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Religious Reforms in Uzbekistan and its Impact on Society

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ABSTRACT

This article provides information about the reforms being carried out in the field of religion in Uzbekistan and its impact on society. Also, the measures implemented in our country for religious tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony are reflected in the article.

Keywords:

Religion, religious tolerance, society, interethnic harmony, confession

Great and significant work is being done in our country in the field of religion and education, especially in the field of freedom of religion and belief, in the fight against ignorance with enlightenment.

Since Uzbekistan has gained independence, it is the task of forming honesty and self-sacrifice in people, especially in the young generation, in the spirit of independence. Everyone, even religious people and figures, should actively participate in this honorable work. Consequently, we even have freedom of religion and conscience constitutionally guaranteed¹.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev noted: "Our holy religion will continue to unite our people, regardless of nationality and language, spiritual purification, peace, goodness, tolerance, mutual respect and there is no doubt that it serves as an irreplaceable tool for harmony. Islam

encourages only a bright life, knowledge and goodness. Never calls for bloodshed, murder, violence²".

In particular, the noble initiatives put forward in Uzbekistan in areas such as further strengthening of friendship between representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups, representatives of religious confessions, studying the rich scientific heritage of great scientists, and deciding on the principles of religious tolerance topirish, the peace-loving and enlightened teaching of Islam is highly recognized by the international community.

It is worth noting that in our country special attention is being paid to ensuring the constitutional rights of citizens in the field of freedom of conscience, to further strengthening the ideas of religious tolerance and inter-religious friendship and cooperation in the society.

¹Qamar Amon., Theory and history of spirituality. Tashkent., "Sharq" NMAK., page 188.

² Mirziyoyev Sh.M. "Destiny is to continue our path of national development and raise it to a new level." Volume 1 T: "Uzbekistan" IMIU, 2017, page 475.

In particular, the fifth direction of the Action Strategy on the five priority directions of the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 is dedicated to security, religious tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony, and this issue is considered as a priority direction of state policy. Means

Based on this, the relevant state bodies and public organizations are conducting large-scale activities aimed at ensuring the right of citizens to freedom of conscience, guaranteed by the Constitution, and strengthening religious tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony.

Currently, 138 national cultural centers, representatives of 16 religious denominations, and 35 friendship societies are operating in Uzbekistan³. In this regard, there is no doubt that the traditions of tolerance, characteristic of our people since time immemorial, play an important role. Today, 2313 religious organizations belonging to these religious denominations operate in Uzbekistan. Of these, 2,122 are Islamic, 174 Christian religious organizations, 8 Jewish, 6 Baha'i communities, 1 Krishna Consciousness Society, 1 Buddhist temple and 1 Bible Society of Uzbekistan. Also, 54 new mosques were built in a short period of time, 17 new non-Islamic religious organizations started their activities.

The composition of the Council for Religious Affairs under the Committee on Religious Affairs has expanded from 9 to 17 members due to the representatives of religious denominations operating in Uzbekistan. Meetings of this council are regularly held twice a year.

It is known that on July 5 of this year, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" was adopted. It should be emphasized that this law serves as a legal basis for ensuring inter-confessional harmony, mutual tolerance and solidarity between representatives of different religions and faiths in the society.

The system of religious education in our country has also been radically improved, new

educational institutions and research centers have been established.

Currently, the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, the Tashkent Islamic Institute, the "Mir Arab" higher madrasa, the School of Hadith, 10 secondary specialized Islamic educational institutions, and Orthodox and Protestant seminaries, specializing in the training of mature specialists who have thoroughly mastered secular and religious sciences, operate in our republic. is taking

Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, Imam Bukhari in Samarkand, in order to comprehensively study the rich historical, scientific, and spiritual heritage of Islamic science and culture, and most importantly, to deeply reveal the humanitarian essence of Islam, to fight against ignorance with enlightenment. international research center, Imam Termizi international research center in Surkhandarya, Abul Muin Nasafi complex in Kashkadarya were established.

In order to widely demonstrate the potential of Uzbekistan in terms of pilgrimage tourism, extensive cooperation relations with a number of foreign countries have been established. In particular, he is responsible for the religious sphere of countries such as Great Britain, Morocco, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Japan, Turkey, Egypt, Russia, Germany, Spain, USA, Malaysia, India, Pakistan. more than 70 memorandums of cooperation were signed with related ministries and agencies, research centers and educational institutions.

In our republic, all conditions are being created for people of different religions to safely perform all prayers and rituals and celebrate their religious holidays on a large scale. In particular, two Muslim Eid holidays, Christian Easter and Christmas, Jewish Pesach, Purim and Hanukkah are widely celebrated. On these dates, it is a good tradition for the leaders of the confessions to congratulate each other on the holiday.

It is known that every year on November 16 - the International Day of Tolerance, an

³Scientific and popular guide dedicated to the study and promotion of the Address of the President of the Republic of

Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis among the general public. Tashkent, "Spirituality", 2019., p. 266.

international conference is held in our country with the participation of representatives of various religious confessions, heads of foreign countries and international organizations.

In connection with this date, the introduction of the "Week of Tolerance", which includes various conferences and conventions, roundtable discussions and meetings, will undoubtedly strengthen the ideas of tolerance in the society, representatives of different nationalities and peoples, as well as religious confessions. serves to further strengthen the relations of mutual friendship and solidarity.

Serious steps have been taken to strengthen religious freedom, interreligious stability and religious tolerance in Uzbekistan, positive changes in this regard have come to the attention of the international community.

During their visit to our country, a number of experts and specialists in the field of international religious freedoms directly witnessed the practical work of ensuring religious freedom, simplifying the current norms, fighting against radicalism, as well as promoting the ideas of enlightened Islam. in the

It should be noted that the amnesty of thousands of convicts, the removal of citizens from various lists, and the simplification of the procedure for the registration of religious organizations are recognized by experts as high-level reforms. In addition, the fact that Uzbekistan was removed from the list of "countries of particular concern" in the religious sphere is a vivid practical expression of the work in this regard.

The fact that the representatives of different confessions working in Uzbekistan live and work in harmony with each other is undoubtedly one of the most important factors of peace and tranquility in the country.

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4. Qamar Amon., Theory and history of spirituality. Tashkent., "Sharq" NMAK., page 188.