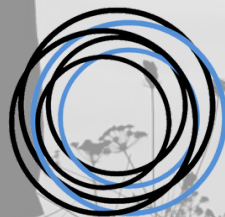


# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPORTING ON REPATRIATION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF CHILDREN FROM CONFLICT ZONES

## DO NO HARM, EXPLAIN!

2022-2023



#PREVENTION MEDIA

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# TERMS AND DEFINITIONS USED



**Children affected by conflict** – children, according to the UN recommendations, who live in the conflict zone not by choice, involuntarily become witnesses as well as participants in the conflict at the will of their parents or guardians replacing them.

**Returnee** – a person who has returned home from emigration; who has returned from conflict zones [1].

**Repatriate** – (from Latin: repatriate) a person returning to his/her home country by way of repatriation [2].

**Repatriation** – the return to the country of citizenship, permanent residence or origin of persons who, due to various circumstances, are in the territory of another state [3].

**Child** – in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child "a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier" [4].

**Social rehabilitation** – a set of measures performed by state, private, and public organizations aimed at protecting the social rights of citizens. The process of social rehabilitation is a process of interaction between the individual and society, which includes, on the one hand, a way of transferring social experience to the individual, a way of including him/her in the system of social relations, on the other hand, a process of personal changes.

**Displaced person** – a person who has moved or is being moved from a permanent place of residence to a new and usually uninhabited place (in our case, camps).

**Refugee** – a person who has left the country in which he/she permanently resided due to extraordinary circumstances.

[1] <https://dic.academic.ru/dic.nsf/efremova/273707/возвращенцы>

[2] [https://encyclopediya\\_prava.academic.ru/5034/Репатриант](https://encyclopediya_prava.academic.ru/5034/Репатриант)

[3] <https://dic.academic.ru/dic.nsf/lower/17950>

[4] [https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl\\_conv/conventions/childcon.shtml](https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/childcon.shtml)

# INTRODUCTION

In the period from 2018 to 2021, relatives of citizens of Kyrgyzstan who are in camps for internally displaced persons and refugees in Syria and prisons in Iraq repeatedly appealed to the official authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic to assist and organize the return of their relatives and friends from conflict zones [1].

Over the years, a large number of reports and materials on the conflict in the Middle East have been published in the Kyrgyz media. According to data from the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018, 850 Kyrgyzstanis left for the war zone in Syria until 2020, of whom 150 were killed there. It is noted that 140 more women are among those held in Syria [2].

While the media of Kazakhstan (Operation “Zhusan”) and Uzbekistan (Operation “Mehr”) [3], immediately after returning began to broadcast the details of the operations [4], then the media of Tajikistan [5] and Kyrgyzstan (Operation “Meerim”) [6], began broadcast limited information.

The return of people from conflict zones and camps for internally displaced persons and refugees causes mixed reactions in Kyrgyz society. On the one hand, there are relatives and loved ones of those who remain in Syria and Iraq, they are supported by human rights activists and some citizens who believe that children and women should be returned from conflict zones, while on the other hand there are opponents of return, as they doubt that returnees will be able to fully undergo social rehabilitation and are not a threat to society [7].

The repatriation of children affected by the actions of international terrorist organizations banned in most countries of the world, from areas where hostilities are taking place, causes acute controversy in society, which does not stop even after humanitarian operations carried out by governments [8].

[1] <https://vesti.kg/obshchestvo/item/82181-roditeli-prosyat-sadyra-zhaparova-vernut-detej-soderzhashchikhsya-v-lageryakh-sirii-i-iraka.html>

[2] <https://vesti.kg/obshchestvo/item/82181-roditeli-prosyat-sadyra-zhaparova-vernut-detej-soderzhashchikhsya-v-lageryakh-sirii-i-iraka.html>

[3] <https://podrobno.uz/cat/obchestvo/uzbekistan-v-ramkakh-operatsii-mekhr-5-vyvez-iz-goryachikh-tochek-95-zhenshchin-i-detej/>

[4] [https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan\\_news/operatsiya-jusan-knb-opublikoval-rasskazyi-uchastnikov-455221/](https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/operatsiya-jusan-knb-opublikoval-rasskazyi-uchastnikov-455221/)

[5] <https://tj.sputniknews.ru/20190501/tajikistan-irak-vernuli-64-rebenka-roditeli-voevali-terroristy-1028811678.html>

