



## Kyrgyzstan Country Report November 2022

Since 2005, the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan) has undergone several changes in government as a result of popular mass protests: first the [Tulip Revolution](#) in 2005, then the [Second Kyrgyz Revolution](#) in 2010, and most recently the [Third Kyrgyz Revolution](#) in 2020.

The third revolution resulted in former political prisoner Sadyr Japarov being elected president and a [new constitution](#). However, the new constitution has resulted in increased presidential power and weakening of Kyrgyzstan's legislative body, known as the Supreme Council.

Women's rights in Kyrgyzstan are severely curtailed. Domestic violence cases are largely underreported. The state [lacks](#) effective law enforcement and the political [will](#) to address gender-based violence. Despite its suppression during the Soviet Union, the Kyrgyz custom of bride kidnapping or *ala kachu* for forced marriages still [occurs](#) despite its official illegality. Women have few [economic rights](#) and opportunities for growth, especially in rural areas, forcing them to be financially dependent on abusive parents, husbands, and relatives by marriage.

Peaceful protesters, activists, and journalists in Kyrgyzstan are frequently arrested on arbitrary criminal charges. In 2022, protesters were arrested for peacefully protesting [Russia's invasion](#) of Ukraine outside the Russian embassy in Bishkek and for protesting Kyrgyzstan's [border demarcation](#) agreement with Uzbekistan. These protests were [explicitly banned](#) by state order. Violations are punishable by fines and possible prison sentences.

In May 2021 and September 2022, Kyrgyz forces clashed with their Tajik counterparts in a conflict over borders in the Fergana Valley, a fertile agricultural region shared by three nations. Each state blames the other for [ceasefire violations](#), [targeting of civilians](#), and [military mobilization](#). Ethnic Tajiks in Kyrgyz enclaves [fear](#) discrimination and persecution.

In 2010, Kyrgyz mobs attacked ethnic Uzbeks in the cities of Osh and Jalalabad. Over 500 Uzbeks were killed, and around 250,000 displaced. Uzbeks continue to be persecuted, like prominent Uzbek activist Azimjon Askerov who was Kyrgyzstan's [longest-serving](#) political prisoner until his death in 2020, officially due to COVID-19 complications, a cause that human rights organizations and Askerov's family dispute.

Hundreds of ethnic Uzbeks have formally [changed](#) their last names to Kyrgyz to evade discrimination. The Uzbek language has been [repressed](#) and denied official status at the public and government levels.

Gender-based violence against women indicates that Kyrgyzstan is at **Stage 3: Discrimination**. Police violence against protesters indicates that Kyrgyzstan at **Stage 3: Discrimination** and **Stage 6: Polarization**. Ethnic violence against Tajiks and Uzbeks indicates that Kyrgyzstan at **Stage 3: Discrimination**, **Stage 6: Polarization**, and **Stage 8: Persecution**.

### Genocide Watch recommends:

- The UN should monitor Kyrgyzstan's border crises and encourage Kyrgyzstan to establish a sustainable ceasefire with Tajikistan and an equitable border demarcation agreement with Uzbekistan.
- The government of Kyrgyzstan should abide by Chapter 3, Articles 37 through 39 of its 2021 constitution which guarantees the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.
- Kyrgyzstan should strengthen its commitment to international women's rights treaties and legally address cultural impunity that tolerates domestic violence, with active monitoring by UN Women.