



## **PROSPECTS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MODERNIZATION OF SOCIETY**

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<b>Received:</b> January 10 <sup>th</sup> 2023 <b>Accepted:</b> February 10 <sup>th</sup> 2023 <b>Published:</b> March 11 <sup>th</sup> 2023	The article substantiates the relevance of establishing public control in the processes of liberalization, democratization of state and public administration, the judiciary, and the social sphere in Uzbekistan. The role of non-governmental non-profit organizations, the scope of their activities, and opportunities are analyzed. The importance of NGO's in raising the political and legal culture, social activity of citizens has been studied.
<b>Keywords:</b> democracy, civil society, institutions of civil society, public control, liberalization, modernization, non-governmental organizations, political-legal culture	

### **ENTER**

Establishing a democratic civil society is a strategic goal for Uzbekistan. In this way, the Republic of Uzbekistan promotes universal human values and the subordination of the minority to the majority, the equality of the citizen before the law, equal participation in society and state management, the election of the main state bodies, their accountability to the voters, and the reporting of the state bodies formed by appointment to the elected bodies. along with the recognition of its principles, it is based on the mentality of our people who are trained in spirituality. This process is carried out on the basis of the liberalization of the spheres of society, and various functions of the state are gradually being handed over to the society, that is, to the people themselves, to self-management bodies of citizens, to non-governmental non-commercial organizations.

At each stage of liberalization and modernization of our country, in accordance with the constitutional rule that "the people are the one and only source of the state", the participation of the people's power, the general public, and every citizen in the state administration is ensured.

Based on these requirements of the Basic Law, in the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, in the 12th goal concerning the issues of building a people-friendly state by increasing human value and further developing a free civil society [1]: To improve the organizational and legal foundations of the implementation of effective public control special attention is paid to the address of the head of our state to the Oliy Majlis: "We aim to build the new Uzbekistan on the basis of the principle of a "social state". ... we set the priority to provide for people and their interests", it was emphasized [2].

### **1. NGO - as a subject of public control**

The importance of establishing strong public control in socio-political, economic modernization and democratization of society is incomparable. One of the subjects of public control is non-governmental non-commercial organizations (NGOs). Public control is the main condition for the liberalization and democratization of public administration, which ensures the active participation of the population in public administration.

The purpose of forming public control is not only to control citizens' compliance with regulatory requirements by state organizations, to achieve an increase in the efficiency of the performance of tasks assigned to state bodies, but also to support the regulatory mechanism of the implementation of state-level powers of the public's needs and will.

According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Public Control", citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, citizens' self-management bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations registered in accordance with the law, mass media are subjects of public control [3].

The place and role of civil society institutions is growing immeasurably in the reforms that are being implemented to build a democratic society, protect human rights and freedoms, and increase social activity. After all, "If there are no strong mass public associations that maintain balance in the structures of our society, there will be no serious guarantee that vices such as arbitrariness, voluntarism, authoritarian thinking and corruption of the administrative apparatus will not appear at all levels of state power" [4, 26-27].

During the period of building civil society, the activities of NGOs are to help maintain political and social stability in the country, to eliminate the



mentality of indifference, indifference, muteness in the conditions of the transition to market relations, to cultivate national pride and pride in our people, to develop patriotism, to develop business and entrepreneurial qualities and qualities, in general, human rights. and freedoms, protection of legal interests, increase of their socio-economic activity and legal culture, participation in the preparation of decisions of state authorities and management agencies, and aimed at ensuring the balance of interests in society.

"Non-governmental non-profit organization is a self-governing organization established on a voluntary basis by individuals and legal entities, which does not make profit as the main goal of its activity and does not distribute the received income among its participants.

A non-governmental non-profit organization is created to protect the rights and legal interests of individuals and legal entities, other democratic values, to achieve social, cultural and educational goals, to satisfy spiritual and other intangible needs, to carry out charitable activities, and for other socially beneficial purposes" [5, 61] .

In Uzbekistan, the legal foundations of NGO activity were initially strengthened by laws such as "On Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations", "On Social Funds", "On Guarantees of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations".

