

16 Days of activism against gender-based violence campaign

Report

12/25/2014

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Facilitated by UN Women Country Office in the Kyrgyz Republic together with the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls National Movement in Kyrgyzstan

ОТ МИРА В ДОМЕ
ЗА МИР ВО ВСЕМ МИРЕ

16-дневная кампания против гендерного насилия

УЙУМ ТЫНЧ -
ААЛАМ ТЫНЧ!

"Гендердик зордук-зомбулукка каршы 16 күн" кампаниясы

5.11.2014 - 10.12.2014

<http://16dayscwg1.rutgers.edu>



ПОКОНЧИМ
С НАСИЛИЕМ
В ОТНОШЕНИИ
ЖЕНЩИН



<https://www.facebook.com/UNiTEK>





Background: What is 16 Days?

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates November 25- International Day Against Violence Against Women- and December 10- International Human Rights Day- in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels
- strengthening local work around violence against women
- establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies
- demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing against violence against women
- creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women

Over 5, 179 organizations in approximately 187 countries have participated in the 16 Days Campaign since 1991¹.

Background: Country's participation²

Kyrgyzstan participates in the global call since year 1998, thus meaning that it's been 16 years of active engagement of mainly civil society into the raising-awareness actions on EAW (Ending Violence Against Women). Starting from 2012 the active engagement of the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls National movement into the 16 Days Campaign is coordinated by UN Women.

Background: What is UNiTE and UNiTE National Movement about?³

In Kyrgyzstan, the UNiTE campaign "Time to act, Kyrgyzstan" is led by the UN Women Country Office, it is comprised of 38 NGOs as well as officials such as Members of Parliament,

¹ <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/about/campaign-profile>

² <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/campaign-calendar/events>

³ <http://unitekyrgyzstan.kloop.kg/>

representatives of the Ministry of Social Development, the Ombudsman, the office of the President. The movement calls on the government, civil society, women's organizations, men, women, young people, the private sector, international organizations, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing specific problems with regard to violence. In 2010 the United Nation's Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, visited the country and acknowledged pressing issues such as: domestic violence, bride-kidnapping, underage marriages, unregistered marriages, trafficking, polygamy, violence and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, and violence committed by law enforcement officials. The causes were determined to be: inadequacy of policy and legislative enforcement, unemployment, poverty, strictly embedded traditional and religious attitudes towards women, migration (both external and internal), and lack of accountability.

Actions taken by the movement: The UNiTE campaign in Kyrgyzstan included several activities centered on raising awareness of country specific issues to eliminate violence against women and girls. Multiple initiatives within the years 2012-2014 included: football matches, a massive bicycle ride, flag installations (symbolically represented victims of violence), One Billion Rising initiative (dance flash mob), actions in advocating changes to the Criminal Codes on bride-kidnapping and child abuse, innovative initiatives in rural locations, such as blogging on "Voice of Rural Women", a civil society march on and 16 Day Campaign of Activism against Gender Violence.

Achievements of the movement:



- A major focus of the UNiTE campaign in 2012 was to amend article 155 of the Kyrgyz Criminal Code. This movement strongly advocated for a revised legislation that called for more austere charges for bride kidnapping. The campaign hoped to see the average sentence of 3 years for bride kidnapers to be raised to 10 years. UNiTE campaigned to raise awareness on the issue through events (football games, mass bicycle rides and a mass flag installation campaign in Bishkek). Which proved effective when Parliament responded by deliberating on the issue.

The change was initially rejected but when another vote was organised, 63 Kyrgyz Parliament members out of the 75 present voted in favor of the legislation proposed. As a result perpetrators of bride kidnapping can now face up to charges of 7-10 years in prison. The legislation also stresses strict enforcement when bride kidnapping involves under aged girls.



- In 2013, UNiTE continued its efforts in rectifying Kyrgyz Criminal Code to ensure justice for violence against women and girls. The first advocacy event intended to raise the questions of sexual violence against children and their mothers dedicated to Child Defense Day. After attracting the attention of the general public to the problem, the amendments were approved by the Parliament and sanctions for the child abuse were increased from 20 years to life

imprisonment.

- Another advocacy event was dedicated to stimulating public debate on questionable treatment measures initiated by the Kyrgyz Parliament against child abusers. The UNiTE movement succeeded in introducing preventive sanctions instead of chemical castration for paedophiles. The petition with signatures was accepted by the President.

