

## **ABSTRACT**

**THESIS:** Housing Options in Tashkent: Journeys of Young People in Establishing Their Households in Independent Uzbekistan

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Young people who are in the process of establishing their independent lives or families in Uzbekistan find it almost impossible obtain housing. The issue has become acute after the country became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991 and is worst in the capital, Tashkent. This thesis focuses on a sample of young people belonging to middle-income category who are seeking for affordable and suitable housing in the capital. It maps out the issues involved with housing in Tashkent, and investigates how young people, from both the city and other provinces, find accommodation in Tashkent. The study finds that these young and educated, middle-class citizens are not “passive recipients” of the status quo, and they find their own ways to mitigate the affordable housing deprivation within their means. In addition to the Soviet-built housing stock, they make use of culture and social capital in creative ways. In this, they have contributed to the building of a new informal housing market, which.