



## Testimonial: Daniyar Orsekov

My name is Daniyar Orsekov, I am an LGBTIQ activist from Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia and a board member of the LGBTIQ organization *Kyrgyz Indigo*, a public organization that supports LGBTIQ communities in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia. Our mission is to promote inclusive, prejudice- and stigma-free understanding of LGBTIQ people in society, and to improve quality of life for LGBTIQ communities through comprehensive programmes aimed at advocacy, promoting human rights, awareness-raising and visibility, and building the capacity of the community and service providers.

Research undertaken by *Kyrgyz Indigo* on violence and discrimination towards LGBTIQ communities found that trans people face the most violence and discrimination, including issues of having their identities recognised, in universities and the workplace. Mass media uses stigmatising language when referring to trans people, and the main aggressors of anti-LGBTIQ behaviour are the militia (police) and family members. Issues relating to physical, sexual, economic and cultural violence are prevalent, in particular with trans men being forced to marry cis men to carry their children.

For HIV research and services in Kyrgyzstan, trans people are viewed as a separate key population, rather than being hidden in MSM research. This makes it possible to raise visibility and build dialogue with state officials, and *Kyrgyz Indigo* has been involved in ensuring that trans people are included in state HIV programs. By including trans people in particular in the state HIV programs, we are ensuring that the different sexual practices of trans people, in combination with transition-related changes, are considered when planning HIV preventative and trans-competent healthcare. In 2020, *Kyrgyz Indigo* and the *Republican AIDS Centre* will be undertaking the first ever Central Asian surveillance research into trans people and HIV!

During the GATE and IRGT workshop, I learned about the TRANSIT Smart Guide, how it was created by the community, and how it went through UN and WHO approval processes. I also gained a lot of insight into different country contexts regarding trans communities through meeting other trans activist at the workshop.

Through sharing information about GATE and IRGT's training on the TRANSIT Smart Guide on social media, explaining what TRANSIT is and offering my consultation services to deliver training in Central Asia, I have received expressions of interest from two countries in Central Asia. I will discuss with two regional networks in Eastern Europe and Central Asia about how to include the TRANSIT Smart Guide into their programs, offering my services as a trainer. I will also ensure that *Kyrgyz Indigo* includes TRANSIT Smart Guide training into their plans for 2020 to train at least 10 trans activists in Kyrgyzstan.

DATE: 26 January 2020

ACTIVITY: TRANSIT Smart Guide Workshop, Mexico City