



KYRGYZSTAN

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Four cases were recorded this year, where taxi drivers refused to drive trans women. Following a complaint, taxi company Namba fired their driver and invited NGO Kyrgyz Indigo to train its employees.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

In March, following the International Women's Day rally (see under **Freedom of assembly**) in Bishkek, news platforms published derogatory articles, public figures and politicians made hateful statements, including threats of violence. MP Jyldyz Musabekova said that those not conforming to their traditional roles should be cursed and beaten. She warned that Kyrgyzstan will soon become "Gayistan". Other politicians made similar statements, some calling for the resignation of Bishkek's mayor. Others included imam Chubak Aiy Jalilov and leader of the Qyrq-Choro Nationalist Movement, Zamirbek Kochorbaev. The Prosecutor General failed to investigate any of these cases.

A photo of a trans woman carrying an "I am proud of being trans!" banner, went viral and stirred hatred and incitement.

A few days after the march, Amanbol Babakulov (Qyrq-Choro) threatened the government with violence should they permit the 1 May picnic. Kochorbaev commended vigilantes for later attacking (see under **Freedom of assembly**) the picnic.

A number of activists living abroad, including a gay activist in Germany, wore the traditional Kyrgyz kalpak at Pride marches, stirring public debate.

In October, a Bishkek court ruled that NewsTV's release of a video featuring a trans woman last year, which caused a lot of hate speech, was illegal. This was the first successful case of an LGBTI person suing the media.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

A bisexual man was forced to leave the country in January, after two brutal attacks in 2018. The man reported the first incident to the authorities, when he and his friend were beaten up by a group. The second attack was allegedly orchestrated by the police to "teach" the victim that LGBTI people shall not file complaints with the police. During this attack, the word "gay" was carved on the man's body.

In March, Radio Free Europe broadcast an interview with a trans woman, who was attacked and abused by a group of men. The Ministry of Health stated in the video that transphobic violence is common.

A taxi driver refused to drive and assaulted two trans women in Bishkek on 5 May. Other taxi drivers helped to force the women out of the car. Following a complaint, the Prosecutor General replaced an officer who deliberately hindered the investigation. The case is ongoing.

A trans sex worker activist was detained by the police in June without explanation. She posted a live stream and contacted a local news agency.

In June, a trans woman who had been hiding from her family was found by her brother and beaten up. Her whereabouts are currently unknown. In August, a lesbian woman was locked up by her family and abused by her brother. She fled to a shelter.

BODILY INTEGRITY

A lesbian woman was subjected to conversion therapy this year. She was strangled by the imam and lost consciousness three times. She was too frightened to report the case.*

DIVERSITY

Two LGBTI NGOs participated in organising the Women's March. The 8/365 movement of feminist and LGBTI activists was established.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

In March, the Prime Minister signed the Human Rights Action Plan (2019-2021), which includes preventing discrimination and violence against LGBT people and adopting a comprehensive anti-discrimination law. On 4 April, Ombudsman Tokon Mamytov met with members of the NGO Equality Coalition to discuss cooperation.

On 10 December, the Ombudsman and UNDP held a meeting with representatives of the Parliament, government, the presidential apparatus and civil society on human rights, and raised violence and discrimination against LGBT people.



FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Two days before the International Women's Day, the authorities attempted to stop the annual Women's March. However, after brief legal debates, the march was permitted. This year, public attention was drawn to slogans and banners on LGBTI rights - some have called it the first Pride march in Central Asia.

"It is important to attend the rally despite the pressure and attempts to ban it. [...] I joined the rally to demonstrate that I will not be silent [...]." - Nazik Abylgazieva, Labrys activist (quote from Global Voices)

Public figures, MPs and religious leaders said the march was LGBTI "propaganda" (see under **Bias-motivated speech**).

On 26 April, Labrys's event at the local LGBT+ club in Bishkek was raided by policemen and homophobic activists, including Alexandr Tolmachev of the anti-LGBTI NGO Antiterror, allegedly to carry out a drug search.

An event of the 8/365 Movement on 1 May, was attacked by Qyrc-Choro vigilantes. The 8/365 Movement called on the President to condemn and investigate such attacks. No response followed.

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

On 13 March, the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for National Security, proposed a law to monitor civil society, including regarding funding, referencing Russian laws as good example.

To further tighten control over civil society, the draft law "On amendments to the law of the Kyrgyz Republic" was initiated in August, allowing for the inspection of NGOs.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On 19 April, the 'International Assembly of Youth' held a press conference in Bishkek urging the government to ban "LGBT propaganda" that "threatens the country's survival."

HEALTH

Kyrgyz Indigo conducted its first TRANSIT trainings in May, one for 30 medical professionals, and one for 25 trans people, to increase the quality of trans healthcare and mobilise the community.

The first trans health conference focusing on Central Asia was

held in September in Kyrgyzstan.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Following this year's rallies, several activists were targeted by threats, and some were thrown out of their homes. A Labrys staff member and her partner suffered verbal and physical abuse from her family and left the country.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

Although LGR does not require surgery, trans people continued reporting that they were required to present proof or surgeries. A trans man was denied LGR in April by the Sverdlovsky District Office and a trans woman in May by the Sokuluk District Office.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Kyrgyz Indigo documented eight police violence cases this year and reported the police's failure to protect the 1 May picnic to the Ethics Commission.

In May, the Ministry of the Interior included a section on LGBT rights in the police academy manual.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Kyrgyz Indigo conducted a training for trainers on SRHR at the State Medical Institute for Retraining, which retrains doctors.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Some of the information about Kyrgyzstan was shared with ILGA-Europe by activists and so far had not been public.*