

Mobile Arts for Peace (MAP)

Policy Brief

- DRAFT -

Information about the project

The Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI), together with the University of Lincoln (UK), is implementing the MAP project to work with school youth. The project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Council (AHRC) and Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) in the UK.

The project aims to strengthen peace by teaching youth positive skills to express their own ideas and to promote their stronger engagement in community life through the use of innovative arts-based methods. The main objective of the project is to empower young people to promote intergenerational dialogue between youth and adults for peacebuilding. To achieve this goal, the project seeks to support youth to express their feelings and personal experiences through various types of art including theatre, video, painting, music, and dance.

Brief information about the authors

This draft was prepared by members of the club of young researchers of Secondary School No. 47 in Osh in January 2021. Young club members conducted a study among their peers regarding the problems that affect young people. Together with their peers, they prioritized the problem of violence against the children of migrant workers. The young researchers met with decision-makers and discussed the situation. They analysed the causes and consequences of the problem and developed action plans to prevent violence against migrant children.

An increase in violence against the children of migrant workers.

Situation

An estimated 1,5 million Kyrgyz citizens work abroad. Many migrants have to leave their children when they go to work with their grandparents, or with other relatives. More than 80,000 migrant children are officially registered in Kyrgyzstan. Violence against these children is now an urgent problem. The absence of parents can lead to a number of psychological and social problems.

In many cases, physical and emotional violence against migrant children by relatives results in trauma. Violence is manifested in insults, swearing, threats, isolation, rejection and physical abuse. Such violence affects children's feelings, development and relationships with others throughout life.

Young researchers gathered information on the 13th of April 2021 with the Chief Specialist of the Department for the Development of Social Services for Family and Children of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, B. Todogeldiev. He stated that it is 80 to 90 per cent of children of migrant workers who have been subject to violence. Cholpon Zhumakulova, a leading specialist of the Department for the Development of Social Services for Family and Children said that violence was used against 129 children whose parents left for labour migration.

Causes

- Lack of interaction and communication between children and parents of migrants
- Social norms permitting the use of physical and psychological violence against children
- A high degree of labor migration of parents abroad in search of earnings

- The abandonment of children by migrant parents
- Parents do not issue an official guardianship, registration of guardianship does not work
- A sense of impunity for those who use violence against children
- Little public awareness of children's rights
- Silencing the facts of violence against children by relatives and friends which contributes to an increase in such crimes
- Low level of responsibility of parents in the upbringing of their children

Consequences/Risks

- a) Increased mortality rate of abused children
- b) Low self-esteem of children
- c) Suicide of children of migrant workers
- d) Negative attitudes of children
- e) Violations of the rights of the child
- f) Violence breeds violence (child survivors tend to behave the same way with their own children)
- g) Disability due to exposure to violence

Conclusions

Violence against the children of migrant workers is a pressing issue with serious lifelong consequences. It has a devastating impact on children, threatening their emotional well-being and future prospects. Childhood violence can affect children throughout their lives.

Recommendations

Local governments

- ✚ The local government of Amir-Temur should take on the task of coordinating the efforts of all relevant structures (educational institutions, social and preventive centers, social protection, mosques, law enforcement agencies, parent committees, youth committees) to strengthen the responsibility of parents and establish mechanisms for formalising official guardianship.
- ✚ On an ongoing basis, conduct monitoring to identify the children of migrants, provide them and their families with social and legal assistance.
- ✚ Hold an informational meeting among the population about various types of responsibility regarding the harsh treatment of children.

Law enforcement agencies

- ✚ Hold public information meetings on international instruments and national laws prohibiting violence against children.
- ✚ Promote prevention with parents and their relatives, strengthen measures to protect children from violence and provide assistance to families and children.

Educational institutions

- ✚ Strengthen work with parents on the prevention and prevention of child abuse
- ✚ Strengthen communication between parents of children

Social protection

- ✚ Conducting preventive conversations with parents at risk
- ✚ Interacting with schoolteachers
- ✚ Constant monitoring of disadvantaged families