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National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Kyrgyzstan

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

Methodology

1. This report has been prepared in accordance with the general guidelines set out in Human Rights Council resolution 17/119. The main focus of the report is on the progress made in protecting human rights and on the implementation of the recommendations received during the universal periodic review in 2020.
2. The report was prepared by the secretariat of the Coordinating Council on Human Rights attached to the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan, through the Ministry of Justice.
3. Contributions from national human rights organizations were taken into account in the preparation of the report. The structure of the report is based on the Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2022–2024, approved by Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 655-r of 28 November 2022. In addition, consultations were held with civil society on 12 December 2024 to discuss the draft report, allowing for consideration of proposals from non-governmental human rights organizations.

II. General

A. Constitutional guarantees and international human rights obligations

4. The new version of the Constitution was adopted by national referendum on 11 April 2021 and entered into force pursuant to the Constitution Act of 5 May 2021.
5. In accordance with article 23 of the Constitution, human rights and freedoms are inalienable and belong to everyone from birth. They are recognized as absolute, inalienable and protected by law and by the courts from violation by anyone whatsoever. Human rights and freedoms are among the highest values of Kyrgyzstan. They have direct effect and determine the purpose and content of the activities of all central and local government bodies and their officials.
6. According to article 55 of the Constitution, human and civil rights and freedoms are recognized and guaranteed in Kyrgyzstan in accordance with generally recognized principles and rules of international law, and the international treaties to which Kyrgyzstan is a party that have entered into force under the procedure established by law.
7. Kyrgyzstan is a party to the vast majority of major international human rights treaties and further intends to gradually expand the range of its international human rights obligations, taking due account of the financial implications and the need to change domestic law and practice (see annex 1 to the report).
8. Kyrgyzstan is currently taking measures to accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

B. Cooperation with special procedures

Information on recommendations 140.8, 140.9, 140.10 and 140.11

9. During the reporting period, Kyrgyzstan was visited by Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (from 23 May to 3 June 2022), Melissa Upreti, Chair of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls (from 4 April to 15 April 2022), and Heba Hagrass, Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (from 23 September to 3 October 2024).

C. National documents on human rights development

10. During the reporting period, Kyrgyzstan adopted the National Development Programme for the period up to 2026, the Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2022–2024 and the plan of action to implement the recommendations of the Committee against Torture for the period 2024–2025.

11. Kyrgyzstan is currently drafting a human rights action plan for the period 2025–2027 and an action plan on the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee for the period 2025–2027.

12. Kyrgyzstan also approved, at a meeting of the National Council on Family, Gender Development, Social Protection and Protection of Children's Rights attached to the Cabinet of Ministers, a draft action plan on follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Kyrgyzstan on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the period 2025–2028.

D. Legislation

Information on recommendations 140.13, 140.14, 140.15, 140.16, 140.17 and 140.18

13. Kyrgyzstan has ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), in accordance with Act No. 19 of 21 February 2020.

14. According to article 6 of the Constitution, the Constitution has supreme legal force and is directly applicable in Kyrgyzstan. Constitutional laws and other laws and regulations are adopted in accordance with the Constitution. The generally recognized principles and rules of international law and international treaties that have entered into force in accordance with national law form an integral part of the legal system of Kyrgyzstan. The procedure and conditions for the application of international treaties and the generally recognized principles and rules of international law are determined by law. In accordance with the Laws and Regulations Act, all laws and regulations are subject to scrutiny by experts in the areas of the law, human rights, gender, environment, anti-corruption work or others.

15. In accordance with Presidential Decree No. 26 of 8 February 2021 on the conduct of a review of Kyrgyz legislation, a review of Kyrgyz legislation was conducted to check compliance with the Constitution and the principles of social justice and partnership, necessity, appropriateness and effectiveness, to ensure that the subject matter of each piece of legislation is sufficiently regulated and to eliminate internal contradictions, legal gaps and conflicts with the law. All materials related to the inventory of Kyrgyz legislation, including legal assessments and the results of specialized expert examinations, have been published on the official website minjust.gov.kg.

III. National human rights framework

Information on recommendations 140.19, 140.20, 140.21, 140.23, 140.27, 140.58, 140.59, 140.63 and 140.100

16. The Coordinating Council on Human Rights attached to the Cabinet of Ministers, established pursuant to Government Decision No. 630 of 18 November 2013, is composed of representatives of ministries, departments and other State bodies. The Council's main tasks are to coordinate the activities of State bodies in the preparation of national periodic reports to the United Nations treaty bodies and universal periodic review reports and to assist State authorities in implementing United Nations recommendations on human rights.

17. The budgets of the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture and Ombudsman (Akyikatchy) of Kyrgyzstan are funded annually according to available State budget resources. In addition, the salaries of officials and staff members of the Centre and the

Ombudsman's Office were increased in accordance with the Presidential Decree No. 255 DSP of 1 August 2022 on the conditions of remuneration of persons holding special public positions and positions of State civil servants in the Ombudsman's Office and the Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 423 of 1 August 2022 on the conditions of remuneration of staff members of the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture.

18. Presidential Decree No. 134 of 7 May 2021 introduced a separate position of Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights, whose activities are governed by the Regulations on the Commissioner for Children's Rights, approved by Presidential Decree No. 267 of 21 June 2021.

19. To ensure the human and civil rights and freedoms provided for in articles 23–65, 109 and 110 of the Constitution, and to bring the activities of the national human rights institution into line with the Paris Principles, the Belgrade principles on the relationship between national human rights institutions and parliaments and the principles on the protection and promotion of the ombudsman institution (the Venice Principles), the deputies of the Zhogorku Kenesh, the parliament of Kyrgyzstan, prepared and introduced a constitutional bill on the Ombudsman and a set of legislative proposals on amendments to certain legislative acts on the activities of the Ombudsman, and public discussions were held.

20. The adoption of these bills will be an important step towards incorporating international standards into national law, strengthening the rule of law and fulfilling the international obligations of Kyrgyzstan. These initiatives have also received a positive evaluation from the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and other international human rights bodies.

21. In addition, the proposed changes will strengthen the guarantees of human rights protection, which will contribute to the development of the rule of law and increase the confidence of civil society and international partners, and the possibility of accreditation of the Office of the Ombudsman with category A status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

Information on recommendation 140.26

22. The Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2019–2021, approved by government order, has been completed. The Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2022–2024 was approved by Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 655-r of 28 November 2022, which has also been completed.

IV. Right to equality and non-discrimination

Information on recommendations 140.139, 140.140, 140.144, 140.148, 140.151, 140.153, 140.155, 140.159, 140.167, 140.170, 140.171, 140.183, 140.187 and 140.189

23. Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 513 of 16 September 2022 on the National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period up to 2030 and the National Action Plan for Gender Equality for the period 2022–2024 have been adopted.

24. In 2024, the implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality for the period 2022–2024 was completed. Workshops and national consultations were held to discuss the draft national action plan for gender equality for the period 2025–2027. Efforts have been under way since 1 January 2025 to review the comments and proposals received on the draft.

25. The ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), adopted on 21 June 2019, was ratified in accordance with Act No. 59 of 28 February 2024. Ratification of this Convention is an important step towards protecting workers' rights, preventing violence and harassment, and creating fairer and safer employment relations.

