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## Research Workshop Report

# Protecting Rights of Kyrgyz Labor Migrants: Identifying Key Challenges

Supported by a grant from the Open Society Foundations

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# Introduction

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# Research Workshop Proceedings

## Opening Remarks

The research workshop was opened by Rodger Wilson, Executive Director of the Humanitarian Policy Centre, who welcomed all participants and introduced them to the Centre and its framework and publications, to the migration project 'Protecting the Rights of Migrants: A Policy Analysis, Public Outreach and Stakeholder Dialogue to Mobilise Action towards Reform' and the workshop objectives and the program. At the end of his welcoming speech the Director expressed confidence in holding productive discussion at the workshop.

## (Session I) Protection of Migrant Rights

The session began with several presentations and an introductory briefing on migration issues. The key topics discussed in the workshop were the abuse by employers and recruiting agencies, xenophobia and discrimination, and lack of access to basic services. The cross-cutting themes discussed at both sessions were diaspora and business communities and their role in migrants; rights protection. Adoption of new technologies was another common theme throughout the whole discussion.

Migrant workers face discrimination in employment in terms of poor work conditions, withholding of passports and documents, nonpayment for services or long delays in payment, violence or threats against them (illegal registration, fraudulent work permits, and deceptive advertising were listed among the causes and consequences of mistreatment of migrants). Moreover, their discrimination leads to migrants working in hazardous or abusive conditions.

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## Session II) Social Protection and Diaspora

The second Session 2as devoted to the issues of migrants; social protection and their access to





than one million Kyrgyzstani labor migrants stay and work in the EU which allows them to help their families in Kyrgyzstan significantly. The EU provides the opportunity for Kyrgyzstanis to earn their living at a time when the Kyrgyz government cannot provide them with jobs and support. Some participants expressed dissatisfaction that it appears to many that Kyrgyzstan seems to be concerned about its migrants only at the time of elections.









What are the key challenges, opportunities and methods for better engaging the diaspora networks, progressive business leaders and companies in



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"Protecting Right of Kyrgyz Labor Migrants: Identify