

On October 4, 2015 parliamentary elections will be held in Kyrgyzstan¹.

The Parliament is a legislative body. The laws adopted by the Parliament will directly influence the lives of women and men, children and youngsters as well as the representatives of all groups of population of the country.

Active participation of women in elections is a contribution to fair and good governance in the country for the benefit of all citizens.

Politics is not an exclusively male business. The status or position of women in politics, social, family and personal areas are closely interlinked.

This publication is not meant for campaigning for a certain candidate or a party. It aims at helping women voters of Kyrgyzstan make a **free and informed choice**. Participation in voting is a right and not an obligation. Women's voice will only be heard if they vote.

Follow your voice!



National information campaign "Follow your voice!" is aimed at drawing attention to the issue of participation of women in the electoral process and awareness of the importance of women's political participation. The campaign is conducted by a network of non-governmental organizations of Kyrgyzstan with the support from UNDP and UNICEF project "Women as Peaceful Voters and Women as Candidates".

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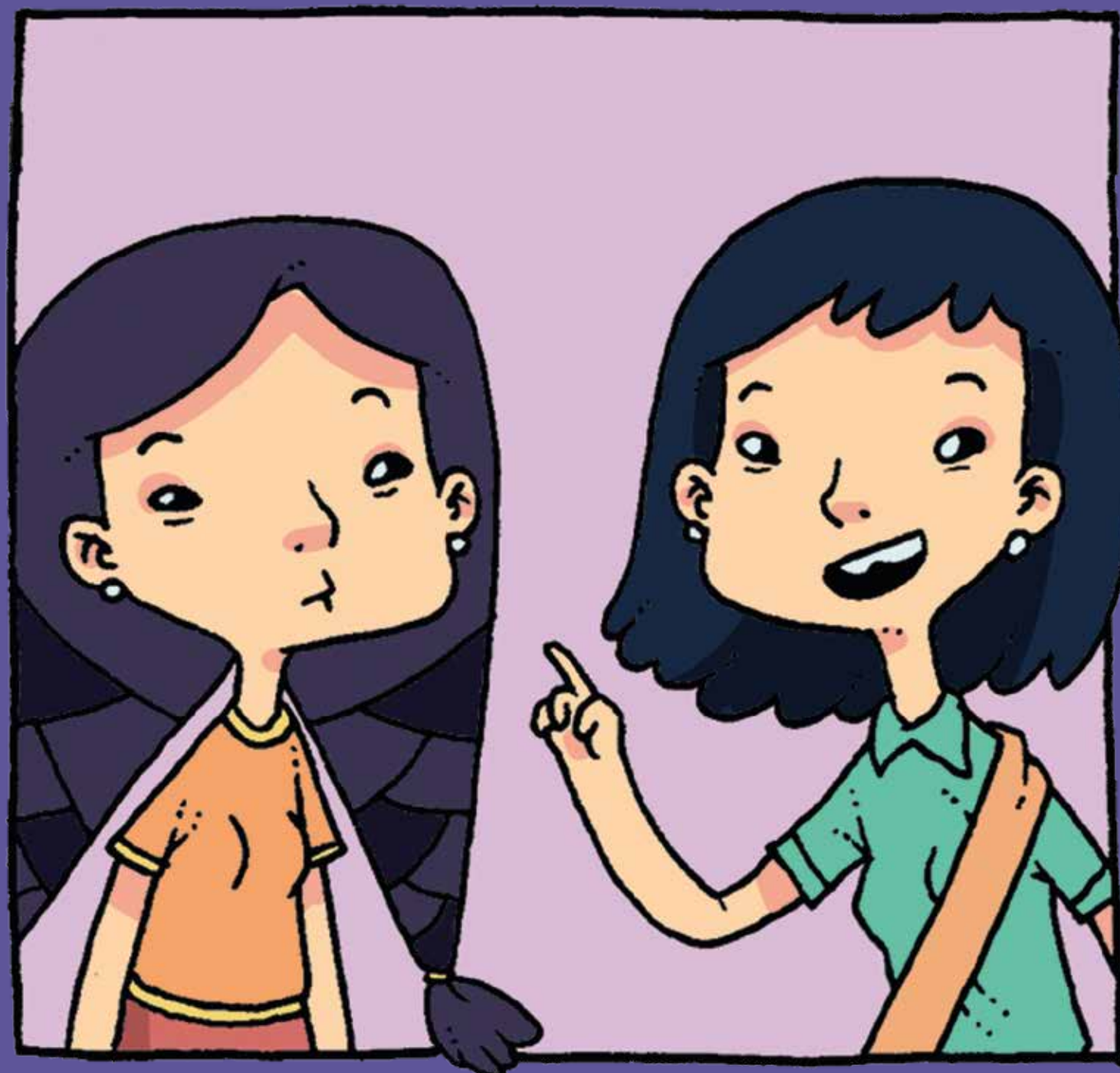


¹Presidential Decree "On elections of the deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated July 25, 2015.
<http://www.president.kg/ru/news/ukazy/>

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FOLLOW YOUR VOICE!





