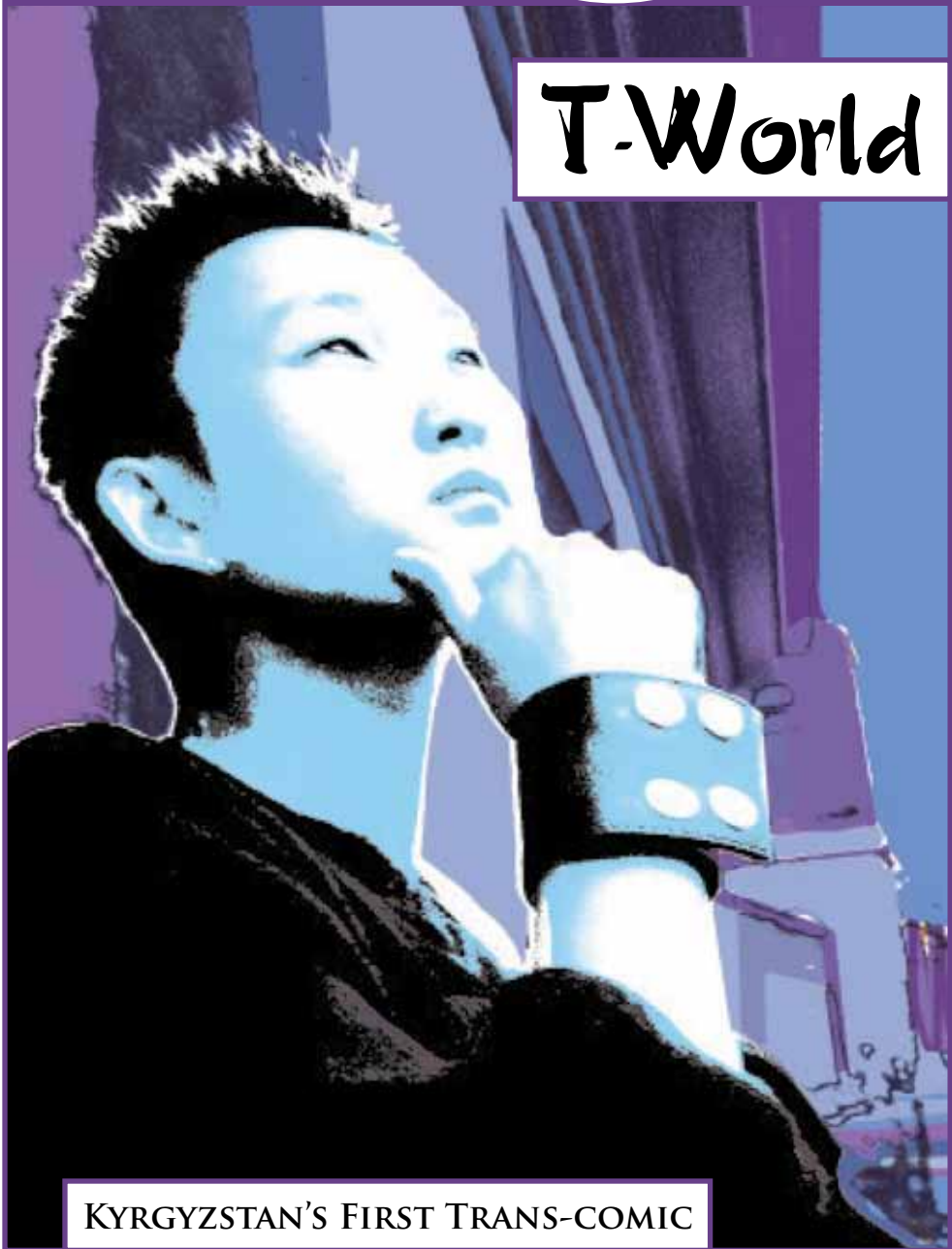




T-World



KYRGYZSTAN'S FIRST TRANS-COMIC

T-World

Dialogue:

Orla, Tarot

Editorial team:

Akram K., Dahn Pak, Syinat S., Nika Shegay

Photographs and directing:

Orla, Tarot, Syinat S.