[6] <https://rus.azattyk.org/a/vozvrashchenie-domoy-deti-kyrgyzstantsev-vernulis-iz-iraka-bez-roditeley/31154005.html>

[7] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvSGSg7M0Po>

[8] <https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/ru/Пресс-релизы/заявление-представителя-юнисеф-кристин-жольм-о-репатриации-кыргызстанских-гемей-уз>

# INTRODUCTION

A study and analysis of public mood on the eve of the return of the children of Kyrgyzstan from Iraq [2], shows that the role of the media is very important. For the sake of sensationalism, journalists and bloggers, in pursuit of their own ratings, can cause negative reactions in the population.

A neutral position and unbiased coverage of the material is the main task of the journalist when preparing and broadcasting particularly sensitive topics, such as the return of citizens from conflict zones.

The UN notes in its policy documents that the return of mothers with children and orphans recruited and exploited by terrorist and extremist organizations and groups poses certain challenges to government agencies, civic and media organizations.

The role of the media and journalists is crucial in educating citizens about the fundamental rights of children so that repatriated children are not stigmatized further when they return home.

This handbook for journalists and bloggers is a first attempt to develop recommendations and suggestions for correct, in our opinion, reporting on conflict-sensitive topics related to the return of women and children from war zones, based primarily on the international obligations of states to ensure the fundamental rights of children [3].

Our recommendations will help readers better understand and become familiar with the conceptual and categorical framework of words and definitions.

We offer a brief glossary of definitions and concepts. There are also specific recommendations about what can be covered and what cannot be covered under the "Do No Harm" approach.

[1] <https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/ru/Пресс-релизы/заявление-представителя-юнисеф-крюстин-жольм-о-репатриации-кыргызстанских-гемей-из>

[2] <https://rus.azattyk.org/a/vozvrashchenie-domoy-deti-kyrgyzstantsev-vernulis-iz-iraka-bez-roditeley/31154005.html>

[3] <https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/ru/Пресс-релизы/заявление-представителя-юнисеф-крюстин-жольм-о-репатриации-кыргызстанских-гемей-из>

# REPATRIATION IN CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

*Children need to be seen, not just heard.*



Since 2019, Central Asian countries have begun returning their citizens from areas where fighting and war have not ceased. Women and children predominate among the returnees. These are mostly voluntary repatriations from Iraq and Syria, and less often from Afghanistan.

Unprecedented humanitarian operations in Central Asian countries are being implemented under the leadership and control of government agencies. In Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, they have been officially named and fully supported by the state.

All persons returned home as part of the above-mentioned operations provided prior consent for voluntary repatriation. The following data is current as of November 2021.



## UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan returned 531 of its citizens from Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan in several stages as part of the special operation "Mehr" (translated as "Mercy") [1],[2].

[1] <https://prevention.kg/?p=10590>

[2] <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2021/04/30/mehr-5/>

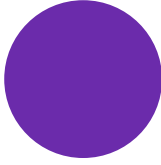


## KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan returned home 607 Kazakhstani nationals, including more than 400 children, from Iraq and Syria in several stages during special operations "Zhusan" (translated as "Wormwood") and "Rusafa" (a women's prison in Baghdad, where mainly people from Central Asia were held) [1],[2].

[1] <https://prevention.kg/?p=10590>

[2] <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/knb/press/article/details/42716?lang=ru>

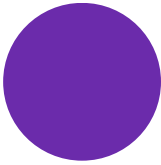


## TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan returned 84 children from Iraq. Tajik officials say that up to 500 women and children from Tajikistan may be in camps for displaced persons and refugees in northeastern Syria. On July 25, 2022, Tajikistan returned 148 of its citizens from Syria, including 104 children. [1],[2].

[1] <https://prevention.kg/?p=10590>

[2] <https://tj.sputniknews.ru/20210204/deti-tajikistan-bezhentsy-syria-iraq-semyi-1032762210.html>



## KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan returned 79 children from Iraq as part of the special operation "Meerim" (translated as "Mercy"). In 2023, 167 children and 70 children were returned from Syria as part of the Aykol humanitarian mission. According to the non-governmental organization "Reach Out for Help"[1], which unites parents of repatriated children, there may be more than 130 women and 400 children in camps for displaced persons and refugees in northeastern Syria. This is unofficial data, unconfirmed by other sources [2],[3].