Aliya, why do I have to check my name in the list? In any case there will be no changes.

Why, Kanaim? If you want something to change, you have to vote.



But to do so you have to register, as you cannot vote if not included in the voter's list.



Tell me then – how can my only vote influence something?



Your vote plus my vote plus others' votes - this means something! If we all vote, everything will start changing.



But they made the voting process so complicated. I do not know what to start with.

Come one, it is far from being difficult. I'll show you everything.



Congratulations! Now you are in the voter list and can vote!

Thank you!

Now you have to make a choice among the candidates.



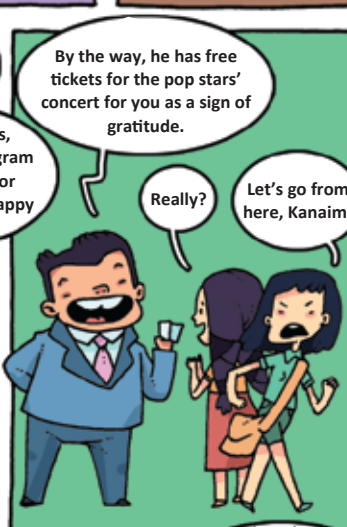
Girls, my choice is very simple: my candidate is the best!

Why so? Does he want to help the young people?



Exactly! He understands how difficult is the life of youngsters, so if he wins, he promises to expand educational exchange programs.

Provide jobs, develop a program of benefits for housing and happy life.



By the way, he has free tickets for the pop stars' concert for you as a sign of gratitude.

Really?

Let's go from here, Kanaim!



Why, Aliya? Let's take the tickets, they are free!



This is a bribery, he simply wants to buy our votes.

It's free!

Does it matter? We can enjoy the concert!



Thanks, but my voice is my choice. And I want to vote for the best candidate, and this means the honest one!



We were at the polling station, there was a strange guy, who offered tickets to a concert if we vote for his candidate.

Where have you been, daughter?

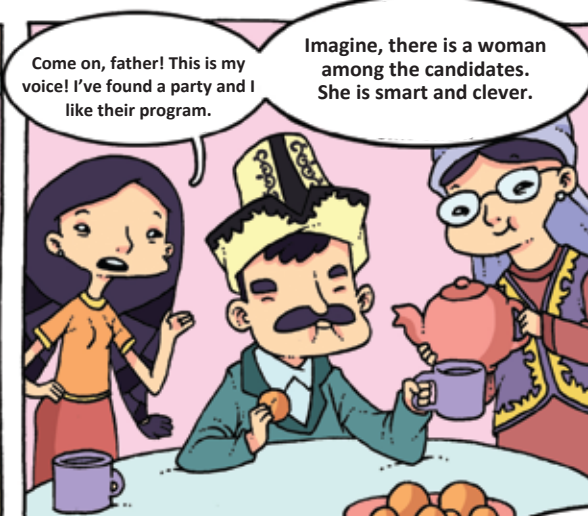


Tell him "no".

Yes, father. Aliya has already explained his trick to us.



Do not worry about the elections. Your father has already made his decision. We all will vote for the party of my friend as this is beneficial for the family.



Come on, father! This is my voice! I've found a party and I like their program.

Imagine, there is a woman among the candidates. She is smart and clever.



A woman? Emmmm.... My daughter – women know little about big policy. You are too young to understand this.



Well, father, just to understand, me and Aliya attended a meeting of parties with the voters. We listened to them, read about them – it was interesting!



There is only one party which will be useful for the family..

The candidate is a friend of mine – he helped us before and will help now



We already checked him, all other politicians only blab and give promises. The topic is closed.

Listen to your father, Kanaim, we'll do as he says.

Ok, father



What has happened, Kanaim

My father has chosen the candidate and he insists that I should vote for him.



Not necessarily. Voting is not about respecting your father, this is your choice as a citizen. Neither your father, nor your relatives nor even me can influence your decision. When you are in a closed booth, you will choose your candidate.



What has happened, father?

Yes, this is my candidate. Now he says that the investors will not finance our project.



But I have already taken a loan – I have to say good bye to the car.



Well, I really made a wrong choice.



Father, but the elections have not passed. You may not vote for him.

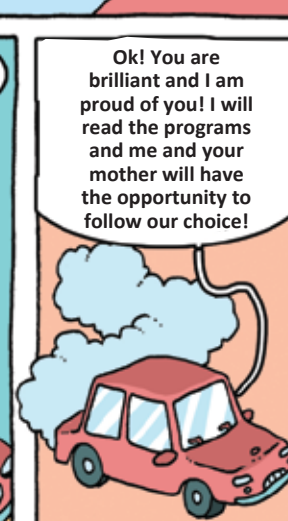


As far as I remember, you said that you read the programs of many parties.



I am an old man, tell me about the one you liked most.

Let us go together at the polling station, where you can read all the programs.



Ok! You are brilliant and I am proud of you! I will read the programs and me and your mother will have the opportunity to follow our choice!