



## PRESS-RELEASE

### Tajikistan held a series of information sessions on ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT)

**Dushanbe, October 2, 2018** - Within the framework of the European Union project "Action for Freedom from Torture in Tajikistan", the Tajik NGO "Bureau on Human Rights and Rule of Law" together with the office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Tajikistan held a series of information sessions in the regions of the country.

The information sessions, attended by representatives of various state bodies, were held in July and August 2018 in the following regions of Tajikistan: Faizobod, Vakhsh, Asht, Darvoz, Khovaling, Baljuvon and Khorugh. During the information sessions, speakers spoke about the need to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, and to establish the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as about the activities of the Monitoring Group visiting closed and semi-closed institutions in the country.

Among the speakers were Mr Zarif Alizoda, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr Shams Nuralizoda, the representative of the Office of the Prosecutor General of the RT, Professor Tanderso Sharipov, as well as representatives of the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan, and Monitoring Group members representing the civil society.

In their speeches, the speakers informed participants about fundamental rights of persons serving sentences in places of deprivation of liberty under the current Penitentiary Code, the need to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and to establish the National Preventive Mechanism in the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as discussed the importance of Tajikistan's implementation of recommendations, provided by the Member States of the UN Human Rights Council within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review.

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To this end, the European Union has been active in Tajikistan since 1992, annually providing development aid in the amount of 35 mln euro.