[1] [https://ombudsman.kg/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2592:в-аннапаме-омбудсмена-состоялась-встреча-с-представителями-общественно-благотворительного-фонда-\"протяни-руку-помощи\"&catid=18&lang=ru&Itemid=330](https://ombudsman.kg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2592:в-аннапаме-омбудсмена-состоялась-встреча-с-представителями-общественно-благотворительного-фонда-\)

[2] [https://kaktus.media/doc/433728\\_v\\_kyrgyzstan\\_odnim\\_reysom\\_vernyli\\_79\\_detey\\_iz\\_iraka\\_foto.html](https://kaktus.media/doc/433728_v_kyrgyzstan_odnim_reysom_vernyli_79_detey_iz_iraka_foto.html)

[3] <https://prevention.kg/?p=11633>

[1] <https://prevention.kg/?p=10590>

[2] <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2021/04/30/mehr-5/>

The Iraqi authorities only allow repatriation of children, that is, persons under 18 years of age, refusing to extradite even their mothers. Repatriated children returned home are permanently separated from their mothers. Under the conditions of repatriation, parents sign the relevant documents, without which the children cannot be returned. This is why almost all countries return only children from Iraq.

The situation is difficult in northern Syria, where the main camps for displaced persons and refugees are located. According to the UN [1], as of September 2021 the largest Al-Hol camp holds more than 62,000 people, 80% of whom are women and children.

According to Save the Children [2] more than 27,000 children are awaiting repatriation, of which 90% are under the age of 12. International organizations working in these camps report cases of child abuse and even cases of deliberate poisoning [3]. The UN expresses its concern about the increasing violence in the camps in Syria, where internally displaced persons and refugees have found shelter, they live without basic amenities, they are starving and freezing. Murders have increased in the Al-Hol camp recently [4].

On 29 September 2021, the UN launched the Global Framework for the Safe Return Home of Persons in Camps in Syria and Iraq. The UN is ready to assist all countries who are ready to return their citizens home [5].

On 22 December 2021, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also called on countries to repatriate their nationals held in camps for refugees and displaced persons in Syria [6]. "The ICRC calls on states to repatriate their nationals, and this must be done in a legal manner, in accordance with certain standards and principles, including support for returning children".

[1] <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2021/09/1410922>

[2] <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/syria-thousands-foreign-children-al-hol-camp-must-be-repatriated-given-coronavirus-fears-0>

[3] <https://prevention.kg/?p=10283>

[4] <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2021/01/1394902>

[5] <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2021/09/1410922>

[6] <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/13265747>

# LEGAL ASPECTS RELATED TO REPATRIATION

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## Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic

### CHAPTER V. CITIZENSHIP. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF A CITIZEN

#### Article 51

1. Citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic is a stable legal relationship between a person and the State expressed in the totality of their mutual rights and obligations.
2. No citizen may be deprived of his/her citizenship. Persons who are citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic shall be recognized as being citizens of another state in accordance with the laws and international treaties to which the Kyrgyz Republic is a party.
3. Everyone who has proved his/her belonging to the people of Kyrgyzstan has the right to acquire citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic under the simplified procedure.  
  
Kyrgyz people residing outside the Kyrgyz Republic, despite having citizenship of another state, have the right to acquire citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic under the simplified procedure. The procedure and conditions for acquiring the citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic shall be defined by the law.
4. Passport of a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic shall be the property of the state.
5. A citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic may not be deported or extradited to another state.
6. The Kyrgyz Republic guarantees its citizens protection and patronage outside its borders.
7. Foreign citizens or stateless persons who were previously citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic have the right to obtain a residence permit under the simplified procedure.



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [1] defines repatriation as the voluntary return of a person to his or her country of origin and subsequent reintegration.

According to international standards, voluntary repatriation can take place in the context of family reunification or even in cases where the child's family cannot be found, on the basis that the child's home state will support and take care of him or her [2],[3].

States are obliged to accept their citizens and cannot force any other state to leave them through such measures as deprivation of citizenship (a state cannot take away a child's citizenship or passport) [4],[5].

