



UNITED NATIONS
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



75 UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS

DIGNITY, FREEDOM & JUSTICE FOR ALL

25 UN DECLARATION
ON HUMAN
RIGHTS
DEFENDERS

IN SOLIDARITY & HOPE



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND!



Catalog

Bishkek 2023

**XVII INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS
ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

"BIR DUINO - KYRGYZSTAN 2023"

The festival is dedicated to the 75th anniversary
of the UN Declaration of Human Rights
and 25th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights

The XVII IFDF on Human Rights was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, as well as the 25th anniversary of the Aarhus Convention. The Organizing Committee and our partners prepared a video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkcYuNrV1ZQ>

The XVII festival was held in very difficult conditions. In 2023 the democracy index of the Kyrgyz Republic fell down to the level of repressive countries. In March 2023, the international organization Freedom House (FH), in its annual report Freedom in the World – 2023, recognized Kyrgyzstan as an "unfree" state for the third year in a row. According to its estimates, political rights are limited in the country, and the media are under pressure.

In the Press Freedom Rating prepared by Reporters Without Borders Kyrgyzstan dropped by 50 positions in 2023 compared to the previous year and took 122nd place.

Freedom of speech and freedom of expression were under unprecedented state pressure and control. Changes in the criminal legislation made it possible to imprison. The fundamental right of citizens to equal access to information and to equal participation in public and political life turned out to be only on paper, preventing citizens from actually exercising their constitutional rights and freedoms.

The unconstitutional initiatives of a group of deputies of the parliament under the auspices of deputy Narmatova undermined the confidence of citizens in the status of the Parliament of the KR, granted by the European Parliament."

<https://rus.azattyk.org/a/25327745.html>

Kyrgyzstan received 40 scores out of 100 in the Civicus Monitor rating¹, moving from the category of countries with partially closed civic space to the category of repressed ones.

Protection of the right to freedom of association: In order to protect the constitutional right of citizens to freedom of association after advocacy campaigns, conducted both within the Kyrgyz Republic and at the level of international organizations, the PA HRM "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" appealed to the Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic to recognize paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 17 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Non-Profit Organizations contradicting articles 2 (part 2), 8 (part 1), 23 (parts 1, 2 3, 4 and 5), 32 (parts 1, 2) and 36 of the Constitution of the KR.

¹ <https://monitor.civicus.org/>

These changes are related to the issues of the size and structure of income, as well as information on the size and composition of the property of a non-profit organization, its expenses, which cannot be the subject of a commercial secret. Therefore, annually, until 1 April, a non-profit organization publishes on the website of the authorized tax authority the summary information for the previous year on the sources of formation of its funds, purposes of their expenditure, as well as information on acquired, used and alienated property. The BDK noted that these amendments to the law do not comply with the Constitution of the KR and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. "The right to freedom of association and the right to freedom of speech are enshrined in the Constitution and form the basis of the legal, democratic state. The amendments contradict the principles of equality and fairness in relation to non-profit organisations and contradict the Tax Code of the KR." On 7 June 2023, the Constitutional Court recognized that the norms of the Law of the KR on Non-Profit Organisations do not contradict the Constitution. However, at the same time, it instructed the Cabinet of Ministers of the KR to regulate the procedure for providing information of non-profit organisations

to the tax authority and eliminate the norms that lead to an unequal position of legal entities in terms of providing this information and publishing it on the website of the tax authority. It also instructed them to regulate the issues of conducting expert examinations of draft laws. The court noted that the legislator needs to adhere to a uniform approach to legal regulation of the reporting of all public entities.

Bir Duino also calls attention to the opinion of the well-known lawyer Kirill Koroteev about the Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic (the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Non-Profit Organizations' branches (representative offices)) and to the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 6-7100/23, introduced to the Jogorku Kenesh on 19 May 2023, who warns the new government of Kyrgyzstan not to ignore the tragic experience of the Russian Federation, which destroyed the fundamental right of citizens to freedom of association.

<http://birduino.kg/pressaru/zaklyuchenie-eksperta>

Systemic defamation of independent civil society organizations (media, NGOs and other organizations) are identical to those that occurred in the RF, Belarus and Central Asian countries, which undermined not only citizens' trust in the existing government, but also had a negative impact on the sustainable development of the country within the framework of the SDGs 1, 3, 5, 16 and 17.

Bir Duino also recommends against using deception dictatorship techniques.¹

Promotion of human rights and freedoms in Central Asia through solidarity partner networks.

The initiation of draft laws aimed at introducing additional barriers and legal restrictions for NGOs is considered by international experts as another repressive mechanism of the authorities' influence on the processes of protecting and promoting the fundamental democratic principles of freedom of speech and expression in the Central Asia region.

On 28-29 August 2023, a two-day international human rights conference *“Turning Points in Eurasia: Geopolitics, Economics and Civil Society in Central Asia – Current Situation and Future Prospects”* was held in Almaty with the assistance of the German Foreign Ministry, Kazakhstan International Bureau for

Human Rights (KIBHR), HRM Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan and PA "Kadir Kasiet", which was attended by more than 200 experts, including members of the Civic Solidarity Platform. The modern world is facing existential threats to humanity, ranging from climate change and the coronavirus pandemic to the weakening of the global security architecture as a result of Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine. All of that has become a real threat to the fundamental principles and universal human values, the very concept of human rights.

What to do about it and how to resist it – the participants of the conference tried to find answers to these questions. The final conclusion can be found on the website of BDK.²

On 09 October 2023, at the initiative of the Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" at the annual international Human Dimension Implementation Meeting the OSCE/ODIHR held a multilateral expert side event in the format of a round table on the topic *"Human Dimension: Situation with Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Central Asia"* with the participation of leading experts from the region, human rights defenders, media specialists, lawyers, representatives of international organizations and diplomatic missions accredited at the level of the European Union and the OSCE countries.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spin_Dictators

² <http://www.birduino.kg/pressaru/deklaracziya-almatinskoj-konferenczii>

Key goals and objectives of the event:

- Situation with democracy, the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms in the Central Asian region;
- Issues of decolonization in the context of the war in Ukraine;
- Transparency and accountability of business to people living in conditions of risks and disasters;
- Problem of impunity in the Central Asia region.

Special attention was paid to the preparation of proposals and solutions to improve the human rights situation, promote gender equality and the principles of non-discrimination, taking into account the norms of international humanitarian law.

On 19 October, in Bishkek, with the support of the OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia, the country program of the international non-governmental organization UPR Info and the Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan" organized a mid-term briefing for representatives of international organizations, development agencies and the diplomatic community on the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

During interactive sessions, local human rights defenders, the Ombudsman Institution of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Center of the KR for the Prevention of Torture National Prevention Mechanism (NPM) shared their conclusions on the implementation of recommendations provided to the KR within the framework of the third UPR cycle in 2020. Preparations are underway for the joint alternative report compilation for UPR 4th Round.

Advocacy work on the protection of the rights of victims of torture is carried out at the international level: individual complaints of victims of torture are sent to the UN Human Rights Committee, statements are sent to the Special Rapporteur on Torture, and together with the Working Group on the Prevention of Torture of the Civic Solidarity Platform we participate in preparation of the Torture Prohibition Index of Kyrgyzstan, the Review on Torture Prevention, as well as in conducting a survey of citizens regarding the level of tolerance to torture.¹ The results of the index calculation and the survey were presented in 2023 at the OSCE Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw.

For 13 years, Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan, together with the solidarity and partnership network, and the widow Khadicha Askarova, has been fighting to protect the rights of prisoner of conscience Azimzhan Askarov.² In the summer of 2021, human rights defenders appealed to President Sadyr Japarov in connection with the anniversary of the interethnic conflict in southern Kyrgyzstan in 2010 and noted the importance of fulfilling the Views of the UN Human Rights Committee: posthumously acquit Askarov, resolve the issue of compensation to his family.³

The festival program-2023 was held from November 27 to 01 December and summed up the results of the activities of the organization partners for the year 2023, which were aimed at promoting regional voices, community voices from local to global levels, reducing existing gaps between the city and the regions, while at the same time, marking the 75th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights the 25th anniversary of the UN, EU and OSCE Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and the 25th anniversary of the UN, EU and OSCE Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and the 25th anniversary of the Aarhus convention.

¹<http://www.birduino.kg/pressaru/pravam-cheloveka-tut-ne-mesto>

²<https://kloop.kg/blog/2021/06/04/pravozashhitniki-prosyat-pre-zidenta-zhaparova-posmertno-opravdat-azimzhana-askarova/>

³https://24.kg/vlast/282334_edil_baysalov_delo_azimjana_askaro-va_ostaetsya_bolnyim_voprosom_dlya_kyrgyzstana/

Organizers and Partners of the Festival 2023

Organizer **PA HRM "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan"**
Co-organizer **Akyikatchy (Ombudsman) of the Kyrgyz Republic**

Partners: UN System in Kyrgyzstan, OHCHR, Youth for Human Rights International, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Equality Now, Women's Learning Partnership, Movies that Matter, American University of Central Asia, Coalition for Equality, European Union Representation in the Kyrgyz Republic, Forum-Asia, Tazar Film Company, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Ololo Creative Hubs, TV Academy, Shaman TV, Child Protection Center.



The Sky of Our Childhood

78 min.

Director **SUIUMKAN SULAIMANOVA AND
JUMANAZAR KOICHUBEKOV**

KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

“The Sky of Our Childhood” is a documentary film about the difficult situation with air pollution in the city of Bishkek. The film examines the sources of air pollution, how it is affecting the residents, and ways to solve the problem.



Competition film program

Bigger than Us

96 min.

Director **FLORE VASSEIR**
**INDONESIA, BRAZIL, GREECE, UGANDA, LEBANON,
MALAWI, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 2021**

Dutch-Indonesian environmental activist Melati (20 years old) goes on a journey, meeting with young people who work for a better future. From Malawi to Brazil and Lebanon, young activists advocate for freedom of speech, environmental protection, the rights of refugees and girls, as well as the right to education.



Competition film program

Naryn

15 min.

Director **NAZGUL CHOROEVA**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2021

The film is about the past and present situation of the Naryn River, current environmental problems and their possible solutions.



Drops Give Life

47 min.

Director **FARSHID AZARI**
IRAN, 2022

The film is about the life of Masht Hossein, a compassionate fancher who deeply values nature. Despite difficult conditions, Masht Hossein has spent more than three decades trekking through difficult terrain to provide water for animals and birds suffering from drought.

Thanks to his unwavering commitment, the area comes alive with newfound vitality. Having completed the difficult journey, Masht Hossein, exhausted yet content, finds solace in witnessing the birds and animals quench their thirst, finding joy in their satisfaction.



Magic Mountain

73 min.

Director **MARIAM CHACHIA AND NIK VOIGT**
GEORGIA, POLAND, 2023

After recovering from tuberculosis, Mariam has recurring nightmares about being kept high in the mountains, in the middle of the forest, in an old palace where outcasts live. The building is majestic, but the residents are rejected by society. One day, Mariam goes to a meeting with a secret community to overcome her fear. Having made friends with tuberculosis patients of Abastumani and having shared in their joy and pain, Mariam finally overcomes her fear.



Competition film program

Special screening: The Murder of Alisher Saipov

38 min.

Director **ADIL TURDUKULOV**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

On 24 October 2007, Alisher Saipov, well-known Kyrgyz journalist, was murdered in cold blood in Osh. Neither the murder customers nor the executors have been found yet. The journalistic investigation shows the facts and details of the crime, which have not been announced anywhere before.



Her Name is Rakia

16 min.

Director **ELINA LIKKHODAEVA**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

Rakia Shershenova devoted 63 years of her life to national cinema. As a woman, she shares her experience – from assistant director to director and editor of the highest category, who has produced more than 30 documentaries. She tells us about the simple life she had as a child in the village during the difficult post-war years and her journey at the start of the rise of Kyrgyz cinema seen through the eyes of a woman.



Shyryldan

11 min.

Director **AIGERIM JOLDOSHBAEVA**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

Tagai ata and Payizbu apa, aged 65 and 60, are engaged in horse breeding and koumiss making all year round. For more than 10 years they have been living away from the city, on a pasture in the middle of the forest. Enjoying the busy work, they have devoted their whole life and health to it. Tagai ata understands the language of horses well, and Payizbu apa knows the secrets of making koumiss.



Competition film program

Galina Petrovna

17 min.

Director **NIKITA LOVETSKY**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

For several years now, Galina Petrovna has not left her house in the village of Mayevka near Bishkek. In a cozy blue house with a fish garland, the lonely grandmother Galina is telling us a story about her elusive husband who died fifteen years ago. Every day she takes care of the house and even runs a small business.



Competition film program

Stipend

12 min.

Director **YRYSKELDI ARTELBEKOV**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

The story of one woman who has lived in a nursing home for 24 years. Her own daughter is a student, visits her every week in spite of the sharing the road. The movie describes the life of people in the nursing home.



Competition film program

Doors

14 min.

Director **JANYL UMURALIEVA**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2022

Every day a person passes through dozens of doors. Through some of them he discovers his soul, from some he strives to escape. But he never knows what will happen to him this time.



A BIRDSONG

15 min.

Director **TOLOMUSH ZHANYBEKOV**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2022

Two brothers live in a small village. It is difficult for the older brother to go outside. The only person who takes care about him is his younger brother, who goes to the center of the village every day in search of a part-time job. Meeting each other is the most important thing in the life of the two brothers.



Postman

25 min.

Director **IBADYLLA AJIBAEV**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2022

The postman's working day is very busy, full of worries and responsibility. He should deliver pensions and benefits to his fellow villagers on time, and then walk kilometers of mountainous terrain to reach the neighboring village of Deine, located on the border with Tajikistan. Due to a shortage of personnel, he has to serve these two villages for many years - in cold, rain and heat.



