

# The Importance of State Policy in Ensuring International Harmony and Religious Tolerance in Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** This article provides information about the importance of state policy in ensuring inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance in Uzbekistan. Also, the measures implemented in our country for religious tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony are reflected in the article.

**Key word:** Religion, religious tolerance, society, interethnic harmony, confession.

Today, in the context of increasing conflicts in the globalized world, including inter-ethnic conflicts, this problem is becoming especially important. In this regard, inter-ethnic harmony is becoming important as a decisive factor for any multi-ethnic state. Most of the countries in the world have a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural character. It is worth noting that the Republic of Uzbekistan is among such countries, and this situation does not prevent the preservation of peace and harmony among citizens and inter-ethnic harmony.

In the center of large-scale reforms carried out in our country, first of all, the goal of securing human interests, rights and freedoms. The interests of citizens can be ensured only by creating an environment of peace and tranquility, mutual respect, kindness and harmony.

One of the priorities of the state policy in the coming years is to ensure inter-ethnic harmony and tolerance in society, to strengthen the atmosphere of friendship and the feeling of a big multinational family, to educate young people in the spirit of love and loyalty to the Motherland, respect for national and universal values. large-scale work was carried out aimed at educating in the spirit of vision, expanding cultural and educational relations with foreign countries.

During the last three years, more than 50 legal documents and about 40 decisions were adopted in the field of interethnic relations and religion. Most of these documents are important because they are aimed at expanding the rights and freedoms of citizens regardless of religion and nationality, including increasing their opportunities to participate in the process of managing society and state affairs.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech at the meeting dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Republican International Center, rightly stated the following: "In the years of independence, a new stage in the development of inter-ethnic relations began in our country. Developing the culture of tolerance and humanity, strengthening inter-national and inter-civilian solidarity and harmony, educating the young generation on this basis, in the spirit of love and loyalty to the Motherland, was defined as one of the most important priorities of the foreign policy in Uzbekistan. All this found its full expression in life".

Stability and development of the state and society in Uzbekistan cannot be imagined without the mutual harmony of more than 136 nationalities and peoples living in the country, and tolerant relations between representatives of 17 officially registered religious denominations. Therefore, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017 No. PF-4947 "On the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan" "In 2017-2021 The fifth "Strategy of actions on the five priority directions of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan" "Priority directions in the field of ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance and a well-thought-out, mutually beneficial and practical foreign policy" In paragraph 5.1, it was defined as "Priority directions in the field of ensuring security, religious tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony".

In this regard, Decree No. PF-5046 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 19, 2017 "On measures to further improve international relations and friendly relations with foreign countries", Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2019- Decree No. PF-5876 dated November 15, 2018 "On approval of the concept of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of inter-ethnic relations", President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 16, 2018 The adoption of the decree No. 5416 "on

improvement measures" and a number of other legal documents is of great importance. Most of these legal documents are aimed at expanding the rights and freedoms of citizens, regardless of religion and nationality, including increasing the opportunity to participate in the management of society and state affairs.

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further improve international relations and friendly relations with foreign countries" to ensure stability, peace and harmony in society, belonging to a large, multinational single family in the minds of citizens aimed at strengthening the feeling of national culture, supporting and further developing the activities of national cultural centers and friendship societies, and expanding cultural and educational relations with foreign countries<sup>1</sup>.

Today, the world is facing a crisis related to the coronavirus pandemic, and we are witnessing the rise of inter-ethnic and inter-confessional conflicts in many regions in a situation where geopolitical struggles between countries are escalating. Therefore, it is important to maintain unity in order to consistently continue the reforms that have started.

Constitutional guarantees ensure citizens' participation in public and state building, regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin. It should be noted that the policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to establish inter-ethnic and inter-confessional harmony is fully in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international legal and regulatory documents, and ensuring inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance is part of modern Uzbekistan. as an integral part of the development strategy of the state.

In 2019, the concept of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of international relations was approved. At the same time, a number of decisions were made to improve the activities of the religious and educational sphere, according to which, implementation of a unified state policy in this sphere, protection of the guarantees of citizens' freedom of conscience, constructive cooperation between representatives of different nationalities and peoples and a new system for building relationships based on mutual respect was introduced. In particular, in accordance with the President's decision of April 16, 2018 "On measures to improve the activities of the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan", the Confession under the Committee on Religious Affairs the new composition of the council was approved. The composition of the council has increased from 9 to 17 members - due to representatives of religious denominations operating in Uzbekistan. It is noteworthy that the leaders of religious organizations with a small number of members were also included in the membership of the council.

It is noteworthy that in 2017, for the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan, Ahmed Shahid, the special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Council on freedom of religion and belief, visited our country. Based on his recommendations, on May 4, 2018, the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved the "Road Map" on ensuring freedom of religion and belief.

On September 19, 2017, the President of the Republic Sh.Mirziyoyev decided to establish tolerance and mutual respect, ensure religious freedom, protect the rights of believers, and prevent their discrimination at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. A clear example of this is the proposed adoption of a special resolution called "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance" aimed at promoting non-violence and the adoption of this document on December 12, 2018<sup>2</sup>.

In 2018, the US State Department removed Uzbekistan from the list of "countries of particular concern" regarding religious freedom as one of the important results achieved within the framework of reforms in this field. It is noteworthy that in the elections held at the session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 13, 2020, for the first time in the history of our national statehood, Uzbekistan became a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for a period of three years - 2021 - Elected for 2023. 169 out of 193 member states of the United Nations voted for our country. The country with the most votes in this election was Uzbekistan. It is not an exaggeration to say that this is also a recognition of the policy in our country aimed at ensuring human rights regardless of nationality and religion, including inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance. Also, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious

<sup>1</sup> Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 19, 2017 N PF-5046 "On measures to further improve international relations and friendly relations with foreign countries". "People's Word", May 23, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev's speech at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly. "People's Word", September 19, 2017.

Organizations", revised on the basis of international standards and adopted on July 5, 2021, is of great importance. All this indicates that the role of Uzbekistan as a reliable and responsible subject in international relations is strengthening.

In Uzbekistan, the multi-ethnicity of the population is considered as a favorable factor of socio-economic development. Uzbekistan's reputation in the international arena is increasing due to maintaining social and economic stability, harmonizing inter-religious and inter-ethnic relations. In particular, teaching in state educational institutions in our country is conducted in seven languages. The National Broadcasting Company of Uzbekistan broadcasts its programs in twelve languages, newspapers and magazines are published in more than ten languages. 138 national cultural centers, as well as about 2,300 religious organizations belonging to 17 denominations operate under the committee of international relations and friendly relations with foreign countries.

#### **List of used literature:**

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