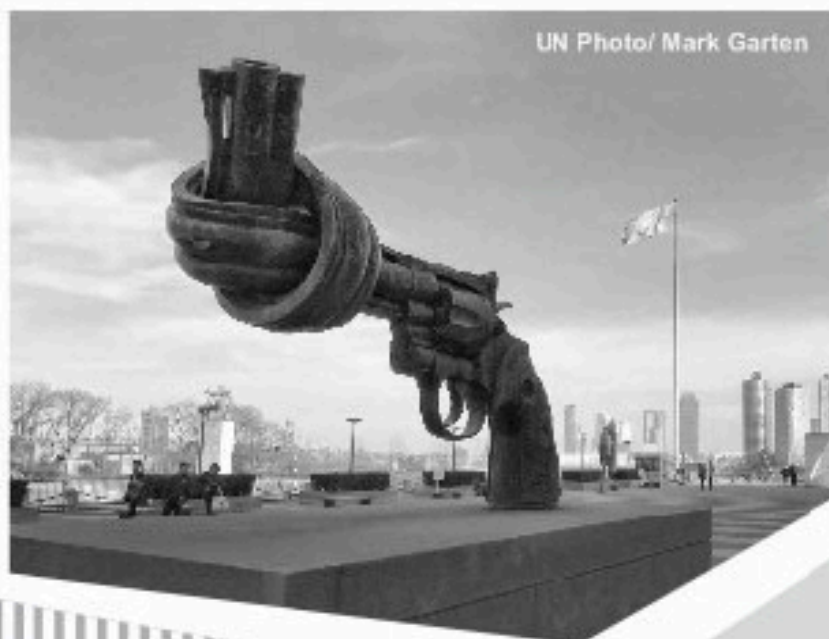


***Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, OSCE/ODIHR***

***4 October 2022, 17:00***

***SIDE EVENT / Meeting Room 3 (Krolewski)***

***Side Event: "Internal and External Challenges in the Central Asia Region: Border Conflicts, Access to Justice and Their Impact on Gender Issues and Protection of Women's Rights Defenders".***



*The human dimension is a set of norms and activities related to human rights and democracy, which are considered by the OSCE as one of the three dimensions of security, along with politico-military and economic and environmental dimensions, and are the fundamental principles of security in its broad sense.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/5/a/20681.pdf>

***Side Event: Internal and External Challenges in the Central Asia Region: Border Conflicts, Access to Justice and Their Impact on Gender Issues and on the Protection of Women's Rights Defenders.***

**Main issues and topics:**

1. The impact of armed conflicts, including the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban and the war in Ukraine, on the security situation, fight against impunity, respect for human rights and political space for civil society in Central Asia;
2. Rule of law and protection of women's rights, including women's access to justice, education, social and economic rights;
3. Development assistance programs needed to support local communities in protecting and promoting the rights of women and vulnerable groups;
4. The need to ensure the political space for NGOs as well as freedom of association without discrimination, security and assistance to activists and women human rights defenders in accordance with the Guidelines of the ODIHR/OSCE for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Currently, security issues remain a priority for the Central Asian countries in the context of systemic conflicts and problems related to the "third basket" of the Human Dimension: human rights, democracy, promotion of gender equality and justice. Unresolved border problems lead to skirmishes on the border, new conflicts, hostage-taking, human casualties on the part of the civilian population. In April 2021, an invasion by Tajikistan and an armed conflict on the territory of the Batken region of Kyrgyzstan claimed the lives of civilians, including children<sup>1</sup>, but so far the perpetrators have not been found and punished.

On 16 September 2022, Tajikistan again carried out a military invasion into the border areas of the Batken region of Kyrgyzstan, the death toll reached 59 people, among them a 15-year-old girl, civilians and young military, civilian objects were destroyed and burned. The MFA of the KR stated that it was a pre-planned armed act of aggression by Tajikistan against Kyrgyzstan.

In addition, the rise to power of the Taliban terrorist movement in Afghanistan poses a serious threat to the security and humanitarian situation in the Central Asia region. This has worsened the human rights situation of girls and women. The coming to power of the Taliban is a threat to the security of citizens of the Central Asia region, it can cause a large-scale humanitarian crisis in the OSCE region, it has aggravated the situation with the rights of girls and women, deprived them of access to education, participation in public and political life. The emerging statements of certain public figures in support of the Taliban's policy towards girls and women are a threat to the Central Asia region and should be suppressed by the State. The need to localize development assistance and national programs for communities to protect and support the rights of women, vulnerable groups of the population, their participation in public life, ensuring the rule of law in situations of violation of rights should be a priority in Central Asian countries.

