

PRIORITY OF THE IDEA OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN THE POLICY OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

The article reveals the policy of religious tolerance in New Uzbekistan, its priority areas, the content of the reforms carried out in this area, and their legal basis.

Keywords: New Uzbekistan, religious tolerance, tolerance, domestic and foreign policy, reforms, enlightenment, interethnic harmony.

Introduction

The national, religious and racial conflicts that have arisen in the process of globalization, the ongoing hostilities and large-scale demonstrations show the development of the ideas of cooperation and tolerance between different nations, religions and cultures as an urgent task for the world community. In this regard, the programs and practical actions of the international community and developed countries are lagging behind in preventing modern conflicts. Therefore, many countries are trying to ensure the rule of law in their domestic policies, protect the equality of all citizens in all rights and freedoms, regardless of their national, racial and religious affiliation, and are trying to develop new documents in this regard.

In particular, other religions and cultures have lived and developed side by side with Islam on the land of Uzbekistan since ancient times. For centuries, mosques, churches, and synagogues have existed in our major cities, and people of different nationalities and religions have been freely practicing their religious practices.

The roots of the idea of tolerance and mutual respect in our country go back centuries. This is confirmed by the existence of ancient Buddhist monuments located only in the vicinity of the city of Termez in the Surkhandarya region, the fact that during the Kushan Empire this place became the center of state religion, and the spread of Buddhist teachings from this place to China and neighboring regions.

In the new Uzbekistan, the issue of ensuring religious tolerance and further development of the ideas of interethnic harmony has been raised to the level of state policy, and these ideas have been enshrined as separate norms in the updated Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Law "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations". In turn, the legal validity of these ideas also serves as a guarantee for the peaceful, prosperous and prosperous life of any state.

A number of documents have been signed in the new Uzbekistan to improve the activities of the religious and educational sector and create numerous benefits for religious workers. In particular,

- Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to organize the Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan";
- Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to radically improve the



activities of the religious and educational sphere”;

- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to organize and support the activities of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan”;

- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to organize and support the activities of the Training Center and the “Ziyo” Media Center under the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan” and their activities;

- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to organize the activities of the Imam Moturidi International Scientific and Research Center under the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan”;

- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations” in the new edition;

- The Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-3668 “On measures to improve the activities of the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan” was adopted.

We can see that Uzbekistan is following the path of tolerance in its foreign policy and international relations, as evidenced by a number of practical works being carried out. In particular, Uzbekistan is actively working to strengthen friendly relations with the countries of Central Asia and ensure peace and stability in the region. In particular, on the issue of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan calls on the countries of the world to treat it with tolerance and provide social assistance to the Afghan people.

The international community and organizations recognize the reforms being implemented in New Uzbekistan and provide practical assistance in supporting them. In particular, the special resolution entitled "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance", put forward by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev in his speech at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly on September 19, 2017, resolved the urgent issue of ensuring peace and cooperation in the world, and the fact that this resolution was unanimously adopted by 193 member states at the 51st meeting of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly on December 12, 2018, is evidence of our opinion.

The main idea of the resolution “Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance” is to provide access to education for all, eliminate illiteracy and ignorance. The document also calls for “establishing tolerance and mutual respect, ensuring religious freedom, protecting the rights of believers and preventing their discrimination.” In this regard, the work being carried out in New Uzbekistan to ensure interethnic harmony and interfaith tolerance is an example for the world community.

In particular, in 2017-2024, schools of Kalam and Hadith were established in Samarkand, the Bahauddin Naqshband Sufi Scientific School under the Mir Arab Higher Madrasah in the Bukhara region, the Abu Mu’in an-Nasafi Aqeedah Science School in the Kashkadarya region, the Islamic Law School in Fergana, and the Imam Termizi Islamic Institute in Termez by the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan.

Also, taking into account the importance and significance of the Eid al-Adha and Ramadan Eid holidays, in order to enhance and preserve our national and spiritual values, starting from 2018, continuous three-day holidays were established by transferring some holidays to working days close to the holidays. We can see that the attention to the sector is increasing day by day, and through this, human dignity is increasing.



Uzbekistan also pays attention to the issues of religious tolerance and interethnic harmony at the level of state policy in its domestic policy. In particular, the “Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries” was established by the direct initiative and decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Also, the activities of state and public figures who have shown special dedication in ensuring religious tolerance and interethnic harmony in our country are recognized. In this regard, on September 25, 2023, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued Resolution No. 495 "On the Establishment of the Religious Tolerance" Badge. This resolution established that prominent state and public figures, leaders and leading scholars in the religious and social sphere, employees of state organizations and non-governmental non-profit organizations, representatives of international organizations, diplomatic missions, foreign figures and scientists will be awarded for their great services in ensuring guarantees of freedom of conscience of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, strengthening interreligious and interconfessional harmony, harmony and tolerance among the population, promoting reforms in the religious and educational sphere, and maintaining the stability of the socio-spiritual environment in society.

The Committee for Religious Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established as an authorized state body responsible for ensuring the implementation of a unified state policy in the field of religious affairs in Uzbekistan. Its main task is to promote in society the true humanistic essence of religion, the expression of virtues such as goodness, peace and humanity, and eternal values, based on the noble idea of "enlightenment against ignorance", to assist all state organizations and non-governmental non-profit organizations in carrying out activities in this area, and to take measures to support scientific research, conduct propaganda and agitation activities based on the results of studying religious and social processes in the country and issues of ensuring religious tolerance.

Within the framework of its activities, the Committee for Religious Affairs ensures mutual tolerant relations between religious denominations and representatives of different faiths existing in Uzbekistan and helps to form a sense of harmony and solidarity in our country. In this regard, every year on the eve of the “November 16 - International Day of Religious Tolerance”, “Religious Tolerance” events are organized throughout our Republic. Representatives of different religions and confessions participate in them in harmony and maintain sincere and friendly relations with each other.

From the above information, it can be understood that Uzbekistan has been a tolerant country since ancient times. This region has been distinguished from other countries by its humanistic and people-oriented policy, which has led to constant peace and harmony for centuries. In the new Uzbekistan, the main goal is to further develop the ideas of religious tolerance and interethnic harmony in society, to implement a state policy based on equality and mutual tolerance for representatives of different religions and beliefs. This is one of the most important tasks in ensuring peace and prosperity in our country and the Central Asian region.

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