**FORUM**: Human Rights Council

**QUESTION OF**: Measures to Promote and Ensure Young Women's Rights in Kyrgyzstan

**MAIN-SUBMITTED BY**: China

**CO-SUBMITTERS**: Chile, Pakistan, Spain

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Emphasizing* the importance of education, healthcare, political participation, and the prevention of gender-based violence and harmful practices such as Ala Kachuu (bride kidnapping) in promoting and ensuring young women's rights,

*Alarmed* by the widespread social acceptance of violence against women and girls in Kyrgyzstan, including the persistent problem of bride kidnapping,

*Acknowledging* the efforts of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the UN-EU Initiative "Spotlight", and the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan in establishing a legislative framework aimed at addressing violence against women and girls, and fully conscious of the efforts of the National Federation of Female Communities of Kyrgyzstan (NFFCK) and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women in introducing the first-ever curriculum on gender-based violence in Kyrgyzstan language in schools in rural Kyrgyzstan,

*Recognizing* the Kyrgyz central government’s actions toward equal rights of gender, such as committing to the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)](https://kyrgyzstan.un.org/en/189361-un-calls-kyrgyzstan-intensify-curbing-violence-against-women-and-girls) in 1996,

*Reminding* that a cultural norm in Kyrgyzstan of selling women by the means of marriage, which has resulted in family members to be in support of non-consensual underage marriage for alleviating economic hardship,

*Noting with concern* about the lack of gender equality in the Kyrgyzstan workforce, where women's salaries in similar occupations only range to 75.1% of men's salaries, and the share of women in management positions was only 42.9% in 2021,

*Further noting* that women's employment rates only reach 42.4%, which is 1.3 times higher than men, with the contribution of domestic responsibilities often hindering women’s pursuit of work, 63.4 % of unemployed working-age women are not employed due to domestic responsibilities, and working women spend 6.5 times more time on domestic work than working men,

*Concerned* about the underrepresentation and undervaluation of women in politics in Kyrgyzstan, despite a mandated 30% gender quota in the Kyrgyz Parliament, with only 20.5% of parliamentarians and 24.2% overall political positions as women, meanwhile, men account for more than half of civil service positions,

*Mindful* of the common low position women have in households, with domestic violence increasing almost three times more from 2015 to 2021, among which, 96% of victims are women, meanwhile, 12.9% of women were married before the age of 18 in 2018,

*Fully aware* of the culturally unethical practice of Ala Kachuu, when a woman is abducted and forced to engage in marriage, often the woman is underaged, and forced to submit to violence and sexual assault, current recorded statistics indicate that 7000 to 9000 underaged women fall to this practice,

