

Submission for Free Theme:

“The Second”

“The Second” is a series that explores women’s social status in Tajikistan.

“A woman without a husband is worthless here!” – this is what the artist regularly heard from the very women she photographed. To be respected by society, Tajik women must be married, whether as a first or second wife. This is the main reason why the concept of polygamy has become widespread in Tajik society, even though it is punished by law.

The Muslim marriage contract, or Nikoh, allows polygamous marriages, but leaves second wives and their children without any rights. This is why the artist has worked in collaboration with these women to create anonymous portraits away from any stigmatization.