Information on recommendations 140.39, 140.47 and 140.50

26. In Kyrgyzstan, various initiatives were carried out to promote a unified society, diversity and civic identity, including seminars on monitoring, analysis, and prevention of interethnic tensions; friendship festivals involving representatives of all ethnic groups living in Kyrgyzstan; and training sessions for the executive secretaries of community liaison offices in multi-ethnic districts and cities of Osh, Jalalabad and Batken Oblasts and State bodies and the heads of departments of the Assembly of the Peoples of Kyrgyzstan. In 2019, a joint plan of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Agency for Local Government Affairs and Inter-Ethnic Relations was approved, and an order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on strengthening the activities of the internal affairs agencies to prevent inter-ethnic conflicts was signed. To prevent inter-ethnic conflicts and strengthen the unity of the people, lectures, classes and meetings are held for the public and students of educational institutions.

27. Community-based prevention centres and other voluntary associations located in the country are involved in organizing preventive work in areas with a large concentration of ethnic communities. There are 532 such centres, 547 youth councils, 539 women's councils, and 727 elders' (*aksakal*) courts in Kyrgyzstan.

Information on recommendations 140.208 and 140.211

28. The Constitutional Act on Presidential Elections and Elections to the Zhogorku Kenesh states that political parties must include at least 15 per cent of candidates from different ethnic backgrounds on their lists, and at least 3 of them must be among the first 25 candidates on the list.

29. In accordance with the State Civil Service and Municipal Civil Service Act, State civil service and municipal civil service are based on the principle of equal access of citizens to public employment, regardless of sex, race, language, disability, ethnicity, religion, age, political or other opinion, origin, property or other status.

30. The actual number of State and municipal employees broken down by ethnicity is set out in annex 2 to the present report.

Information on recommendations 140.51, 140.214 and 140.215

31. The State policy for the development of civic identity of the *Kyrgyz jarany* (Kyrgyz citizen) is being implemented in Kyrgyzstan, aimed at forming a civic identity uniting all ethnic groups in the country. The Ministry of Culture, Information, Sport and Youth Policy set up a system for early response to and prevention of inter-ethnic conflicts. This system includes a National Public Advisory Council for Inter-ethnic Relations composed of 40 people, 23 public advisory councils for inter-ethnic relations in 23 multi-ethnic districts and cities of the country, with a total of 328 members from among influential and respected multi-ethnic community leaders, 23 community liaison offices for interethnic issues in the corresponding 23 multi-ethnic districts and cities in the country and a monitoring centre with an interactive map of spots with the greatest potential for conflict. As a result of community outreach, the number of inter-ethnic incidents decreased fourfold.

32. An important role in strengthening the unity of the people and developing the civic identity of the *Kyrgyz jarany* is played by the Assembly of the Peoples of Kyrgyzstan, which includes 29 ethnic associations. The main goal of the Assembly, whose regional offices operate in four of the country's multi-ethnic regions, is to promote the preservation of languages, culture and traditions of ethnic groups living in Kyrgyzstan.

33. In accordance with article 2 of the Constitutional Act on the State Language, the use of the State language in Kyrgyzstan does not prevent the use of other languages. Kyrgyzstan adheres to the principle of the free development of the languages of members of all ethnic groups living in the country.

Information on recommendations 140.29, 140.31, 140.38, 140.40 and 140.210

34. In accordance with article 47 of the Healthcare Act, a draft decision of the Cabinet of Ministers was prepared on the approval of the regulations on the procedure for medical examinations of persons in cases of gender identity change and gender reassignment based on medical, biological, social and psychological indications. These draft regulations were published on 11 November 2024 on the central portal for public discussion of draft laws and regulations. The document is being negotiated with the State authorities.

35. Equally significant was the entry into force of the new Criminal Code, which distinguishes between unintentional and intentional HIV transmission and reduces the applicable penalties.

36. In order to provide medical professions at all levels of the healthcare system in Kyrgyzstan with standards of medical and social care for transgender, transsexual and gender-non-conforming persons, the Ministry of Health approved the Manual on Provision of Medical and Social Care for Transgender, Transsexual and Gender-Nonconforming Persons, for use by medical professionals at all levels of the national health-care system, by Order No. 42 of 18 January 2017.

V. Civil and political rights

A. Combating trafficking in persons

Information on recommendations 140.99, 140.102, 140.101 and 140.103

37. Article 166 of the Criminal Code, enacted in 2021, provides a legal definition of “trafficking in persons”, “recruitment” and “exploitation”, which have three indicia of a crime, and carry a penalty of 3 to 11 years’ imprisonment and confiscation of property.

38. The law enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan work continuously to prevent and suppress these crimes. When such incidents are identified, the measures provided for by law are taken, including the initiation of criminal proceedings and the prosecution of those responsible, under the continuous and effective supervision of the Procurator’s Office.

39. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved its Programme to Combat Trafficking in Persons for the period 2022–2025 and the action plan for its implementation.

40. With regard to law enforcement, the Central Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been operating a specialized anti-trafficking unit since 2017.

41. The Act on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons and the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking in persons were amended to bring them into line with international standards.

42. To implement paragraph 5 of Government Decision No. 493 of 19 September 2019 on the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking in persons in Kyrgyzstan, interdepartmental commissions have been established under district State administrations and mayor’s offices to provide social assistance and support the social rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in persons. The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration drafted and approved Regulations on the Activities of the Interdepartmental Commissions.

43. An information strategy for the prevention of trafficking in persons in Kyrgyzstan for the period 2024–2026, aimed at developing information and awareness-raising activities to prevent trafficking in persons and forced labour and reducing the latency of the crime, was drafted and approved by Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 242-r of 16 May 2024.

44. The press service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, together with other internal affairs services, conducts large-scale information campaigns to raise public awareness of contemporary manifestations of trafficking in persons and the means and methods used by

traffickers. For each detected case of trafficking in persons, efforts are made to publicize such criminal reports on the Internet.

45. Legislation of Kyrgyzstan ensures free medical and legal assistance, social rehabilitation, including psychological, medical and vocational rehabilitation, employment and housing for victims of trafficking in persons.

46. The Sezim Crisis Centre provides temporary shelter and rehabilitation assistance to victims of violence, including victims of trafficking in persons. The Ak-Jurok Crisis Centre provides psychological, legal and social assistance. Given the limited State budget funds, the implementation by voluntary organizations under contract to the Government for the provision of services to victims of trafficking in persons makes it possible to reduce the burden on social services and provide targeted assistance to vulnerable groups.

47. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is carrying out ongoing work to deepen cooperation with the law enforcement agencies of foreign States so that working relationships can be established with a view to identifying and suppressing trafficking channels and exchanging information under the Inter-State Programme on Joint Measures to Combat Crime for the period 2019–2023 and the Programme of Cooperation among States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Combating Trafficking in Persons for the period 2019–2023 (Plan of the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs of the CIS member States for the implementation of the Programme).

48. To enhance the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has adopted a model instruction on the detection, identification and referral of victims of trafficking in persons, a model instruction on the confidentiality of personal data on victims, an instruction on assistance to victims in social rehabilitation and an instruction on the application of a victim-centred approach by law enforcement agencies. These instructions regulate the referral mechanism for victims.

Information on recommendation 140.104

49. In July 2022, Kyrgyzstan aligned itself the statement of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July. This statement has been issued as an official document of the United Nations. Belarus initiated the establishment of the Group. Kyrgyzstan is a member.

50. Kyrgyzstan has traditionally supported General Assembly resolutions on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons, including resolution 76/186, sponsored by Belarus, adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session. The resolution seeks to ensure that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims. At the forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council, Kyrgyzstan associated itself with the statement made by China on behalf of a group of countries during the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. In this statement, the States parties expressed their concern at the increase in the number of offences related to trafficking in persons, especially children, called upon countries to ratify relevant international instruments and to take measures to combat trafficking in persons, including trafficking in children, and noted the need to strengthen coordination at the national and global levels and to bring perpetrators to justice.

