



Kyrgyzstan

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

In April, the NGO Kol-Kabysh reported that their coordinator received a call from a special detention centre informing her that five trans women held there were critically ill with high fevers and urgently needed fever-reducing medication. When she asked to speak directly with them, the women were given only a minute on the line. The call was then taken over by a detention centre employee, who demanded the medicines be delivered within the hour.

In January, LGBTI organisations and initiatives across the country lost more than half of their funding due to the executive order "On the Reassessment and Reorganisation of US Foreign Assistance" signed by the United States in January 2025. The freezing and subsequent dismantling of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at the beginning of 2025 also led to the halting of many development projects, threatening the funding of independent media, and creating uncertainty for U.S.-funded laboratories. As such, 83 percent of programs were canceled, with the remaining ones transferred to the State Department. As a result, local queer health organisations were unable to distribute outreach packages to the community or provide comprehensive counselling on health and HIV-related issues.

ASYLUM

In 2025, there were two documented cases of asylum-related requests addressed to the feminist queer organisation Qun Jelesi, where individuals received support through case accompaniment and consultations. These cases primarily involved LGBTI persons who had experienced hate crimes or those already living outside Kyrgyzstan and seeking asylum.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

In January, the Qol Qabysh (Kol Kabysh) Collective reported the disappearance of one of their members. According to the group, the young man was last heard from on November 19, 2024, when he told a friend he was going home. He never arrived, and his phone was quickly switched off. He was reported missing and – as of the end of 2025 – no public update on his whereabouts or the outcome of any investigation has been reported.

In February, the Qol-Kabysh Collective reported a case in which a trans woman was subjected to physical assault and degrading treatment by members of her community. Despite reporting the incident to the police, no effective action was taken against the perpetrators. Following the attack, the victim was evicted by her landlord and excluded from a community messaging group, further exacerbating her isolation and vulnerability.

In March, a trans woman engaged in sex work was ambushed after arriving at a pre-arranged booking. Three men assaulted her, recorded the attack, subjected her to blackmail, and stole her cash and bank card, subsequently withdrawing money from her account. A week later, she was summoned to a police station and informed that the alleged perpetrators had been detained.

Between 2024 and 2025, local LGBTI organisations conducted a needs assessment of key population groups to evaluate the situation following the 2023-2024 amendments restricting so-called "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations". The findings indicated increased vulnerability for lesbian, bisexual and queer women, including reports of family-based violence, forced confinement and threats following involuntary disclosure of sexual orientation. In documented cases, individuals were reportedly removed from their place of residence by family members, subjected to restrictions on movement and communication, expelled from their homes, and threatened with serious harm.

In 2025, Qun Jelesi and members of the LGBTI movement submitted a communication to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, outlining several emblematic cases of violence and arbitrary detention targeting LGBTI persons, including the April detention of five trans women in Osh (see also under Police and Law Enforcement). The submission raised concerns about systemic barriers to justice and intimidation of activists.

EMPLOYMENT

In late January, the blocking of 23 websites offering sex work services in Kyrgyzstan cut off many trans

sex workers from their only source of income. For many trans women, sex work was the sole viable form of livelihood, as mismatches between their appearance and official documents make securing employment nearly impossible.

In March, a trans woman was summarily evicted from a hostel after the owner learned of her gender identity, according to the Kol-Kabysh Collective. The termination, delivered without cause or procedure, left her without income or prospects. Kol-Kabysh is seeking redress and mobilising support. No publicly reported update on the outcome of this case or any accountability measures had emerged by the end of 2025.

Since 2020, trans people in Kyrgyzstan experienced difficulties in employment due to the absence of procedures to change their official gender markers. Trans women are particularly vulnerable and often rely on sex work to cover living expenses but since 2024, pressure has intensified, especially from law enforcement officers. While sex work is administratively prohibited, initial detention previously allowed the option to pay a fine. However, recent trends restrict access to lawyers and the right to reduced penalties. In December 2025, a trans sex worker in the south of the country was detained for the first time, held for one day in a pretrial detention centre, and then, by court decision, was denied the option to pay a fine and spent an additional three days in detention.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

In June, for the first time after a two-year crisis, the feminist queer organisation "Qun Jelesi" organised a Pride Month event, bringing together activists from across the country and fostering a renewed sense of community and resilience. Qun Jelesi also organised the first open queer art exhibition in Kyrgyzstan in recent years.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In March, Kyrgyzstan's national parliament published a draft bill proposing criminal sanctions for spreading information about LGBTI issues. The bill, though released for public discussion, had not yet been officially registered for parliamentary consideration.

The draft seeks to amend the Criminal Code, the Code of Administrative Responsibility, the Law on Peaceful Assembly, and the Law on Mass Media, introducing criminal and administrative penalties for actions or speech that create a positive attitude toward non-traditional sexual orientation. Under the proposed amendments, anyone found guilty of creating a positive attitude toward non-traditional sexual relations through media or telecommunications could face up to six months imprisonment and a fine between 2,000 and 5,000 som (€20-52). If such actions involved minors or repeat offenses, the penalties would rise to one year in prison and fines between 3,000 and 6,000 som (€31-62).

