

NOT IN OUR NAME

Testimonials

Project of Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty

In an effort to assess the impact of Not In Our Name among target audiences, RFE/RL returned in September to the southwestern district of Aravan in Kyrgyzstan's Osh region, where the project's first episode was recorded, to conduct informal focus groups. Aravan is home to one third of all Kyrgyzstani citizens who left for Syria. Participants in the focus groups were divided into "adult" and "youth" groups and viewed project segments ("talk-shows"). They then participated in a moderated discussion about the project's methodology and content, and expressed the following, excerpted reactions:

YOUNG PEOPLE (UP TO AGE 25)

"I would like to participate in a show like this and tell my own story." (a young woman)



"I would like to participate in a discussion like this because I could talk about what happened to those who stayed behind, after my neighbor left. How it was difficult to live after that."

Participants suggested that such talk-shows and discussions should be held among young people to stop them from being recruited by destructive groups "because those who recruit young people, they do not stop – they are always on the move. That's why projects like this should run not just in the short-term, but on a long-term basis."

"Now many people believe that the war in Syria and going to Syria is wrong, but there might be some people among us who still believe it is right. This show can be an important tool that could help to change their opinion about the war in Syria."



ADULT GROUP (OLDER THAN 35)

"I would like to participate in a show like this and tell my story."

Participants said the video format is very powerful and important for everyone in Aravan, "because you get more emotions and feel the state of the subject better when you take in the story by watching the video, rather than just by talking and hearsay."

"Before watching the video, we knew that such stories took place among and around us, but it did not affect our state of mind so much. But after watching the talk show, we all had the question in our heads, 'Why?' for which we wanted an answer."

"Why did only young people participate in the talk-show? Such talk shows should be conducted with adults. too!"



"This talk-show should be recommended not only to friends and family, but, on the contrary, inviting village administrators to show the film in local communities, among the population, the people and the public."