Our organizations regret that the human dimension and security issues in Central Asia are not sufficiently taken into account by international human rights bodies, such as the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) and the United Nations Human Rights Council. In this regard, it is imperative that OSCE participating States, including the United States and European Union countries, contribute to ensuring the safety and assistance to women activists and women human rights defenders, particularly by ensuring compliance with the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. The OSCE/ODIHR and OSCE participating States are also called upon to eliminate the above-mentioned risks for Central Asian countries, including border conflicts, growth of religious fundamentalism and its impact on gender issues.

## Participants of the side event:



Tolekan Ismailova, Vice President of FIDH, member of the Board of Directors of GNDR (Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction), Director of the Human Rights Movement and the International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan", nominated in 2009 by the French Republic Award "Freedom, Equality and Fraternity". Ms. Ismailova is the Founder of the NGO Forum, she promoted the adoption of the first Law on NGOs, the Code on Elections, which included the status of independent observers in Kyrgyzstan. She makes a great contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights in Kyrgyzstan, abolition of the death penalty, protection of freedom of association and peaceful assembly, vulnerable citizens, such as victims of injustice, torture and gender-based violence, men and women human rights defenders, as well as the promotion of equality and non-discrimination in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia region.



Anara Ibrayeva, PhD in Law, expert and founder of Kadyr Kasiet, the Civic Solidarity Platform member organization. Anara is one of the active women human rights defenders of Kazakhstan and actively participates in the protection of citizens' rights to freedom from torture, personal freedom, inviolability, prisoners' rights, the right to fair trial, freedom of movement and choice of place of residence, children's right for protection from bullying in school, women's right to Participate in State Affairs, refugee rights, rights of human rights defenders. In 2015 she was a Member of the UN Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly; since 2014 she is a member of the Coordinating Council of the NPM under Ombudsman; she was a member of the Expert Council under the Human Rights Commissioner in Kazakhstan. And since September 2022 she is a member of the Working Group on Human Rights Defenders protection under Ombudsman.



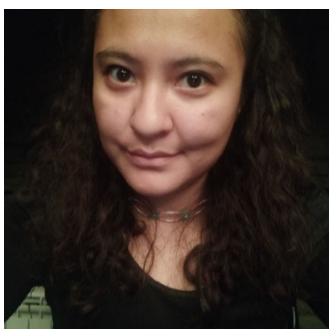
Aina Shormanbaeva started working as a human rights lawyer in 2002. In 2010, she organized and headed the International Legal Initiative PF, one of the leading human rights organizations in Kazakhstan, member of FIDH. She is an Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) network. Aina promotes and protects civil and political rights, including freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly, rule of law, legal assistance to vulnerable groups, including victims of torture and human trafficking, migrants, refugees, people without housing and documents. An important part of her work is promotion and protection of the rights of victims of crimes against humanity in Xinjiang. Aina Shormanbaeva is the author of a number of publications on the rights of migrants, migrant children, criminal and administrative legislation, human trafficking, protection of civic space in Kazakhstan, freedom from slavery and freedom of movement.



Vikram Ruzakhunov, famous musician, jazz pianist, laureate of international music festivals, Executive Director of the Bishkek International Jazz Festival "Jaz\_Bishkek\_Spring", Member of the Supervisory Board of the Public Foundation "Central Asia – Arts Management", He is a member of the Board of Directors of the HRM "Bir Duino – Kyrgyzstan" During the January 2022 events in Kazakhstan, he was subjected to illegal arrest, torture and ill-treatment. After his release, he became actively involved in human rights activities to restore access to justice for victims of the events and the fight against impunity.



Jamília Kaparova, Osh, Kyrgyzstan has been promoting the principles of gender equality in Kyrgyzstan, UN Resolution 1325 for more than 20 years. Since 2010, after the ethnic conflict in the south of Kyrgyzstan, Ms. Kaparova has been expanding the access of rural women and girls to protection from violence and conflict prevention through training and organization of the WIG Network (Network of Women's Initiative Groups). She actively participates in the preparation of national reports on human development and the status of women in Kyrgyzstan for UNDP, CEDAW, UPR, etc. During the ethnic conflict of 2010 in the south of Kyrgyzstan, she made a certain contribution to the process of settlement and resolution of conflict situations. With her help a gender aspect was introduced and taken into account during the distribution of various types of assistance.



