



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM CA PHOTOSTORY PROJECT

Migrants: An Invisible Force in Central Asia



The project gives voice to the people of Central Asia to tell us what migration means through their photos and their stories. In a region where human mobility was always part of their nomadic life, modern citizens of Central Asia are becoming citizens of the world through migration within the region and beyond. Their migration stories depend on the choices they make and the challenges they encounter, on how they engage in the societies they join, and how societies receives them, on their search for a better life with dignity and respect of their rights.

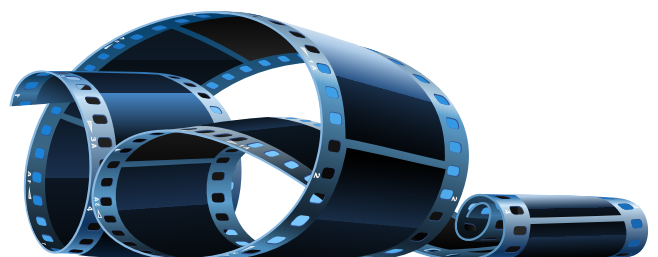
IOM/The UN Migration Agency, Sub Regional Coordination Office for Central Asia, the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration, is launching the IOM Central Asia (IOM CA) PhotoStory Project -Migrants: An Invisible Force in Central Asia. The project is part of the overall regional awareness raising campaign component of the US funded project by BPRM-PIM "Addressing Migration Movements through capacity building in Central Asia".

The project will include two elements: **photography** and **story writing**, aiming:

i/ to engage Central Asian citizens, University students and Artists & Photographers, by launching an open call and offering an award to both categories;

ii/ to promote the dialogue between the image and story writing by asking from both categories to provide a text which will describe their series or explain their concept as part of their submission, and

iii/ to emphasize the narrative force of the image by inviting two Central Asian writers to reflect and write on the winning photos.



THE PHOTO AWARD

IOM CA launches a photography award and invites University Students and Artists & Photographers (citizens of Central Asia) to submit photographs related to the theme **Migrants: An Invisible Force in Central Asia** until the 10th of May 2017.

THEME

Central Asia has been a crossroads of goods and people from the days of the Silk Road. Today hundreds of thousands of people move daily across the international borders in search of employment and opportunity, while millions of Central Asians work abroad and remit funds to their families. Migrants are an invisible force which is not always acknowledged. Their presence enriches the countries they reside by their contribution in cultural, social and economic activities. All photographs revealing this underlying power in a realistic or symbolic form are welcome.

HOW TO ENTER

Only Central Asian citizens residing in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) are **eligible** to submit original photography to one of two categories:

(i) University Students

- **Eligibility** Any Central Asian university student (ages 18-26)
- **Portfolio** A series of five (5) pictures taken with mobile phone cameras related to the theme. A short abstract/story accompanying the photographs (max.150 words) in Russian or in English. The text may be a story related to the series or the concept that lies behind them.

(ii) Artists & Photographers

- **Eligibility** Any Central Asian professional artist who earns, or has earned, the majority of their living from artistic activity. No age limit.
- **Portfolio** A series of 10-15 works and a short text accompanying the photographs (max.250 words) in Russian or in Russian. The text may be a story related to the series or the concept that lies behind them.

To see more technical info for both categories and to download the submission form please visit photostory.iom.kz.

THE AWARD

University Students

There will be **two winners** in this category. The award for the first winner and second winner will be a 4 to 6- months paid internship at IOM in Central Asia. During their internships the aim will be for both students to work together to create an online photo-book on migration themes based on IOM's activities in Central Asia.

Artists & Photographers

There will be **three winners** in this category. The first winner will have the opportunity to present his work at Central Asia cities (Almaty, Astana, Bishkek, Dushanbe and others), travel to the openings of the exhibitions and also be one of the key speakers at IOM's open discussions. IOM will work with the photographer for the creation of an IOM CA photo-book. IOM will work closely with its partners to identify residency and other possible opportunities for the professional development of the winning photographer. The **second and the third winners** will have their works produced by IOM CA and presented in the travelling exhibitions.

STORY

Two Central Asian writers will reflect and write on the series of the winning photographs from both categories, the University students and the Artists & Photographers.

The texts will be their **own original work** on the winning photographs without having seen the photographers' texts. In that manner a "third" art work, so to speak will be created, which will result from their reaction to the images.

The text can be a poem, a short description of the image or even of one detail that has struck them. The aim of bringing story writing hand in hand with the image is to underline the openness of the photograph to different interpretations and its own "invisible power" to stimulate the imagination.

EXHIBITIONS

The outcome of the project will be a **traveling photography exhibition** in Central Asia cities (Almaty and/or Astana/Kazakhstan, Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan, etc) where photographs and texts will be presented: the photographs and the texts of the winning photographers (both categories) as well as the writers' works on the winning photographs. An open discussion with relevant stakeholders will be organized ad hoc with each exhibition.

For the **Artists & Photographers'** category the **jury will select three finalists** and their works, as well as their texts, will be printed and showcased as part of the travelling photography exhibition.

For the **University students** category the **jury will have to select a short-list of ten students and then decide on two winners**. The works of the ten shortlisted students and extracts from their texts will be presented in a photo-projection, which will also be part of the travelling photography exhibition

For further information please visit photostory.iom.kz or contact iomalmaty@iom.int.



The IOM CA PhotoStory project is organized within the framework of the project "Addressing Migration Movements through Capacity Building in Central Asia" Phase III funded by the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, Government of the United States (PRM-PIM USA)