Roundtable on the Issues in Question in the Sphere of Labor Migration within the Framework of the Big Public Council (BPC) Creation in the Kyrgyz Republic, 11 April, 2013

Roundtable Report

Ourrently, TSPC<sup>1</sup> in the context of its work on human rights, migration, and social protection, under the support of the Open Society Foundations Central Eurasia, runs the Project Protecting the Rights of (2012-2014). The Project aims at raising awareness and promoting the level of debate

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reforms needed in migration policy in Kyrgyzstan. One of the P tasks is the conduction of the series of roundtables and the final conference to expertly discuss the earlier identified best practices and standards for migration policy development. The findings resulting from these events will empower the state authorities, government policy-makers and NGOs of the Kyrgyz Republic with applicable international experience to develop labor migration strategy for better protection of the Kyrgyz labor migrants abroad.

Overall, current governmental regulation of labor migration largely fails to adequately protect external labor migrants. As a result, they have been left to their own fate, with a premium on only money earning over rights and protection. To date no clear policies on labor migration and migrant protection have been formulated at the national level and even on the regional level, and no system has been put in place to regulate the increased flows of labor migrants nationwide and for the region as a whole. The lack of mechanisms to inform migrants of their rights and to protect their rights is an additional barrier.

At the bilateral level, agreements signed by Kyrgyzstan with the receiving countries have yet to be put into full implementing effect and therefore their value is mostly for future migrants rather than for the current ones.

The majority of labor migrants have left their grandchildren with grandparents, thus the problem of obtaining guardianship has emerged. The guardianship should have the temporal nature until parents are back.

## The guardianship

There is no age limitation for gaining guardianship. The telephone of the Ministry to get information and consultation on guardianship is 298526. Methodical guidelines elaborated by the Ministry are already circulated republic wide to all the local representation offices of the Ministry and are used in their everyday work. It is important to overcome the legal illiteracy of the population on the burning problems.

MSPCs which are effectively functioning on the local level are called to assist in it and to play their according role in identifying the children in need in collaboration with the local offices of the Ministry. Currently, Ministry composes the list of children left without parents republic wide. Ministry calls on parents planning to leave the country, first to resolve the issue of the guardianship before departure.

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IOM suggested referring to migration hotline 189, which is the nationwide free telephone line. Free migration consultations are available there. The information on the hotline has to be included in MSPCs consultations held republic wide. MSPCs shall also play its consultative role in distributing the important information to local population saying that Kara-Kol lyceum #14 is inviting all interested people to be trained for the specialty of thatcher, Kyzyl-Kya lyceum #8 trains for the specialty of crane operator, lyceum in Talas trains future beans-pickers