

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTERS IN STRENGTHENING INTERETHNIC RELATIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

Yorbozorov Bakhtiyor

Master student of Oriental University in Tashkent



Annotation: *In recent years, large-scale work has been carried out aimed at one of the priority areas of state policy - ensuring interethnic harmony and tolerance in society, strengthening the atmosphere of friendship and the feeling of a large multinational family, educating young people in the spirit of love and devotion to the Motherland, respect for national and universal values, expanding cultural and educational ties with foreign countries. This article analyzes the role of national cultural centers in strengthening interethnic relations in Uzbekistan.*

Keywords: *Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Interethnic relations, national-cultural centers, Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Ties with Foreign Countries.*

According to the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regardless of nationality, constitute the people of Uzbekistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan declares and guarantees respect for the language, customs, and traditions of the nations and nationalities living on its territory, and the creation of conditions for their development[4].

For these purposes, the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Ties with Foreign Countries has been established under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which carries out its activities and consistently implements state policy to ensure interethnic harmony and tolerance in society.

Today, representatives of more than 130 nationalities and ethnic groups living in our country, enjoying equal rights and opportunities provided by the Constitution

and laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, effectively working in various sectors of the economy and the social sphere, in the fields of science and culture, make a worthy contribution to the prosperity and strengthening of the independence of our Motherland, increasing the authority and image of the republic in the international arena.

Analysis of the dynamics of the implementation of priority areas, large-scale democratic reforms, significant achievements in the political, economic, social, spiritual liberalization and other spheres of public life gives all grounds to assert that the people of Uzbekistan are united around a single idea - the achievement of noble goals and the most important tasks in the priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan[1].

At the same time, in the context of the ongoing globalization and transformation of international and regional relations, the intensification of economic, political, national, religious, and other contradictions in the world, and the growing confrontation in the information and cyberspace, a number of pressing issues in the sphere of further development of interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries remain, requiring their solution, including:

further increasing the level of interaction of state bodies and organizations, local executive authorities with civil society institutions in the field of further development of interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries;

Establishment of a system and mechanisms for monitoring the state of interethnic relations on the ground as the basis for organizing activities for the early prevention and prophylaxis of possible conflict situations and conflicts in society;

implementation of a complex of educational, informational, and cultural-educational measures to educate the culture of interethnic communication, the study of the history and traditions of the people of Uzbekistan;

Improvement of work on training, retraining, and advanced training of specialists of state bodies, as well as employees of other organizations, in the field of

further development of interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries[2].

In order to consistently implement and further improve state policy in the sphere of further development of interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries, as well as in accordance with the Action Strategy on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017 - 2021:

1. The main directions of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the sphere of interethnic relations are defined as:

improvement of the mechanisms of interaction of state bodies and organizations, local executive authorities with civil society institutions, including the mass media, in the process of implementing the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of further development of interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries;

creation of additional socio-economic conditions for the effective implementation of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of further development of interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries, preservation and development of the language, culture, traditions and customs of representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in the republic;

further strengthening the feeling of a large multinational family in society, friendship and harmony between representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in our republic, educating the younger generation in the spirit of love and devotion to the Motherland, ensuring the equality of citizens, preventing the infringement of their constitutional rights and freedoms;

development of international cooperation and friendly relations with foreign countries in order to strengthen interethnic relations, protect the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens on the territory of the country and abroad, support compatriots and close cooperation with Uzbek diasporas abroad, enhancing the authority and image of Uzbekistan on the world stage;

Improvement of the organizational and legal framework of interethnic relations, taking into account the priority goals of the development of the state and society of the Republic of Uzbekistan, advanced foreign experience.

The Concept of State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the sphere of interethnic relations has been adopted, which consists of a unified system of views defining the goals, principles, and main directions of state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the sphere of interethnic relations.

2. The following basic concepts are used in this Concept:

harmonization of interethnic relations - the formation of constructive and mutually respectful relations between representatives of nations and nationalities;

state policy in the sphere of interethnic relations - consists of the systematic activity of the state in the sphere of improving and regulating interethnic relations in society, aimed at ensuring the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, their equality before the law regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, and social status;

interethnic tolerance is a social norm of civil society, manifested in tolerance towards the views, religions, customs, traditions, and culture of representatives of other nations and nationalities, which do not contradict universal human values;

Interethnic relations are relations between nations and ethnic groups residing within a country, encompassing all spheres of social life.

The main goals of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the sphere of interethnic relations are:

ensuring equal rights and freedoms of citizens, their equality before the law, regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, and social status;

strengthening the unity of the multinational people of Uzbekistan, respect for the language of nations and nationalities, customs and traditions within the legal framework, creating conditions for their full-fledged development;

harmonization of interethnic relations, strengthening the culture of friendship, mutual understanding, solidarity, humanism, and tolerance in society;

to unite the efforts of all nations and nationalities of the republic around the noble idea of strengthening and sustainable development of the country's sovereignty, achieving the goals of strengthening the territorial integrity of the state, ensuring their active participation in the processes of forming a strong and just civil society and a democratic state governed by the rule of law;

Combating the possibility of manifestations of nationalism and chauvinism, preventing discrimination against citizens based on nationality, and violating their constitutional rights and freedoms[3].

