UPR Info Pre-session on Tajikistan

Rights of People Released from Places of Detention

26 August, 2026

A Critical Gap in Previous UPR Cycles

ADDRESSED IN 3RD CYCLE

Recommendations successfully focused on the broad right to work, general social protection, and non-discrimination.

MISSING FROM PAST CYCLES

Sprecific, targeted measures for the social reintegration of individuals after release from places of detention.

This post-release gap fundamentally undermines human rights, public safety, and sustainable development.

Acknowledging State Commitments and Progress

Penitentiary System Reform Strategy

Draft Law on Probation

Interagency working group established (State, Parliament, civil society). The draft is prepared; adoption is officially expected by the end of 2026.

UNDP feasibility study

Identified the need for individual case management and formal referral pathways to legal aid, employment, vocational training, housing, healthcare and psychosocial services before and after release.

The Reality of Release: Four Systemic Barriers

IDENTITY

Over 6,000 people received support from social reintegration centres over more than ten years. Lawyers and social workers helped 319 people obtain new-format passports.

EMPLOYMENT

In an earlier survey of 68 employers, only 31% said they would hire a former prisoner; 29% would refuse and 40% could not answer.

SOCIAL & HOUSING

The UNDP feasibility study identified lack of transitional housing and weak referral pathways as major barriers. Some people reportedly rely on temporary or unsafe accommodation.

HEALTHCARE

The study found no established continuum of care after release. Lack of identification documents, insurance or registration can block access to follow-up healthcare, including TB and HIV treatment.

The Scale of Release: A Current Reintegration Test

2026 AMNESTY

18,038 convicted persons covered by the Amnesty Law

11,305 will be released from detention and other non-custodial penalties

2,979 people were already released in the first batch by 6 July 2026, including 297 women

WOMEN

507 women are serving sentences under the current figures; 248 will be released and 259 will have their sentences reduced.

The Law also requires relevant authorities to take measures to provide employment to persons released from penal institutions.

The scale of releases makes coordinated reintegration support an immediate human-rights priority.

Sources: President of Tajikistan, Law on Amnesty (16 June 2026); UNDP Feasibility Study on Establishing the Probation Service in Tajikistan.

Recommendations for the Republic of Tajikistan

5 ACTIONABLE STEPS FOR THE 4TH UPR CYCLE

Actively promote and implement non-custodial alternatives to imprisonment

Including:

- community service
- corrective labour
- suspended or conditional sentences
- conditional early release

with appropriate supervision, rehabilitation support and individualised case management.

Adopt the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Probation and establish a national Probation Service providing comprehensive support to people released from places of detention.

Develop and implement a State Programme on the social reintegration of people preparing for release and people released from places of detention.

This programme must provide support in restoring identity documents, finding employment, accessing housing, education, healthcare and social protection, while taking gender considerations into account.

Legally establish an exhaustive list of professions and positions for which a criminal record certificate may be requested, and eliminate discriminatory practices in employment.

Ensure the effective implementation of legislation on equality and non-discrimination with regard to people released from places of detenton and people with criminal records, including through specific support measures for women after release.