Competition film program

Ambulance

24 min.

Director **ABDULALIM MAMADALIEV**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

When a person gets sick, the first thing we do is call an ambulance. And this time the ambulance immediately responded to the call. But this transportation will become a new challenge for medical workers. The film was shot in the midst of the pandemic, in "black July". After editing, the film was banned from being shown on TV.



Theater of Migrants

17 min.

Director **DASTAN MADALBEKOV**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

In 2018, Ainash Eje, who works in Moscow as a cashier, creates a unique project. It is the theater of migrant workers. A bartender, a builder, and other talented compatriots support the idea and a small team is founded. This documentary is about the people who have been gathering and staging classical plays in the national language for 4 years without even having their own venue.



Competition film program

Medic

24 min.

Director **ALIZHAN NASIROV**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

This film is about a young, 22-year-old doctor who decided to work in a valley with harsh climatic conditions, where no doctor agreed to work.



Competition film program

Mukhamed

24 min.

Director **SYIMYK SAMATOV**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

For several years the director has been filming a boy living at the Dordoi market.



Competition film program

Special screening: Untitled

13 min.

Director **SUYUMKUN SULAIMANOVA**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

In fact, the film describes a day in the life of people whose work is invisible to market visitors and customers, people in the informal sector of the economy, working at the market from generation to generation.



Competition film program

Azamat

14 min.

Director **NAZGUL DOLOTKELDIEVA**
KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

The movie is about blind radio presenter Azamat Berdiyarov, who goes to work every year, loves his profession, thought and dreamed a lot about it.



Special screening: Bread Guillotine

30 min.

Director **IGOR KOBRIN**
UKRAINE, 2008

The documentary material reveals reasons, the course and scales of this horrific phenomenon of the newest history. Title of the film reflects the formula of terror famine invented by Vladimir Lenin, which allowed the Bolsheviks to keep people in complete obedience for seven decades. This formula led to tragic social and humanitarian catastrophes of the Ukrainian nation, the consequences of which have not been overcome even today. The film consists of three series: "King of Hunger", "Great Change", "Silent Bell Tolls".
The film is available in Ukrainian.



Who is next?

60 min.

Director **NURZHAMAL KARAMOLDOEVA,
SULTAN USUVALIEV**

KYRGYZSTAN, 2023

The film demonstrates the consequences the practice of ala-kachuu (bride kidnapping) can lead to and why it is criminal. The film is not only an analysis of the case, but also a tragedy of the loss experienced by Aizada's mother – Nazgul Shakenova. One of the important themes of the film is negligence in the investigation of the case. The negligence case was initiated in April 2021 and has not yet been investigated. The film is an attempt to answer the question "Who is next?", the question all viewers ask themselves.



Competition film program

Writing with Fire

90 min.

Director **SUSHMIT GHOSH AND RINTU THOMAS**
INDIA, AUSTRIA, 2021

Independence and bravery are personified in the all-female staff of Khabar Lahariya, a newspaper run entirely by Dalit women. Journalists Meera, Suneeta and Shyamkali defy resistance, suspicion and patronising as they report on India's news from a feminist and Dalit perspective. The Dalit are excluded from India's caste system, especially Dalit women who become the victims of widespread violence and discrimination.



Competition film program

Women of Valor

90 МИН.

Director **ANNA SOMERSHAF**
ISRAEL, 2021

Five years inside the movement to open Israel's ultra-orthodox political parties to women. Activists Esti Shushan and Esti Reader Indurski tirelessly confront misogyny and ignorance. This is an inspiring story of the difficult struggle.



Competition film program

Special screening: **STEP. BAM. SAC**

10 min.

Director **ALEXANDRA SERGAZINOVA**
KAZAKHSTAN, 2023

The film is based on real success stories of women who are active in exercising their right to participate in the affairs of the state. "STEP.BAM. SAC" is a school of active citizens. "Initiative 33" is a women's initiative created in March 2023 after a series of trainings for women of Kazakhstan on the right to participate in state affairs within the framework of the project "Human Rights Focus: Women and Children" (PA "Kadir-Kasiyet" and USAID).



Wartime notes

90 min.

Director **BARBARA CUIPISTI**
ITALY 2023

The film is a filmmaker's journey driven by the need to get to the emotional epicenter of this conflict in Ukraine. The movie begins from Warsaw, crosses the cities of Lviv and Odessa, as well as the forgotten rural areas of Ukraine, ultimately reaching to Kiev, Irpen, Bucha and Borodyanka.



International experts



Alexandra Sergazinova

Editor of the Tobol Info News Agency, member of the Board of Directors of Kostanay Media LLP, member of the Union of Journalists of the RK, deputy of the 8th convocation of the Kostanay Regional Maslikhat of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

She made an invaluable contribution to the work of the festival Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan 2023 through her active participation and exchange of practical experience and knowledge with guests and experts of the festival.



Anastasia Primov

Anastasia Primov is a specialist in strategic communications for social change, who started her multifaceted path in the field of human rights protection using various communication tools. One of them is creation of feature films dedicated to the problems of corruption, prevention of gender-based violence and protection of homeless children. Anastasia is the producer of the feature film "Beautiful Corruption" and a groundbreaking documentary series about emergency services in Moldova called "24 Front Line". Throughout her career, she has actively advocated for marginalized groups, including gypsy children, and played a key role in creating a revolutionary national strategy to prevent discrimination and ensure equality.

During the festival, Anastasia Primov made key and strategically important recommendations to expand the information coverage of the event and offered her own vision for further development of the festival.

International experts



Vyacheslav Mamedov

Vyacheslav Mamedov, digital and information security coach, civil activist, he is originally from Turkmenistan. He has been conducting human rights activities for more than 10 years.

He made a significant contribution to raising awareness of electronic data protection methods at the laboratory during the Festival Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan 2023.



Marius Fossum

Marius Fossum has been the Regional representative of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee in Central Asia since 2015. Marius heads the office of the international human rights organization NHC in Central Asia, located in Almaty (Kazakhstan), and manages the organization's human rights activities in the region.

Marius took an active part in the screenings of documentaries on human rights and shared with the participants his own significant work experience.

International experts

Sara Imbarova and Nurjan Smailov

Ms. Ibraimova is the head of the Shymkent Civic Resource Center and carries out general management, development of programs and projects, organization and research of the NGO development environment, promotion of public control. In addition, Sara Imbarova is a researcher of gender aspects in infrastructure projects of highway construction, public procurement, as well as a trainer, facilitator of the processes of assessing the needs and requirements of communities and developing action plans.

Nurjan Smailov is a professional photo and video cameraman of documentary cinema.

During the festival, Sara Imbarova and Nurjan Smailov took an active part in all discussions and shared their own practical experience and knowledge of human rights work, as well as spoke on behalf of the civil society of Kazakhstan and made significant recommendations to the Bir Duino festival team on improving further components.



Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the XVII IFDF on Human Rights took place on 27 November 2023 in Bishkek at "Bellagio Premium", Avangard Business Center, from 18:00 to 20:30. About 150 guests, including representatives of the government, international community and civil society, international experts and filmmakers, cultural and art figures, representatives of television, radio and news agencies, as well as human rights activists and documentary fans, took part in the opening of the festival. At the opening ceremony, the President of Women's Learning Partnership, Ms. Azza Karam, delivered a welcome video address.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfoje0_v-iU

Also, an informational video dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration of Human Rights was shown.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkcYuNrV1ZQ>



Opening Ceremony

Respecting the UN principle of "Leave No One Behind", the program of the festival opening ceremony was focused on the voices of regional communities, and more attention was paid to the participation of regional leaders. Representatives of each region briefly shared their most pressing problems and gave their recommendations for successful development of the regions: how to combine efforts to reduce and prevent family violence, the lack of qualified psychologists in villages, border and migration issues, employment of rural youth, the importance of preserving the Kyrgyz language, problems in the education system, as well as issues of protecting the rights of victims of torture and ill-treatment in the regions and equal participation of citizens in the decision-making process at all levels of government.

As noted by the Permanent Coordinator of the UN system in the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Antje Grawe, the voices of the communities of the regions in respect of human rights are important. She also noted the importance of opening the festival with an emphasis on the leaders of the seven regions of the country, providing a platform for national dialogue to increase the potential and promote the voices of local communities at the national and international levels.



Opening Ceremony

Also, representatives of the authorities, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Chairman of the Coordinating Council for Human Rights E.J. Baisalov, deputies of the JK of the KR – D. Ashimova, and ex deputies of the JK of the KR A.T. Altybaeva and others spoke and took active part in the event. Representatives of international organizations and Embassies. Representative of the UN Women Structure Ulziisuren Jamsran – noted that when an indicator of a country submits on gender equality, the development of the country is 1.5 to 2 percent. It goes equally. Also, the speaker Mr. V. Zhovtenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the KR and others.



Detailed video of the Festival opening ceremony:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcEpgp1_Rp0

Film screenings

Open to everyone, the film screenings are designed to give viewers the opportunity to express their opinions after watching each film and to raise issues that concern them, which is the basic and key component of the festival for the development of civil dialog, pluralism and a culture of communication. The Festival film screenings were held from 28 to 30 November at the OloloPlanet conference hall. The festival program includes 25 documentaries by directors from France, India, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. A total of 16 national and 6 foreign films were presented at the festival.

The films were characterized by their relevance, diversity of social issues and were grouped in accordance with 30 articles of the UDHR. After watching each film, viewers traditionally had discussions with documentary authors and leading experts.



Film screenings

The film screenings were organized for a variety of audiences ranging from human rights defenders, media representatives, students and schoolchildren to those living in nursing homes and people with special needs. The discussions were accompanied by assessments made by international experts from Germany, Ukraine, Moldova, Kazakhstan, as well as directors of international and national films.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BL5s6KqtJC8>



Festival program

28 NOVEMBER 2023

Screenings dedicated to articles of the UDHR: 1. Right to equality; 2. Freedom from discrimination; 3. Right to life, liberty and security of person; 10. The right to a public, impartial trial; 19. Right to freedom of opinion and information; 20. Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; 25. Right to adequate standard of living.

MORNING PROGRAM

10:00-10:10	"What is UDHR?" VIDEO
10:10-11:30	"The Sky of Our Childhood", 78 min., dir.: Suyumkan Sulaimanova and Jumanazar Koichubekov, Kyrgyzstan, 2023
11:30-11:45	Discussion
11:45-13:20	"Bigger than Us" , 96 min., dir.: Flore Vasseir, Indonesia, Brazil, Greece, Uganda, Lebanon, Malawi, United States of America, 2021
13:20-13:35	Discussion
13:35-14:00	Break

DAY PROGRAM

14:00-14:10	"What is UDHR?" VIDEO
14:10-14:25	"Naryn", 15 min., dir.: Aidai Chotueva, Kyrgyzstan, 2022
14:25-14:40	Discussion
14:40-15:30	"Drops Give Life", 47 min., dir.: Farshid Azari, Iran, 2022
15:30-15:45	Discussion
15:45 - 17:00	"Magic Mountain", 73 min., dir.: Mariam Chachia and Nik Voigt, Georgia, Poland, 2023
17:00 - 17:15	Discussion
17:15- 17:55	Special screening: "The Murder of Alisher Saipov. Undisclosed facts", 38 min., dir.: Adil Turdukulov, Kyrgyzstan, 2023
17:55 - 18:10	Discussion

Festival program

29 NOVEMBER 2023

Screenings dedicated to articles of the UDHR: **1.** Right to equality; **2.** Freedom from discrimination; **3.** Right to life, liberty and security of person; **22.** Right to social security; **24.** Right to leisure and rest; **25.** Right to adequate standard of living; **26.** Right to education.

THE MORNING "BREAKTHROUGH" PROGRAM

10:00-10:10	"What is UDHR?" VIDEO	11:25-11:45	Discussion
10:10-10:26	"Her name is Rakia", 16 min., dir.: Elina Likkhodaeva, Kyrgyzstan, 2023	11:45-12:00	"Stipend", 12 min., dir.: Yryskeldi Artelbekov, Kyrgyzstan, 2023
10:26-10:40	Discussion	12:00-12:15	Discussion
10:40-10:50	"Shyryldan", 11 min., dir.: Aigerim Joldoshbaeva, Kyrgyzstan, 2023	12:15-12:30	"Doors", 14 min., dir.: Janyl Umuralieva, Kyrgyzstan, 2022
10:50-11:05	Discussion	12:30-12:45	Discussion
11:05-11:25	"Galina Petrovna", 17 min., dir.: Nikita Lovetsky, Kyrgyzstan, 2023	12:45-13:00	"A BIRDSONG", 15 min., dir.: Tolomush Zhanybekov, Kyrgyzstan, 2022
		13:00-13:15	Discussion
		13:15-14:00	Break

Festival program

29 NOVEMBER 2023

Screenings dedicated to articles of the UDHR: **1.** Right to equality; **2.** Freedom from discrimination; **3.** Right to life, liberty and security of person; **4.** Freedom from slavery; **13.** Right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return to one's own country; **14.** Right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution; **15.** Right to nationality and the right to change it; **22.** Right to social security; **23.** Right to free choice of employment and the right to join trade unions; **24.** Right to leisure and rest; **25.** Right to adequate standard of living; **26.** Right to education.