51. Taking into account that children's rights are a priority for Kyrgyzstan as a member of the Council for 2023–2025, at the Council's fifty-second session, Kyrgyzstan supported the Council resolution on the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and abuse of children, sponsored by a group of States from Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union. In addition, Kyrgyzstan, at the Council's fifty-third session, supported and sponsored, with Argentina, Finland, Germany, Jordan and the Philippines, a draft resolution on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, urging States to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of victims of trafficking through enhanced protection and empowerment of and support and assistance for victims, including survivors, of trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

B. Combatting torture

Information on recommendations 140.54, 140.55, 140.56, 140.62 and 140.67

52. The interdepartmental action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee against Torture for the period 2024–2025 was approved at the meeting of the Coordinating Council on Human Rights attached to the Cabinet of Ministers (record of proceedings No. 2 of 4 July 2024, sect. 3 (1)).

53. In order for Kyrgyzstan to implement the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to introduce the principles of effective investigation and documentation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the rules for medical documentation of violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment were approved by Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 562 of 13 September 2024.

54. In order to detect and prevent the use of torture by staff of penal institutions or investigative authorities, and to ensure continuous monitoring of inmates' actions and prevent unlawful conduct by the service personnel of correctional colonies, video surveillance cameras with hard-drive recording capabilities have been installed. There are more than 903 security cameras and 154 portable video recorders in penal institutions.

55. Complaint boxes have been installed in all penal institutions to collect complaints and statements from citizens, convicted persons and persons remanded in custody regarding violations of their rights. A hotline has been set up in institution No. 14 (an educational colony for convicted minors).

56. The procuratorial authorities regularly carry out various activities aimed at ensuring access to justice for victims of torture and at effectively monitoring the investigation of torture cases and bringing perpetrators to justice.

57. In 2023, 124 cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment were registered in the information logbook of the automated information system, 102 of which resulted in decisions not to initiate criminal proceedings, while 4 underwent further investigation. In 2024, 151 cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment were registered in the system, 2 of which were prosecuted (1 case was investigated and sent to court, 1 case is under investigation in the Military Prosecutor's Office), 143 resulted in decisions not to initiate criminal proceedings and 6 underwent further investigation.

58. During the period in question, the procuratorial authorities conducted 3,027 unannounced inspections of temporary holding facilities, buildings and offices of investigative and operational staff of internal affairs agencies. Based on the results of the inspections, 25 cases were launched by the procuratorial authorities, which were pursued by senior officials (and disciplinary action was taken against 15 officers).

59. The procurator's office, together with representatives of the Ombudsman's Office and the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture, carried out 43 joint inspections, and work in this area is currently ongoing.

60. Video surveillance cameras have been installed in all cells of the country's internal affairs temporary holding facilities.

61. Whenever a suspect is placed in a temporary holding facility or a complaint regarding the use of physical violence by officials of investigative bodies is filed by the suspect or by his or her lawyer or relatives, he or she must undergo a medical examination, which must be duly documented.

62. All temporary holding facilities in Kyrgyzstan have helplines and contact numbers of the Internal Investigations Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which receives citizens and conducts inspections. Measures are taken in respect of all complaints from citizens of violations and infringements of their rights, without exception, including complaints from persons held in temporary holding facilities or detained by internal affairs officials, in order

to ensure a prompt investigation and response so that such violations and infringements can be eliminated and prevented from occurring in the future.

63. Measures are taken to ensure prompt investigation of material received in response to citizens' complaints of bodily injury, torture and other acts of violence by internal affairs officers, as well as measures to ensure personal control by the heads of Internal Investigations Service units over the quality of the handling of complaints.

Information on recommendations 140.60 and 140.64

64. In 2019, the Monitoring and Analysis Centre was established in the administrative building of the State Penal Correction Service, which combines monitoring of an integrated security system and carries out automated tracking of potentially dangerous situations and response to incidents within penal institutions, as well as setting up a unified framework using various communication channels. Events are displayed and video data is recorded on digital media for further storage. The Centre analyses intelligence information using software and assists intelligence and other units of the State Penal Correction Service in preventing, suppressing and detecting offences, including corruption. To date, 1,055 security cameras have been installed in 27 penal institutions and are online.

65. A total of 154 sets of body cameras are used to record administrative and criminal offences by on-duty guards at institutions Nos. 2, 3, 8, 21 and 27 and officers in charge at institutions Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, 14, 16, 19, 21, 27, 31 and 50. Additionally, 20 body cameras are used by the chief court security officers of the Security and Escort Service of the Ministry of Justice.

66. Information stands have been placed in the penal institutions, including the helpline number. Boxes have been installed for the submission of complaints and reports regarding the violation of rights of convicted persons and persons remanded in custody. Institution No. 14 has set up a "115" hotline.

67. In accordance with international standards, remand centre cells are ventilated, equipped with toilets and have natural light, detainees have access to weekly showers and the medical personnel of the facility make regular rounds to check sanitary conditions.

68. Institutions Nos. 21 and 25 do not have cells in the basement for the detention of convicted and remand prisoners. The cells are located on the ground, first and second floors of the secure building of the institutions. Pursuant to paragraph 146 of the internal regulations of the penal institutions, the cells located in the basement of the building of the punishment cells of Institution No. 47 are closed and are not in operation. Penal institution No. 47 has therefore been dismantled.

69. In accordance with the Penalties Enforcement Code and the internal regulations of remand centres, accused children and convicted persons are held separately from adults and separated by sex. Children are accommodated in small cells for more than 4 to 6 persons in separate buildings or units or on separate floors of the secure buildings, taking into account their age, physical development and educational problems. They are provided with improved living conditions, and increased nutritional standards are applied to them. For children who are suspected or accused persons, a daily walk of at least two hours is provided.

70. Where appropriate, the accused children are provided with television programmes, facilities for sports activities and outdoor sports grounds, and conditions for continuing and receiving general secondary education and take part in cultural and educational activities.

71. Accused children are allowed to receive textbooks and school supplies or to purchase them at their own expense, or to receive them in parcels or packages without limitation.

72. In Bishkek and Chu Oblast, minors are held only in the remand centre at institution No. 14 (young offenders' institution in the village of Voznesenovka). In the southern region of the country, all children are detained in institution No. 53 in Jalalabad (remand centre for women and children). Prisoners arriving at remand prisons are subject to a compulsory initial examination for physical injuries and serious illnesses. If a patient shows signs of physical injury, this is duly documented on the prescribed form.

73. According to the Penalties Enforcement Code and the Act on Procedures and Conditions for the Custody of Suspects and Accused Persons, female suspects and accused persons are held separately from male suspects and accused persons in places of detention. Men and women sentenced for the first time to deprivation of liberty are separated from those who have previously served sentences of deprivation of liberty.

74. There is only one correctional institution, institution No. 2, in the penal system for the execution of criminal sentences of deprivation of liberty for convicted women (Stepnoe village). Given that this institution is the only correctional facility in the country of its kind, it holds convicted women serving sentences under various detention regimes.

