



Tolekan ISMAILOVA

Vice President

Director of the Human Rights Movement Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan

Profession: Philologist

Nationality: Kyrgyz

Date and place of birth: June 17, 1954, Kyrgyzstan

Languages: Kyrgyz, Russian, English

Areas of specialization: Human rights and democracy

Awards: French Republic Prize "Freedom, Equality and Fraternity" in 2009.

Tolekan Ismailova is a human rights defender, and the founder of NGO Forum which, together with other NGOs, has lobbied in Kyrgyzstan's Parliament for the adoption of the first Law on the formation of NGOs, in 1999.

In December 1998, Tolekan contributed to the creation of the Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society, bringing together hundreds of NGOs and active citizens demanding transparent elections. She was elected the first President of the Coalition from December 1998 to March 2002. As a result of the Coalition's actions, independent candidates entered the Parliament for the first time in the history of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In May 2000, a network organization "Citizens against corruption" was also created, uniting 65,000 activists to form what has now become the "Human Rights Movement: Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan". Its mission is to inform about the rights of vulnerable groups, promote women's leadership, reform the penitentiary system and the criminal law and defend well-known human rights activist Azimjan Askarov and victims of the June 2010 conflict.

"Citizens against corruption" team is a founder of the International documentary human rights film festival "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan" from September 2007, it is a large Platform for young filmmakers and activists from different countries.

The "Human Rights Movement: Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan" is a member of the platform "Central Asia on the Move", which focus on migrants rights.

In September 2012, following the projection of the documentary "I'm gay, I'm a Muslim", KR intelligence agencies declared Tolekan an "extremist and promoter of inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflicts". Tolekan and her family were harassed.

Tolekan is a honorary member of the International Youth Movement. She was elected Vice-President of the International Federation for Human Rights in May 2013.