DAY PROGRAM

14:00-14:25	"Postman" , 25 min., dir.: Ibadylla Ajibaev, Kyrgyzstan, 2022	16:30-16:50	"Mukhamed" , 20 min., dir.: Syimyk Samatov, Kyrgyzstan, 2023
14:25-14:40	Discussion	16:50-17:05	Discussion
14:40-15:05	"Ambulance" , 24 min., dir.: Abdulalim Mamadaliev, Kyrgyzstan, 2023	17:05-17:20	Special screening: "Untitled" , 13 min., dir.: Suyumkan Sulaimanova, Kyrgyzstan, 2023
15:05-15:20	Discussion	17:20-17:35	Discussion
15:20-15:35	"Theater of Migrants" , 17 min., dir.: Dastan Madalbekov, Kyrgyzstan, 2023	17:35-17:50	"Azamat" , 14 min., dir.: Nazgul Dolotkeldieva, Kyrgyzstan, 2023
15:35-15:50	Discussion	17:50-18:05	Discussion
15:50-16:15	"Medic" , dir.: Alizhan Nasirov, Kyrgyzstan, 2023	18:05-18:35	"Bread Guillotine" , 60 min., prod.: Igor Kobrin, Ukraine, 2008
16:15-16:30	Discussion	18:35-19:05	Discussion

Festival program

30 NOVEMBER 2023

Screenings dedicated to articles of the UDHR: **1.** Right to equality; **2.** Freedom from discrimination; **3.** Right to life, liberty and security of person; **5.** Freedom from torture and degrading treatment; **6.** Right to recognition before the law; **7.** Right to equality before the law; **8.** Right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals; **9.** Right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention or exile; **10.** Right to a public, impartial trial; **16.** The right to marriage and to found a family; **18.** Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; **19.** Right to freedom of opinion and information; **20.** Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; **21.** Right to take part in the government of the country and in genuine elections; **22.** Right to social security; **25.** Right to adequate standard of living; **26.** Right to education; **28.** Right to a social order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized; **29.** Everyone has duties to the community in which the free and full development of his personality is possible.

MORNING PROGRAM

10:00-10:10	"What is UDHR?" VIDEO
10:10-11:10	"Who is next?", 60 min., dir.: Nurzhamal Karamoldoeva, Sultan Usuvaliev, Kyrgyzstan, 2023
11:10-11:25	Discussion
11:25-12:55	"Writing with Fire", 90 min., dir.: Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas, India, Austria, 2021
12:55-13:10	Discussion
13:10-14:00	Break

DAY PROGRAM

14:00-14:10	"What is UDHR?" VIDEO
14:10-14:20	Special screening "STEP. BAM. SAC", 10 min., dir.: Alexandra Sergazinova, Kazakhstan, 2023
14:20-14:35	Discussion
14:35-16:05	«Wartime Notes», 90 min., dir.: Barbara Cupisti, Italy. 2023
16:05-16:20	Discussion
16:20-17:50	"Women of Valor", 90 min., dir.: Anna Somershaf, Israel, 2021
17:50-18:05	Discussion

DETAILED PROGRAM OF THE FESTIVAL:



<https://clck.ru/36dTGa>

LABORATORIES WITHIN
THE FESTIVAL



<https://clck.ru/36JP4y>

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS:



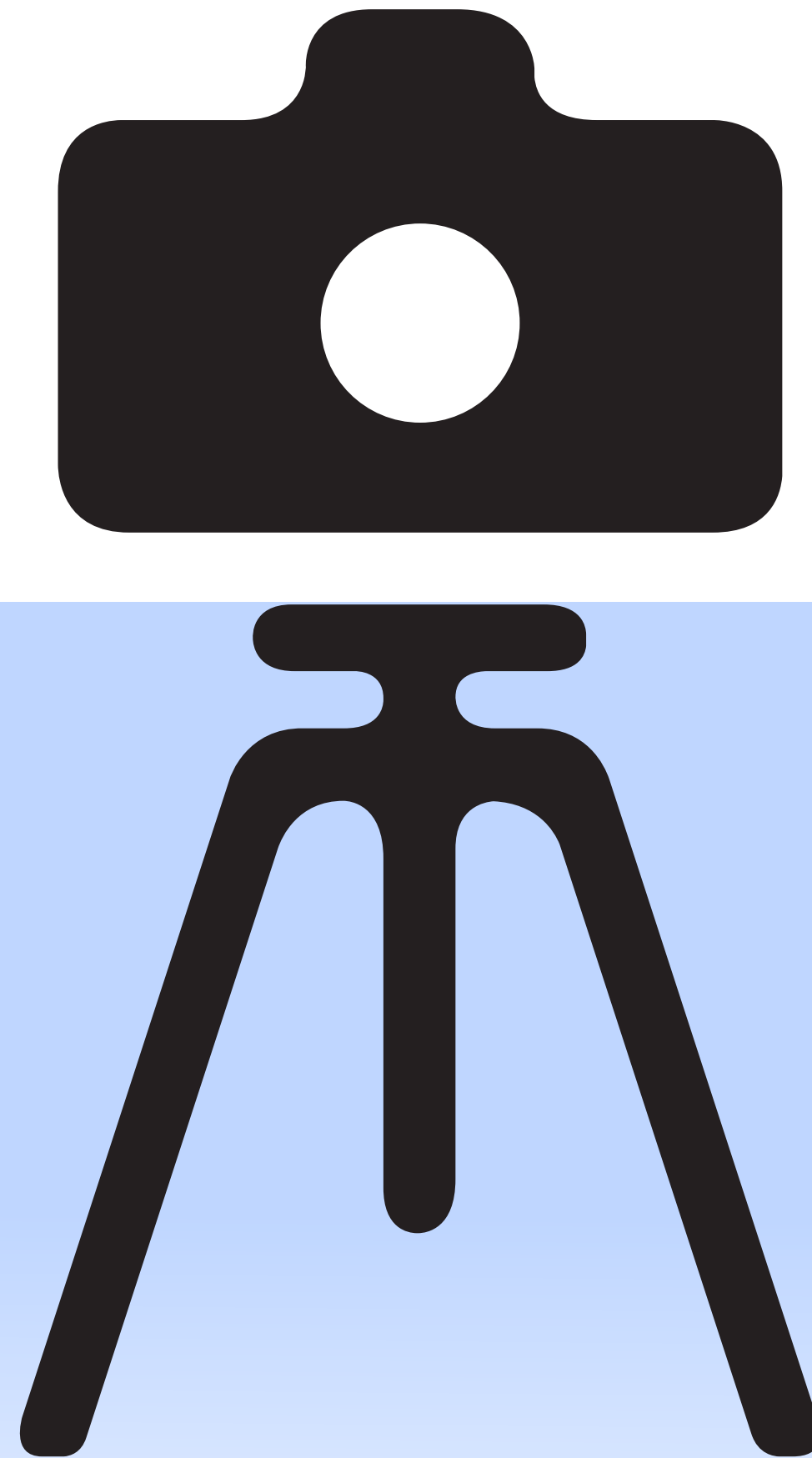
<https://clck.ru/36H4SE>

Evaluation of the films

On 30 November 2023, the jury met for the final evaluation of the films and selection of the winners of the festival. The nominations were developed according to the thematic groups of the films. Documentarians presented high-level works, and voting on the nominees was not an easy process.

The films were evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Content reflecting the theme of the Festival in 2023
2. The depth and completeness of the topic disclosure
3. Plot originality
4. Directing and cinematography (complexity of filming, technical quality, art of editing)



Jury members



Adilet Karzhoev

Director, screenwriter, cameraman, producer from Kyrgyzstan. Head of the Television Programme / Associate Professor, Division of Arts, Humanities and Communications, American University of Central Asia. (AUCA).



Dalmira Tilepbergen

Dalmira is a film director, screenwriter and poet and has more than 20 years' experience of working in film and literature. After completing a post graduate film course in Moscow she made numerous documentaries and short films in Russia and Kyrgyzstan. In addition, she is a member of NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema), the Director's Guild of Russia and the Union of Filmmakers in Kyrgyzstan.



Guelia Pevzner

She's a graduate of the Faculty of Philology of MSU, has been living in France since 1991; she's a journalist for the Radio France Internationale (RFI) and author of books in Russian and French.



Ilya Nuzov

Ilya Nuzov is the Head of Eastern Europe and Central Asia Desk for the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). Previously, he was Legal Advisor at the International Center for Transitional Justice and before that, Teaching Assistant and Researcher at the Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights, where he also earned his LLM. He is a lawyer admitted to the New York bar.

Jury members



Marius Fossum

Marius Fossum has been the Regional Representative in Central Asia of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee since 2015. Marius leads the NHC's Central Asia office located in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and leads the organization's human rights work in Central Asia.



Marie Struthers

Director of Amnesty International's Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, overseeing research, campaigning and advocacy in the region. She has worked for over 20 years in human rights and civil society donor funding, with international organisations and government, with a particular record in advancing human rights and freedom of expression in authoritarian environments.



Ritz Lee

Social activist and human rights defender. He is currently the Executive Director of Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanaw, Inc. (BALAOD Mindanaw), a legal resource institution based in Cagayan de Oro City, Mindanaw, working with the poor and marginalized sectors, identities and local communities particularly in Mindanaw, board member, Forum-Asia.

Closing Ceremony

On 1 December 2023, at 18:00 the festival closing ceremony and award ceremony took place at "Bellagio Premium" at the Avangard Business Center in Bishkek. The award ceremony was closed by the Director of the Festival Tolekan Ismailova, who expressed her gratitude to the volunteers, the festival team, international guests and experts, all those who made Festival-2023 happen.

At the closing ceremony, the results of the following seven innovative workshops held within the framework of the Festival-2023 with the participation of moderators and experts were presented: QUIZ NIGHT "Human Rights for Everyone", "Human Rights Defenders: Learning from Each Other", "Training for Lawyers on Handling Cases of Sexual Violence", "VII International Conference of the International Labour Rights Monitoring Mission in Central Asia", "Women in Politics for Positive Change", "National Dialogue to Increase the Potential and Promote the Voices of Local Communities Based on the Principle from Local to Global".

The winners were awarded in nine main categories. Each nominee was awarded a diploma and a statuette of Umai Ene.



Closing Ceremony

Detailed video of the closing ceremony of the festival:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LyP4piZ6WM>



Nominations

1. Grand Prix
2. Best National Film
3. Best film on civil and political rights
4. Best film on social, labor, economic and cultural rights
5. Best Foreign Film
6. Best film on civil and political rights
7. Best film on Climate changes
8. Best film in the competition program « Breakthrough»
9. Special Jury Prize



Winning films

The Grand Prix of the XVII International Festival "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" was awarded to the film "Bigger Than Us" –documentary film directed by Flore Vasseur, co-produced by Marion Cotillard based on a script by Vasseur and Melati Wijzen.



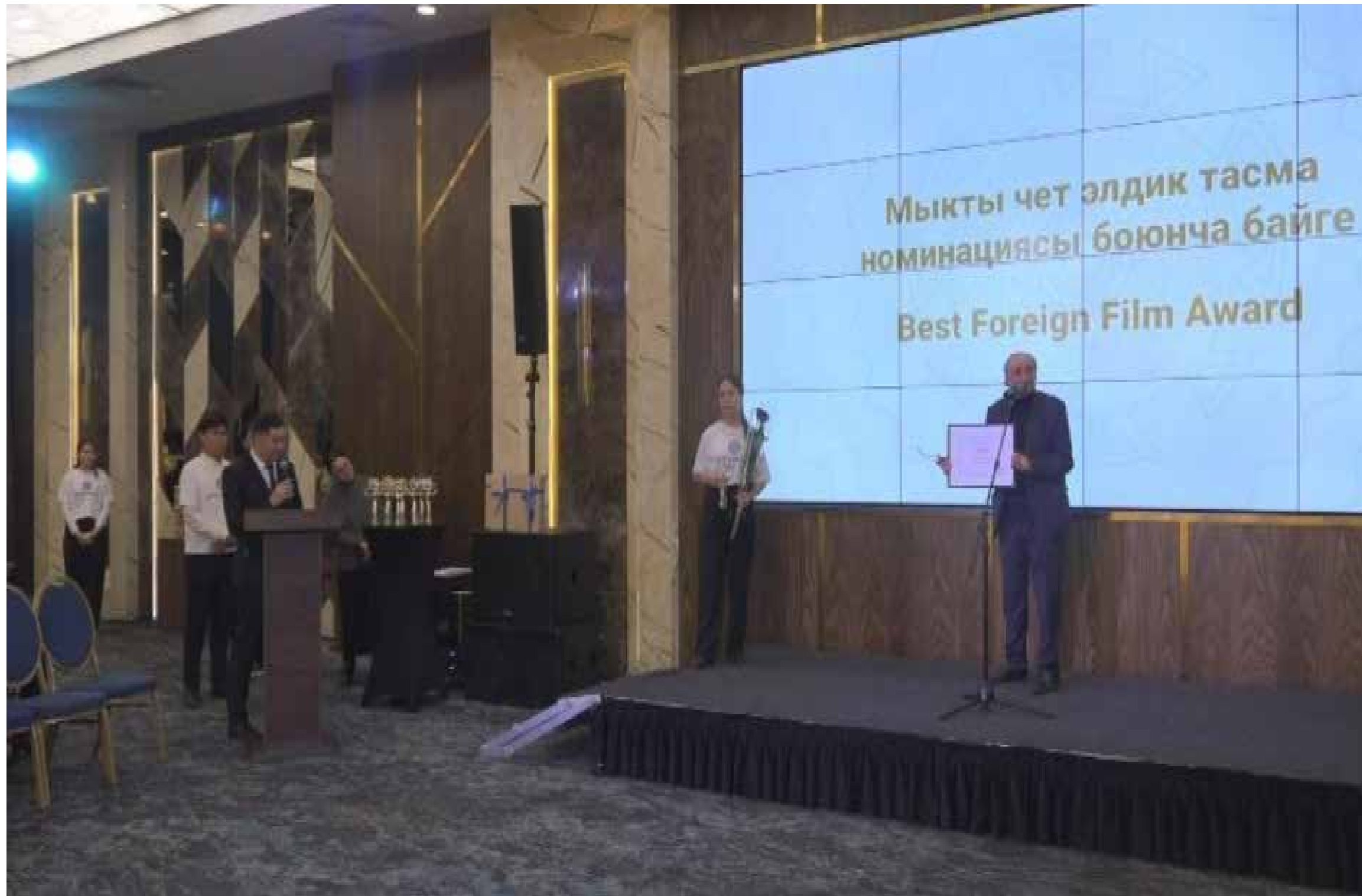
Winning films

The prize in the **Best National Film** nomination was awarded to the film "Who's Next?" by Nurjamal Karamoldoeva and Sultan Usuvaliev about the murder of Aizada Kanatbekova in April 2021.



