



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S KYRGYZ SERVICE – RADIO AZATYK

JUNE 6, 2018

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Kyrgyz Service, known locally as Radio Azattyk, began broadcasting to Kyrgyzstan on March 18, 1953;

WHEREAS, the Kyrgyz Service has for 65 years produced journalism that bridges divides within Kyrgyz society by providing influential audiences with informed reporting and balanced debate on topics that other media ignore, including minority rights, government corruption, and Islamic radicalism;

WHEREAS, the Kyrgyz Service continues to offer its audience a unique and alternative media platform covering both domestic and international events on TV, radio, internet, and social media in Kyrgyzstan, where objective news, open discussion, and responsible debate are in high demand as civil society and free media in the country experience growing pressure;

WHEREAS, due to the Kyrgyz Service's openness to change and constant innovation across platforms, it has experienced positive growth and success, including expanded viewership and audience engagement, with a measured reach of some 40% of the general population of Kyrgyzstan and garnering more than a million subscribers on social media;

WHEREAS, the Kyrgyz Service provides an invaluable contribution to U.S. international media and press freedom, with its Bishkek Bureau serving as a news hub for RFE/RL's Central Asia reporting and allowing the Service to bring on-the-ground reporting to its audiences in the region;

WHEREAS, many external organizations have recognized and reinforced the Kyrgyz Service's excellence in reporting, with the Service winning numerous awards including a 2016 Webby People's Choice Award and a Silver Medal at the 2017 New York Festivals International TV & Film Awards; and

WHEREAS, the Kyrgyz Service strengthens democratic values and institutions in Kyrgyzstan by emphasizing objectivity and serving as a model of professional journalism, providing original, mission-oriented reporting, analysis, and critical coverage of events in the country and throughout the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) that we celebrate and commemorate the 65th anniversary of RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO applaud and thank current and former members of the Kyrgyz Service for their dedication to its audiences and to the mission of providing independent news and information to audiences in Kyrgyzstan.