Article 4 "On the Principles of Citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic" of the law "On Citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic" [6] adopted on 21 May 2007 (most recently amended on 2 August 2016) emphasizes that "No citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic may be deprived of his/her citizenship and the right to change his/her citizenship".

Article 7 states that "In the absence of a diplomatic mission or consular office of the Kyrgyz Republic in the host state, the protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with international treaties that have entered into force in the manner prescribed by law, to which the Kyrgyz Republic is a party, may be carried out by the relevant authorities of other States".

Article 12 on acquisition of citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic by birth emphasizes that "a child whose parents are citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic at the time of birth shall be a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic, regardless of the place of birth".

Article 18 refers to the retention of citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic for a child in case of adoption, if children have been repatriated by governments of other states, when one of the parents has citizenship of another country.

"A child who is a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic, adopted by foreign citizens or stateless persons or by spouses, one of whom is a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic and the other is a foreign citizen or stateless person, shall retain the citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic".

[1] [https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl\\_conv/conventions/unhcr\\_statute.shtml](https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/unhcr_statute.shtml)

[2] <https://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain/opendocpdf.pdf?reldoc=y&docid=5b571f3b4>

[3] <https://slovar-gumanitarnogo-prava.org/content/article/4/vossoedinenie-semei/>

[4] [https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-ftf\\_handbook\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-ftf_handbook_web.pdf)

[5] <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/russian/monitoring/Rchapter11.html>

[6] <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ky-kg/202103?cl=ru-ru>

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPORTING ON REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION

What terms can be used to describe children and women affected by repatriation? Official documents more often use the wording "children who are in an extremely life- and health-threatening situation and who have the right to protection by the state".

In international documents it is customary to use the words "children affected by armed conflict" [1],[2]. We suggest the following terms, which are the least susceptible to hate speech and do not carry a strong negative context. They are shorter in spelling and quite applicable, and they are also widely used to refer to these individuals, including children.

[1] [https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff\\_handbook\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff_handbook_web.pdf)

[2] <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2021/12/1415262>

# 1

## CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

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Children affected by conflict - children who live in the conflict zone not by choice, involuntarily become witnesses as well as participants in the conflict at the will of their parents or guardians replacing them.

# 2

## RETURNEES

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Returnees – those who have returned home from emigration, from conflict zones. Explanatory Dictionary of Efremova [1],[2].

[1] <https://gufo.me/dict/efremova/возвращенцы>

[2] <https://dic.academic.ru/dic.nsf/efremova/273707/возвращенцы>

# 3

## REPATRIATE

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Repatriate – (from Latin: repatriate – to return to the home country) a person returning to his/her home country by way of repatriation. Unabridged Law Dictionary [1].

[1] <https://jurisprudence.academic.ru/10467/>

Репатриант

# 4

## RETURNING FROM CONFLICT ZONES

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In designating where returnees come from, we recommend using the phrase "returning from conflict zones" instead of "returning from war zones" or "countries where there are wars".

*Children do not ask us to be born, it is we who want their birth, so we cannot demand anything from them.*

*We are the ones who have to help them survive in this world.*

*Children need to be given wings and roots.*

*Wings to fly high, and roots to always have a place to come back to.*

Information documents and materials on women and children returning from war zones should adhere to the norms and requirements of national and international law, based on general human rights principles [1].

The Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges states to take all necessary measures to protect the rights of the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, maltreatment and exploitation. Including children affected by armed conflict [2].

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the recovery and integration of the child shall take place "in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child", that is, where children are seen as "objects in need of assistance and entitled to protection"[3],[4].

The conditions for ensuring the rights of the child certainly include correct informational coverage, taking into account the interests of the child.

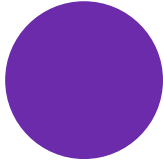
The public interest in the repatriation, rehabilitation, and reintegration campaign for women and children returning from war zones must be satisfied based on the interests and rights of the child.

[1] <http://euro-ombudsman.org/reference/theory/mezhdunarodnuyu-hartiyu-prav-cheloveka-obrazuyut-tri-dokumenta>

[2] <https://www.coe.int/ru/web/compass/convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child>

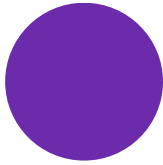
[3] <https://www.coe.int/ru/web/compass/convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child>

[4] <https://www.unicef.org/eca/ru/media/ethical-guidelines>



## **RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Public information should not go against the rights of the child. Any information material, even a brief news article, must take into account the context of repatriated children.