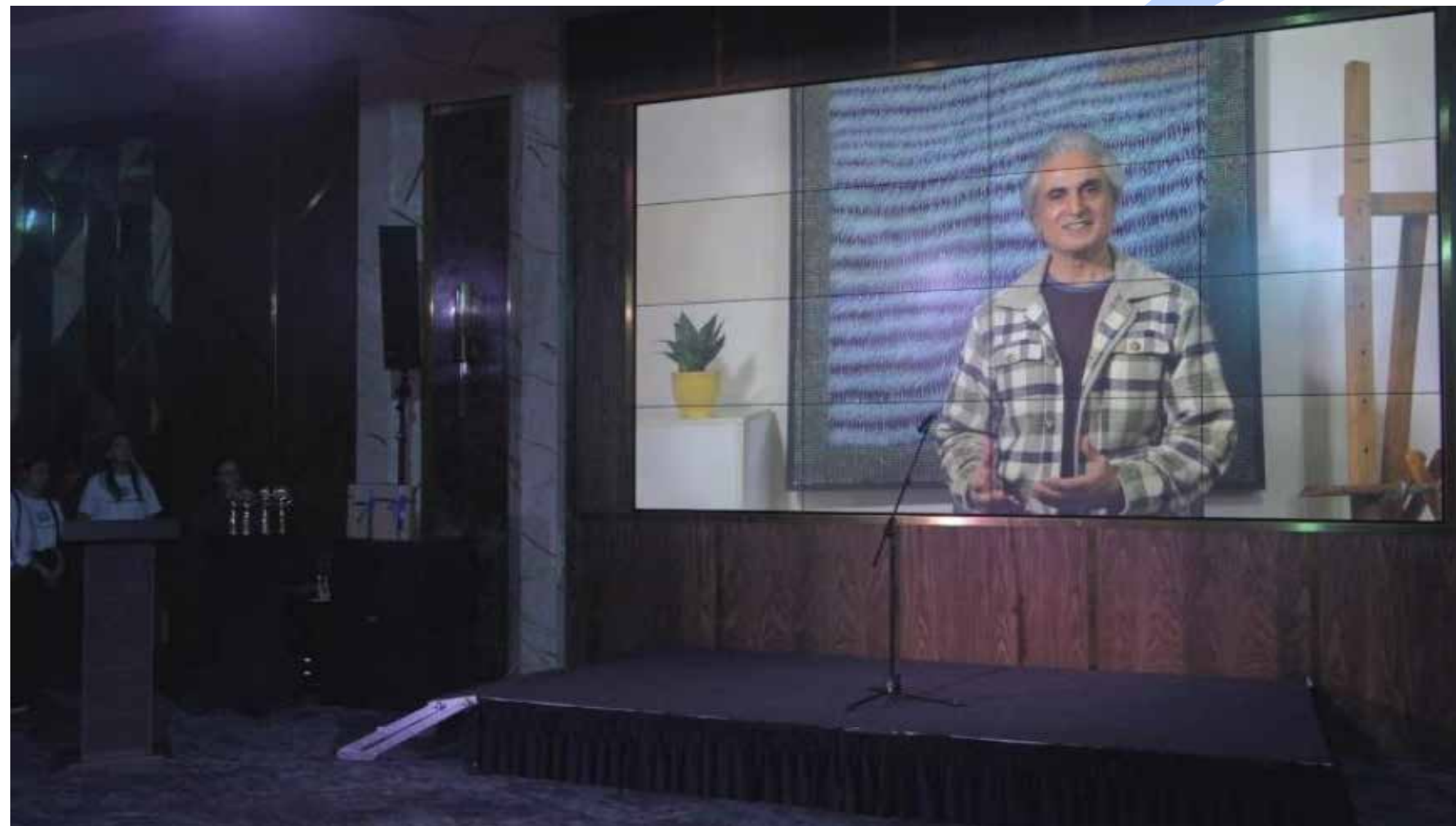
Winning films

The prize for the **Best Foreign Film** of the festival was awarded to the film “Wartime Notes” directed by Barbara Cupisti, Italy, 2023.



Winning films

The prize in the **Best Film on Climate Change** nomination was awarded to the film “Drops Give Life”, Farshid Azari, Iran.



Winning films

The prize in the nomination for the **Best Film on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights** was awarded to the film “Medic”, by Alizhan Nasirov, Kyrgyzstan, 2023.



Winning films

The prize for the **Best Film on Civil and Political Rights** was awarded to the film “The Sky of Our Childhood”, Kyrgyzstan, 2023, by Suyum Sulaimanova and Jumanazar Koichubekov.



Winning films

The prize in the **Best Film on Gender Equality** nomination was awarded to the film “Women of Valor”, Anna Somershaf, Israel.



Winning films

The prize for the **Best Film in the competition program "Breakthrough"** was awarded to the film "Galina Petrovna", by Nikita Lovetsky, Kyrgyzstan, 2023.



Winning films

The **special jury prize** was awarded to the film by Elina Likkhodaeva, “Her Name is Rakiya”, Kyrgyzstan, 2023.



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Protection and promotion of children's rights

Political, economic, social, technical, environmental and legal structures impede progress in the realization of children's rights. Although Kyrgyzstan invests in social sectors, inefficient expenditure management, budget preparation and implementation reduce the positive impact of these investments for children. Climate change and the high risk of natural disasters are creating more and more difficulties for ongoing reforms.¹

Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan, together with the Commissioner for Children's Rights, National Historical Museum, UN Women, BICE - Bureau International Catholique de l'enfance, Women's Learning Partnership (WLP), Child Protection Center, within the framework of the UNESCO initiative, showed two films dedicated to the International Day of Education and the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.²

¹<https://clck.ru/37piTs>

²https://kaktus.media/doc/475840_skvoz_ternii_k_zvezdam._v_bishkeke_proshel_pokaz_filmov_o_pravah_jenshin_na_obrazovanie.html

As part of the protection and promotion of children's rights, Bir Duino, together with partners Equality Now, PF Positive Dialogue, and the Child Protection Center held consultations with members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, at which an alternative analysis of the situation and problems in the field of child protection was presented.³ They also actively participated in consultations on the discussion of the National Report of Kyrgyzstan in the HRC and submitted recommendations to be included in the report.

²https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FKGZ%2F50708&Lang=en

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

At the initiative of the Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Kyrgyz Republic Asel Chynbaeva, partner organizations Terek Children's Aid Center and the HRM Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan, a social forum "Our Children. Safe Environment" was held in Karakol.¹

At 12 seminars conducted by experts, the forum participants learned new things about violence prevention, assistance to injured children and their families, the features of a comprehensive examination of sexual violence, depositing the testimony of children and the formation of a healthy family as the first institution of a child, where his personality is formed. "The forum ended with the opening of the installation "Girls Can Do Anything", symbolizing inner strength and a call for zero tolerance to violence." As a result, the participants noted the need to strengthen intersectoral cooperation, develop zero tolerance to violence against girls and women, change the environment in which children live, and improve child-parent relations.

¹ <https://eltr.kg/ru/v-karakole-proshel-soczialnyj-forum-nashi-deti-bezopasnaya-sreda/>

As part of the support of the government accelerator program, the Back to School project was implemented with the support of BICE.² In March 2023 the Cabinet of Ministers of the KR launched an initiative to develop preschool education within the framework of the Government Accelerators program. Currently, conditions are being created for the opening of home-type kindergartens in residential premises. Within the framework of the project, technical assistance was provided to ten kindergartens in the form of stationery, teaching aids for the development of children, food packages and warm clothes.

² <https://mineconom.gov.kg/ru/post/9298https://e-cis.info/news/567/107609/>

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

QUIZ NIGHT “Human Rights for Everyone”

The QUIZ NIGHT “Human Rights for Everyone”, conducted for students of schools in Bishkek and Mayevka village, was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The purpose of the event “Human Rights for Everyone” was to involve schoolchildren in an educational and interactive process highlighting the foundations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The event was aimed at strengthening awareness and active participation of young people in the protection of human rights through a combination of an educational element and cinema. Video clips were also used on the history of human rights and 30 clips on all articles of the of the declaration.

<https://www.youthforhumanrights.org/videos/psas>

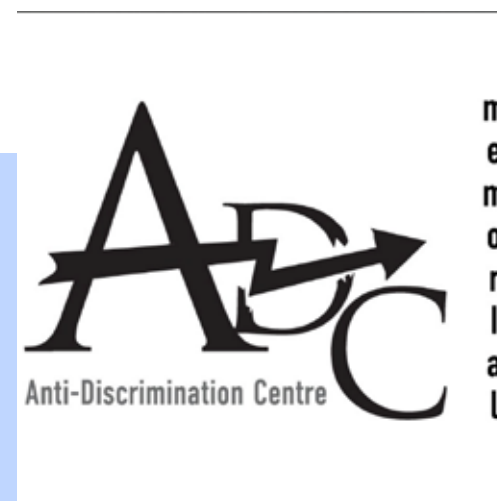
Number of participants: 80.

Schools that took part in the event: Mayevka school, secondary schools No. 16, 32, 46, 81.



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Also, during the scoring, video clips of the ADC Memorial were shown on the topic of external migration, problems of discrimination and social inequality. The demonstration of the videos was aimed at broadening the participants' horizons on human rights issues and fostering feelings of tolerance.¹



Organizers: Child Protection Centre and PA "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan".

Recommendations of the participants:

1. It was proposed to provide an opportunity to discuss questions and answers after completing the quiz so that students could share their knowledge and opinions.
2. Hold a series of round tables or panel discussions with experts to deepen the understanding of the topic of human rights.
3. Organize the event in such a way that it becomes not only educational, but also inspiring, perhaps with the presentation of creative projects of students on the topic of human rights.
4. Involve youth and children in discussions on issues related to children's rights.
5. Carry out events using innovations.

¹ <https://kyrgyzstan.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/%D0%A1%D0%B8%D1%82%D1%83%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B9%20%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B7%20%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%B6%D0%B8%20RU.pdf>
[https://adcmemorial.org/novosti/glavnoe/detyam-migrantam-nuzhna-podderzhka-a-ne-repressii /](https://adcmemorial.org/novosti/glavnoe/detyam-migrantam-nuzhna-podderzhka-a-ne-repressii/)

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Training for Kyrgyz lawyers working on cases of sexual violence against women and girls

This training was designed to expand the knowledge of lawyers in Kyrgyzstan working or starting to work on cases of sexual violence against women and girls, so that they can protect victims more effectively.

As a result of the training, the participants gained an understanding of crimes related to sexual violence, international standards in this area, national legislation and law enforcement practice, mastered interview strategies taking into account the interests of victims, learned to recognize myths and stereotypes related to sexual violence and fight them, understood the specifics of the situation of vulnerable victims during the proceedings taking into account the interests of victims and specific conditions.

The strategies and resources/materials used during the training were selected and prepared so that students can use them in their future work.



Dariana Gryaznova

Eurasia Legal Advisor, Equality Now



Esenia Ramazanova

Lawyer, Kyrgyzstan



Gulmira Kazakunova

Chairman of the PA Union of People with Disabilities "Equality", Kyrgyzstan



Iza Kasrelishvili

Lawyer, Georgia



Jacqui Hunt

Global Lead on Ending Sexual Violence, Equality Now



Lira Ismailova

Gender expert, "Bir Duino", Kyrgyzstan



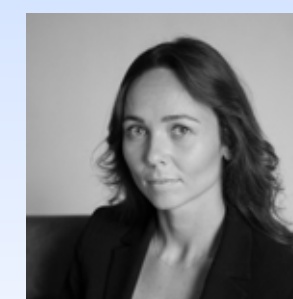
Muhayo Abduraupova

Lawyer, PF Positive Dialogue, Kyrgyzstan



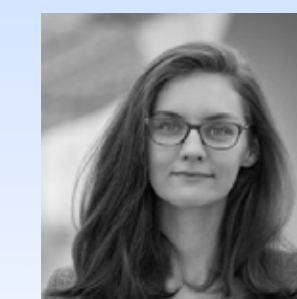
Natalia Kurasova

Psychologist and coordinator for the support of specialists of the Center for Survivors of Sexualized Violence "Sisters", Moscow, Russia



Olga Karachyova

Lawyer, St. Petersburg, Russia



Valentina Frolova

Lawyer, Moscow, Russia

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Human Rights Defenders: "Learning from Each Other" "The system for safe communication of human rights defenders using computers with the Windows operating system and smartphones with the Android operating system"

This event was aimed at exploring new information security tools and opportunities for human rights defenders. The event was organized jointly with the Coalition for Equality. During the training, participants learned about new security programs used when working on smartphones and the WINDOWS program.

According to security experts, there are up to 2 billion attacks on users' computers every day. Internet threats are usually divided into external and internal.

External threats come to us from the outside, from the Internet, and internal threats come from various control processes in the WINDOWS operating system.



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

According to StockApps, in July 2023, the total number of people using mobile phones worldwide approached 5.3 billion, or 67% of the world's population. From the first quarter of 2020 to the first quarter of 2021, the global average monthly mobile data traffic reached 66 million terabytes and 73% of the traffic comes from Android phones. In other words, smartphones have become the main tools for communication, transmission and receipt of information.

