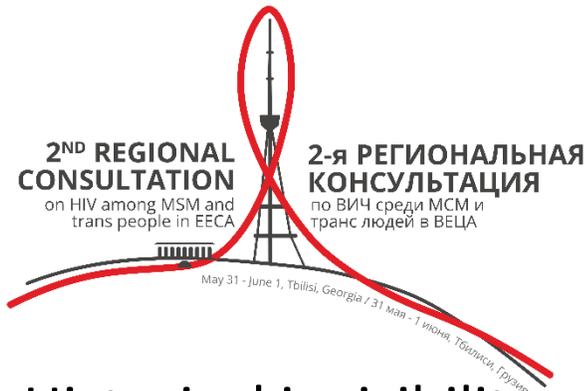


Widening the Rights and Abilities Scope for Trans People in Central Asia: A Prompt Overview of the Legal and Socio-Cultural Situation

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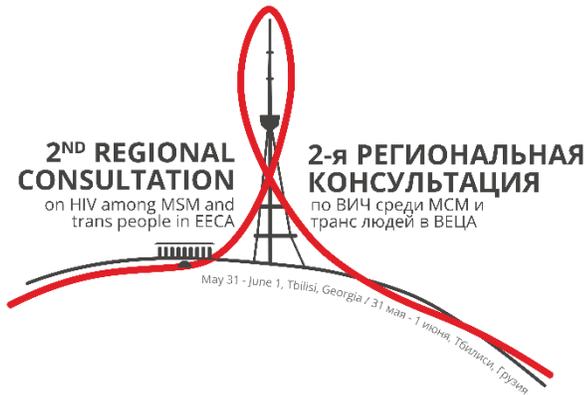


Historical invisibility of trans people.

Contemporary invisibility of trans people throughout the CA: absence of role models, absence of celebrities.

Obstacles for employment, insufficient qualification or skills mismatch: systematic discrimination, envelope wages.

«What will people say» as a predominant concept in building close circle relationships with a trans child/teenager or adult. Attempts of «curing» at doctors, crones, and mullahs.



Legislation

CA: There is no anti-discrimination legislation, SOGI is not mentioned as a characteristic in even a single law or a normative-legal act. In Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, there is a law on sodomy (criminal liability for sex between adult men); there is a law prohibition of gay propaganda awaiting its second reading in Kyrgyzstan.

Kazakhstan: Code on Marriage and Family, Rules on medical certification and gender reassignment conduction for individuals with gender identification disorders

Kyrgyzstan: Law on civil acts

Tadzhikistan: Law on civil acts





Activism

CA: trans activism is present in 3 out of 5 countries; it is episodic and divided. However, it enjoys a fine networking and support from more successful and experienced organisations.

In RK, it is the most strategic and it executes advocacy and service lines of activities.

There are successful cases in RK and KR.

Kazakhstan: Initiative group «ALMA-TQ» a community centre in Astana, Creole Centre (cultural initiative).

Tadzhikistan: Transgender initiative group «Light»

Kyrgyzstan: Trans*advocacy. Inclusion of transgenders as a separate target group - visibility





Evaluation of Demands Across CA

2016

Kazakhstan - 28, Kyrgyzstan - 36, Tadzhikistan - 3, and Uzbekistan - 4.

Research on transgenders' demands across Central Asia for further planning of programs in the fields of social and legal protection, health and HIV/STDs prevention, strengthening of the physical and psychological health, development of the transgenders' potential.

Necessary services:

- Friendly medical specialists.
- Legal aid
- Friendly psychologist
- Secure place for meetings
- Shelter

Secure place for meetings:

- Expensive
- No designated specialist
- No info on doctors

Access to legal gender acknowledgement:

- No necessity (in general or in the nearest future) of a surgical interference
- Absence of financial capability
- Health issues

Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan

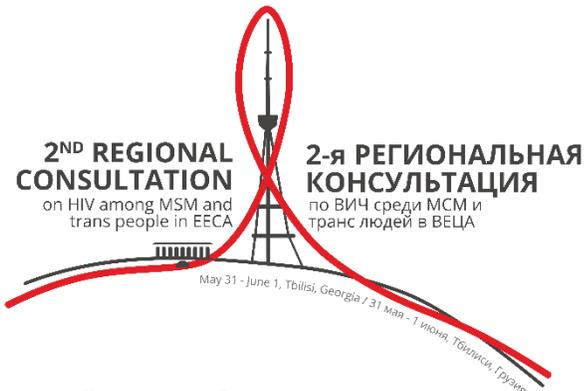
- Absence of institutional support
- Qualified medical personnel
- Raising the awareness in all areas.
- Difficult domestic state of affairs.



Main Challenges for T* in CA:

- Tabooed issues of sexuality and diversity
- «What will people say?»
- Weak activism, which is built on an individualistic approach more than on a systemic and strategic one
- Many challenges and little resources
- Visibility (by documents or appearance) and submission to violence as a result

- Mental health and obstructed access to healthcare specialists



HIV Prevention Situation in Kazakhstan

How often do you get HIV tested?

Regularly, once a few months -

17 people

Once a year - 14 people

Visit on occasion - 19 people

Never - 2 people

Is there a friendly AIDS office in your city?

Yes, I'm attending it - 11

people

Yes, but I'm not attending it - 19 people

No, there is not - 2 people

I don't know - 26 people

Do you know your HIV status?

Yes - 51

No - 7

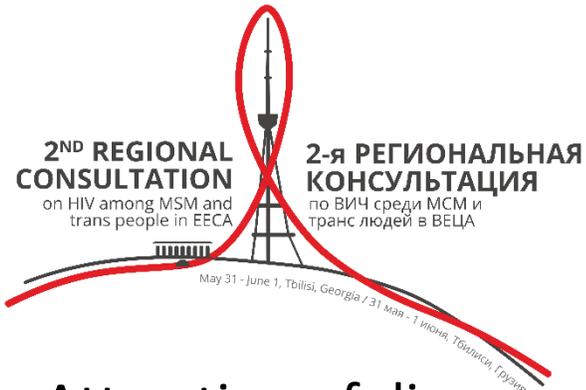
Do you have access to testing, treatment, and prevention of HIV/AIDS or STDs?

Yes, I have free access and I'm using it - 17 people

Yes, there is paid access and I'm using it - 17 people

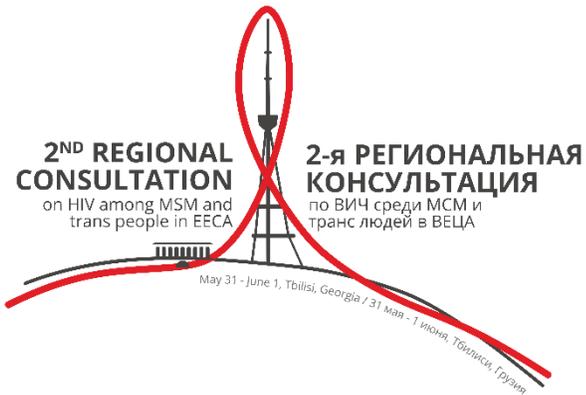
Yes, partially - 19 people

No - 5 people



Recommendations

- Attraction of diverse resources to develop the activist potential in the region;
- Develop the research database;
- Exhibit a personal sensitive and respectable example of attitude to trans communities;
- Endorse trans activism within the HIV and SRHE, as well as in the service and legal protection contexts;
- Educate the law enforcement and healthcare personnel about issues of working with transgender, transsexual, and gender nonconforming people;
- Develop projects aimed only at transgender, transsexual, and gender nonconforming people.



Thank you for attention!

