





# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER **KYRGYZSTAN**

Gulzar Duishenova is a fighter. In 2002, she lost movement in her legs after a car accident involving a drunk driver. The next year, her husband died suddenly and she became the sole carer for her two young children. But she never let it defeat her.

Years later, she met other people living with disabilities who were organizing in the capital city of Bishkek. She realized they faced common problems, including struggling to find jobs because work places aren't adapted for



wheelchairs, or relying on others to lift them on to buses – an embarrassing and intrusive experience.

She's made it her life's mission to ensure people with disabilities can live with dignity and move around freely. She's met officials, organized training for bus drivers and pushed for action on social media.

But she continues to face barriers. She needs help to get down the stairs to her front door. Her road is pot-holed and bumpy, so she can't push her wheelchair. She faces daily discrimination in a society where women aren't meant to speak out and people with disabilities are seen as "invalids" with an incurable disease.

But Gulzar refuses to be silenced. Let's support her today.



## WRITE TO KYRGYZSTAN'S **PARLIAMENT**

Tell the speaker of parliament to support Gulzar and other activists as they fight for the rights of people with disabilities. The parliament must ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to help address discrimination and improve access to health, buildings, jobs and transport.

#### Speaker of Parliament

Chui Prospekti, 205 **Bishkek** Kyrgyzstan 720000

Email: kenesh001@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Speaker

### **SHOW YOUR SUPPORT** FOR GULZAR

Send your messages of solidarity, so she knows we support her fight for a world where people with disabilities can live with dignity.

#### Gulzar Duishenova

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