In Kyrgyzstan, the 2014 16 Days against gender-based violence campaign has been organized with support a number of organizations and facilitated by UN Women Country Office in the Kyrgyz Republic. Since the National Movement “UNiTE to end violence against women and girls” in Kyrgyzstan is the main network

Why are we participating? Some fast facts of Kyrgyzstan⁴

- Domestic violence is a common form of violence against women in Kyrgyzstan, the number of recorded acts of domestic violence is generally growing. Various groups of people: women, men, the elderly and children, are exposed to domestic violence. However, women are victims of domestic violence in most cases. Thus, the proportion of women victims of domestic violence is almost 90 percent;
- It is necessary to take into account a steady rise in the number of births by women aged 15-19 years as compared with the general decline in the birth rate in the country. As a result of early motherhood, this category of women faces problems of limited access to basic education and is exposed to a high risk of family violence. Also, during the national consultations on the draft of this review, a high probability of violence against women (representatives of groups such as migrant women, women with disabilities, sex workers and LBT) was noted;
- The problem of domestic violence has been studied in the framework of the 2012 Demographic and Health Survey in Kyrgyzstan (DHSK). The results show that 23 percent of all women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence at least twice since 15 years of age, and 13 percent - during the last 12 months. Among women (who are married or had been married) survivors of physical or sexual abuse inflicted by husbands, more than half (56 percent) stated that they had received physical injuries. Only two out of five women sought help after they have experienced physical or sexual violence;
- Among the types of violence against women, particularly alarming are instances of sexual violence against women and children. Thus, according to data for 2012 the number of reported rapes of minors increased compared to 2011 from 50 to 81 cases, and number of sexual assaults against minors increased from 11 to 25 cases;
- Sex labor trafficking is also a problem. Underage girls and women from Kyrgyzstan are attracted and forced into sexual labor under the guise of being hired as nannies, maids,

⁴ National Review of the Kyrgyz Republic in the framework of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

waitresses, kitchen workers and workers in other spheres. This causes an increase in infectious diseases, unplanned pregnancy, the growing number of orphans, as well as an increase in the number of abortions, thereby damaging women's reproductive health;

- According to research, 60 percent of marriages in the countryside in mono-ethnic areas are accomplished through bride kidnapping (ala kachuu), of which two thirds are performed without the consent of the girl.

16 Days Campaign flow 2014:



The 16 Days Campaign has started with the press-lunch organized with a number of popular media outlets prior to the start of the actions. A press-release (attached) was prepared and disseminated among media. Members of UNiTE Campaign participated in the press-lunch and prepared different statements (attached) related to different forms of violence.

The press-conference as a start of the Campaign was also organized in Osh, where the South members of UNiTE Campaign provided information on problems with gender-based violence in the three oblasts of Kyrgyzstan- Batken, Osh, Jalal-Abad.

The Orange Day <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/orangeday.shtml> was commemorated in Osh with participation of the local activists, students, media representatives. You can see the photo-stream report here: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.754089311337067.1073741848.356579894421346&type=3>.

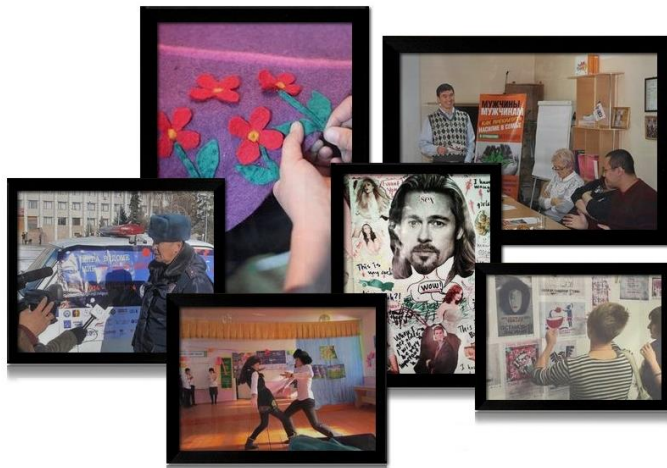




Among the organized actions, Osh partners were the ones strongly mobilized thus most of the activities were organized in the South, and we acknowledge the facilitation The South activities were coordinated by the National UN Women Consultant in Osh Ms. Bermet Ubaidullaeva. A lot of new partners were involved and attracted to the membership of the UNiTE movement, including media outlets.

Different thematic events on the topics like bride-kidnapping, domestic violence, sexual violence, violence against girls, violence against sex-workers, violence against children, peacebuilding and etc., were organized, many of the partners stressed on the innovative ways of raising awareness:

- Graffiti project in Bishkek, that involved the youth into street art on 16 Days and HeForShe Campaign <http://www.heforshe.org/>
- Self-defense project in Osh, conducted by local NGO, on defense tools in case of harassments
- Handicraft project, conducted in several regions of Kyrgyzstan in the frames of Beijing Platform for Action
- Projects on stereotypes with the local NGO in Osh with youth to create handmade graphics on daily gender stereotypes that young people face in their everyday life
- First ever project in the frames of 16 Days on approaching sex-workers in saunas of Osh, the NGO provided the information on what is violence and what the beneficiaries should do if they face any
- Project with involving police in Talas, where the police officers were distributing orange ribbons in support of the Orange Campaign, encouraging people to care about peace in the family
- Project with involving perpetrators of violence- is a unique project Implemented buy the Crisis Center Shans, with the call to men to join the common efforts in combatting family violence
- Video experiment on violence against women in the streets of Bishkek, to showcase the real situation when one faces violence in public- as a result of the experiment, out of 41 only 13 people tried to help the victim
- Project in Naryn, on prevention of bride-kidnapping initiated by Aigul Abdylidaeva, 2014 MSW Candidate from George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, an alumna of the international exchange program funded by the Open Society Foundations.



Video shot: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wLsxYPor_0



Results of the campaign

- **Objective 1:** raise awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at local, national and regional levels

Over 100 activities were conducted within the 16 Days Campaign all over the country, including remote areas

Around **50000**⁵ people were directly informed about forms of violence in Kyrgyzstan and ways of combatting gender based violence, domestic violence, bride-kidnapping, sexual violence, violence against elderly people, violence against children and etc.

Indirect recipients of the awareness raising campaign: radio listeners all over Kyrgyzstan to radio stories, consultations, information sharing, discussions organized by the implementers. Radio channels such as Yntymak Radio, Talas radio, Issyk Kul “Volna” radio, “Retro FM” radio, “Kyrgyzstan Obondoru” radio, radio “Sanjyra”, “Azattyk Radio”.

Newspaper articles released in “Manas Ordo”, “Talasskiy Vestnik”, “Akyikat newspaper”, “Alay Taany”, “Vik”, “Nookat Tany”, “Golos Svobody v Centralnoy Azii”, “Vechenii Bishkek”, “Akipress”, “Akipress Osh”, “Osh Shaamy” and others

⁵ The number of direct recipients was calculated from the reports of the organizers

TV coverage: “Next” TV, “Talas” TV, “Osh Pirim” TV, Osh TV, Yntymak TV, “7-kanal”, “ZhTR”, “KTR”, Batken-TV, Osh Pirim TV, Osh TV, Chagilgan production studio.

Objective 2: strengthen local work around violence against women

Around **300** people were capacitated through trainings, seminars and round tables to take further action in actively promote life free of violence⁶

Objective 3: strengthen youth participation and involvement into the Campaign.

Three Universities (AUCA, Jalal-Abad, Osh State Universities) were involved with a wide range of activities, such as lectures, flash-mobs, trainings and media, blog reporting. Besides that almost all the events were organized and participated by youth.

Civil Society Representatives participated in the Campaign:

1. Crisis Center “Sezim” (Bishkek)
2. Public Association “Women Support Center” (Bishkek)
3. Men’s initiative group “Orange ribbon” together with the Crisis Center “Chance” (Bishkek)
4. Public Fund “Child’s Rights Defenders League” (Bishkek)
5. CACSARC (Bishkek)
6. Girls-activist movement of Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek)
7. Teenage Community Initiative TY4JE (Bishkek)
8. Art-group 705 (Bishkek)
9. Youth Initiative “Aktivist Kurultai” (Bishkek)
10. Bishkek Feminists Collective SQ (Bishkek)
11. Crisis Center “Meerban” (Osh)
12. Public Foundation “Podruga” (Osh)
13. Crisis Center “Ak Jurok” (Osh)
14. Public Foundation “DIA” (Osh)
15. Committee on prevention of violence in the family - CPVF (Osh)
16. The Center for Gender and Psychological Assistance CGPA (Osh)
17. Public Association “New Rhythm” (Osh)
18. Public Association “Iret” (Osh)
19. Regional Public TV and Radio Company “Yntymak” (Osh)
20. Public Fund “Gulmaydan” (Osh)
21. Crisis Center “Aruulan” at PA CWI “Ayalzat” (Osh)
22. Crisis Center “Akytkarachach” under PA “Ene Nazary” (Osh)
23. NGO “Master Radosti” (Osh)
24. Education for Community Development - ECD (Batken)
25. Public Foundation “Omur Bulagy” (Batken)
26. Crisis Center “Janyl Myrza” (Batken)

⁶ Calculated on the basis of the reports from the partnering NGOs in the frames of 16 Days Campaign