75. The construction of a separate unit with three regimes (strict, ordinary and light) in institution No. 2 is now complete, which entered into operation in December 2021. In accordance with article 100 of the Penalties Enforcement Code, the institution operates a children's home, which provides the conditions necessary for the normal development of children. Women prisoners may place their children under the age of 3 in childcare units and spend unlimited time with them when they are not working. They may be allowed to live with the child. Pregnant women and women accompanied by children are provided with improved living conditions and specialized medical care and higher nutrition and clothing standards, as determined by the Cabinet of Ministers. No restrictions may be placed on the time allowed for daily exercise. Pregnant women and women with children may not be placed in a punishment cell as a disciplinary measure.

C. Freedom of religion

Information on recommendations 140.44, 140.45, 140.80, 140.83, 140.89, 140.96 and 140.217

76. On 21 January 2025, the President signed the amended Freedom of Religion and Religious Organizations Act. The Act is intended to provide guarantees for the exercise of freedom of religion in Kyrgyzstan, in accordance with the Constitution, the generally recognized principles and rules of international law and the international treaties that have entered into force in accordance with national law. It establishes the status, rights and duties of organizations engaged in religious activities and regulates relations arising from their activities.

77. To date, 4,330 religious associations are registered in Kyrgyzstan. Of these 3,933 are Islamic, 397 are Christian, and 4 belong to the Baha'i, 1 to the Jewish and 1 to the Buddhist communities.

78. Current legislation is favourably disposed towards believers and religious organizations. There are many benefits, including, for example, alternative service, which is offered in place of compulsory military service under the Act on Universal Conscription of Kyrgyz Nationals, and Military and Alternative Service, taking into account the conscript's religious beliefs.

79. Furthermore, the Tax Code provides benefits for believers and religious organizations.

80. In order to ensure national unity, intercultural and interreligious harmony, the development of State-religious partnership and the strengthening of the secular foundations of the State, the State Policy Framework on Religious Affairs for the period 2021–2026 and the corresponding Action Plan were approved by Presidential Decree No. 412 of 30 September 2021.

D. Freedom of expression and assembly

Information on recommendations 140.81, 140.82, 140.85, 140.90 and 140.91

81. The Cabinet of Ministers has put forward amendments to the Media Act. The current Media Act of 2 July 1992 is outdated and does not fully address the challenges of the modern world or meet contemporary requirements for public relations in the field of mass media. The

Act has reached the limits of its effectiveness and no longer reflects the realities of modern society, and therefore the need for a new law is clear.

82. The purpose of the proposed amendments and solutions is to uphold each individual's constitutionally established and guaranteed right to freedom of expression, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, while also ensuring information security and the right to receive and impart information, as well as to enhance media legislation, fostering the development of independent, responsible and competitive media.

83. On 15 December 2023, a media bill (registration No. 6-15999/23 of 15 December 2023) was submitted to the Zhogorku Kenesh. The bill's sponsor is the Cabinet of Ministers.

84. On 7 March 2024, the President met with heads of national media organizations, which resulted in the bill under consideration by the Zhogorku Kenesh being withdrawn for revision. On 29 March 2024, a meeting was held at the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sport and Youth Policy with members of the media industry at which a working group was established to finalize the draft law.

85. On 31 December 2024, the media bill (registration No. 6-12885/24 of 31 December 2024) was reintroduced to the Zhogorku Kenesh.

Information on recommendation 140.97

86. Act No. 72 on amendments to the Non-Profit Organizations Act, of 2 April 2024, introduced a new concept of a "non-profit organization acting as a foreign representative" and also defined a special legal status for their operations.

87. As part of the implementation of this Act, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Decision No. 518 of 27 August 2024 on measures to implement the Non-Profit Organizations Act, which approved the Regulations on maintaining the register of non-profit organizations acting as foreign representatives and conducting audits of their activities.

88. The Ministry of Justice has started work to keep the above-mentioned register. The register, according to the Ministry's official website as of December 2024, includes five non-profit organizations.

89. The President has extended the term of the working group on revising the bill on non-profit, non-governmental organizations, including taking into account the opinion of the Venice Commission of 14 October 2024 (CDL-AD (2024)033).

Information on recommendations 140.79, 140.88, 140.93, 140.94, 140.95 and 140.98

90. Under article 32 of the Constitution, everyone has the right to freedom of expression and freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Article 33 of the Constitution gives everyone the right to freely seek, receive, store, use and impart information either orally or in writing or through any other media. In accordance with article 202 of the Criminal Code, obstructing the lawful professional activities of a journalist by forcing him or her to impart or refrain from imparting information, when committed by a person using his or her official position, is punishable by a fine of 300 to 600 notional units or punitive deduction of earnings for a period of 2 months to 1 year, or deprivation of the right to hold certain posts or engage in certain activities for a period of 1 to 3 years.

91. Article 8 of the Protection of the Professional Activities of Journalists Act sets out guarantees for the protection of journalists' professional activities. The professional rights, honour and dignity of journalists are also protected by law. Journalists are guaranteed personal inviolability in the conduct of their professional activities. Journalists may not be prosecuted for publishing critical opinions. The State guarantees the freedom of journalists to receive and impart information and ensures their protection during the conduct of their professional activities. Interference in the professional activities of journalists or demands that they disclose any information acquired in the conduct of their professional activities are also prohibited.

VI. Economic, social and cultural rights

A. Right to an adequate standard of living

Information on recommendation 140.53

92. In accordance with the Act on amendments to the Subsoil Act, amendments were introduced requiring subsoil users to employ at least 90 per cent of their total workforce from among Kyrgyz citizens and to purchase at least 80 per cent of goods and services within the country.

93. In accordance with article 30 (2) of the Subsoil Act, the obligation to prepare a social package applies only to subsoil sites of national importance that are in the exploration or mineral extraction stage. The social package includes an investment programme aimed at improving the social and living conditions of the local community, including training, local employment, infrastructure development and other measures, in the areas where the tendered subsoil sites are located. Thus, the measures being taken will reduce poverty levels in the future.

B. Right to safe drinking water

Information on recommendations 140.110 and 140.116

94. The Programme for the Development of Drinking Water Supply and Wastewater Systems in settlements in the period up to 2026 has been adopted and is being implemented in Kyrgyzstan pursuant to Government Decision No. 330 of 12 June 2020. As part of this programme, investments totalling US\$ 556.2 million have been attracted, providing drinking water to 294 villages, with projects being implemented in 258 villages. Projects for the rehabilitation and construction of drinking water supply and wastewater systems, as well as treatment facilities, also continue to be implemented in 24 cities throughout the country.

95. As part of the above-mentioned programme, efforts are being made to harmonize and improve laws and regulations in the field of drinking water supply and wastewater management, bringing them into line with international standards.

96. In accordance with the Drinking Water Safety Act Technical Regulations Act, the Ministry of Health developed health standards and regulations in the field of drinking water supply and sanitation, which were approved by decision of the Government.

97. Public health requirements for sanitary protection zones of water sources and household drinking water pipelines, for centralized household and drinking water supply systems and pipelines, and for sources of non-centralized drinking water supply to the population were approved by Government Decision No. 68 of 31 January 2018.

98. Public health requirements in the following areas were approved by Government Decision No. 201 of 11 April 2016 on the approval of public health instruments: the safety of hot water supply systems; the disinfection of drinking water using ultraviolet radiation; the design and operation of public toilets; the safety of materials, reagents and equipment used in water treatment and purification; and hygienic standards for the maximum allowable concentrations of chemical substances in water bodies used for household water supply and public recreational purposes as well as for target levels for chemical substances in such waters.

C. Right to education

Information on recommendations 140.125, 140.126, 140.127, 140.128, 140.129, 140.130, 140.131, 140.132, 140.133, 140.134, 140.135, 140.136, 140.137, 140.138 and 140.218

99. The Education Development Programme for the period 2021–2040 and related action plan were approved by Government Decision No. 200 of 4 May 2021.