"At certain stages of the development of democratic reforms in our country, a number of important decisions and laws, including the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to support the development of civil society institutions" [6], "On social partnership" [7], "Parliamentary control" on" [8], "On the openness of the activities of state management bodies" [9] legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan were adopted. Along with developing the activities of NGOs, they expanded the rights and opportunities of the third sector to cooperate with state bodies on the basis of social partnership, to establish public control over nature protection, and to ensure the openness of the activities of state bodies. A number of benefits were given for the efficient and free operation of non-governmental non-profit organizations. However, today, when the legal foundations of NGO activities are being strengthened, a number of problems regarding the implementation of legal norms related to them remain. Also, "participation of these organizations in the issues of systematic study of the population's problems, their clear solution, especially support of women in difficult social conditions, prevention of delinquency and crime among young people and women, and their employment"[10] . This

situation shows the necessity of a deeper study of the scope of activities and opportunities of NGOs.

According to experts who have thoroughly studied NGOs, non-governmental associations and public organizations are voluntary associations that are closest to citizens and can fully express their interests and interests. From this point of view, they are considered as intermediary institutions between the state power and the people [11, 18].

According to A.Saidov, NGO is not an intermediary, a connecting link in the conditions of modern democracy, but a supervisor of the government. "Non-profit organizations establish public control over state power, and if state power wants to ensure its long-term dominance, it must look at the mood of these organizations. NGOs need to be a barometer of the government. Based on them, the government must determine how the behavior of the state authority is accepted by the people" [12, 144].

Civil society institutions (NGOs) must not only express public opinion, but also shape it in cooperation with free and independent mass media [13, 18-19]. So, by establishing public control over the government, the NGO involves the people in the management of the society. In our opinion, NGOs have a number of opportunities in this process:

First, the efficiency indicator of NGO activity requires a high level of political and legal awareness and culture of citizens. Also, the strengthening of the role of NGOs in the life of society leads to the further improvement of the political and legal culture of the population. In this process, the NGO strengthens the social ties of citizens. Members of the society join various non-governmental organizations and become active participants in social and political processes. In order for the population to have an active citizen's point of view in social relations, first of all, they require the improvement of their political and legal culture.

Social and political processes consist of close relationships. While the success of economic reforms largely depends on political stability, political stability is, in turn, based on strong legislation. Legislation becomes a way of life of every citizen only if it is strengthened with the help of moral values and standards. In order for the NGO to carry out its activities within the framework and under the protection of the law and establish real public control over the state power and officials, it is necessary to increase the level of political and legal culture of its members. After all, only a society based on public control can have a sustainable development path.

Secondly, it helps to remove the barriers between the state and the individual citizen. The authorities try to cooperate with them, not to fight for the authorities, but to organize citizens, to achieve sustainable development in society, to improve their



material conditions, and to protect their rights and freedoms.

Such activities of NGOs, i.e., the gradual transfer of government functions to them, lead to a rapprochement between the government and the population. This increases the responsibility of NGOs. Their task is aimed at solving existing problems based on the existing legal system by influencing the development of relevant laws and decisions in order to meet the needs of the population. That is, being able to use the legal norms in their place, realizing their interests based on the law, ensuring their rights and freedoms, can effectively influence the full functioning of the law and its becoming the basis of every citizen's life.

Thirdly, it ensures the development of democracy from below. In any society, there are criteria that determine the level of democracy. These are the extent to which the people are aware of the decision-making processes, the extent to which government decisions are controlled by the people, and the participation of ordinary citizens in the management of the state. "In order to achieve this," says the first President I.A. Karimov, "first of all, it is necessary to raise the political and social level of public representatives." Every citizen, every person should know his rights and be able to protect them. Arming people with legal awareness, legal knowledge and the ability to apply them in practice must be one of the main tasks. As long as every member of the society does not know his right, his duty and responsibility, and does not understand it as a vital need, all our words and efforts about reform and renewal will be in vain" [14, 243-246].