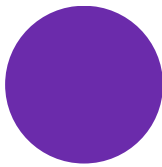


## **GENDER SENSITIVITY**

In reporting on repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration, it is important to take into account the gender aspects of the violence experienced by girls and boys, as well as women. Particular sensitivity in this regard should be given to girls and women affected by armed conflict who have suffered physical, psychological and sexual violence [1],[2].

[1] [https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff\\_handbook\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff_handbook_web.pdf)

[2] <https://www.unicef.org/eca/ru/media/ethical-guidelines>



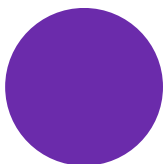
## **CORRECTNESS**

Repatriated children return home without their parents, without their mother, with whom they served prison sentences together or whose parents died. Therefore, when talking and discussing with this category of repatriated children it is necessary to be as tactful as possible, even if the conversation is conducted with the guardian in the presence of the child or without his/her participation [1],[2].

[1]

[https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff\\_handbook\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff_handbook_web.pdf)

[2] <https://www.unicef.org/eca/ru/media/ethical-guidelines>



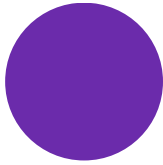
## **AVOIDING HATE SPEECH**

Refrain from accusatory rhetoric and value judgments that contain elements of hate speech, because every child is guaranteed the benefit of the doubt, show respect for his/her privacy and address him/her in an age-appropriate manner [1],[2].

[1]

[https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff\\_handbook\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff_handbook_web.pdf)

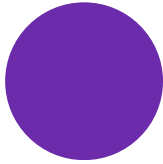
[2] <https://www.unicef.org/eca/ru/media/ethical-guidelines>



## **WHERE TO SEARCH FOR ILLUSTRATIONS**

To illustrate information materials and products, we recommend using multimedia materials from official and reliable sources. First of all, this is the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) [1], which has a large and accessible database of photo/video materials for free use and downloading on its official website.

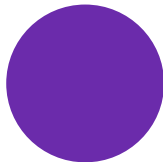
[1] <https://www.unicef-irc.org/search/?q=al+hol>



## **RELIABLE SOURCES**

Use the official resources of other UN entities [1] working with women, refugees, displaced persons, and migrants. Recommended resources also include official websites of government bodies and agencies involved in the repatriation, rehabilitation, and reintegration of women and children; commissioners for children's rights (ombudsman institutions); and other international organizations working with refugees, displaced persons, and children.

[1] <https://news.un.org/ru/>



## **COPYRIGHT**

Pay special attention to the description of photos and videos, they must correspond to the content of your information product.

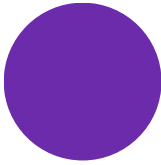
Do not violate copyrights; indicate the authors of photos and videos in accordance with the requirements specified in the description. Use the information resources provided to you correctly, avoid hate speech, stereotypes in descriptions [1].

[1] <https://www.article19.org/ru/resources/hate-speech-explained-a-toolkit/>



## **VISUALS**

Of great importance is the visuals used in the video materials, which can incite the language of hostility and hatred toward returnees. Do not forget that the information coverage should take into account the rights and interests of the child.

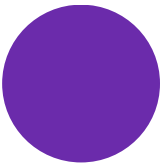


### **PROHIBITED SYMBOLS**

The activities of terrorist and extremist organizations involved in the recruitment of women and children are prohibited in all Central Asian countries [1]. Therefore, any full or partial reproduction of the symbols or actions of judicially banned organizations and movements is punishable under existing laws [2].

[1] <https://prevention.kg/?p=9416>

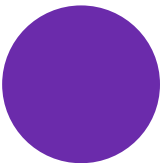
[2] <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/oct/view/ru-ru/1748>



### **PROHIBITED ORGANIZATIONS**

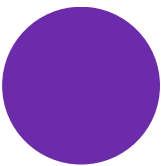
If it is appropriate to mention a prohibited organization, it is obligatory to make an explanation that the activities of this organization are prohibited on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic on the basis of a court decision [1].