100. In accordance with the above-mentioned programme, the education system will enable persons to develop their intellectual, creative and emotional potential at any age, provide conditions for healthy lifestyles and well-being of learners and equal educational opportunities for all citizens throughout the country, regardless of place of residence, gender, religion, health, financial situation or other factors. Priority will be given to innovations that contribute to the development of human resources in the education system, ensuring a high-quality and competitive education that shapes individuals capable of taking responsibility for their own development, demonstrating mobility and remaining in demand on the labour market. The source and participants in the development of the education system are not only the State, but also society as a whole.

101. On 18 August 2023, a new version of the Education Act entered into force. Thus, in Kyrgyzstan, inclusive education is aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for all, without discrimination, while considering diverse educational needs and individual abilities as well as challenging life circumstances. The principle of inclusive education applies at all levels of education and throughout life. To implement inclusive education, it is prohibited to recognize a child as lacking the capacity for an education or to otherwise segregate children.

102. The policy outline for the development of inclusive education for the period 2019–2023 and the related programme were approved pursuant to Government Decision No. 360 of 19 July 2019. The Ministry of Education and Science action plan for the implementation of the above-mentioned documents was approved by order of the Ministry on 2 September 2019.

103. The admission quota is defined in article 3 of the Education Act as the maximum number of State-requisitioned places in the education system, including educational grants, allocated for the admission of persons with categories I and II disabilities to institutions of primary, secondary and higher vocational education, persons entitled to the same benefits and guarantees as war veterans, veterans with disabilities, persons with disabilities from childhood, children with disabilities, rural youth, ethnic Kyrgyz who are not Kyrgyz citizens, and orphans and children deprived of parental care. Each year, 100 grant-funded places are allocated under this quota.

D. Right to health

Information on recommendations 140.120, 140.121, 140.122, 140.123, 140.124 and 140.179

104. All national programmes are developed in accordance with the objectives and action plan of the State programme entitled “Healthy Person – Prosperous Country” for the period up to 2030. In accordance with articles 53 and 56 of the Healthcare Act, any form of discrimination in granting the right to health is prohibited. In accordance with article 63 of the Act, persons with disabilities are also entitled to benefits for the provision of medical and social care. For the period up to 2027, activities are planned to raise awareness among adolescents (ages 18–19) through the development of a Communication Plan to raise awareness among adolescents about family planning, including sexual and reproductive health, prevention of early marriages, bride kidnapping for the purpose of marriage, adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. These topics will be integrated into the curricula of specialized secondary vocational and higher education institutions. A key priority of the healthcare policy in Kyrgyzstan is the protection of the population’s reproductive health, and the goals of family reproductive healthcare are to ensure reduced pregnancy-related risks, safe motherhood and a lower prevalence of complications during pregnancy and diseases not due to direct obstetric causes among women of reproductive age. Under the programme of State-guaranteed healthcare, women in the country are given every opportunity to fully exercise all reproductive rights and achieve good reproductive health.

Information on recommendations 117.83, 117.84 and 117.85

105. In 2024, the Ombudsman’s Office received a total of 9,283 applications for the protection of rights, from:

- Vulnerable citizens: 1301
- Pensioners: 492
- Unemployed persons: 518
- Persons remanded in custody, defendants and accused persons: 173
- Persons with disabilities: 88
- Minors: 25
- Foreign nationals: 5

106. In the first 10 months of 2024, the Ombudsman's Office received a total of 7,030 applications for the protection of rights, from:

- Vulnerable persons in various categories: 1034
- Pensioners: 399
- Unemployed persons: 400
- Persons remanded in custody, persons involved in legal proceedings, accused persons, defendants and convicted persons: 160
- Persons with disabilities: 57
- Foreign nationals: 18

107. As part of its mandate, the Ombudsman carries out reviews of applications, inspections, monitoring and educational programmes, provides legal assistance and advice and cooperates with various governmental and non-governmental organizations.

108. In 2023, the Ombudsman sent out a questionnaire on bullying and violence in schools to general education and boarding schools throughout the country. The questionnaire was conducted among students in grades 7–11, with 1,452 schoolchildren participating. Research has been conducted on issues relating to citizens' rights, including benefits for "mother heroines", assistance to low-income families and persons with disabilities living in social institutions, and the rights of patients undergoing dialysis.

109. The Ombudsman also conducts extensive research on the situation of human rights and freedoms on the ground. In 2023, the Ombudsman visited every region of the country, met with more than 2,000 citizens, including representatives of vulnerable groups, and reviewed the conditions of closed facilities and social institutions. Public complaints were discussed at the meetings, with many resolved jointly with local authorities.

110. In 2024, the Ombudsman conducted studies on children's property rights, access to justice for persons with disabilities, and early marriage. The Ombudsman continuously monitors cases of violence against women.

111. Efforts to combat statelessness are under way in the country. In particular, revised Regulations on the procedure for consideration of issues of citizenship of Kyrgyzstan were approved by Presidential Decree No. 216 of 2 August 2024, which simplified the application process and shortened the time frame for their consideration.

112. Draft regulations on statelessness determination procedures and the issuance of identity and travel documents for stateless persons have been introduced. The benefits of the proposed regulations include:

- Establishing clear statelessness determination procedures
- Setting up a registration system to facilitate data processing and expedite decisions
- Simplifying the procedure for obtaining identity cards for stateless persons

VII. Rights of specific persons or groups

A. Women's rights

Information on recommendations 140.141, 140.152, 140.154, 140.157, 140.158, 140.160, 140.166, 140.168, 140.175 and 140.189

113. The State programme to support women's leadership for the period up to 2030 and the action plan for the implementation of the State programme to support women's leadership for the period 2024–2027 were approved by Presidential Decree No. 62 of 7 March 2024.

114. In 2019, the Local Council Elections Act introduced a provision establishing 30 per cent quota for women in local councils, which was implemented in the 2021 local council elections. Thanks to this provision, the proportion of women deputies in local councils has been steadily increasing. While in 2019 women comprised only 9 per cent of local council deputies, this figure increased to 38 per cent by 2021, and, in the election on 17 November 2024, it was already 42 per cent.

115. In 2021, amendments to the Constitutional Act on Presidential Elections and Elections to the Zhogorku Kenesh introduced a 30 per cent quota for women in the Zhogorku Kenesh.

116. The law provides that, when drawing up the list of candidates for the Zhogorku Kenesh and local councils, political parties must ensure that no more than 70 per cent of candidates are of the same sex; if the term of office of a female member of the Zhogorku Kenesh ends prematurely, her seat passes to the next registered candidate from among the female candidates. A similar provision applies to the election of deputies to local councils. Information on women's representation in the Zhogorku Kenesh and local councils can be found in annex 3.

B. Combating gender-based violence

Information on recommendations 140.165 and 140.181

117. In accordance with the Regulations on the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration, approved by Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 252 of 15 November 2021, the Ministry is an executive body responsible for the development and implementation of State policy, including in the area of protection against domestic violence.

118. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the above-mentioned regulations, the Department for Gender Policy Development and Safeguards and Protection against Domestic Violence within the Ministry is responsible for implementing gender policy and ensuring protection from domestic violence.

119. A special department for the prevention of domestic violence and the coordination of mobile police reception units has been established within the Public Security Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The main objectives of establishing the department are to enhance efforts to combat domestic violence, prevent and suppress violence, improve public services and strengthen public trust in the police.