The development of democracy from below requires the socio-political knowledge of the population, the existence of a high-level political-legal culture. NGO organizes people who have close interests and pursue the same goal, and in achieving it, it allows to be fully aware of the real state of the social and political system of the society, to master the mechanisms of realization of the citizen's rights and freedoms in accordance with the existing legal framework. In general, a citizen can achieve the realization of his interests by cultivating his knowledge and skills to apply it independently, without pressure from anyone, within the framework of the law, in association with other people. This process inevitably conditions the improvement of the legal culture of the population and serves it.

Fourth, ideas and initiatives serve as conduits of community thought. NGO serves to form the social opinion of the population. "The main task of the NGO is, first of all, to protect democratic values, legal rights and freedoms of people. As a voluntary association of citizens, the NGO is sufficiently aware of the lifestyle,

aspirations, interests, and problems of the population, and provides support for their implementation during its activities. NGOs have the right to express and protect the rights and legal interests of their members and participants, to come up with initiatives on various issues of social life, and to submit proposals to state authorities and management bodies. So, the NGO is important because it is a tool between the people and the state, an organization that takes into account the will of the population and protects them.

#### 2. NGO and population socialization processes

The goal of NGO development is to ensure and protect the balance of interests of society members. In the political and social sphere, as an alternative force to the state systems, they should contribute to the rule of justice in life" [15, 23].

The role of NGOs in increasing the social activity of citizens is clearly reflected in the tasks they perform. Regardless of what they aim at, their main task is to form institutions of state power and establish social control over the activities of state power. In this process, unlike political parties, NGOs have the opportunity to influence the government indirectly, rather than directly. According to the law, they do not have the right to nominate their candidates to the representative bodies of power, such as political parties. The NGO does not seek to take over state structures, but is limited to influencing the authorities.

According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations", NGOs have the following rights: to express and protect the rights and legal interests of their members and participants; participation in the development of decisions of state authorities and management bodies in accordance with the procedure provided for by law [16, 63].

In our opinion, these rights of NGOs, established by law, are the basis for the full performance of their functions, and are consistent with their influence on improving the level of legal culture of the population.

Public organizations, NGOs are widely involved in the development and implementation of legal norms aimed at their regulation, as well as in the mechanism of their implementation, based on the state of social relations and citizens' interests. As a result, social opinion is formed according to it. If it is possible to establish stable, collective relations within these organizations, their chances of achieving their goals will increase to such an extent. NGO, as a goal-oriented association of ordinary citizens, can solve their life problems with the help of the law, achieving the development of legal norms in accordance with it.

Based on this, the NGO encourages the growth and improvement of obedience to the law, the ability of citizens to use existing legal norms for their own



benefit, and the ability to apply them in practice. The success of the NGO in this direction can be seen in the implementation of democratic principles in the society, the improvement of citizen's activity and legal culture. "The concept of raising legal culture in society" states that the level of legal culture of civil society is determined by the existence of a wide network of public associations, foundations, unions, associations, citizens' self-government bodies, and the social activity of these democratic structures in ensuring the rights of a specific person and society.

NGOs have great potential in influencing social opinion, and in this process, they play an important role in carrying out propaganda and organizing information exchange through the mass media. Skillfully using the rights of NGOs to disseminate information about their activities, establish mass media, and carry out publishing activities has a great impact on the democratization of society, especially on the improvement of the legal culture of the population.

A number of states dealing with human rights in Uzbekistan (the National Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights, the Association of Lawyers of Uzbekistan, the Association of Judges of Uzbekistan, the Women's Committee, the Institute for Monitoring Current Legislation under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, etc.) and NGOs (Human Rights and the Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law, the Independent Organization of Human Rights of Uzbekistan, the Institute of Democracy and Human Rights, the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights in Uzbekistan, the Social Organization of Lawyers-Women of Uzbekistan, etc.) are operating. The purpose of the organization of these NGOs is to protect and implement human rights, to form and popularize legal knowledge among people, to increase legal literacy, to identify and eliminate cases of human rights violations, and to establish an institution of public and civil control that ensures the effective interaction of society with the state. consists of stabilization [17, 142].

As the head of our state noted, NGOs are now becoming an important factor in the protection of democratic values, human rights and freedoms, and legal interests, creating conditions for the realization of citizens' potential, increasing their social, socio-economic activity and legal culture, and helping to ensure the balance of interests in society[ 18].

