

**Implementation of the Istanbul Protocol principles –
Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel,
Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment in the Kyrgyz Republic.**

Plenary Session of the OSCE Meeting on Human Dimension

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Good day, dear participants of the meeting!

Thank you to everyone for your willingness to discuss the issues and contribute to its solutions.

I represent the Coalition against Torture in Kyrgyzstan, whose members are 19 non-governmental organizations.

Members of the Coalition are working for already few years to implement international standards for medical documentation of the signs of torture. Thanks to all these efforts of the civil sector, and thanks to the recommendations of international bodies and international human rights organizations, in 2014 Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic has approved the Practical Guidance on Effective Medical Documentation of Violence, Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment. Unlike the original – Istanbul Protocol – the National Guidance includes documentation of not only the facts of torture, but also violence occurring in the so-called "Horizontal level." According to the Guidance, on admission of patients with complaints of violence, torture and ill-treatment, a doctor must fill out the special form of medical examination in triplicate. Original shall be kept with the doctor, one copy is given to the patient, and the third copy shall go to the police within 24-hours from the time of filling. These forms are designed for non-forensic physicians, for experts of forensic medicine and for expert of forensic psychological and psychiatric examination.

Ministry of Health of the KR has approved a plan for the implementation of the Practical Guide, according to which there must be a training process for medical staff on newly adopted standards, as well as duplicating the forms, and also work on inter-agency implementation of the Guidance. At the moment, in these areas there are separate events, and the process is still being not put on the system level.

Our recommendations to the Government and the OSCE participating States:

- Approve the Practical Guidance on the governmental level and implemented it in all eight parallel health care systems, that is, make it compulsory for the medical staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Penitentiary Service, State Committee on National Security, Ministry of Social Development, and others. Because the medical staff in these structures are not directly subordinated to the Ministry of Health.
- Ensure the protection of medical personnel for objective filling the Form of Medical Examination.
- Put on a system level the process of training the doctors and printing the forms.
- We would like to ask OSCE representative also to provide technical support to the Ministry of Health in the implementation of international standards for documentation of torture.