. For over 10 years, she has been the head of the media organization Public Foundation "Media Development Center" (MDC). Mrs. Abdykerimova actively promotes freedom of speech in Kyrgyzstan by fostering a more responsible approach among media representatives through the promotion of the Journalists' Ethical Code and enhancing the media's legal literacy. She played an immediate role in writing and implementing the Ethical Code of Journalists in Kyrgyzstan. Additionally, under Nurgul Abdykerimova's guidance at the MDC, the Mass Media Complaint Commission was established in 2007. This Commission serves as a self-regulatory body for the media and provides a platform for resolving disputes between information consumers and producers.


In line with promoting responsible journalism, Mrs. Abdykerimova emphasizes the importance of developing the fact-checking culture and utilizing diverse sources of information. She seeks to increase media literacy, implement programs that encourage critical thinking about news and information, and



	<p>foster the use of various sources of information. In 2018, the first independent fact-checking resource was launched in Kyrgyzstan - www.factcheck.kg. Since then, Factcheck.kg has become a unique project that has been combating misinformation, manipulation, and disinformation for several years. Its main goal is to enhance media literacy and strengthen resilience against disinformation in the Kyrgyzstan segment.</p>
	<p>Karim Bakhriev , Chairman of the Public Council of the Union of Journalists of Uzbekistan, lecturer at the University of Journalism and Mass Communications on media law and ethics.</p> <p>Karim Bakhriev was born on July 15, 1962 in the village of Guss, Urgut district, Samarkand region, Uzbekistan. In May 1979 he became the gold-medal graduate of secondary school No. 8 of the Urgut region. In 1979 he enrolled to the School of Russian Philology of Samarkand State University, and in 1983 he transferred to the School of Journalism of Moscow State University.</p> <p>In 1985 he graduated from Moscow State University and went to work in the newspaper "Uzbekistan adabiyoti va san'ati" as a senior correspondent. In February 1990, he was elected a deputy of the Supreme Council of Uzbekistan and from 1990 to 1995 worked as the Executive Secretary of the Committee on Interethnic Relations, Language and Culture, then — as a Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council Committee on Glasnost.</p> <p>In 1995-1998, he worked as the head of the newspapers and magazines "Ma'rifat", "Khujalik va khukuk" — "Economy and Law". In January 1997, he founded the first independent newspaper, Khurriyat. In 1998-2005, he was a lawyer and deputy director of the Uzbek representative office of Internews-Network. Since 2005, he has been the head of the press service of the ICF "Oltin Meros".</p> <p>Married, with two daughters and a son.</p> <p>He is the author of the books “A Word on Freedom of Speech”, “Rights and Duties of a Journalist”, “Legal Foundations of the Media”, “Media and Elections”, “Media Law”, “100 Questions and Answers on Media Law”, “Media Legislation of Uzbekistan in and answers” in Uzbek, Russian and English. He is also the author of books of poems “Sabr Kosasining Siniklari” (Shards of the Cup of Patience), “Tomchidil” (Drop-Soul), “Toyat” (Patience), and a book on journalism “Haqiqat Talabgorimiz” (We Demand the Truth). His poems have been translated into Russian, English, Turkish and other languages.</p>



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	<p>Karim Bakhriev translated into Uzbek the works of philosophers, writers and Russian, Indian, Spanish, Indonesian, American, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Malay, and African poetry. He also translated the novels "1984" and "Molikhon" (Animal Farm) by George Orwell, "Uddaburonlar va landovurlar" (Gunii and Outsiders) by Malcolm Gladwell, "My Life" by Henry Ford, "Chernobyl Prayer" by Svetlana Alekseevich, prose by Voinovich, Verkor and others.</p>
	<p>Aliya Samudin, Head of International Projects, KazMediaNetwork</p> <p>Aliya Samudin co-founded a public organization called «Kazakhstan Media Network» with a team of media experts in 2021. Specifically, she coordinates projects related to media ethics and promotes journalistic ethical standards with her colleagues. KazMediaNetwork has created a code of basic principles of media for ethical journalism, initiated the creation of a self-regulatory committee for media, and conducted numerous training sessions for journalists across the regions of Kazakhstan.</p> <p>Samudin holds Bachelor's degree in International Relations. She specialized in Global security as well as Media and Politics. She is passionate about human security, and plans on obtaining her master's degree in security studies in the years to come.</p>



Martina Chapman, National coordinator of Media Literacy Ireland

Martina Chapman is an independent consultant specialising in policy and strategy development, research management, project implementation and stakeholder management. She is the National Coordinator of Media Literacy Ireland and the Be Media Smart campaign on behalf of Coimisiún na Meán.