HEALTH

In January 2025, the Kol Kabysh Collective filed a complaint with the Prosecutor General's Office against Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Health and the management of a dispensary, citing negligence and transphobia that contributed to the death of a community member. According to the collective, the woman had been discharged from hospital with the promise that the dispensary would secure her a place in a hospice. Nonetheless, when her condition deteriorated, she was left without proper care and denied a referral, which was required for admission to a hospice that was ready to receive her. In November 2024, after being forced to wait 2.5 hours in a car while in severe pain and requiring oxygen, she passed away. Kol Kabysh stressed that correspondence confirmed that she had a diagnosis for hospice admission, contradicting later claims by the dispensary's director, who reported to the Ministry of Health that the refusal came from hospice staff. The collective accused the dispensary of falsifying facts to evade responsibility. In late January, the Collective reported that the Prosecutor General's Office had transferred the case to the Pervomaysky District Department of Internal Affairs. By the end of 2025, no publicly reported update on the outcome of the investigation or potential accountability measures was available.

In March, during a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Social Policy, deputy Zhyldyz Sadyrbayeva raised criticism over what she

described as the alleged misuse of funds allocated to Kyrgyzstan by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. According to Sadyrbayeva, millions of dollars earmarked for HIV/AIDS support are not reaching children living with HIV, but are instead being spent on flavored condoms, lubricants, and LGBTI community programs. She appealed directly to Health Minister Erkin Checheibayev to take personal oversight of the Country Coordination Committee (CCC), which manages Global Fund programs.

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

In April, Kol-Kabysh Collective reported that a trans woman had been held in a Russian special detention centre for four months. She was detained on January 30 and, after a rapid trial two days later, remained in custody in the village of Novoukrainskoye near Kropotkin. Kol-Kabysh reported that her passport has expired, all of her bank accounts are blocked, and when a close friend appealed to the Kyrgyz Embassy for assistance, officials refused help due to discrepancies in her documents, suggesting instead that she provide a certificate of gender-affirming surgery. From within detention, however, she has no way of securing such documentation. In May, her conditions worsened to the point of requiring medical attention, and advocacy undertaken by the Kol-Kabysh led to the officialisation of her renewed identification documents, which formalised her return to Bishkek. Mid-June, the victim confirmed she was getting transferred to Moscow to be flown back into Kyrgyzstan and, on June 18, Kol-Kabysh welcomed her arrival.

In June, a trans girl was detained and held overnight in the Leninsky District Department of Internal Affairs, where her health worsened significantly. Despite repeatedly asking for a bandage, officers dismissed her requests and instructed her to wait until a report was drafted. The staff eventually fell asleep in the office, leaving her in pain without medical assistance. The following morning, she recorded an officer insulting her with obscenities and pressuring her to sign a confession in exchange

for release. Kol-Kabysh immediately appealed to the National Centre against Torture.

HOUSING

In March, a trans woman was expelled from her accommodation in the middle of the night. The Kol-Kabysh Collective stepped in to provide temporary housing, raised money for hotel and transport, and search for longer-term solutions. The Collective noted this was the third such case recently, with overcrowded LGBTI shelters forcing trans women to rely on general shelters where they often face severe discrimination, including eviction or harassment by residents.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL, AND POLITICAL LIFE

In June, the participation of a Kazakh trans blogger in a fashion show in Bishkek caused [controversy](#). According to the blogger, her appearance on stage led to immediate backlash from local authorities. She reported that event organisers informed her of a conflict with the State Committee for National Security (SCNS), which objected to her participation.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Throughout the year, multiple instances of arbitrary arrest and alleged mistreatment by police and other law enforcement authorities were reported in Kyrgyzstan. In late January, police in Osh [detained](#) a trans man on drug-related charges. Civil society organisations were repeatedly denied permission to deliver a parcel to him until, after weeks of advocacy and coordination with human rights defenders, the parcel was ultimately [delivered](#) in late February.

Several incidents reported during the year concerned the arbitrary arrest and detention of trans and non-binary people. In March, a [video](#) circulated on social media showing police officers at the apartment of a trans woman. After she opened the door and requested identification, three uniformed officers entered, pushed her out of the apartment, and led her away without presenting a warrant or documents explaining the grounds for detention. The footage showed her being taken to an office where she was questioned and asked to sign documents.

In April, two trans women were detained following the circulation of a video showing a physical altercation with a man after he allegedly refused to pay for sex work. All parties were initially taken to a police station. The man later signed a reconciliation letter and was released, while the two women were fined 20,000 soms (approximately €200). The following day, they were detained again, transferred from a police station to a drug treatment centre and then brought before the Leninsky District Court. The court sentenced them to three days of administrative detention on charges of petty hooliganism.

In April, five trans women and an LGBTI activist were detained in Osh following a confrontation reportedly linked to a livestream by one of the activists. According to civil society groups, masked individuals entered apartments without presenting warrants, assaulted those present, and transferred them to police custody. The detainees were reportedly denied access to legal representation and subjected to physical mistreatment and compulsory medical examinations. An administrative court sentenced all five trans women to five days of detention for "minor hooliganism" under Article 126.

Additional incidents during the year involved arbitrary arrests, compulsory drug testing, and discriminatory treatment of trans and non-binary people by police, including detentions in Osh in late April, June and August.

In late April, June and August, several trans women were detained in Osh and reported being subjected to discriminatory treatment by police, including derogatory remarks, compulsory drug testing and administrative detention.

In July, Kyrgyzstan's State Committee for National Security (SCNS) carried out [raids](#) on three Bishkek nightclubs, closing them down on accusations of corrupting young people through alleged drug use and involvement in the LGBT community. Authorities framed the closures in the context of Kyrgyzstan's 2023 children's information security law which bans the promotion of non-traditional sexual relations and material deemed harmful to traditional family values.