The main principles of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the sphere of interethnic relations are:

equality of citizens;

social justice;

rule of law;

mutual respect for the cultural, linguistic, and religious values, traditions, and customs of nations and ethnic groups;

protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including citizens residing abroad;

State sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

7. The main directions of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the sphere of interethnic relations are:

further development of friendly relations with foreign countries and improvement of the mechanisms of interaction of state bodies and organizations, local executive authorities with civil society institutions, including mass media, in the process of implementing the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations;

creation of additional socio-economic conditions for the effective implementation of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of further development of interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries, preservation and development of the language, culture, traditions and customs of representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in the republic;

further strengthening the feeling of a large multinational family in society, friendship and harmony between representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in our republic, educating the younger generation in the spirit of love and devotion to the Motherland, ensuring the equality of citizens, preventing the infringement of their constitutional rights and freedoms;

development of international cooperation and friendly relations with foreign countries in order to strengthen interethnic relations, protect the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens on the territory of the country and abroad, support compatriots and close cooperation with Uzbek diasporas abroad, enhancing the authority and image of Uzbekistan on the world stage;

Improvement of the organizational and legal framework of interethnic relations, taking into account the priority goals of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the development of the state and society, and best foreign practices [5].

Uzbekistan provides comprehensive assistance in the implementation of the activities of national cultural centers that strive to contribute to the development of Uzbekistan, to promote the preservation and popularization of its cultural, scientific, and spiritual heritage and modern achievements.

Special attention will be paid to measures to further harmonize interethnic relations, maintain interethnic peace and harmony in the country, and preserve the culture, language, and traditions of the nations and ethnic groups living in Uzbekistan.

In accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, depending on the scale and forms of cooperation, national cultural centers may be provided with the following state support and incentive measures:

Studying the language, culture, customs and traditions of nations and nationalities living in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including creating the necessary organizational conditions for artistic, theatrical groups and clubs;

provision of state grants and social orders at the expense of the Public Fund for Support of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations and Other Civil Society Institutions under the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

assistance in the creation of youth departments based on national cultural centers;

awarding state awards and conferring honorary titles on activists of national cultural centers who have made a significant contribution to the development of Uzbekistan;

other measures of state support and encouragement.

In accordance with the legislation, the main subjects responsible for the implementation and results of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations, ensuring guarantees of equality of citizens regardless of their nationality, as well as combating offenses related to the incitement of interethnic hatred, are the following state bodies:

a) The Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Interethnic Relations and Compatriots Abroad, which is a body of state administration, ensures the implementation of a unified state policy aimed at strengthening interethnic relations and friendly ties of the Republic of Uzbekistan with foreign countries, assigns to it:

consistent implementation of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of ensuring interethnic harmony and tolerance in the country and society;

creation of a state system for monitoring interethnic relations, strengthening the atmosphere of friendship and the feeling of a single large multinational family, educating young people in the spirit of respect for national and universal values;

ensuring the coordination of coordinated actions and interaction of state bodies with national cultural centers and friendship societies located on the territory of the republic;

promoting the preservation and development of unique national traditions, customs, and rituals of representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in the republic;

Assistance in the organization and direct participation in the conduct of scientific research aimed at the further development and harmonization of interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries;

b) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which assists friendship societies and the Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Interethnic Relations and Compatriots Abroad in establishing and developing friendly relations with foreign countries;

c) Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which carries out state registration of national cultural centers and friendship societies with foreign countries;

g) the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, khokimiyats of regions and the city of Tashkent, coordinating work in the field of interethnic relations and friendly relations with foreign countries in the respective territories;

d) law enforcement agencies that carry out the prevention and combating of offenses related to the incitement of interethnic hatred.

11. In order to effectively implement the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations, the Republic of Uzbekistan concludes international treaties and other international documents with foreign states and international organizations, stimulates and supports the development of multilateral contacts and exchanges between state bodies and non-governmental non-profit organizations of Uzbekistan and related organizations and civil society institutions of foreign countries.

12. Effective implementation of the Concept will allow raising the atmosphere of friendship, solidarity, and unity in society to a new level and will contribute to:

strengthening the sense of unity of the multinational people of the Republic of Uzbekistan based on the preservation of the cultural and national identity of all nations and nationalities living in our country;

formation of effective monitoring mechanisms in the field of interethnic relations for the early prevention and prophylaxis of possible interethnic disagreements and conflicts in society, prevention of any manifestations of nationalism;

implementation of regional programs in the field of interethnic relations and friendly relations with foreign countries;

Improvement of conditions for the preservation of the national-cultural identity of all nations and nationalities living in Uzbekistan and their free development in modern conditions.

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