The event was organized by the Central Asia Labour Rights Monitoring Mission with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Kyrgyzstan



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

«Women in Politics for Positive Change»

Politics, understood as the "struggle for power", cannot but worry women, since it is the quality of this struggle, equality and fairness of the conditions of political struggle that determine the stability of the political system, hence the trajectory of development of the whole society and the state. Women have enormous potential and not just in politics. However, it is the representation of women in the governing bodies that allows us to look at socio-economic and security issues from a female perspective, based on female nature. This dialogue is organized for a better understanding of what women's potential in politics is and how to use it for positive changes.

The interactive format of the dialogue "Women in Politics for Positive Change" made it possible not only to share personal success stories of leaders at the local, national, regional and international levels, but also to see what challenges and risks women face at different levels in the changing world, as individuals, as community leaders to promote solutions to issues, and also when mobilizing resources and communities at different levels.



Moderator: Chinara Esengul, associate professor, Chief of PeaceNexus for Central Asia

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Ulziisuren Jamsran, Representative of the UN Women Structure in Kyrgyzstan, noted that there is a different understanding of the essence of human rights related to age as important documents are adopted.

The Sustainable Development Goals and other documents have introduced a new understanding of women's participation in political life at the local level, their representation in leadership positions. "Remember, your influence is never small. Always remember, your influence is at least 15%. The more associates you gather, the greater your influence will be, and the influence of the media is also very important." "The SDGs have introduced a new understanding of women's political participation at the local level, but it is also necessary to pay attention to appointed positions, attention to women's participation in the private sector.

What is a woman in politics at the decision-making level? We need to promote positive deviants. At the global level, it is important to know what the ranking of the KR is, including the positions of women's participation at the decision-making level. The CEDAW Convention notes the adoption of measures to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in both the public and private sectors.



Ulziisuren Jamsran,
Representative of the UN Women Structure in Kyrgyzstan

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

The Kyrgyz Republic has ratified more than 50 international covenants, some of which are directly related to women's rights and gender equality, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action to Promote Women's Rights. As part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the Cabinet of Ministers of the KR met in full for the first time on the issue of violence against women and girls, and the first state program to promote women's leadership was approved".

In the context of the country, despite the increase in the total share of women in Parliament in 2021 (from 15.8% to 21.11%) and local councils (from 11% to 38%), both institutional and informal barriers remain significant. Patriarchal values and traditional gender roles permeate many aspects of modern Kyrgyz society.

Despite the fact that women leaders become deputies of local authorities, they still face serious problems in carrying out their public duties. Among the main obstacles are the lack of "communication skills" among public leaders (i.e. leadership skills, argumentation and public speaking skills), as well as a lack of knowledge of the legislation and its application.



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

The local deputy of the village of Baizak, Naryn oblast, Meerim Moldalieva, having become a deputy, realized that men deputies do not pay attention to many issues in terms of budget allocation. She had to try to change some areas of funds expenditure. After a thorough study of the needs of the village of Baizak, negotiations with the head of aiyl okmotu, the construction of playgrounds and training grounds began. She made sure that 9 million soms were allocated from the local kenesh fund for capital repairs in one of the schools and purchase of equipment. The foundation was laid for the construction of a kindergarten for 120 children. The local government has become more open. Times are changing, the composition of the keneshes is also changing, new people are coming. Now Meerim is engaged in social activities, she implements the Safe School project, travels a lot to villages, meets with people. Politics has taught her to be more diplomatic, to be able to negotiate at different levels. She is sure that it is necessary to raise the level of education on civic activism and develop leadership. In order to increase the effectiveness of the work of local councils, it is necessary to promote women to leadership positions more. It's also necessary to train men on political and civic participation in communities.



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Being a deputy among the overwhelming number of men is not easy, but it is even more difficult if you have to be a female deputy in a region with a special way of life, stereotypes associated with the deep religiosity of the rural population. The head of a kindergarten, Makhabat Botasheva, was able to prove that everything is possible: for 5 years she has been a successful deputy in the village of Suzak, Jalal-Abad oblast. With her participation, more attention and funds have been given to sports for women and children. She is active in sports and promotes rural women's participation in sports. She supports youth initiatives, works to attract investments, and is the leader of an initiative group of women. "When I became a deputy in 2012, I was the only woman among 31 deputies of the local kenesh. Now in 2023, it is my third convocation, there are already 12 of us women and 19 men."



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Jamila Kaparova said, "Our female deputies entered politics in different ways. As soon as they became deputies, they did a lot of work, now they work with young people. Suzak is a complex region with patriarchal traditions, it is not easy to be a female leader there, it is very commendable. Makhabat monitors religious institutions on a voluntary basis. Meerim has gone through many difficulties and continues to be active. They are worthy examples."

Youth involvement in political transformations: The age structure of the population of the Kyrgyz Republic demographically belongs to the category of young people: the proportion of young people aged 14-28 years is a quarter of the total population. One third of young people (30%) live in urban settlements and two thirds (70%) live in rural areas. 3 Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter SDGs) consider youth policy as one of the key tools that form an important resource for the development of society – youth, and also clearly define that young people, in a period of active socialization, need effective support from the state and society in order to realize their potential.¹



¹ <https://kyrgyzstan.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/%D0%A1%D0%B8%D1%82%D1%83%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B9%20%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B7%20%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%B6%D0%B8%20RU.pdf>

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

"I believed that I would be a lawyer, so I went to work in court. Those were dark times for Moldova, not everything was done according to the law. I joined the mass media and was a producer of political programs. I realized that I could influence something, but then I understood that it was just for a short period of time. What is relevant today will not be relevant tomorrow. You can get in through the window if the door is closed. I started thinking about how to have a long-term impact." "Everything is organized here so that in the future it will sound like this: "Politics for positive change." The name itself speaks about the difficult situation in the gender field. It doesn't sound like "Men in politics for positive change," it's self-implied. Therefore, we are working for the future. Right now, I see myself as a liaison.

On activism and promotion of legislative initiatives: "Logic combined with kindness will help you succeed. Invisible connections are very important. We are all so close to each other, let's see how we can establish partnerships. A new logic leads to a new reality." At this festival, everyone is engaged in public communications. The bottom-up strategy works very well. It is important to use creative tools, involve the media very widely and use social networks not only to disseminate information, but also to involve young people in the processes taking place in the country, to increase the level of trust and participation at all levels.



Anastasia Primov, Advisor to the Prime Minister Republic of Moldova

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

The simple idea is that women working together in a space where they feel respected, where they feel included. feel empowered of change, , they do marvelous things even with very few resources and very few opportunities. We have created our unique educational training program called Leading to Choices, which starts with a woman, with a chapter called "Am I a Leader in my own life," and goes from chapter to chapter on why initiative is important and how a woman can engage others to lead, how to mobilize her community and campaign. Women play a critical role in accumulating the kind of social capital that contributes to development, peace and peace. Social capital that promotes development, peace, justice and civility."



Mahnaz Afkhami,
founder of the Women's Learning Partnership

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

"There are many issues with the transparency of elections, the promotion of women in politics. During the previous election cycle, we helped our women candidates to participate at all levels. We were able to promote the quota, reservation of seats. There are some difficulties, we were asked the question: "And what about the quality?". Quality is ensured by women leaders on the ground, only local residents are authorized to promote leaders. After the election, we did a lot of work with them to reflect on the experience while it was fresh. We had meetings in the regions with former and current deputies, we identified their needs. "What do our women really need to be empowered?" We took one person at a time, each told us her opinion. Who is she — a female leader? We finally reached the root cause of why she goes into politics. She is guided by the principle of improving the quality of life on the ground."



Ainura Usupbekova, the Civic Platform Foundation

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

In order for us to continue positive changes, we must make efforts to preserve media pluralism. Independent media will help to educate the society and deliver truthful, high-quality information. We also need to develop in terms of promoting tolerance, encouraging diversity through the media. Only then can we achieve high standards and educate the audience

Kyrgyzstan is currently ranked 84th (out of 146) in the Global Gender Gap Index for 2023¹, which underscores the need for further efforts to empower women and their leadership. Kyrgyzstan has committed itself to promoting gender equality at all levels in accordance with both international and domestic legislation. Despite various initiatives and special legislative measures, women in the Kyrgyz Republic continue to face serious challenges in achieving political representation and leadership positions.



Inga Sikorskaya,
Director of the School of Peacemaking and media technologies in Central Asia

¹ https://24.kg/obschestvo/269849_nado_obyedinyatsya_vkyrgyzstane_proshel_jenskiy_kurultay_solidarnosti/

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Tolekan Ismailova: "Everything comes from the authorities. We will not have a strong society until people on the ground understand what it means to take part in elections. There needs to be strong voter education. Local journalists should also work on the ground. Many years ago, we prepared the ground for the selection of strong leaders. We lived in communities for months and there was a result. Everything has to go from the bottom up. We need to work on civic education."

It is important to work with young people using creative tools and techniques, to involve them in educational and information campaigns and training, and to carry out this work constantly, to educate voters to take responsibility for their choice.



Tolekan Ismailova Director "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan"

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Conclusions: It is important to recognize that systemic, structural and patriarchal norms, clanism, and corruption schemes can limit women's rights in decision-making processes. The general political culture of the population is low.

Recommendations: It is necessary to show the role and value of the contribution of women leaders at the community level, to promote their potential, unification and solidarity to solve problems and develop the community, to improve interaction with local authorities.

It is important to strengthen work with the media, conduct constant monitoring and analysis of the environment, challenges, and risks.

Despite advances in legislation and the removal of legal barriers, violence against women in politics, as well as the "glass ceiling", prevent women from reaching leadership positions or representation in politics.

Women are underrepresented at both the national and local levels. Besides that, there is no quota system for appointing women to government and municipal positions. The most obvious imbalance in the representation of women and men is observed at the level of political positions.



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

In 2023, as part of the initiative of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, UN Women, in cooperation with development partners, assisted in the process of developing the "State program for the promotion of women to leadership positions until 2030".¹



¹<https://govori.tv/pravitelstvo-kyrgyzstana-razrabotalo-gosprogrammu-po-prodvizheniyu-zhenshin-narukovodyashhie-dolzhnosti/>

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

National dialogue "Capacity building and promotion of the voices of local communities based on the principle from local to global" within the framework of the joint project of the Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" and Forum-Asia "Bread for the World"

Key objective: To summarize the results of 8 working meetings, seminars and trainings for more than 95 representatives of the local communities of Barskoon, Tosor, Kichi-Jargylchak, Chon-Jargylchak of Issyk-Kul oblast during 2023 and the results of the regional dialogue in Karakol in October 2023 as part of a joint project implemented with the international association Forum-Asia to enhance the capacity, protect and promote the voices of local communities affected by the Kumtor mining company.¹

Each training seminar and workshop brought together the efforts of 20 to 30 activist leaders, key government agencies, local self-government, the Ombudsman Institution, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations.² At each working meeting, the most pressing issues of access to information about investment projects, reducing gaps between communities, as well as increasing community participation in decision-making processes at the local level were discussed.³

The key result of the work of the Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" was the holding of the National dialogue to promote the voices of local communities with the participation of leaders from all regions on 1 December 2023 at the Europa Hotel.

Participants emphasized the importance of solving the problems of vulnerable mountain ecosystems in the framework of promoting the UN agenda for sustainable mountain development, the UN General Assembly resolution "Sustainable Mountain Development" and the execution of the Decree of the President of the KR Sadyr Japarov on improving climate sustainability, preserving natural heritage and holding the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development and promotion of the results of the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris 2023, localization of the UN Strategy for the Development of Mountain Regions within the framework of the implementation of the five-year Action program of Kyrgyzstan for 2023-2027 and the preparation of a roadmap for the adaptation of international programs for the development of regions, as well as in the framework of the promotion of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

¹ <https://forum-asia.org/?p=37589>

² <http://birduino.kg/pressaru/otchet-po-itogam-rabochix-vstrech-v-4-soobshhestvax-issyik-kulskoj-oblasti>

³ https://forum-asia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Justice-in-Waiting_-Report_-EN.pdf

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Main indicators:

1. During the online participation of the team of the international association Forum-Asia the coordinator Prarthana Rao conducted an exchange of experience and vision on solving the problems of vulnerable mountain ecosystems in the framework of promoting the UN agenda for sustainable mountain development and the UN General Assembly resolution "Sustainable Mountain Development";

2. The key experience of the Bir Duino team's participation in the International Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva was presented, as well as the most important aspects of partnership with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, the role of women's leadership in preventing risks and disasters, as well as the importance of promoting the Draft Law on Glaciers in order to protect local communities living in in the context of disaster risks using the methodology and experience of the international GNDR Association in the framework of the study conducted by Views from the Frontline;

3. Analysis of the results achieved during working meetings and trainings for local communities affected by Kumtor conducted in July 2023 and the results of the regional dialogue in Karakol in October 2023;

4. The National Dialogue brought together the efforts of local community leaders from all regions of Kyrgyzstan, international guests and experts of the Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan", women deputies of the aiyl keneshes, representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, youth activists and media specialists.

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

Next steps:

1. It is important to raise awareness among local communities about risks and disasters, as well as about ongoing investment projects of international donors, and to involve community leaders more in decision-making processes based on the principle from local to global. A mechanism should be created for informing the public through social networks, news portals, websites with full open information and events at the local level;
2. It is important for government agencies to provide detailed reports on the ongoing work to reduce disaster risks;
3. It is necessary to apply to the Ombudsman of the KR in order to create an Independent Commission to reconstruct events and data on medical issues and public health near Barskoon after the tragedies - the 1998 disaster;
3. It is necessary to apply to the Ombudsman of the KR in order to create an Independent Commission to reconstruct events and data on medical issues and public health near Barskoon after the tragedies - the 1998 disaster;
4. A joint statement on behalf of the victims of forced abortion in Barskoon should be sent to the state authorities of the KR, the Ministry of Health of the KR and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in order to receive compensation;
5. It is necessary to initiate independent journalistic investigations into the consequences of forced abortions of women after the Kumtor's cyanide release;
6. Educational work should be carried out on the conservation of glaciers and sources of clean drinking water." A public movement "For the Preservation of Glaciers" should be created. Training seminars, workshops, courses on protection and respect for the environment of Kyrgyzstan should be conducted.

