



ATTENTION TO INTERNATIONAL HARMONY AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN THE NEW UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: The scientific article is about the attention paid in recent years to the strengthening of inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, which are the ancient values of our people, the work being done, and the initiative put forward by our president at the international level.

Key words: Shavkat Mirziyoyev, inter-ethnic harmony, confession, religious tolerance, Friendship Park, "Strategy of Actions", People's Friendship Day, UN

Many reforms have been implemented in our country in recent years. These reforms have a very positive effect on the all-round rise and development of our country. Our Honorable President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is implementing reform projects in the life of our country in socio-economic, political, spiritual-educational, cultural, religious and many other areas. In turn, special attention is being paid to strengthening inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, which are among our high values. Interethnic harmony is the coexistence and cooperation of representatives of different nationalities in a certain region, state. We all know that the Uzbek people have a rich ancient history. During our long history, representatives of various nationalities and peoples have lived in our country and are still living in harmony with each other today. Religious tolerance means that the people of different religions and sects respect and understand each other's beliefs, and live together in a single land, a single country, in the path of noble ideas and intentions. Representatives of many religions have been living together in the territory of our country for many centuries. The fact that there were no conflicts between them on a religious basis even in the most difficult and difficult periods of our history shows that our people have been living according to the idea of inter-religious tolerance. In Uzbekistan, special



attention is being paid to the preservation of values belonging to different religions, to creating the necessary conditions for all citizens to practice their faith, to further strengthening inter-religious and ethnic harmony, and to the development of ancient common traditions between them.

Today there are more than 200 countries in the world. More than two thousand nations and peoples live in these countries. Among the countries of the world there are mono-ethnic and poly-ethnic, that is, single-ethnic and multi-ethnic countries, and our country Uzbekistan is among the poly-ethnic countries. If we pay attention to statistics, representatives of 70 nationalities lived in our country in 1897, 90 in 1927, 113 in 1959, and now there are 136 representatives of nationalities living in our country. In addition, more than 140 national cultural centers and about 2,300 religious organizations belonging to 16 religious denominations are operating in our country today. The head of our country stated that "I think it would be appropriate if the activists of every national cultural center operating in Uzbekistan would more actively develop relations with their historical homeland in the cultural and humanitarian sphere"⁷². Respecting the representatives of every religion in our motherland, sufficient conditions are created for them and they are given freedom. Special attention is paid to strengthening the friendship of different nationalities and peoples in our country. At the suggestion and initiative of our President, the park, where the Republican International Cultural Center has been holding many of its events, was named "Friendship Park". It is no exaggeration to say that representatives of different nationalities, ethnic groups and religions live in peace and harmony in our country as a result of the reforms implemented by our president and government. Even the representatives of the world's leading countries and organizations give a high evaluation to the reforms implemented in our country.

In order for all citizens of our country to live a peaceful and prosperous life, their rights and obligations in socio-economic, political, religious and other spheres are defined in our Constitution, which is the general constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. For

⁷² Mirziyoyev Sh. Milliy taraqqiyot yo'limizni qat'iyat bilan davom ettirib, yangi bosqichga ko'taramiz.-T.,2017.- B. 300.



example, in Article 31 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "Freedom of conscience is guaranteed for everyone. Everyone has the right to believe in any religion or not to believe in any religion. Forced indoctrination of religious views is not allowed. In addition, in the 18th article of our general encyclopedia, "All citizens in the Republic of Uzbekistan have the same rights and freedoms, regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, social origin, belief, personality and social status before the law." are equal" is written. As can be seen from the above articles, special attention has been paid to inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance in our country since the first years of independence.

After the election of Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, attention to inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance increased even more. In his speeches, the head of state stated that "I consider it the most important and priority task for me to constantly communicate with the population, to implement their legal requirements, requests and suggestions, and to take concrete measures"⁷³. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev adopted the "Strategy of Actions" project on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021. Paragraph 5 of the "Strategy of Actions" reform project was entitled "Ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, and a well-thought-out, mutually beneficial and practical foreign policy." As can be seen from the "Strategy of Actions", interethnic harmony and religious tolerance are emphasized in one of the 5 priority directions of the development of our republic. This, of course, is to strengthen the values of our people, deepen democratic reforms in our country, and pay proper attention to the appeals of our citizens. In addition, the adoption of Presidential Decree No. 5876 on November 15, 2019 by our honorable head of state "On approval of the state policy concept of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of international relations" is another example of the attention paid to this area. On the initiative of our head of state, July 30 began to be celebrated in our country as "People's Friendship Day". This, of course, was aimed at bringing closer the

⁷³ Mirziyoyev Sh. Erkin va farovon, demokratik O'zbekiston davlatini birgalikda barpo etamiz. - T., 2016.-B. 17



many nationalities and peoples living in the territory of our country and strengthening the relations between them.

International countries and organizations also recognize the relevance of the reforms implemented in our country in the fields of inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance. For example, on October 29, 2016, in a meeting with the leaders of religious denominations operating in our republic, US Secretary of State Thomas Shannon gave a high assessment of our government's policy in the religious sphere. In addition, when the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zayd al-Hussein visited our country on May 11, 2017, he said, "In today's dangerous days of inter-religious and inter-ethnic unrest, the existing inter-religious and inter-ethnic harmony in Uzbekistan should be transferred to different countries. The words "worthy of being a role model" are also worthy of special attention. Lamberto Zanier, the High Commissioner for National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or Ahmad Shahid, the Special Rapporteur on Religion and Belief of the United Nations Human Rights Council, highly appreciated the work done in our country in recent years.

Our honorable head of state is contributing to changes in inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance not only in our country, but also in the whole world. In particular, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev called on the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly to resolve tolerance and mutual respect, ensure religious freedom, protect the rights of believers, and prevent their discrimination, proposing a special resolution called "Enlightenment and religious tolerance" aimed at reconciliation and the adoption of this important resolution at the 73rd session on December 12, 2018 was a unique news not only for our people, but for the peoples of the whole world. On October 13, 2020, in the elections held at the session of the UN General Assembly, Uzbekistan was elected a member of the UN Human Rights Council for a three-year term in 2021-2023 for the first time in the history of our national statehood. 169 out of 193 UN member states voted for our country. It would not be 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. The unique initiatives implemented in these areas prove how patriotic and peace-loving our independent country is and show that we have a rightful place in the world community.

In conclusion, recent years have seen changes in all spheres of our country's life. In the last 4 years, more than 50 legal documents and about 40 decisions have been adopted in the field of inter-ethnic relations and religion in our country. These adopted legal documents and decisions were important changes embodying the wishes and interests of the citizens of our country. In the words of our honorable head of state: "Uzbekistan is always faithful to its traditions in the field of inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, and will never deviate from this path. In our country, primary attention is paid to strengthening the environment of mutual respect, friendship and harmony between representatives of different nationalities and religious confessions. This is our greatest wealth and it is our duty to protect it like the apple of an eye." In a word, a new model of inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations was created as a result of the reforms being carried out in our country to strengthen the environment based on positive and mutual respect in the field of inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance.

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