

Galina Kolodzinskaia

Graduate Student at the GCSP and the University of Geneva

Specialist on Religion, Politics, and Security



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Geneva Centre for Security Policy Maison de la paix
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Executive Director "Interfaith Council"

01/2013 – 09/2018

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

"Interfaith Council" in Kyrgyzstan is the inter-religious dialogue platform working on the building of inter-religious dialogue and tolerance between religious communities, promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief and help to socio-vulnerable groups of the population.

Achievements/Tasks

- Researched, monitored and documented Freedom of Religion or Belief violations and related human rights issues in Kyrgyzstan;
- Advocated and promoted Freedom of Religion or Belief through national and international mechanisms of human rights protection;
- Facilitated inter-religious dialogue and peace-building at the local and national levels in Kyrgyzstan among religious leaders of various faith traditions;
- Assisted in the development of legal reforms on state policy on religion, national strategy, programme, action plan on countering/preventing violent extremism;
- Designed, managed, monitored and evaluated projects, and drafted donor reports, identifying new key areas of concern through monitoring of developments in law, policy, and practice related to Freedom of Religion or Belief in Kyrgyzstan;
- Conducted assessments and consultations with relevant state bodies in Kyrgyzstan;
- Planned conferences, round-tables and workshops;
- Participated in relevant meetings and represented "Interfaith Council" at conferences, meetings and events as appropriate.

Contact: Vladislav Hegay, IFC Chairman – hovlad@gmail.com, +(996) 555 74 65 08

Project Assistant "Open Viewpoint"

02/2015 – 01/2016

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

"Open Viewpoint" is a local NGO working on the promotion of human rights with a focus on monitoring and documentation of violations in the spheres of Freedom of Association, Freedom of the Media, Freedom of Religion or Belief in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

Achievements/Tasks

- Collected, registered, reported and maintained information on Freedom of Religion or Belief and related human rights issues and inter-religious conflicts in Kyrgyzstan and the Central Asian region;
- Advocated Freedom of Religion or Belief in Kyrgyzstan at the local, national, and international levels including special rapporteur and individual complaint procedures, submission of shadow reports on ICCPR and ICESCR;
- Prepared project reports, assisted in planning, coordinating and developing project budgets in close cooperation with the NHC Coordinator for Central Asia, Project Manager and Financial Manager;
- Prepared and coordinated conferences, round-tables and workshops;
- Maintained contacts with other relevant international organisations, European diplomatic representations and NGOs with focus on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Contact: Lene Wettland, NHC Coordinator for Central Asia – lw@nhc.no, +47 976 97 553

SKILLS

Computer skills: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access, Outlook, Inoreader

Communication skills: work experience in multi-cultural environment, conflict management, strategic communications

Leadership skills: team-building, strategic thinking, risk management

EDUCATION

MAS in International and European Security University of Geneva/ Global Studies Institute

10/2018 – 05/2019

Courses

- Thesis: "The Religion and Security Index: a Prototype for the Post-Communist States of the OSCE"

MA in Politics and Security - (summa cum laude)

OSCE Academy in Bishkek

09/2016 – 12/2017

Courses

- Thesis: "Religion and the Burden of Homo Sovieticus: An Archival-based Study of Soviet Policy on Religion in Kyrgyzstan, 1917-1991"

BA in Religious Studies - (summa cum laude)

UNESCO Department on World Culture and Religions, Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University

09/2007 – 06/2012

Courses

- Thesis: "Milleniarism: Historical Retrospective and Modern Perspective"

LANGUAGES

Russian



English



French



INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Intern

Aleksanteri Institute, Helsinki/ Finland

08/2017 – 10/2017

Eeva Korteniemi, Planning Officer –
eeva.korteniemi@helsinki.fi, +35 85 04 15 05 71

WORK EXPERIENCE

Country Consultant

European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL)

01/2011 – 01/2013

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan/Oslo, Norway

ECRL is one of five regional Inter-religious Councils within the Religions for Peace Global Network. Religions for Peace – accredited by the United Nations – is known as the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition advancing common action for peace since 1970.