Design and production:

Orla, Tarot, Galina

This transgender photo comic book was published with financial support of Hivos Humanitarian Institute and COC-Netherlands

Photographs used for this production were staged based on scenario and do not necessarily reflect sexual orientation and/or gender identity of actors.

THIS USED TO BE ME BEFORE MY TRANSITION...



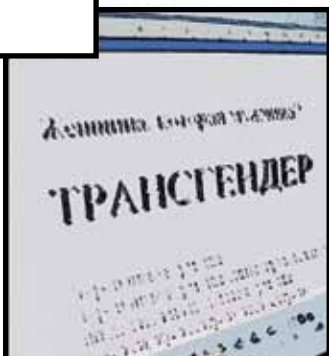
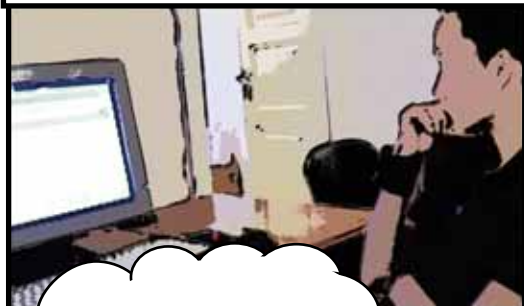
Can't they see that I'm a boy?

Doesn't she know what a woman looks like?

Dyke!

What is she wearing? And look at her hair!

I REMEMBER THE MOMENT I REALISED...



So that is who I am!



AND THEN A YEAR LATER...

Now I look
how I want...



COMING OUT TO MAMA...



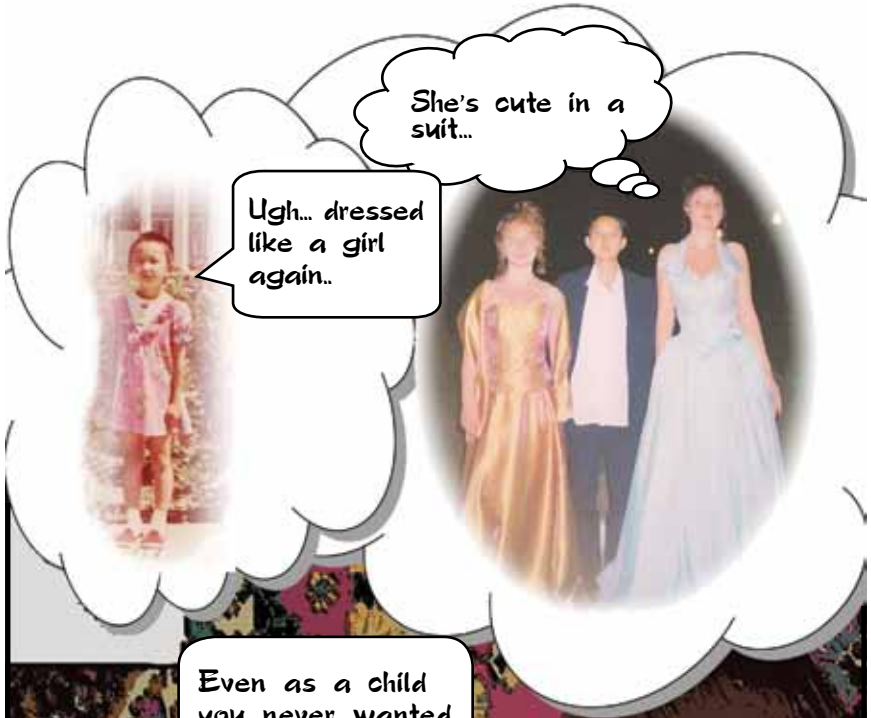
What do you want to tell me?

I'm not a girl.. I'm a transgender man. I've decided to transition.



We've always known it... We just didn't know the name...





Even as a child you never wanted to be a little girl. And remember your graduation?