27. ADI – Agency of Development Initiative (Batken)
28. Public Association “Unity Alliance” (Talas)
29. Public Association “Human Rights Union” with Public Association “Elnaz” (Talas)
30. Crisis Center “Maana” (Talas)
31. Public Association Center of Civil Initiatives “Leader” (Issyk Kul)
32. Association “Women Leaders of Jalal-Abad” (Jalal-Abad)
33. Crisis Center “Kaniet” (Jalal-Abad)
34. “Women Peace Makers” network (Jalal -Abad)
35. Public Association “Human Rights Union” and members of Women Democratic Network (Jalal- Abad)
36. Public Association “Human Rights Union” in partnership with Public Association “NAOP” (Naryn)
37. Public Association “Human Rights Union” in partnership with PA “Integration of Community” (Naryn)
38. Peace Corps Volunteer PCV (Naryn)
39. American University of Central Asia
40. Osh State University
41. Public Union “Booruker”

Campaign partners in Kyrgyzstan

- **Main resource supporters:** Along with the UN structures (UNRC, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women) several International Organizations financially supported the events organized by the UNiTE movement: **Embassy of Switzerland in the Kyrgyz Republic, Peacebuilding Fund, Asian Development Bank, OSCE Bishkek and Osh offices, European Union, the UN Women National Committee Austria, British Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic, Soros Foundation in the Kyrgyz Republic, USAID, East-West Management Institute and IOM (publications).**
- **Main media partners:** Kloop.kg news agency, Novye Litsa news agency, Novastan, Yntymak TV news agency and others
- **Academia:** within the 16 Days Campaign three Universities – American University of Central Asia, Osh State University, Jalala-Abad State University were mobilized to organize for action. Lecture on 16 Days was organized in both Universities, with participation of International Organizations (Bishkek) and local organizations (“Novyi Ritm” NGO, Osh). Apart from that the media department of AUCA
- **Celebrities:** a group of well-known young celebrities in the sphere of music, sports, famous bloggers featuring in the videos that call youth to participate in the campaign (see links below)
- **Volunteers:** UN Women acknowledge a very strong support from volunteers who contributed vastly in the campaign organizations, monitoring and provided substantial support to the events: Mr. Meder Sadyraliev, Ms. Isabelle Klopstein, Ms. Nasiba Nurmatova, Ms. Gulazor Gulmamadova

- **Privet Sector:** unfortunately this year, the attempts to gain support from the privet sector was not successful. As an example the three prominent approached companies who provide call-phone connection refused to participate in the action after the attempts of UN Women to approach those.

Videos, produced during the 16 Days Campaign:

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjXTz_NJ4LO (video speech by Amal Babadzhanov – singer and model, about the gender based violence in Kyrgyzstan within the 16 days campaign)
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Is7seVlpCdk> (video speech by Aizhana Asemova – model, about bride kidnapping problems in Kyrgyzstan within the 16 days campaign)
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Na2pBawIAdI> (video speech by Eldana Satybaldieva – video blogger, calls youth of Kyrgyzstan to take action against violence in the country, within the 16 days campaign)
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEhiRrojaPg> (video promotion of 16 days campaign against gender based violence)
5. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wLsxYPor_0 (social experiment video done by Unity Fund within the 16 days campaign)
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoKyzPJ-m0o&list=UUpAiZ5K6gS96xixAQkuq0kA> (PSA prepared by Regional Public TV and Radio Company “Yntymak” about violence against children)
7. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYAVaurCNeg&list=UUpAiZ5K6gS96xixAQkuq0kA> (PSA prepared by Regional Public TV and Radio Company “Yntymak” about ill effects of bride-kidnapping)
8. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxrF70nTwx4&list=UUpAiZ5K6gS96xixAQkuq0kA> (PSA prepared by Regional Public TV and Radio Company “Yntymak” about domestic violence)

Links to the media coverage:

Around 60 news articles were released during the campaign on informing the public on the progress of the campaign (the media monitoring report is available with UN Women CO in Kyrgyzstan)

Social and electronic media information flow:

UNiTE Facebook followers <https://www.facebook.com/UNiTEKG?fref=ts> increased from **666 to 770 people**. All the described activities are posted on the Facebook page. The main messages and the press-release can also be found on the UNiTE Blog www.unitekyrgyzstan.klopp.kg

UN Women Country Office in Kyrgyzstan provided the following support:

1. Facilitated the organization of the action in Kyrgyzstan
2. Compiled a list of activities into the 16 Days calendar of events and disseminated it widely
3. Supported the fundraising call among the potentially interested parties
4. Provided guidance in setting the main objectives together with the UNiTE movement
5. Managed the provision of the publications printed in the frames of the campaign
6. Designed the media strategy of the campaign
7. Provided support to partners in making the actions visible to the public
8. Organized the press-lunch prior to the campaign to attract media
9. Designed the press-kit and the branding for the campaign organizers
10. Monitored the events on a possible basis
11. Provided the final feedback and report to campaign organizers and other interested parties

Additional documents attached to the report:

Attachment 1. The 16 Days Calendar (English, Russian)

Attachment 2. Press-release (Russian)

Attachment 3. Statements of UNiTE members for the press-lunch

Attachment 4. 16 Days banner