Achievements/Tasks

- Monitored the socio-political situation in Kyrgyzstan and reported on significant developments and politically sensitive issues to the ECRL General Secretary;
- Maintained regular contacts with the religious leaders, relevant government authorities, civil society, and international organisations to facilitate inter-religious dialogue building in Kyrgyzstan;
- Coordinated the preparation of the ECRL conferences, round-tables and workshops in Kyrgyzstan;
- Provided assistance on administrative and logistics matters to the ECRL General Secretary in Kyrgyzstan;
- Managed ECRL projects related to the inter-religious dialogue and Freedom of Religion or Belief promotion in Kyrgyzstan.

Contact: Stein Villumstad, ECRL Secretary General (2011-15) – svillums@hotmail.com, +47 91 87 92 56

Expert

State Commission on Religious Affairs in the Kyrgyz Republic (SCRA)

09/2010 – 01/2011

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The SCRA is the government body responsible for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the state policy on religion in Kyrgyzstan.

Achievements/Tasks

- Monitored and analysed the situation in religious affairs in Kyrgyzstan with a focus on hate speech and incitement to violence on grounds of religion;
- Developed reports, memos and talking notes for the SCRA director on the religious situation in Kyrgyzstan;
- Compiled the digest on the topic of religion discussed in the Kyrgyzstani mass media;
- Assisted in the preparations and hosting of conferences, round-tables, and seminars held by SCRA.

Contact: Bolotbek Abdrakhmanov, SCRA director (2010-11) – b.abdrahmanov@mail.ru

CERTIFICATES

Certificate in Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Training Course (05/2019 – 06/2019)

Freedom of Religion or Belief Learning Platform, NORFORB

Certificate in Leadership in International Security Course (10/2018 – 05/2019)

Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Geneva

Certificate in Design, Monitoring and Evaluation for Programming in Fragile Environments (02/2019 – 02/2019)

United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)

Certificate in Project Management (11/2017 – 01/2017)

OSCE Academy in Bishkek/ OSCE Programme Office, Bishkek

Certificate in Economics and Sustainable Development (05/2017 – 05/2017)

GIZ Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek

Certificate in Women Preventing Violent Extremism (06/2015 – 06/2015)

United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, San Francisco

Certificate in International Standards on Freedom of Religion or Belief (02/2015 – 02/2015)

OSCE/ODIHR, Bishkek

Certificate in International Human Rights (04/2013 – 04/2013)

Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Oslo

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Intern

State Commission on Religious Affairs in the Kyrgyz Republic

06/2010 – 07/2010

Bolotbek Abdrakhmanov, SCRA director (2010-11) – b.abdrahmanov@mail.ru

PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Handbook on Freedom of Religion or Belief in the Kyrgyz Republic

Author(s)

Kabak, D., A. Esengeldiev and G. Kolodzinskaia

Date of Publication

Bishkek, 2015

Shadow Report

Alternative Report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Kyrgyz Republic

Author(s)

Kabak, D. and G. Kolodzinskaia

Bishkek, 2015.

Shadow Report

Alternative Report from the Open Viewpoint Public Foundation on the Kyrgyz Republic's Implementation of Provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Related to Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion

Author(s)

Kabak, D., G. Abdirasoulova and G. Kolodzinskaia

Bishkek, 2014.

HONOR AWARDS

Presidential Scholarship (09/2011 – 06/2012)

Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, Kyrgyzstan

Top GPA Award (09/2016 – 12/2017)

OSCE Academy in Bishkek

REFERENCES

Dr Philipp Fluri, Executive-in-Residence, Global Fellowship Initiative, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

p.fluri@gcsp.ch – +47 22 730 96 00

Ed Brown, General Secretary of Stefanus Alliance International

ecb@stefanus.no – +47 97 72 50 15

Kubanichbek Abakirov, Expert of the Department on Civil Development, Religious and Ethnic Policy under the President Office of the Kyrgyz Republic

abakirov.k@mail.ru – +996 772 19 53 46

Christer Daelander, Religious Freedom Representative at European Baptist Federation

christer.daelander@equemeniakyrkan.se – +46 76 505 31 80

Alexander Wolters, Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek

a.wolters@osce-academy.net – +996 312 54 32 00 (ext. 103)