1. Calls upon the government of Kyrgyzstan to strengthen law enforcement forces’ awareness and actions to ensure proper judgment and prohibition of unethical child forced marriage, such as but not limited to:
	1. Having the central government raise wages for members of local law enforcement to promote anti-corruption, with reasons due to:
		1. Aligning the local government’s interest with the central government, decreasing the incentive to corruptive tolerance of bride kidnapping,
		2. Attracting the central government to migrate to distant areas to work in places that are less ideal due to current lower wages,
	2. Strengthening gender-equality ideals in law-enforcement training, such as rewriting material to accommodate women’s rights designed by CEDAW,
	3. Modifying and amending existing laws to ensure the protection of women against violence and discrimination,
	4. Establishing stronger enforcement and patrol centers for the protection of women and children abduction in areas reported to have high criminal frequencies,
	5. Severely penalizing perpetrators of abductions, changing the current law of five to seven years of imprisonment for abducting women and seven to ten years imprisonment for abducting children to fifty years for any type of abduction, the descendants of perpetrators within three generations will not be allowed a role in any government or police institution,
	6. Designating a government-led department for the research, investigation, and publishment of women's suffering statistics and stories to ensure the understanding of the issue to fully address it,
	7. Installation of surveillance groups from the central government in local districts to battle against corruption and neglect of women's abuse that often exists at local levels,
	8. Revoking the position of the official in any scenario where government corruption is detected, with a sentence of three to five years in prison depending on the benefits received for the corruption,
	9. Annulling the license of the officer responsible for officially approving an abducted woman’s marriage and a complete set of training will be in place if the person wishes to officiate marriages again if the mistakes occur more than five times per year, the person’s validity of verifying marriages will be retracted for life;
2. Urges the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) to collaborate with the government of Kyrgyzstan and local organizations to facilitate the implementation of support systems designed to advance gender equality and the empowerment and well-being of women in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. Ensuring the provision of free health treatments to especially young women that experienced atrocities of bride abduction and rape, such as but not limited to:
		1. Access to basic health resources and sanitation treatments, such as check-ups for injuries due to violence and examinations for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases,
		2. Psychological consulting for victims suffering from trauma due to gender-based violence,
	2. Offering direct financial support to women in need of aid and broadening the opportunities for women in job creation programs run by the United Nations Relief and Work Agencies (UNRWA) to increase the participation of women in society,
	3. Establishing local platforms under the combined jurisdiction of the UN and the local government for women to voice themselves and express their suffrage and needs while empowering young women as leaders in their local districts to be ambassadors to protect women’s rights,
	4. Fundraising and providing financial and technical assistance to the Kyrgyzstan government for capacity building, training, and awareness campaigns on gender equality and young women’s rights,
	5. Aiding the creation, censorship, and mass distribution of text material for the education of importance in gender equality, such as but not limited to:
		1. Drafting of gender equality educational material and mass spreading of such texts,
		2. Requiring publishers of educational materials to remove any discriminatory content and pictures,
		3. Implementing comprehensive sexual education in schools to improve young women’s knowledge about sexual health and reproductive rights,
		4. Developing and implementing an accessible gender-sensitive educational curriculum to promote gender equality from an early age,
	6. Providing strategic advice with the consent of the Kyrgyzstan government to facilitate political commitment towards the creation and implementation of policy for the equality of gender while launching strategic partnerships between international organizations, NGOs, and local stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan to accelerate the implementation of policies advancing gender equality, such as but not limited to:
		1. Forum of Women’s NGOs of Kyrgyzstan,
		2. National Kurultai of Women Leaders in Kyrgyzstan,
		3. Empowering Women in the Kyrgyz Republic,
		4. UN Women in Kyrgyzstan,
		5. Union of Women Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan,
		6. National Women’s Solidarity Kurultai,
3. Encourages the Kyrgyzstan government to promote educational and work opportunities for women to gain economic independence from households, in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. Incentivizing families, especially poor rural households, to send young women to schools by lowering and even waiving tuition fees and funding the family with several food resources for every month of the school received,
	2. Offering government funding to the educational sector for the building of educational infrastructure and research for the composition of educational material for women,
	3. Promoting education curriculums of equal gender-rights in schools,
	4. Developing and implementing training programs aimed at providing vocational training, entrepreneurship, and internship opportunities for women without work experience,
	5. Incentivizing private firms to expand employment of women through government subsidies for women workers employed over five months;
4. Requests the empowerment of women’s voices in the governmental system of Kyrgyzstan in such ways but not limited to:
	1. Establishing and promoting a national hotline, with a direct connection to the central government, to report gender-based violence and discrimination from local sectors, for the purpose of assisting the Kyrgyzstan government in addressing gaps in the implementation of laws and policies regarding gender equality,
	2. Organizing capacity-building workshops, trainings, and conferences on gender equality and young women's rights for government officials, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders,
	3. Aiding and funding the establishment of women's self-help groups to promote women's leadership and voicing in communities, and allowing direct communication between such women groups and the local government to allow them to express women's needs and suffrage,
	4. Strengthening efforts to achieve the mandated 30% gender quota in the Kyrgyzstan parliament in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Providing political educational programs for under-resourced women to promote women candidates in government and eventually an equal participation rate of gender in the political system in the long run,
		2. Starting awareness campaigns aimed to convince women to join the parliament and vote for policies;
5. Stresses the importance of raising international awareness for women’s rights issues in Kyrgyzstan in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. Utilizing social media to spread information and raise awareness of the issue among global citizens, and encourage freedom of speech on the topic for promoting discussion,
	2. Promoting women’s rights in local broadcasting systems, posters, campaigns, etc.,
	3. Collaborating with major news sources to spread awareness on the issue, such as but not limited to, CNN, New York Times, AP news, The Economist, Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, Google News, BBC News, Washington Post, MSN, Yahoo!, CBS, ABC, etc.,
	4. Encouraging UN Women and related NGOs to carry out international awareness campaigns for fundraising and charity purposes, while also spreading awareness for the issue;
6. Strongly advises for the enhancement of the jurisdiction system to simplify the processes of voicing injustice and strengthening recovery efforts for victims of gender violence in such ways but not limited to:
	1. Prioritizing rape and abduction cases in local juridical systems for efficiency in processing cases, while simplifying testimonies of the victim in rape cases, lowering the standards for formal application and documentation of rape cases,
	2. Offering legal assistance to women when filing for divorce in sectors such as but not limited to:
		1. Writing legal documents,
		2. Filing for custody,
		3. Receiving Alimony payments,
	3. Providing direct financial assistance to recently divorced women and single mothers without means of income, while also making sure that the financial aid will not be wrongfully taken away,
	4. Implementing protective actions to ensure that divorced women will not be harassed by the previous spouse or relatives in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Implementing mandatory weekly check-ups, if desired, for recently divorced women to ensure that there is no harassment occurring,
		2. Offering direct access to communications with local police stations in case of harassment.