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Request for Responses on Children with Disabilities

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May 21, 2020

Reference № 13/20-2105

Mr. Aidarbekov Chingiz Azamatovich
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
Erkindik Boulevard 57, 720040 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

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Dear Minister Chingiz Azamatovich,

On behalf of Human Rights Watch, please accept my regards.

As you know, Human Rights Watch is an independent international organization that works in over 90 countries to defend people's rights.

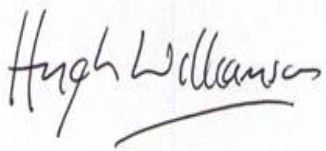
We recently conducted research on the rights of children with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. Our research revealed human rights abuses in institutions and special residential schools for children with disabilities. We also found that children with disabilities who still live with their families face discriminatory barriers when attempting to access quality, inclusive education. Since October 2019, we have conducted over 120 interviews with children with disabilities, their parents, experts, and disability rights groups on this subject. We plan to publish our findings in a report later this year.

Human Rights Watch kindly requests the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in distributing the attached letters with our preliminary findings and requests for information to the following Kyrgyz Republic ministries: the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor and Social Development, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Justice. We request that you forward any responses to these questions from the ministries to us. Responses from government officials will inform our findings and will be reflected in our report. In order to ensure adequate time to reflect your views, we kindly request that you send us any responses by June 15, 2020.

Please send any responses to my colleague in Bishkek, Ms. Aichurek Kurmanbekova (at kurmana@hrw.org or by mob. 0555991023), or Ms. Laura Mills in New York at millsl@hrw.org +1-917-836-9883. Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kurmanbekova or Ms. Mills with any questions in the meantime.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh Williamson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Hugh Williamson
Director, Europe and Central Asia Division
Human Rights Watch