Information on recommendations 140.142, 140.146, 140.156, 140.162, 140.181 and 140.184

120. To ensure that internal affairs officers receive training on the use of gender-sensitive investigation and interrogation methods when dealing with cases of gender-based violence against women, the Ministry of Internal Affairs approved, by Order No. 763 of 25 November 2020, instructions on organizing and improving the work carried out by the internal affairs agencies to ensure protection against domestic violence, which set out in detail all the provisions and principles relating to police support for victims of domestic violence.

121. At the Academy and the National Training Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Protection against Domestic Violence Act, the above-mentioned instructions and other legal instruments and departmental regulations governing the prevention and protection

against domestic violence have been incorporated into all training programmes, including advanced training courses, as mandatory subjects. A total of 1,630 cadets and candidates for entry into the internal affairs service were trained under the above-mentioned programmes from 2019 to 2021 and 3,799 from 2022 to 2023.

122. In October 2021, standard operating procedures on the provision of basic services in the context of law enforcement and the justice system to women and children who have been subjected to violence were approved by order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to strengthen efforts to suppress and prevent domestic violence and eliminate secondary victimization during the initial inquiry and investigation stages. These standard operating procedures serve as a guide for neighbourhood police officers, inspectors for minors' affairs, operational and investigative officers and educational institutions that are part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs system and provide staff training. The implementation of these standards improves the service delivery to survivors by addressing their needs and allows for effective collaboration with State and non-State bodies for a comprehensive response to violence.

123. To enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in preventing and responding to all forms of gender-based violence, the Office of the Procurator General has ordered the strengthening of prosecutorial supervision of the application of laws and the conduct of pretrial proceedings for crimes and less serious offences. In 2022, the Training Centre of the Office of the Procurator General conducted two training sessions for 31 procuratorial and investigative officers on the unacceptability of violence against women. The Centre has developed a practical manual, entitled "Procuratorial Supervision during the Pretrial Proceedings and Support for the State Prosecution in Court for Offences Related to Violence against Women".

124. The Higher School of the Judiciary has supplemented its training programmes with lectures for judges on the specific characteristics of hearing cases involving offences against women and girls, including such lectures as "Criminal law aspects of domestic violence" and "Hearing of criminal cases involving gender-related offences in the light of the new Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure" and a training seminar for court personnel entitled "Capacity-building with regard to the collection, analysis and quality of statistical data on gender-based discrimination and violence".

125. At the Major General E.A. Aliev Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, training courses on the themes, "Prevention of domestic violence in the activities of internal affairs bodies" and "Prevention of domestic violence against minors" have been added to the curriculum for fourth-year cadets.

126. In March 2023, a special training course, "Prevention of Domestic and Gender Violence", was introduced for postgraduates of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

127. The Z. Shabirov National Training Centre has introduced a four-hour course on gender equality, which has been incorporated in the curriculum for all categories of students. As part of this course, two-hour lectures are delivered on the legal foundations of gender equality in Kyrgyzstan and the efforts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to combat domestic violence.

Information on recommendations 140.143, 140.146, 140.147, 140.149, 140.150, 140.156, 140.161, 140.163, 140.169, 140.172, 140.173, 140.176, 140.180, 140.182, 140.185, 140.186, 140.188, 140.190, 140.191, 140.192 140.193, 140.195 and 140.226

128. In accordance with the new Criminal Code, abduction for the purpose of marriage (art. 172), coercion to enter into de facto marital relations (art. 173), coercion to enter into marriage (art. 174) and violations of the law on the legal age for marriage during the conduct of religious ceremonies (art. 175) constitute separate criminal offences punishable by deprivation of liberty.

129. Under article 177 (Domestic violence) of the Code, any act that is committed intentionally by one family member against another family member or person of equivalent status and that violates the victim's constitutional or other rights and freedoms or causes physical or mental suffering or harm to the victim's physical or mental development is

punished by punitive work for a term of 2 months to 1 year, or 40 to 60 hours' community service, or imprisonment for a term of up to 5 years.

130. The new Code of Offences establishes penalties for domestic violence (art. 70 (Domestic violence)), which entails sentencing the perpetrator to 40 hours of community service or a term of 3 to 7 days' rigorous imprisonment.

131. When such incidents are identified, the measures provided for by law are taken, including the initiation of criminal proceedings and the prosecution of those responsible, under the continuous and effective supervision of the Procurator's Office.

132. In August 2024, amendments were introduced to specific provisions of the Criminal Code, the Code of Offences, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Protection against Domestic Violence Act, the Family Code, the Housing Code, the Penalties Enforcement Code, the Code on Non-Tax Revenues, the Probation Act, the Elders' Court Act, the Internal Affairs Agencies Act and the Penal System Bodies and Institutions Act concerning the protection and safeguarding of the rights and legitimate interests of victims, particularly in cases of domestic, gender-based and sexual violence. A regulatory instrument is currently being drafted to amend Government Decision No. 390 of 1 August 2019 on the procedure for ensuring protection against domestic violence.

133. Since the beginning of 2020, domestic violence prevention committees, standing collegial bodies established on a voluntary basis from among representatives of State bodies, religious and non-governmental organizations and other members of the local community, have been introduced to facilitate cooperation and inter-agency coordination. The principal tasks of the committees at the local level include handling citizens' applications, providing legal and psychological support and information; monitoring of the situation of domestic violence, bride theft and early marriages; public awareness-raising; and planning, implementation and analysis of activities.

134. Children living in difficult circumstances are supported under the State social-sector procurement system.

135. The Action Plan on Elimination of Early and Forced Marriage for the period 2023–2024 was approved by Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 25-r of 25 January 2023. The action plan provides for:

- Improving laws and regulations to eradicate child and forced marriages
- Preventing and suppressing child and forced marriages by increasing the capacity of the actors involved in the implementation of legislation on the violation of the minimum age for marriage and conducting a public awareness-raising campaign

136. By joint order the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration and the State Agency for Civil Service and Local Self-Government, guidelines for the domestic violence prevention committees on protection from domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan were approved. Local domestic violence prevention committees have been established in every district of the country.

137. By Order No. 50 of 29 March 2024, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security, and Migration approved a plan to strengthen the effectiveness of efforts in the protection against and prevention of domestic violence for 2024.

138. There are 18 crisis centres for women and girls providing assistance to victims of domestic violence. Of these, 10 of them have shelters. Two of the 18 crisis centres located in Bishkek and Naryn are municipal.

139. The Ministry annually supports crisis centres providing assistance to victims of family violence under the State social-sector procurement system. Between 2019 and 2024, under the State social-sector procurement system, funding for the maintenance of crisis centres for victims of domestic violence increased from 5.4 million soms to 12 million soms.

140. In 2023, approximately 7 million soms were allocated to 13 NGOs, including three projects providing services to survivors of gender-based and domestic violence, four projects implementing rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, four projects establishing

temporary safe shelters and two projects supporting women's traditional craft groups and youth initiatives.

141. In 2024, about 12 million soms were allocated to nine NGOs, including social support for women and girls affected by domestic violence and victims of trafficking in persons (four projects); temporary safe shelters for women and girls with children affected by gender-based and domestic violence (one project); rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence (one project); and support for traditional women's craft groups and youth initiatives (start-ups) (three projects).

142. Elders' courts have been excluded from the system of domestic violence protection and prevention.

143. The National Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Outline of State Policy on Crime Prevention for the period 2022–2028 was approved by Cabinet of Ministers Order 748-r of 4 December 2023. A number of measures are provided for under the plan, including the measure entitled "Reducing the number of offences, domestic violence incidents, offences involving children and other violations", which is divided into separate parts, namely "Prevention of offences and suicides among children" and "Elimination of violence against women".