Events conducted within the framework of the Festival



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

The 7-th Conference of the International Labour Rights Monitoring Mission in Central Asia

On 30 November 2023, Bishkek hosted the 7-th Annual Conference of the International Labour Rights Monitoring Mission in Central Asia. The event was held with the support of the Mission's partners within the framework of the XVII International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan", which was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration on respect for the principles of equality, non-discrimination and human rights in mountainous countries, covering issues of dignity, freedom and justice.

The Mission's conference was devoted to the implementation of fundamental labor rights in Central Asia. The event was attended by representatives of trade unions and human rights organizations of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and other countries.

During their presentations, the participants discussed the impact of legislative changes in Central Asian countries on the realization of fundamental rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, and the consequences of these changes aimed at narrowing the rights of civil society and related to collective action and participation in negotiations. Speakers noted the widespread deterioration in governments' respect for labor rights, both in the region and globally, despite seemingly positive developments in the previous two years.



Events conducted within the framework of the Festival

The presentations also examined the situation with women's rights in the workplace and equality policies (economic, social and gender) that affect trends in the development of gender equality, in particular equality in the workplace in the countries of Central Asia.

According to the results of the presented studies, it was found that violence, including domestic violence, and harassment in the workplace are not decreasing, but increasing. In this regard, on the eve of the International Human Rights Day, which is celebrated on 10 December, the 16 Days Campaign against Violence against Women was held in Kyrgyzstan, which was designed to draw the attention of society to these problems.

Along with all the changes, the conference participants noted the ongoing global demographic transformation. Most countries have faced, or will soon face, a declining birth rate, an aging population, and a projected population decline. It is assumed that this will have a negative impact on the economic situation of many countries.

In conclusion, during the general discussion, the participants decided to adopt a resolution calling for an end to the persecution of and discrimination against trade union activists for their activities.

Resolution of the 7-th Conference of the International Labour Rights Monitoring Mission in Central Asia.

30 November 2023, Bishkek.

Having discussed the situation with labor rights and risks for trade union activists and civil society activists involved in the protection of socio-labor and economic rights and interests in Central Asian countries, the Conference notes a slight improvement in the security situation of activists

in a number of countries of the region, such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, increased danger in Kyrgyzstan and constantly high danger in Tajikistan, and especially in Turkmenistan.

Taking into account the remaining repressive mechanisms in legislation and unlawful law enforcement in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as in all other countries of the region, and taking into account the recent cases of detention of trade union activists in Kazakhstan in November 2023, cases of pressure on independent trade unions in a number of countries, the Mission's Conference notes the need to change the legislation of all countries of the region removing the repressive levers, and to establish open and fair justice and stop the repressive practice of pressurizing trade unionists and civil activists.

The Conference of the Monitoring Mission calls on all members of the mission to continue to provide all possible assistance in the judicial protection of activists and to support the development of an independent trade union and labor movement in the region.

Contribution made by volunteers

A great contribution to the preparation and holding of the festival was made by the team of volunteers who provided substantial support to the organizers of the festival on a voluntary basis.

Responsible volunteers were assigned to each foreign guest. They accompanied the guests not only at the opening and closing ceremonies and screenings of the festival, but also accompanied them around the city for sightseeing and during trips to the mountains, helped them with the purchase of souvenirs. Besides that, during the discussions of the films, volunteers also provided translation services. The young leaders took an active part in the discussions after watching the films and expressed their gratitude to the human rights organization "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan" for the knowledge gained on human rights and leadership experience in holding such a large-scale event.

After the festival, the organizing committee thanked all the volunteers by organizing a special thank you meeting for the young leaders, presenting a letter of appreciation to each volunteer on behalf of the organization.

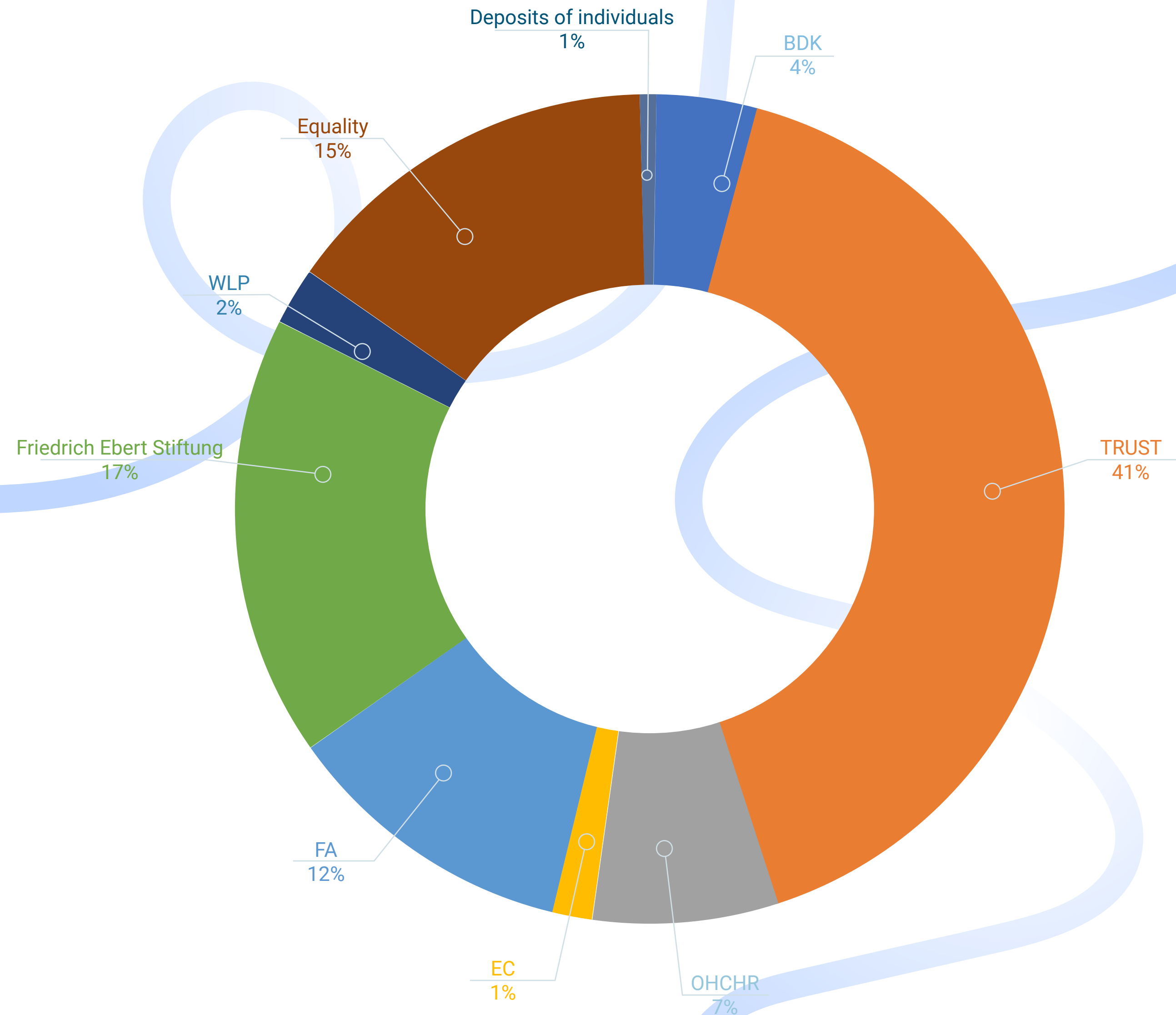


Financial aspect and partners of the festival

The XVII International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan 2023" was held with the support of partners who contributed not only financial, but also human resources. The budget of the 2023 Festival was limited, which was caused by the infringement of the political rights of citizens, which leads to great threats and risks to the festival. This vividly reflects the violation of human rights not only in Kyrgyzstan but throughout the world. Since 2009, the KR has been the only Central Asian country in the category of "partially free", but in 2021 it joined the ranks of "not free" states.

A great contribution to the preparation and holding of the festival was made by volunteers – students and schoolchildren of Bishkek, employees and experts.

XVII International Festival "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan"
financial participation of donors and partners in %



Obstacles and difficulties

The situation with human rights and freedom of speech has deteriorated sharply in Kyrgyzstan, which was clearly expressed at the Festival. It is the 4 draft laws introduced in the JK of the KR that are being considered - on the media, on non-profit organizations, on foreign representatives and on malicious information, - which negatively affect the situation with freedom of speech in the country.

In the World Press Freedom Index published in May, Kyrgyzstan fell from 72nd to 122nd position. The Republic immediately lost 50 points in five categories – political context, legal framework, economic context, socio-cultural context and security.¹ Before that, Kyrgyzstan was considered an oasis of press freedom in the region.



¹ <https://rus.azattyk.org/a/32391220.html>

Obstacles and difficulties



On 24 November 2023, at the beginning of the Festival, from a message distributed in the media (on Internet sites) by the SI SCC "Kyrgyztasmasy", we learned about the alleged revocation of the certificate provided for the film, the screening of which was scheduled for 30 November. Thus, the state institution misled both the public and our organization, damaging the reputation of the organization.

It actually turned out that the State Institution SCC "Kyrgyztasmasy" decided already on 13 November 2023 to refuse to issue a rental certificate for the above-mentioned film. We were not informed about this and a copy of the decision was not provided to us.¹



Nevertheless, we filed a complaint with the Department of Cinematography under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Policy of the KR about the illegal actions of the SI SCC "Kyrgyztasmasy".

As a result, the entire program of the festival was shown on 28, 29 and 30 November, and in the evening of 30 November a special screening of the documentary Wartime Notes was organized at Sofia Hotel.

¹ https://24.kg/obschestvo/280562_kinofestival_bir_duyno_vkyrgyzstane_zapretili_pokaz_filma/

Obstacles and difficulties

However, we would like to note that the "Human Rights Movement: Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan" has appealed to the Constitutional Court of the KR and the Administrative Court of Bishkek in relation to the norms provided for in certain regulatory legal acts that allow censorship in Kyrgyzstan. These norms violate human rights and restrict human freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as the norms of international treaties, which the Kyrgyz Republic has undertaken to comply with.

First of all, the requirements for the mandatory provision of all audiovisual works intended for distribution on the territory of Kyrgyzstan to the SI SCC "Kyrgyztasmasy", i.e. **for citizens to undergo a special examination and obtain a state certificate**, - the "official permission" to demonstrate a film, - are **direct censorship**. This contradicts part 2 of Article 10 of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, **which establishes that censorship is not allowed in the Kyrgyz Republic**.

1. In this context, on 25 November, a message was received from a representative of the OSCE Program Office about the refusal to cooperate and with a request to remove the OSCE logo from all festival materials, which contradicts the OSCE mandate.
2. During the film screenings, the National Security Service attempted to disrupt the screenings, forbidding viewers to participate in the screening of films with a request to leave the cinema hall.

Obstacles and difficulties

This year's festival took place at a difficult, even tragic time: it is significant that, no matter what, the IFDF on Human Rights in Kyrgyzstan has retained a humanistic focus, the main merit of which is the formation of a worldview, an essential component of which is mercy, compassion and respect for human rights. There should be more films like those presented at the festival, they foster kindness, responsiveness, responsibility for the world that surrounds us, its present and future. The works of the participants of the film forum make it possible to improve the quality of the human rights dialogue between society and the state, bring it to a new cultural level, and make it the property of all people.



Conclusion

The IFDF on Human Rights has been a truly landmark event in the art world since its inception to this day. It addresses the most serious, painful problems for society, dictated by life itself. The noble idea of watching documentary films once again united the audience, cinematographers and public figures. The program focused on enhancing knowledge of the universality and indivisibility of human rights. the indivisibility of human rights, especially among young people, and to as well as seeking to bring people together on the basis of humanistic principles, while empowering them their ability to claim their rights.

During the 3 days of the film festival, 25 films including special screenings were shown in the Ololo Planet Hall.

The IFDF on Human Rights is the only format of film screenings in Kyrgyzstan aimed at encouraging filmmakers who create films on human rights. As the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the KR, the Chairman of the Coordinating Council for Human Rights, Mr. E.J. Baisalov noted, the film festival has become a real forum for human rights programs and films that play a huge role in the formation of our civil society. For many



Conclusion

years, the festival has been fulfilling an educational mission and making an invaluable contribution to the moral improvement of society.¹

The five days of the film festival gave unforgettable impressions and emotions to all viewers who attended the film screenings, creative meetings with authors and discussions of the films. According to the tradition, the Festival "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" will be held in many regions of Kyrgyzstan, as well as for students of the US universities in February 2024.

It is important to note and conclude our final report 2023 awarding the PA Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan for its great labor and proficiency, with a letter of thanks from the Chairman of Bishkek City Kenesh.