BUT LIFE AS A MAN HAD SOME PROBLEMS...



DECLINED...

"Unfortunatly you were not accepted..."



..."not suitable for this position."



I know that I was the most qualified candidate for the job!

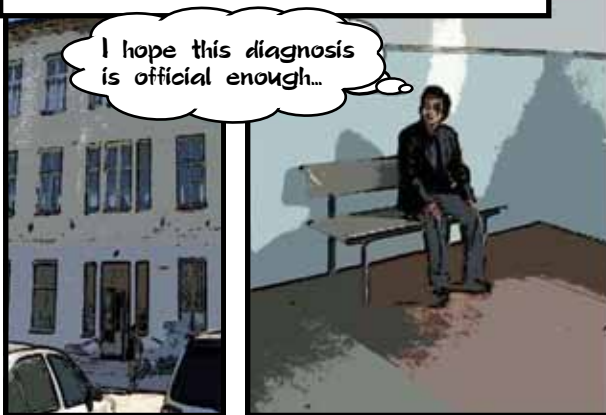




I TRIED TO CHANGE MY PASSPORT AT THE REGISTRY...



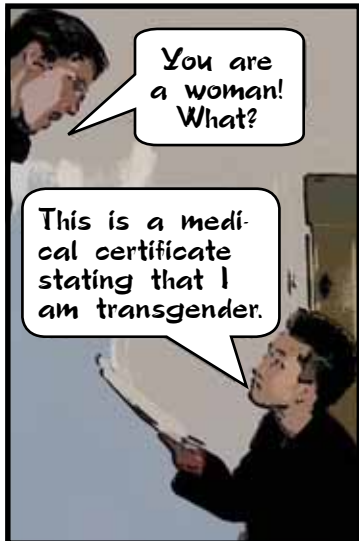
AT THE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL...



AND BACK AT THE REGISTRY...



SO I APPEALED IT IN COURT...



You are a woman!
What?

This is a medical certificate stating that I am transgender.



But do you have a penis?



NO PENIS,
NO PASSPORT!



TO BE CONTINUED...

Beyond the gender binary

The right to be one's self is one of the most important and inviolable human rights. It is so basic that sometimes we forget about it. However, we must remember of this human right always—especially now in the paradoxical era of human rights being talked about and violated at the same time.

Our social photo comic book attempts to tell you about our vision of this basic human right to be one's self.

Contemporary medical specialists and governments recognize three biological sexes today: male, female and intersex (combining genital characteristics of both sexes). Majority of people identify themselves with the sex, which was ascribed to them at birth. However, there may be cases when a person's self-ascribed gender identification differs from that ascribed at birth. This may be a man in a woman's body, a woman in a man's body, a person identifying as both, or a person identifying as none. These people constitute a community of transgenders - people transgressing the gender binary.

Transgender people may be roughly divided into three sub-categories:

Transsexual - a person, who at birth was ascribed a different sex/gender from that of his/her self-identification. It may be man in a woman's body, and woman in a man's body.

Bigender - a person identifying as both sexes/genders.

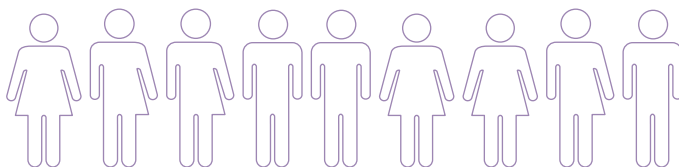
Agender - a person identifying as none.

Information about the organization

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) organization “Labrys” unites around 400 people and provides informational, legal and psychological support to LGBT communities of Kyrgyzstan.

In the long term, the work of Labrys is aimed at reaching the vision of Kyrgyzstani society, wherein all citizens have equal rights and opportunities regardless of their sexual orientation or practices, race, nationality, age, sex or gender identity, religion and/or social status.

Mission of the organization is to improve the quality of life for LGBT communities and to reach visible results in promoting their main human rights and freedoms through empowerment and development of the community.



© LGBT organization Labrys
Bishkek, 2010