144. There are 59 mobile police reception units in the country providing services to citizens.

145. Their primary task is to travel to settlements and remote areas, receive complaints and applications from citizens on-site, prevent and explain cases of domestic violence, and provide legal advice.

Information on recommendations 140.162, 140.174, 140.177, 140.178 and 140.201

146. Internal affairs officers in the country have delivered 43,069 lectures in educational institutions, organized 582 media appearances and conducted ongoing information and awareness-raising campaigns in the media (television and radio stations, social networks and Facebook page) on the prevention of offences and crime, violence and forced marriages.

147. To enhance the knowledge and skills of juvenile affairs inspectors, five manuals have been developed and distributed in 2,500 copies.

148. The Ministry of Culture, Information, Sport and Youth Policy conducts regular information awareness-raising campaigns in the media (television and radio stations, print media, social networks (the Ministry's website and Facebook page, the regional media centre website kyrgyz.media) on human rights, in particular on the prevention of violence against children, women and minorities, and all forms of violence and forced marriages.

C. Children's rights

Information on recommendations 140.194, 140.196, 140.197, 140.198, 140.199, 140.200, 140.202, 140.203, 140.204, 140.205, 140.206, 140.207 and 140.220

149. The Government is effectively implementing the Family Support and Child Protection Programme for the period 2018–2028, approved by Government Decision No. 479 of 14 August 2017.

150. To implement the second phase of the programme, a plan of action (second phase) for the implementation of the Cabinet of Ministers Family Support and Child Protection Programme for the period 2023–2025 was approved by Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration Order No. 171 of 12 October 2023.

151. The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration, together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science, approved a joint order for 2024 on the adoption of an inter-agency action plan to address urgent issues concerning children and to prevent child neglect, homelessness, offences and crimes.

152. The plan includes measures to prevent child labour, including identifying children working in shopping centres, organizations and enterprises, and carrying out preventive and investigative actions under the name “Adolescent Labour”. Identification of working, homeless and neglected children is done by the regional branches of the Ministry on an ongoing basis, in accordance with the regulations on the procedure for identifying children and families in difficult circumstances, approved by Government Decision No. 391 of 22 June 2015.

153. Individual child protection plans are drawn up for every child in such circumstances who is identified and the appropriate support services for families with children are provided to help them overcome such circumstances.

154. To automate the processes of identifying and supporting children and families in difficult circumstances, the Ministry, with technical support from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Kyrgyzstan, developed an automated information system for data on children and families in difficult circumstances.

155. The system provides for the possibility for regional, State and municipal bodies to maintain records of children and families identified as living in difficult circumstances.

156. Currently, on the basis of planned activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Central Internal Affairs Department and the regional Internal Affairs Departments, juvenile affairs inspectors, together with social development, education, local State administrations and the media, periodically conduct raids aimed at identifying children engaged in the worst forms of labour, in order to register them with social protection agencies and local State administrations and to provide the necessary social assistance to their families and facilitate their enrolment in general education institutions.

157. Information on the children identified was sent to the social services in order to work with parents and, where necessary, draw up family casework plans.

Information on recommendation 140.73

158. Under the Criminal Code, a child who has committed an offence may be sentenced to punishment or subjected to compulsory educational measures or placed under probationary supervision. First-time young offenders who have committed less serious offences may be released by the court from punishment if it is considered that they can be reformed through the application of compulsory education measures. If the court, when imposing a sentence of deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding 5 years, taking into account the gravity of the offence, the offender’s personality and other circumstances of the case, determines that the child can be rehabilitated without serving the sentence, it may decide to release the child from serving the sentence under probation supervision. The court releases the convicted child from serving the imposed sentence if, during the probation supervision period, the child does not commit a new crime or offence and fulfils the probation obligations imposed on him or her.

D. Rights of persons with disabilities

Information on recommendations 140.24, 140.218 and 140.221

159. The Healthcare Act includes an article on the right of persons with disabilities.

160. As of 1 January 2024, more than 217,000 persons with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan were receiving pensions and disability benefits. Of these, 129,700 were recipients of disability pensions and 86,500 recipients of social disability benefits, including 37,500 children with disabilities under the age of 18.

161. To improve the quality of care for children with disabilities and prevent their placement in residential institutions, a new Personal Assistant service was introduced for children requiring constant care and supervision in 2019, with appropriate payment made to carers of children. To enhance State support for certain categories of vulnerable population, payments for personal assistant services were introduced on 1 June 2022 for persons with category I disabilities from childhood 1 (over 18 years old) who require constant care and supervision. Since 2019, the Early Intervention Programme has been in place, which is a

family-centred medical, social and educational service for children aged 0 to 4 with congenital health conditions and developmental disabilities. The main objective of the programme includes: prevention of disability; prevention of social orphanhood; adaptation of families with persons with disabilities to society; and launch of inclusive education.

162. Persons with disabilities, as insured citizens, have the right to subsidized drugs under the supplementary health insurance scheme and can purchase certain medicines with an electronic prescription issued by a family doctor with an average discount of up to 50 per cent.

Information on recommendations 140.220, 140.222, 140.223, 140.224, 140.225, 140.227, 140.228 and 140.229

163. Since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Cabinet of Ministers has adopted the State “Accessible Country” programme for persons with disabilities and other people with limited mobility for the period 2023–2030 under Decision No. 69 of 10 February 2023. The programme is aimed at eliminating discrimination against persons (children) with disabilities in various spheres of public life and creating accessible infrastructure in the country’s cities, districts and villages. The programme provides for measures to introduce comprehensive rehabilitation and habilitation programmes, including early detection and early intervention.

164. To ensure coordination between State bodies, local authorities, voluntary associations, academic institutions and other organizations in addressing issues related to the social protection of persons with disabilities, the Government’s Council for Persons with Disabilities was established by Government Order No. 175-r of 15 May 2020.

165. The Government’s public mental health programme for the period 2018–2030 was adopted and approved by Government Decision No. 119 of 1 March 2018. The programme calls for strengthened action by health organizations, collaborating civil society institutions and key populations to expand and enhance the effectiveness of prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support services in establishing mental health services in the country. Multidisciplinary teams have been established and deployed at the primary healthcare level. Those teams are staffed by a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a staff nurse and a visiting nurse according to the staffing regulations approved by the Ministry of Health.

E. Rights of migrants

Information on recommendations 140.230 and 140.231

166. An Agreement between the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the Government of Kazakhstan on cooperation in the area of migration was signed On 27 November 2019. The Agreement was ratified by Act No. 43 of 30 March 2021. Kyrgyzstan currently has an existing agreement with South Korea on the organized recruitment of citizens for the purpose of employment at the inter-State level under the Employment Permit System. In addition, the following draft international agreements on migration are currently being developed and negotiated:

- Intergovernmental agreement with Azerbaijan in the area of labour migration
- Intergovernmental agreement with Russia on migration exchange in the area of migration
- Inter-agency agreement with Qatar on the employment of Kyrgyz citizens
- Inter-agency agreement with Türkiye on the intention to cooperate in the area of migration
- Inter-agency agreement with Japan on partnership in the implementation of job placement of Kyrgyz citizens under the “skilled worker” system in Japan
- Initiative by the Uzbek side to conclude a bilateral agreement on labour migration and an agreement on social security, employment and migration, under review

167. Kyrgyzstan continues to work in cooperation with the international community through regional organizations (Eurasian Economic Union, CIS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Organization of Turkic States) as well as international organizations (United Nations Network on Migration, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and International Centre for Migration Policy Development). Kyrgyzstan is part of several regional consultative processes such as the Almaty Process, the Budapest Process and the Prague Process.

