



## Crossroads Asia Lecture

# How labor migration turns into trafficking for sexual exploitation: The case of Uzbekistan

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Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften

Invalidenstraße 118, Lecture Hall 315

Over the past few years, Uzbekistan has been facing a strong irregular labor migration, attracting also a rising number of female migrants. In the near future, due to its unique geographical situation, the country will likely witness an explosion of these labor migration flows. This presentation will analyze the relationship between labor migration and trafficking in women for sexual exploitation from Uzbekistan. It shows how trafficking operates and why certain individuals or groups of women are more vulnerable to trafficking than others. Based on the analysis of interviews conducted with trafficked women, Dr. Kuzibaeva intends to identify a continuum of trafficking, abuse, exploitation, and forced labor, and will examine how exploitation begins at the recruitment stage with the creation of bonded labor.

**Gulnara Kuzibaeva** is an Associate Professor of Economics at the National University of Uzbekistan and currently a visiting research fellow of the Crossroads Asia competence network, based at the Central Asian Seminar of Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. She holds a PhD in Economics from the Institute of Economics at the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow. She has provided consultancy to a number of governmental and international organizations including UNDP, UNFPA, World Bank, IOM. Dr. Kuzibaeva has been visiting scholar at Georgetown University (USA), Yemen University (Yemen), Woodrow Wilson International Center (USA), Oxford University (UK), Berlin Free University (Germany). Her current research activities focus on labor migration, cross-border migration, particularly female migration, and human trafficking.

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