[1] <https://prevention.kg/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Список-запрещенных-в-Кыргызстане-организаций-и-движений.pdf>



### **MENTIONING CHILDREN**

We do not recommend mentioning phrases in texts with reference to prohibited organizations and movements when it comes to children. Such references make the material negative in tone, increasing the likelihood of hate speech.



### **PHOTOGRAPHING/VIDEOTAPING CHILDREN**

Photographing/videotaping of women and children affected by special repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration operations should be done with their consent, including that of their guardians. Permission for photographing/videotaping shall be made in writing.

We recommend avoiding direct photographing/videotaping whenever possible to respect the right to privacy and avoid stigmatization [1].

[1] <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/oct/view/ru-ru/17444?cl=ru-ru>

*All children need a little help, a little hope, and someone to believe in them.*

The Code of Ethics for Journalists of Kyrgyzstan recommends the following to journalists: "A journalist should be especially accurate when reporting on issues related to children. To report on the private life of a minor person (persons), a journalist must have permission from his parents, guardians or legal representatives.

It is inadmissible to disclose the names of minors (or to show signs by which they can be recognized) who have been involved in illegal acts, who have become participants in violent events"[1].

It is very important to work with the guardians/ relatives of returnees.

Before photographing/videotaping and interviewing, it is important to give them clear, specific information about goals, topics, and questions.

It is important that they understand and are aware of their actions.

Hate speech has a great negative effect. Article 19 within #ChallengeHate defines it as follows: "It is discriminatory hate against a person or a group of people because of who they are, on the basis of an identifying characteristic recognized in international human rights law.

It is any kind of expression of an idea or opinion to an audience. It can take many forms: written, non-verbal, visual, artistic, etc.

It can be disseminated through any media, including social media and messengers [1].

[1] <https://challengehate.com/ru/what-is-hate-speech/>

[1] <https://journalist.kg/ru/codex/>

# UN RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ACTIONS OF FOREIGN FIGHTERS BASED ON ENSURING THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## Recommendations of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre

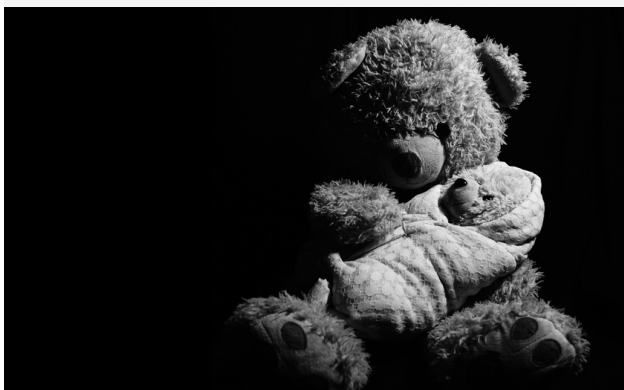


### **CORRECTNESS**

During the interview, do not ask questions that may cause women and children pain because of the trauma they have experienced.

### **FACTS**

Do not ask children to tell a story or take an action that is not part of their own history.



### **STIGMA**

Avoid descriptions that may make women and children affected by armed conflict a target for discrimination and stigmatization.

During armed conflict, children often become victims of violence and abuse by armed groups, including groups designated by the UN as terrorist groups (adapted from the UN Counter-Terrorism Office Handbook), [https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff\\_handbook\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff_handbook_web.pdf)



# CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



**The Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges States to take all appropriate measures for the recovery and reintegration of children affected by armed conflict and to guarantee them:**

**The right not to be discriminated against;  
The right to life, survival and development;  
The right to family; The right to citizenship.**

# UN PRINCIPLES ON RETURNEES

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In accordance with the UN principles on repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children [1], who have not been seriously accused under international and national law, have the following rights [2]:

[1] [https://undocs.org/ru/S/RES/2396\(2017\)](https://undocs.org/ru/S/RES/2396(2017))

[2] [https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff\\_handbook\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/19-22775-r-dpa-fff_handbook_web.pdf)



**THE RIGHT TO LIFE**



**THE RIGHT TO ENTER ONE'S  
OWN COUNTRY**



**THE RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP**



**THE RIGHT TO FAMILY LIFE**



**THE RIGHT TO REHABILITATION  
AND REINTEGRATION**

# SIX PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

The United Nations Children's Fund has developed principles and guidelines to help journalists report on children's issues in a way that enables them to serve the public interest without compromising the rights of children [1]