Nadira Masyumova is a human rights activist and feminist. Since 2017, she has been working on issues of gender, non-discrimination, and the rights of LGBT+ people in Kyrgyzstan. Nadira is a participant of the Coalition for Equality, which is promoting an anti-discrimination law in Kyrgyzstan. She actively cooperates with human rights organizations on issues of advocacy and human rights protection.



Aidar Sydykov, NGO Golos Svobody (Voice of Freedom), member of the Association for the Protection of Human Rights in Criminal Proceedings "ARTICLE - 9", Chairman of the Public Interest Protection Center, Chairman of the Coordinating Council of the NPM of the KR. He is a lawyer. He has been promoting the rights of victims of torture and ill-treatment for more than 10 years. He defended the rights of human rights defender Azimzhan Askarov, and is currently seeking a fair investigation into his death.



Aida Baijumanova, Executive Director of the HRM "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" since 2004, is currently engaged in the promotion of civil and political rights. She coordinates a project to protect the rights of victims of torture and ill-treatment, supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for Assistance to Victims of Torture. In 2016, she received the Sakharov Scholarship of the European Parliament for human rights defenders and journalists.



## PROGRAM

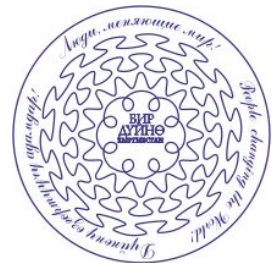
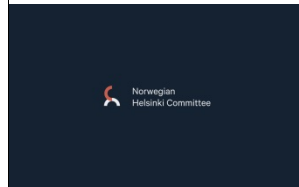
### *Side Event: Internal and External Challenges in the Central Asia Region: Border Conflicts, Access to Justice and Their Impact on Gender Issues and on the Protection of Women's Rights Defenders.*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speech</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>17:00 – 17:10</b>	Greeting of the participants.  Internal and external challenges in the region of Central Asia: on the importance of combating impunity.	Tolekan Ismailova, Director of BDK, Vice President of FIDH
Kazakhstan		
<b>17:10 – 17:15</b>	Exercise of the right to women's participation in the affairs of the State.	Anara Ibraeva, expert of the PF Kadyr Kasiyet. Kazakhstan.
<b>17:15 – 17:20</b>	Massive human rights violations in Xinjiang according to victims' testimonies.	Aina Shormanbaeva, President of the PF International Legal Initiative, member of FIDH. Kazakhstan.
Kyrgyzstan		
<b>17:20 – 17:25</b>	Ensuring the rule of law and access to fairness and justice for the victims of the events in Kazakhstan in January 2022.	Vikram Ruzakhunov, famous jazz musician, member of the Board of Directors of the HRM "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan".
<b>17:25 – 17:30</b>	Participation of women and women's organizations in building peace and border conflicts using the example of Kyrgyzstan.  Localization of Action Plans for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in the Central Asia region.	Jamalia Kaparova, gender expert, Director of the NGO Ensan Diamond. Kyrgyzstan.
<b>17:30 – 17:35</b>	The anti-gender turn in Kyrgyzstan: reaction of civil society. The need to promote the anti-discrimination Law on Equality.	Nadira Masyumova, NGO "Kyrgyz Indigo", member of the partner network Coalition for Equality.
<b>17:35 – 17:40</b>	Lack of gender-oriented management and measures to prevent ill-treatment and gender-based violence against women in places of detention.	Aidar Sydykov, NGO Golos Svobody (Voice of Freedom), member of the Association for the Protection of Human Rights in criminal proceedings "ARTICLE - 9". Kyrgyzstan.
<b>17:40 – 17:45</b>	Observance of the right to freedom of association is mandatory to guarantee the work of women human rights defenders, activists, and journalists.	Aida Baijumanova, Executive Director of the HRM "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan"
<b>17:45 – 18:00</b>	Final recommendations to the OSCE, international community, and civil society.	Members of the mission

The side event is organised with the support of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), DRA, ARTICLE 19, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHG), Sigrid Rausing Trust, Civic Solidarity Platform.



SIGRID RAUSING TRUST



<sup>i</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/kyrgyzstan/kyrgyzstan-border-conflict-emergency-plan-action-epoa-dref-operation-nmdrkg013>