VIII. Cross-cutting issues

A. Right to a healthy environment

Information on recommendation 140.145

168. The Government Green Economy Programme for the period 2019–2023 and a plan of action for its implementation were approved by Government Decision No. 605 of 14 November 2019.

169. The Coordination Council on the green economy and climate change was established by the Government Decision No. 46 of 30 January 2020. The Coordinating Council provides overall guidance on climate change and green economy policies at the national level, including policy development, planning and resource allocation, and coordinates the development and implementation process of sectoral policies in the country.

170. The main measures to reduce emissions include decreasing coal consumption through household gasification in the country, modernizing coal-fired boiler houses, transitioning public transport to electric buses and electric cars and introducing biogas facilities.

171. The following measures are also being taken in the country:

- Amendments were made to the Tax Code Renewable Energy Act aimed at supporting the use of renewable energy sources.
- The Green Economy Programme envisages a gradual transition from conventional fuel-powered vehicles to electric vehicles.
- Tax incentives been introduced for hybrid vehicles, while electric vehicles are fully tax-exempt.

172. On 19 March 2021, the President signed the Decree on Measures to Ensure Environmental Security and Climate Resilience.

173. 2022 was declared the Year of Protection of Mountain Ecosystems and Climate Sustainability in Kyrgyzstan by presidential decree.

174. As part of the Year of Mountain Ecosystems and Climate Resilience, the national Zhashyl Muras (Green Heritage) campaign was launched on 12 March 2022, aiming to plant approximately 6 million tree seedlings annually and to reach a total of 70 million trees by 2030.

175. On 6 September 2022, the President signed the Decree on the National Cleanliness Day and the Action Plan for the Establishment of Effective Household Waste Management Infrastructure for the period 2023–2025.

B. Combating corruption

Information on recommendation 140.76

176. On 31 December 2024, amendments were made to certain legislative acts in the area of anti-corruption to eradicate corruption in State bodies.

177. The State Strategy for Combating Corruption and Eliminating its Causes for the period 2021–2024, approved by Presidential Decree No. 180 of 25 of September 2020, aims

to strengthen anti-corruption efforts and promote the effective use of corruption prevention mechanisms by State bodies and local authorities.

178. To strengthen anti-corruption efforts, the Fourth Department was established within the Central Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, whose functions include detecting corruption-related offences and combating economic offences. The Ministry of Internal Affairs continuously collaborates with relevant government agencies and departments to eradicate corruption in State bodies of Kyrgyzstan

Information on recommendations 140.71, 140.72, 140.75 and 140.77

179. According to article 29 of Right of Access to Information Act, courts publish information on their official websites. The Instruction on the Procedure for Publishing Court Decisions and Sitzings of the Supreme Court and Local Courts of Kyrgyzstan has been approved, requiring all judicial decision to be published on the official website of the judiciary. All sittings of the Supreme Court are recorded in audio and video format.

180. A implementation of an electronic judicial system is under way, incorporating court case management automation, the collection and processing of statistical data, and the automatic assignment of cases to judges.

181. In accordance with article 29 (2) of the Right of Access to Information Act, information on the inadmissibility of interference in the work of judges in the administration of justice is published on the official website of the court, or, if unavailable, on the official website of the Supreme Court. This includes any form of pressure on judges, bribery, threats or other forms of out-of-court communications. The procedure for posting information on out-of-court communications on the official websites of the Supreme Court and local courts was approved by a decision of the Council of Judges on 22 December 2017. The official website of the Supreme Court has a section on out-of-court communications, where information on such communications are published on an ongoing basis.

C. Sustainable development

Information on recommendations 140.105, 140.106, 140.107, 140.108, 140.109, 140.111, 140.112, 140.113, 140.114, 140.115, 140.117 and 140.118

182. Kyrgyzstan is implementing measures aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the National Sustainable Development Strategy for the period 2018–2040, which was approved Presidential Decree No. 221 of 31 October 2018.

183. In June 2022, Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers and the resident coordinator signed an agreement under the United Nations Framework for Cooperation on Sustainable Development for the period 2023–2027, outlining a framework for cooperation between entities of the United Nations system and the Government to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. One of the priorities of the above-mentioned framework is poverty reduction.

D. Countering terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking

Information on recommendations 140.70 and 140.213

184. With the support of the United Nations and OSCE, a system for advance passenger information and passenger name records have been implemented in Kyrgyzstan since 2020, facilitating the tracking of passenger movements.

185. Taking into account international human rights standards, the Cabinet of Ministers developed the Counter-Extremism and Counter-Terrorism Programme for the period 2023–2027 in the first quarter of 2023, which was approved by Cabinet Decision No. 141 of 15 March 2023. To implement this programme, an action plan for its implementation was developed and approved by Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 551-r of 19 September 2023.

186. This programme provides for a set of measures to ensure effective response to these threats while strictly upholding human rights and freedoms, the rule of law and other constitutional principles of Kyrgyzstan and is aimed at changing the current situation in countering terrorism and preventing extremism. A key feature of the programme is its focus on preventing and stopping the spread of extremist and terrorist ideology by State bodies with the active involvement of civil society representatives, as well as the development and implementation of modern mechanisms and approaches for the reintegration of individuals influenced by extremist and terrorist ideology.

187. As a result of the work carried out by the State Committee on National Security together with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, in March 2022, the terrorist organization Jamaat al-Tawhid wal-Jihad (Khatiba al-Tawhid wal-Jihad), which includes persons from the Central Asian countries, including Kyrgyzstan, was added to the United Nations Security Council Consolidated List. These measures allow for the imposition of an international travel ban on the organization's leaders and active members (significantly restricting their ability to move freely between countries), prohibit the supply of weapons and ammunition and freeze all financial assets.

188. On 20 September 2023, the first CIS conference on combating terrorism and extremism was held, bringing together experts from 14 countries and regional international organizations on a single platform for the first time. Participants included representatives from CIS, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), OSCE, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the United Nations.

189. As part of regional efforts and cooperation with the counter-terrorism bodies of CIS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the first large-scale counter-terrorism exercises of the competent authorities of the States members of CIS and the Organization were organized and conducted on 21 September 2023 under the umbrella name "Eurasia–Anti-terror–2023".

190. On 23 November 2023, the next 13 regional expert consultations were held at the State Committee for National Security Anti-Terrorism Centre in cooperation with the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

191. On 3 September 2024, the Collective Security Treaty Organization conducted Interaction 2024, a joint counter-terrorism exercise as part of ongoing cooperation between the anti-terrorism centres of the Organization's member States.

Information on recommendation 140.76

192. In accordance with the requirements of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the national schedules (lists) of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors were approved by the Government Decision No. 543 of 9 November 2007.

193. On 6 March 2024, the President signed a revised version of the Act on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Their Analogues and Precursors, which was developed to align the provisions of the Criminal Code and the Code of Offences and to ensure the appropriate response to changes in the global, regional and national drug situation.

194. Kyrgyzstan is currently implementing the Anti-Drug Programme of the Cabinet of Ministers and its corresponding action plan for the period 2022–2026, which were approved by Cabinet Decision No. 445 of 10 August 2022.

195. Kyrgyzstan actively participates in the work of regional anti-drug organizations and international bodies, while also developing bilateral cooperation with the competent authorities of foreign countries.