In 2005, the National Association of NGOs of Uzbekistan was established at the first nationwide Civic Forum. An NGO support fund was established under the association, and a fund for supporting NGOs and other civil society institutions was established under the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The fact that the propaganda work carried out by the state and NGOs aimed at protecting human

rights and the rule of law and improving the legal culture of citizens is yielding results to some extent can be explained by the increasing number of appeals from the population to these organizations. Based on the advanced traditions of international development, Uzbekistan openly expressed its commitment to the protection of human rights and undertook to comply with them on its territory and developed an organizational and legal mechanism for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The activities of the Human Rights Representative (Ombudsman) institution of the Oliy Majlis, which is the main element of this mechanism, are being expanded.

All over the world, the Ombudsman Institute, as an additional institution that considers citizens' complaints outside the court, not only prevents some cases of injustice, but also helps to eliminate the shortcomings in the mechanism of the activity of authorities, to make their work more efficient, and to achieve the goals and tasks of the rule of law state, and thus the citizens' state and society. helps to participate in management. It is the duty of the Ombudsman to determine the true details and content of such an important symbol of democracy as the supremacy of human rights and freedoms, to create conditions for the protection and implementation of citizens' rights by the state. However, along with the achievements in this regard, it should be noted that there are also shortcomings.

First, the legal literacy of the population is insufficient. The issue of increasing the legal awareness and legal culture of citizens is of great importance in strengthening the relationship between the state protecting human rights and NGOs and the population. Democratic institutions should reflect the mentality of our people, specific aspects of their culture. In political relations, it is typical for him to strive for enlightenment, knowledge, justice, obedience to the law, superiority of morality and spirituality [19].

Secondly, the local population should not contact the law enforcement agencies regarding any issue. A citizen is often used to getting used to the existing situation and making compromises.

Thirdly, in today's transitional period, there is a lack of confidence in the fact that the NGO aimed at the protection of human rights created by the initiative of citizens can influence political life, the process of law-making and its implementation. Therefore, the effectiveness of the ongoing democratic reforms requires increasing the legal culture of citizens and officials [20, 55]. It is important to overcome citizen's lack of trust and indifference to social relations.

Therefore, only if the equality and priority of the law for everyone in the society is ensured by the



state and law enforcement agencies, a new way of thinking, a new perception of the law will be established in the population, the legal culture will improve, and the role of NGOs will also increase in this.

#### Summary

The development of legal culture is the expansion of the scope of individual rights and freedoms, and the increase in the level of protection. At the center of legal development are the legal tools, mechanisms and institutions aimed at strengthening the status of the person, his rights, freedoms and legal interests, as well as the highest value of the person in culture, the criterion of all things. NGOs are an important factor of self-organization and regulation of society, and civil society can ensure the real freedom of the citizen, and democracy can be implemented in society only if the mechanisms of their implementation are clearly developed. On this basis, the NGO acts as a force that can attract the population to participate in the development and implementation of legal norms on a large scale, and ensures the mutual responsibility of the state and the citizen.

Therefore, the widespread adoption of NGOs leads not only to the increase in the effectiveness of the human rights protection mechanism, but also to the formation of a system of stable relations between the state and citizens based on rights and obligations. The more NGOs become active in the society, the system of "power - public - people" and self-management will be improved and strengthened, and in this process, the high legal culture of citizens will become the main driving force [21,23].

In our opinion, the following proposals can be made that serve to strengthen the role of NGOs and public organizations in increasing the social activity of citizens:

- strengthening institutional mechanisms for respect for human rights and their provision;
- to improve the effectiveness of the processes of liberalization of the judiciary;
- development of national consciousness and national pride in citizens [22, 434];
- development of freedom, patriotism, humanitarianism, social equality, which is the moral basis of the legal culture of a person;
- improvement of independent mass media with freedom of speech, freedom of receiving and distribution of information;
- it is necessary to remove all obstacles in the way of citizens' social activity and to support the initiative directed from below, using their creativity and enthusiasm.

The development of a high level of political and legal consciousness and culture among citizens

serves to establish public control over the state power of civil society institutions.

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