[1] <https://www.unicef.org/eca/ru/media/ethical-guidelines>

1. Respect the dignity and rights of every child in every circumstance.
2. In interviewing (and reporting on) children, pay special attention to each child's right to privacy and confidentiality, to have their opinions heard, to participate in decisions affecting them and to be protected from harm and retribution.
3. Protect the best interests of each child over any other consideration, including advocacy for children's issues and the promotion of child rights.
4. When trying to determine the best interests of a child, give due weight to the child's right to have their views taken into account in accordance with their age and maturity.
5. Consult those closest to the child's situation and best able to assess it about the political, social and cultural ramifications of any reportage.
6. Do not publish a story or an image that might put the child, their siblings or peers at risk, even when their identities are changed, obscured or not used.

# SIX GUIDELINES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND FOR INTERVIEWING CHILDREN



1. Do no harm to any child; avoid questions, attitudes or comments that are judgemental, insensitive to cultural values, that place a child in danger or expose a child to humiliation, or that reactivate the pain of traumatic events.
2. Do not discriminate in choosing children to interview because of their sex, race, age, religion, status, educational background or physical abilities.
3. No staging: do not ask children to tell a story or take an action that is not part of their own history.
4. Ensure that the child or guardian knows they are talking to a reporter. Explain the purpose of the interview and its intended use.
5. Obtain permission from the child and his or her guardian for all interviews, videotaping and, when possible, for documentary photographs. When possible and appropriate, this permission should be in writing. Permission must be obtained in circumstances that ensure that the child and guardian are not coerced in any way and that they understand that they are part of a story that might be disseminated locally and globally. This is usually only ensured if the permission is obtained in the child's language and if the decision is made in consultation with an adult the child trusts.
6. Pay attention to where and how the child is interviewed. Limit the number of interviewers and photographers. Try to make certain that children are comfortable and able to tell their story without outside pressure, including from the interviewer. In film, video and radio interviews, consider what the choice of visual or audio background might imply about the child and her or his life and story. Ensure that the child would not be endangered or adversely affected by showing their home, community or general whereabouts.

# CONCLUSION

*Every child has the right to a standard of living necessary for his/her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.*

*The principle of ensuring the best interests of the child applies in the Kyrgyz Republic.*

*The Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, 27 Article*

This handbook provides specific recommendations for journalists, media experts, bloggers, civil society organizations, and government press services on how to report on returnees, especially children and women, without infringing on their rights and dignity.

The main principle of this handbook is "Do No Harm" when journalists work in an information space, where an inappropriate or inaccurately said word is a personal insult, and people, as a rule, react very sharply to such blunders.

In essence, it is the work of a journalist with people who are easily vulnerable, who have lost loved ones, who have undergone psychological and emotional trauma, who have seen violence, devastation and hunger.

A journalist must first of all study them, understand their condition. This is a very subtle and sensitive, one might say delicate work in journalism, but it is very important because it increases the social and political responsibility of a journalist.

The target audience of such a journalist is quite picky, an incorrectly spoken word can forever close the "doors" in front of him/her and cause mistrust.

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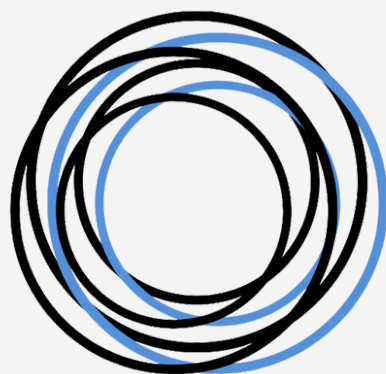
Photos and pictures from <https://www.freestockimages.ru> and <https://www.canva.com> are used for illustration

The handbook uses information resources of the UN System for the repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children affected by armed conflict; materials from official state agencies of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan;

Code of Ethics for Journalists of the Kyrgyz Republic; international and local civil organizations.

Full or partial reproduction, citation of the handbook in the free access shall be made taking into account the interests of women and children involved in repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration, also preserving the author's references to the sources and the handbook.

**The handbook has been prepared by  
#Prevention Media with the support of UNDP in  
the Kyrgyz Republic  
For further questions please contact us by e-mail:  
preventionmediaca@gmail.com**



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