The final video of the Festival – 2023:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LyP4piZ6WM>

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/elena.bayalinova/videos/752481903356567/>

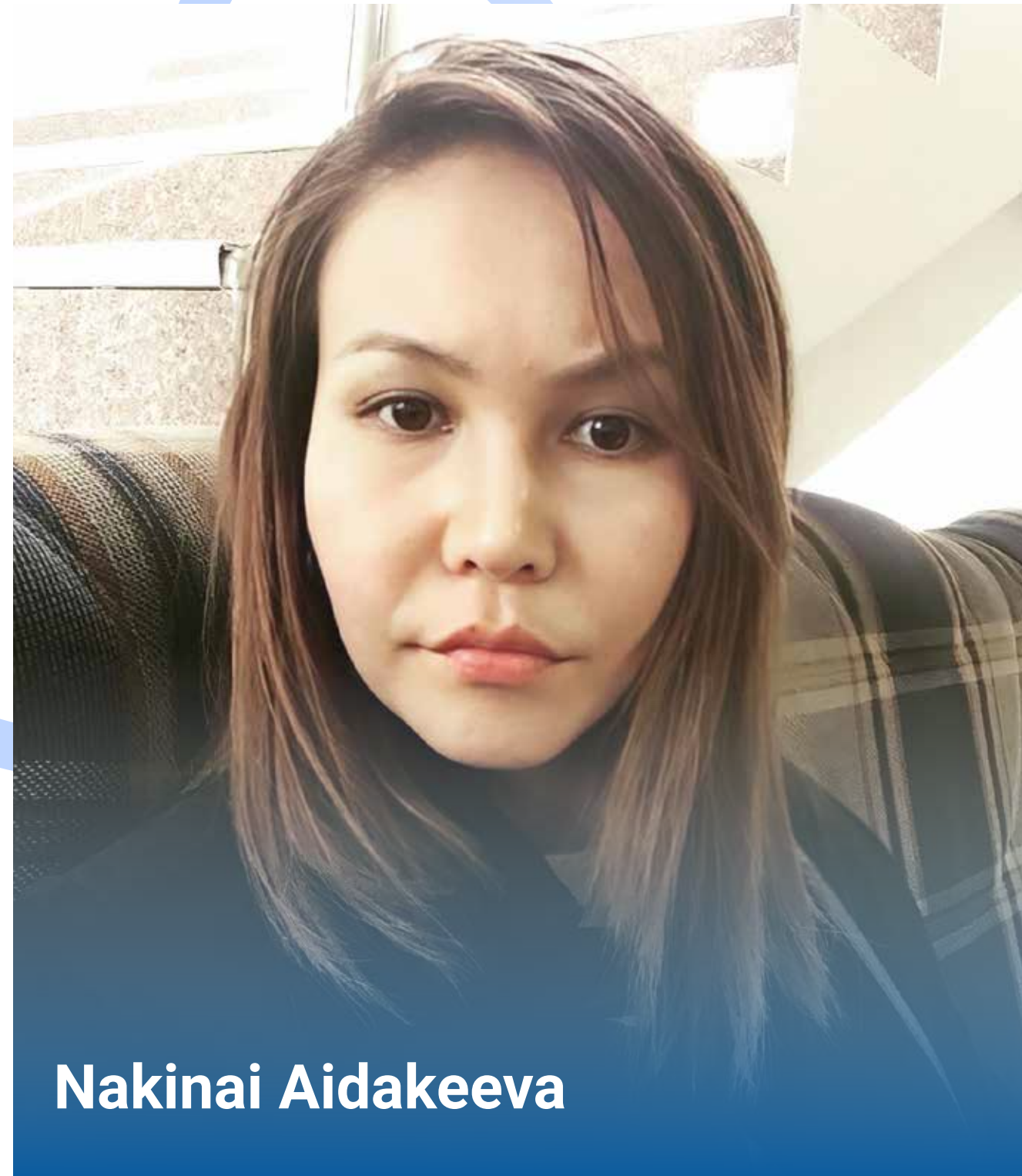


Organizing committee



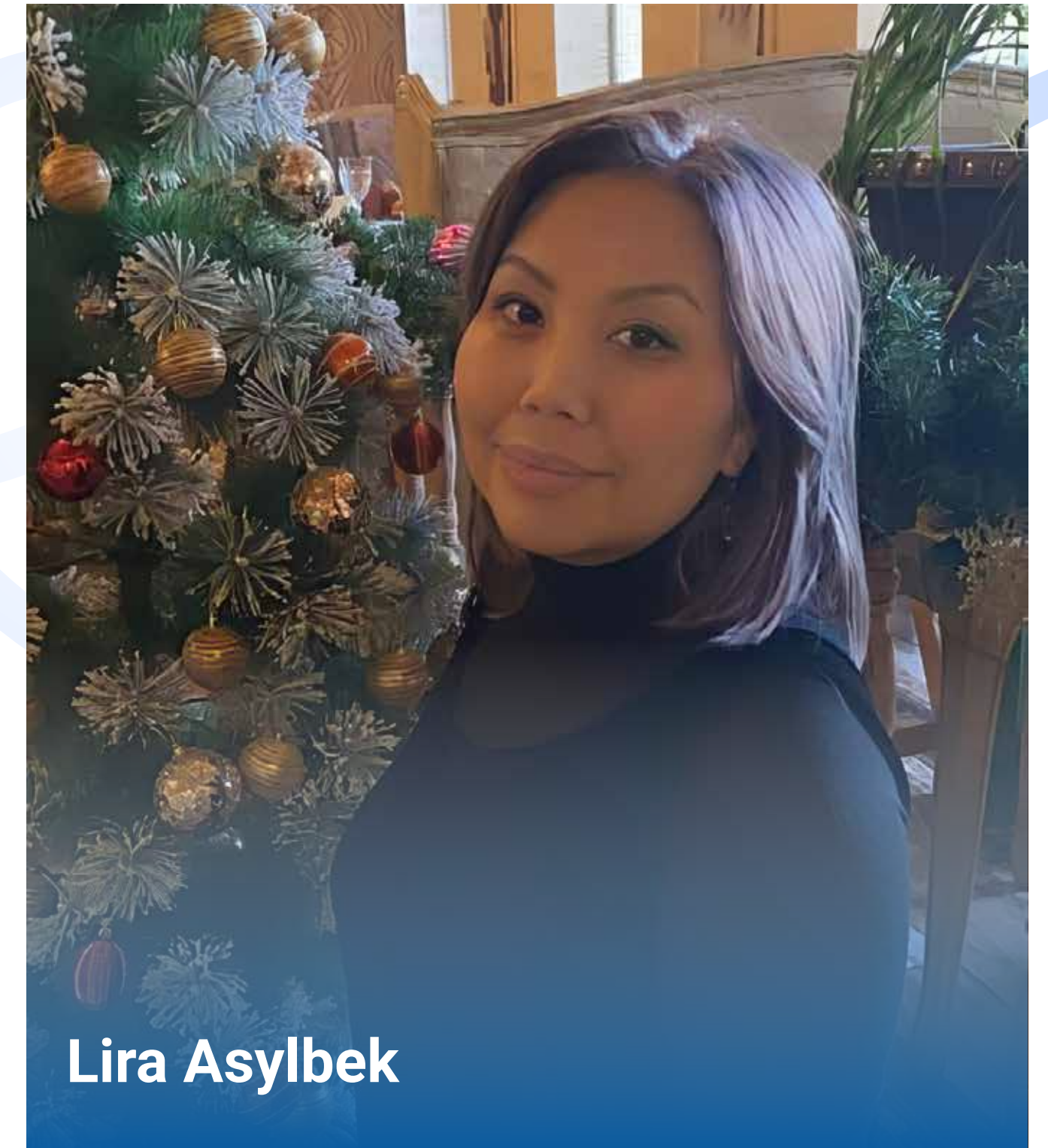
Tolekan Ismailova

**Director of PD "Bir Duino"
Kyrgyzstan"**



Nakinai Aidakeeva

**Coordinator of
XVII International Festival
"Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan"**



Lira Asylbek

Expert

Organizing committee



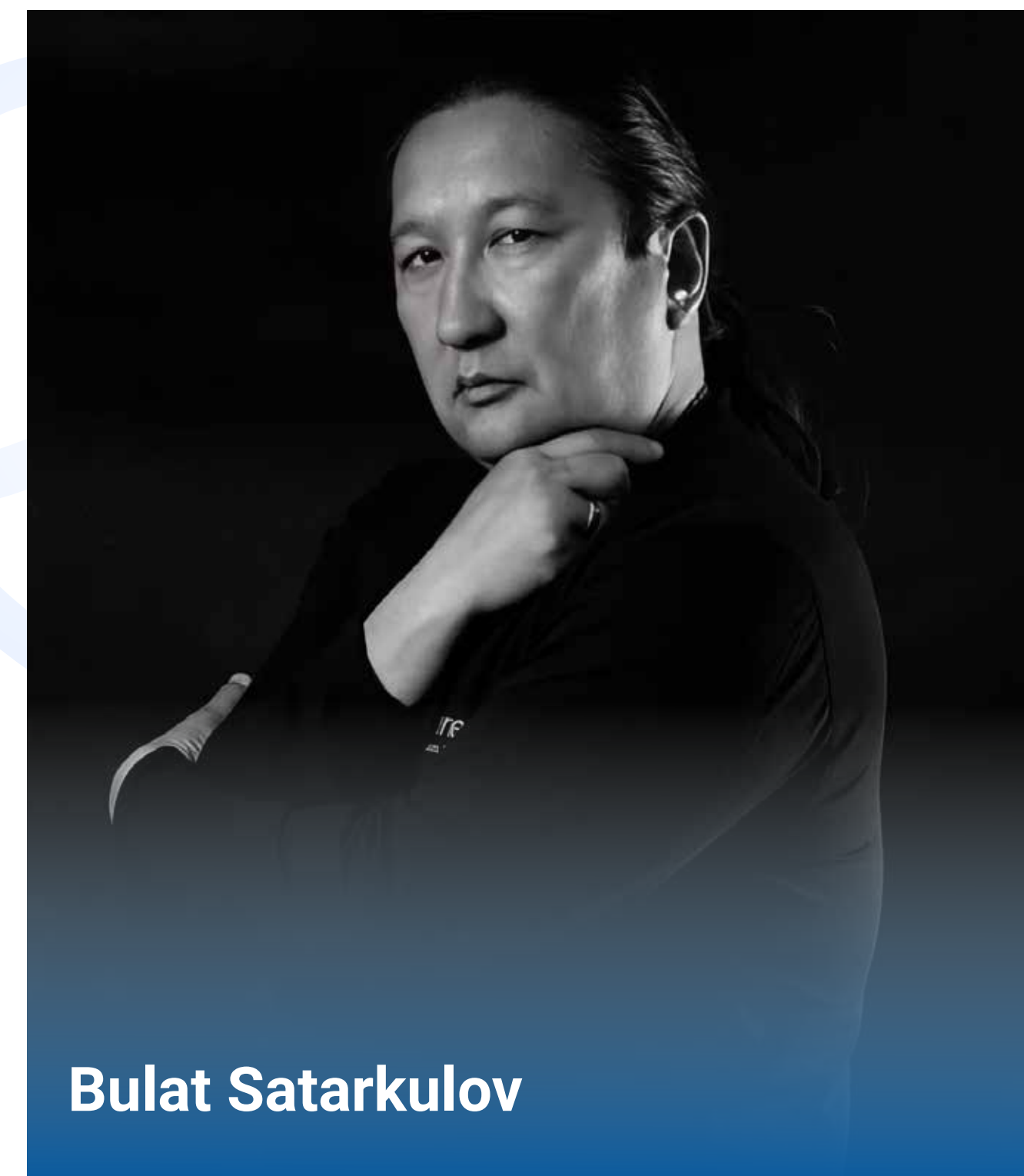
Sakhira Nazarova

PR-specialist



Adil Turdukulov

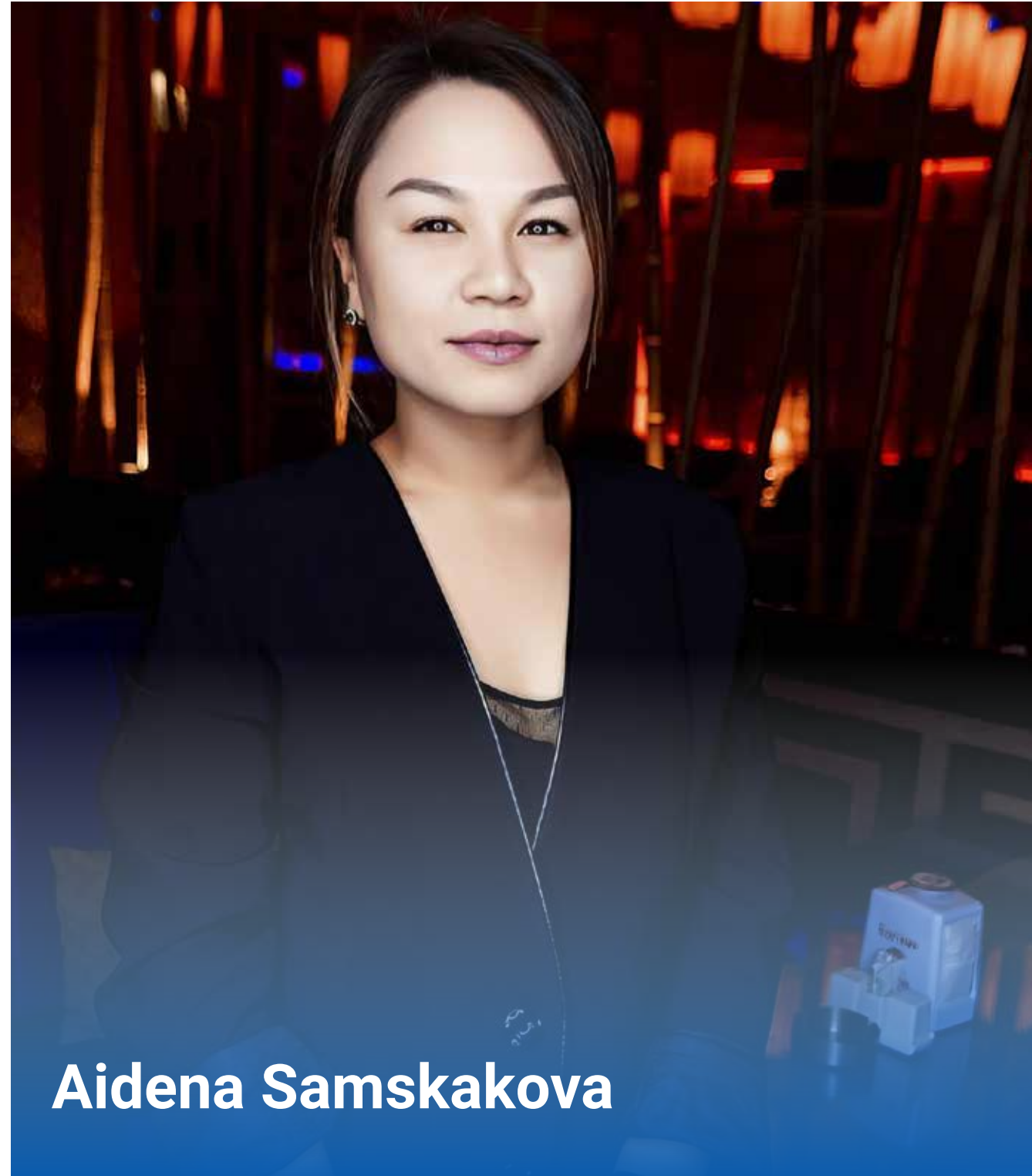
Moderator



Bulat Satarkulov

Media lighting

Organizing committee



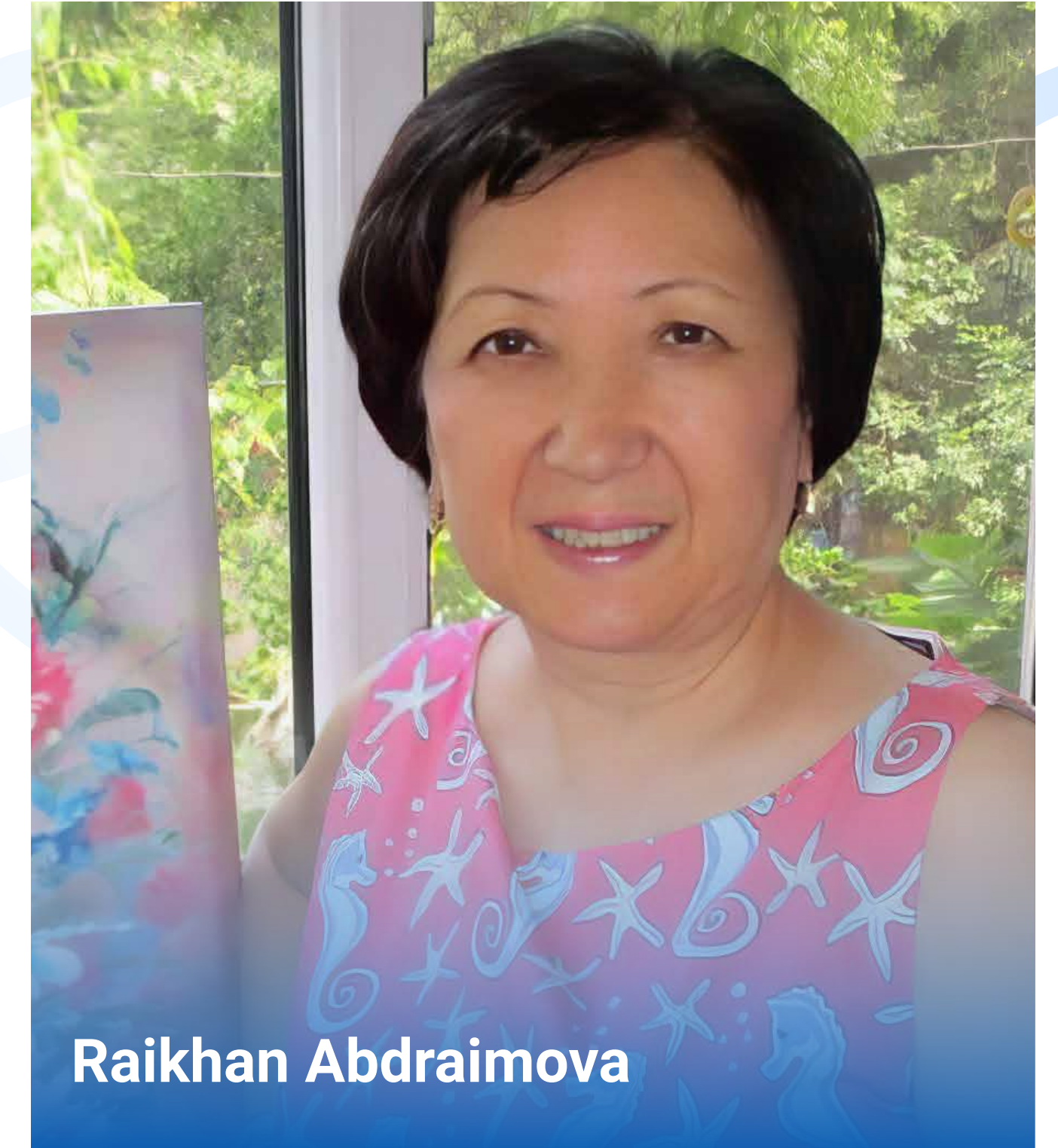
Aidena Samskakova

Accountant BDK



Murat Karypov

Guest Coordinator



Raikhan Abdramimova

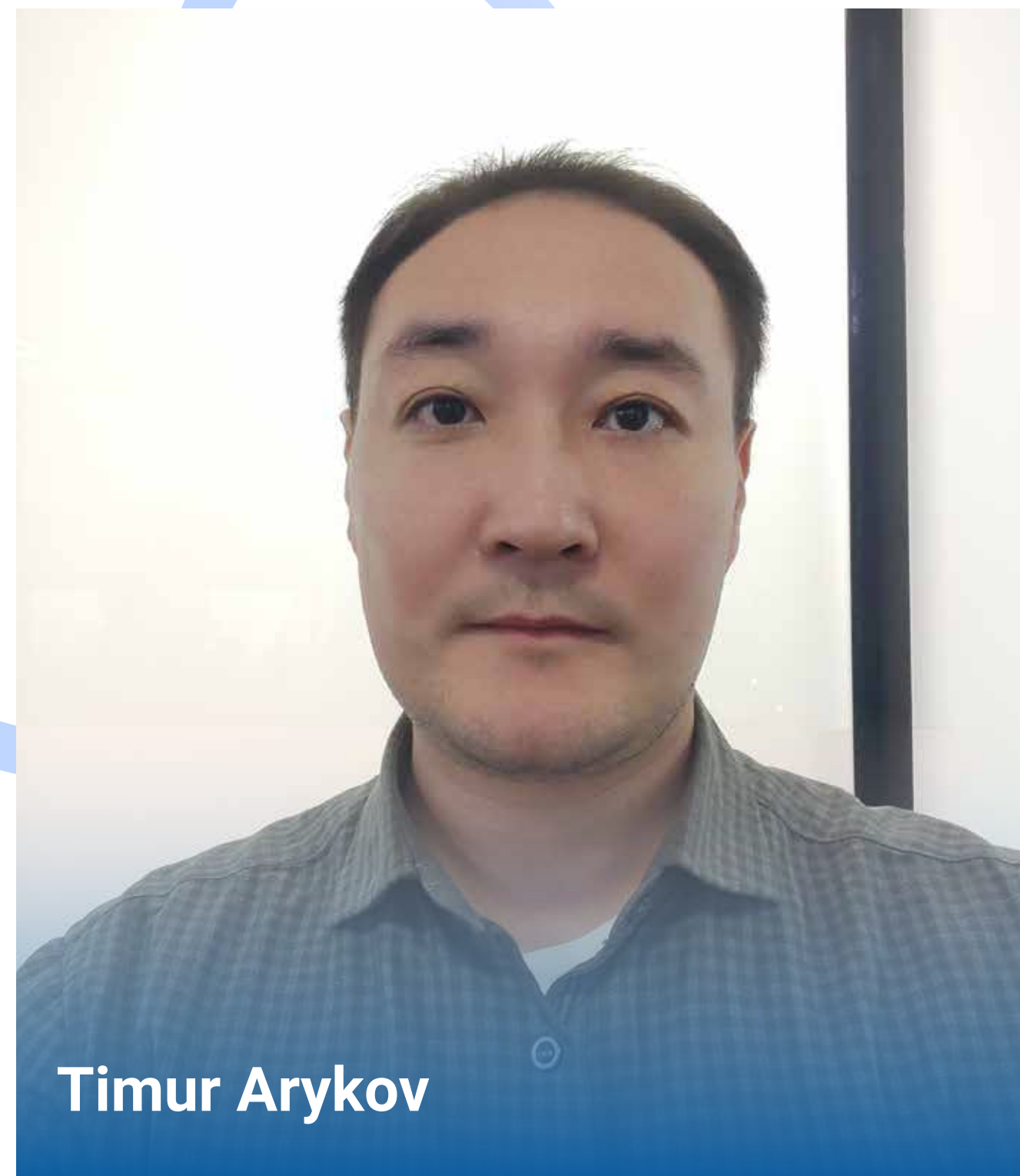
Manager

Organizing committee



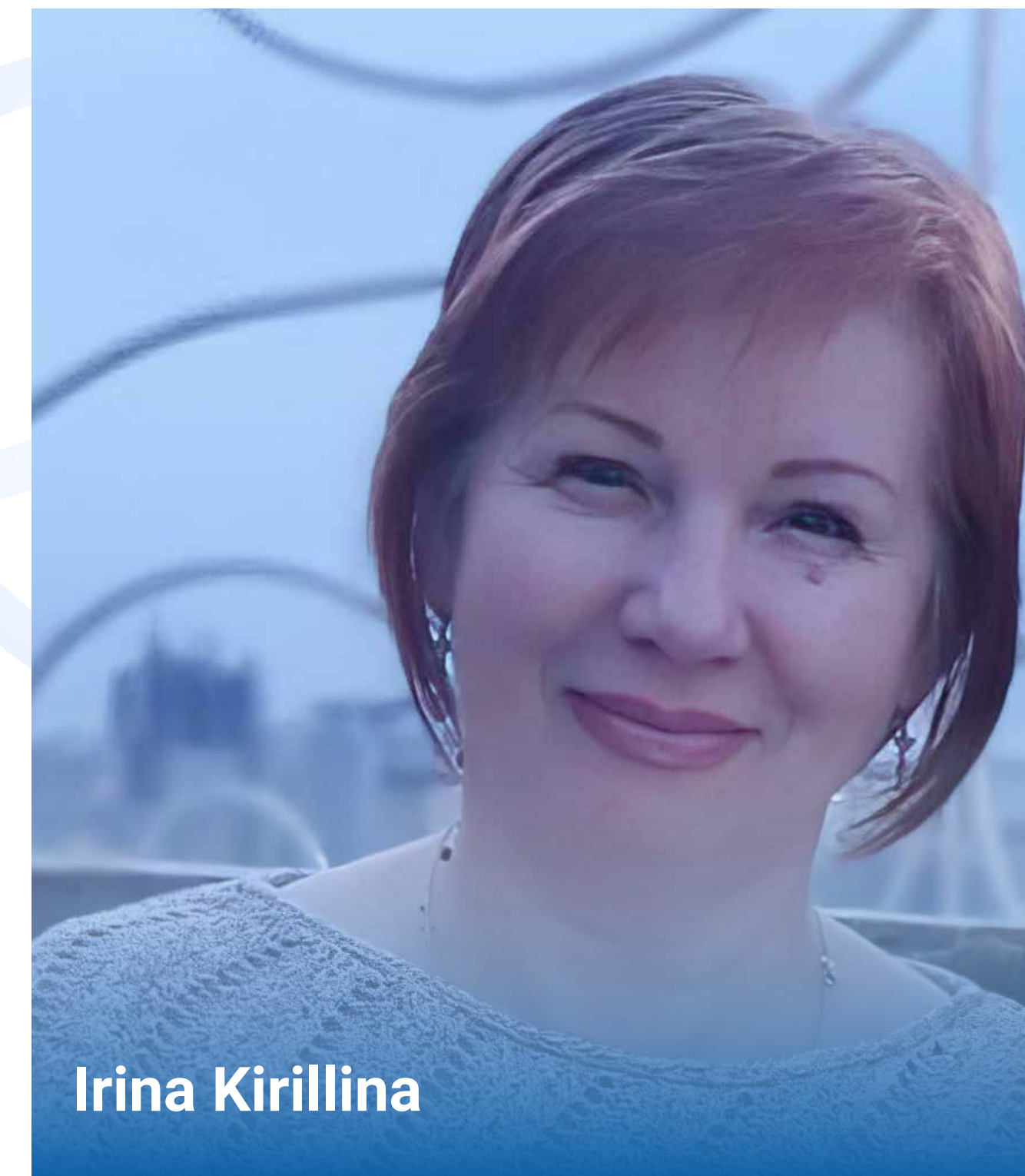
Khusanbai Saliev

**Lawyer of the Osh office
Bir Duino**



Timur Arykov

Lawyer



Irina Kirillina

**Coordinator of Volunteer
movement**

Organizing committee



Asel Juraeva

Technical Specialist



Daria Udalova

Graphic Designer



**TOGETHER FOR FREEDOM,
EQUALITY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!**

The human rights movement “Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan” sincerely believes that the Festival contributes to the development of pluralism and tolerance in society, expanding the political space for active citizens, strengthening the rule of law and justice in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The festival organizing committee of the Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan 2024 invites everyone to partnership, cooperation and participation at the XVIII International Human Rights Documentary Film in 2024!

You can also find information about the festival on the website www.birduino.kg

In case of questions, please contact by email: birduinokyrghzstan@gmail.com

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