Martina is currently serving as the Independent Chair of the National Counter Disinformation Strategy Working Group. She previously served as a member of the Council of Europe CDMSI sub-committee on Quality Journalism in the Digital Age (MSI-JOQ).

Martina has worked with organisations such as the Council of Europe, the European Audiovisual Observatory, EPRA, the EBU and the OSCE, as well as a number of European regulatory bodies, Public Service Media and media institutes. She is also an Associate of Wagner-Hatfield.

She has authored and co-authored numerous reports and policy documents relating to MIL topics. Prior to setting up her successful consultancy business, she was the BBC's Editor for Media Literacy and she previously held the staff position of Media Literacy Policy Executive for Ofcom.

Martina holds an M.A. in Media Management and Policy from the University of Ulster.



Saida Sulaymanova, Director, Centre for the Development of Modern Journalism, Uzbekistan

Ms. Sulaymanova was born in 1973, in Fergana region of Uzbekistan. In 1990 she graduated from high school with a silver medal. In 1990-1995, she studied at the School of Journalism of Tashkent State University (now — Mirzo Ulugbek National University of Uzbekistan).


In 1995-1997, she worked as a leading specialist of "Export" company in "Uzbekneftegaz" NC. From 2001 to 2018, worked as a senior lecturer at the Department of "Print media" at the National University of Uzbekistan.

In 2016 - 2017 - editor-in-chief of the Internet site Commercant.uz

Since November 2, 2018 — director of the Centre for the Development of Modern Journalism.



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	<p>She is a journalist, media expert and media trainer, and was also contracted as an expert by UNESCO, USAID, CAREC, MedaiNET, IREX, Internews, Equality Now, ACTED, Article-19, etc.</p> <p>She is the author of 12 training manuals, 9 online courses on journalism and mass communications. Supervisor of DW Academy Media School in Uzbekistan (MSU), trainer of "Journalism" course. Head of country and regional journalistic projects.</p>
 A portrait of Alyona Koshkina, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a grey double-breasted blazer with gold buttons. She is standing in front of a backdrop with logos and text in Russian, including 'KON ADE STIF' and 'АРАТТАН'.	<p>Alyona Koshkina, Media Literacy Programme Manager, MediaNet International Centre for Journalism, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Alyona Koshkina is the Media Literacy Program Manager at MediaNet International Center for Journalism based in Almaty, Kazakhstan.</p> <p>Alyona has been working hard for several years to include media literacy in the school curriculum. She led the project on the development of the first student and teacher's books on media literacy for schoolchildren in Kazakhstan which were approved by the Ministry of Education in April 2021.</p> <p>She is the country manager of QLEVER.Asia, an educational game platform for raising the level of critical thinking of vulnerable youth in Central Asia. Alyona is one of the founders of the Eurasian Fact-checking and Media literacy Network (EFMN).</p> <p>She is a trainer and an organizer of courses, trainings, and conferences on fact-checking, media and digital literacy, and climate change for journalists, activists, teachers, and students in the regions of Kazakhstan and worldwide.</p> <p>Alyona Koshkina is a 2018 International Visitor Leadership Program alumna.</p>



Aichurek Usupbaeva, Founder and Director, Media Sabak Foundation, Kyrgyzstan

Aichurek Usupbaeva is the Founder and Director of the "Media Sabak" Foundation and the Program Director of the "Media Support Center" Foundation. She has extensive experience in developing educational policies, strategies, and curricula on media and information literacy (MIL). Her knowledge and skills cover various areas, including:

- **Media information literacy:** Aichurek has a deep understanding of the importance of developing skills in media analysis, evaluation, and critical thinking. She strives to equip students and educators with the ability to distinguish facts from opinions, recognize information distortions and fake news, and effectively utilize information sources.
- **ICT competencies:** Aichurek recognizes the significance of information and communication technologies (ICT) in modern education. She contributes to the development of programs that help students enhance their digital tool skills, efficiently and safely use online resources, and understand the ethical and legal aspects of ICT usage.
- **Civic education:** Aichurek places great importance on the development of civic skills among students. She assists in designing programs that foster the formation of active and responsible citizens, capable of participating in public life, expressing their opinions in a well-reasoned manner, resolving conflicts peacefully, and engaging in community initiatives.
- **Gender self-assessment in media:** Aichurek also focuses on gender aspects in the media sphere. She works on programs aimed at raising awareness about gender stereotypes and norms, promoting the development of critical perception and self-assessment among students and journalists regarding gender and its representation in the media.
- **With her extensive expertise in educational policy development and her dedication to promoting media and information literacy, Aichurek Usupbaeva plays a crucial role in advancing the field of education and empowering individuals to navigate the complex media landscape effectively.**

