



RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE BASIS FOR THE PROGRESS OF NEW UZBEKISTAN

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: October 11 th 2021 Accepted: November 12 th 2021 Published: December 28 th 2021	The article reveals the essence of the principles and main directions of the state policy of Uzbekistan in the field of human rights protection, their significance in the new political, legal and socio-economic conditions. The achievements of the country in the field of strengthening fundamental human rights and freedoms in the context of a pandemic, as well as the importance of education in the field of human rights at the present stage are considered.

Keywords: democracy, civil society, human rights and freedoms, culture of human rights, education in the field of human rights, raising the legal awareness and legal culture of the population.

In the modern world, the recognition and protection of human rights and freedoms have become a powerful factor and a clear guideline for the progressive development of the entire world community towards democracy, a criterion for the improvement and humanization of domestic and foreign policies of states, an indicator of the implementation of the foundations of the rule of law. This is evidenced by a number of research works carried out by scientists from developed countries of the world (Tyler P Yates (2021), Thomas Carothers (2016), Elizabeth A. Wilson (2017), Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi (2018), Tyler P Yates (2021), R Brian Howe, Katherine Covell (2021), Axel Marx, Nicolas Hachez, Katrien Meuwissen, Pierre Schmitt, Jakub Jaraczewski (2015), Dustin N Sharp (2019), Paul Gready (2019), Richard Carver, Lisa Handley (2020). And Uzbekistan is no exception here. Over the 30-year period of independence, the principles and main directions of the state policy of Uzbekistan in the field of human rights protection have been formed, which include: - adherence to universally recognized ideas and values of democracy and human rights, as well as international obligations in the field of human rights; - the priority of national interests based on the formation of a strong legal statehood and a fair civil society; - the priority of the interests of the individual over the interests of society and the state, enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan; - the principle of openness and transparency, which means that the discussion and solution of all problems in this area is carried out in dialogue with all institutions of civil society, as well as with international partners. Guided by these principles, Uzbekistan has carried out a large-scale implementation of international standards in the field of human rights, in the life of society, as well as in the minds of the country's citizens.

One of the key priorities of New Uzbekistan in the field of human rights is the protection of the rights of young people; human rights education. This was stated in the speeches of the President of the country at the 75th anniversary session of the UN General Assembly, the High-level Segment of the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council, as well as in a Message to the country's parliament. Today, Uzbekistan, in solving the most important problems of our time that humanity faces, is not limited only to combating the consequences of global threats (terrorism and extremism, racism, climate change, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic), but advocates the eradication of the root causes of these threats through education and upbringing of young people, the formation of their worldview based on modern knowledge, spirituality and enlightenment, educating young people in the spirit of high ideals of humanism. And accordingly, it attracts young people to solving these problems. The dominant social development of the New Uzbekistan is a person, his rights, freedoms, honor and dignity. This means that the system of ensuring and protecting human rights is the main component of the entire national development strategy of our state. And these are not just words.

Currently, Uzbekistan has joined more than 80 major international human rights instruments and submits national reports on their implementation to the Human Rights Council and the UN treaty committees on a regular basis. This contributes to the creation of an effective human rights protection system in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Thus, the Republic of Uzbekistan has created its own model that ensures the systematic and consistent implementation of international standards in national legislation and law enforcement practice. In accordance with international obligations, a framework of normative



legal acts on personal, political, economic, social and cultural human rights has been created: 12 constitutional laws, 18 codes and more than 700 legislative acts regulating human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international agreements and treaties have been adopted. The practice has been introduced according to which draft laws are submitted for public discussion and published on a publicly accessible information portal. Uzbekistan was the first of the Central Asian States to create an effective institutional system for the protection of human rights, which includes, along with the traditional law enforcement system (court, prosecutor's office, bar), an extra-judicial system (parliamentary Ombudsman, Business Ombudsman, Ombudsman for Children's Rights and the National Center for Human Rights). According to the UN World Public Information Campaign in the Field of Human Rights, extensive information and educational activities in the field of human rights are carried out. More than 120 major international legal documents on human rights have been translated into Uzbek and published in large editions. About 30 legal newspapers and magazines on human rights subject matter are published in the country. At the same time, the system of education and training on human rights and freedoms is being improved: the Academy of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Higher School of Judges under the Supreme Judicial Council, Training courses on human rights and freedoms at the National Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights have been established, the NGO "Madad" has been created, the main task of which is to provide free legal assistance, etc.

All this is carried out with the aim of forming a culture of human rights, primarily among the younger generation, the basis of which is freedom of thought, awareness of freedom of action, because only a free person is aware of the possibility of protecting his rights with the help of laws and on their basis. This is very significant, because the ideological basis of the culture of human rights in a democratic society presupposes the unconditional presence of such factors as religious tolerance, consent, tolerance. Elements of universal culture should be combined with the specifics of our multinational state. In modern conditions, the state is becoming more and more a means of overcoming social contradictions not by violence and suppression, but by achieving social compromise, mutual consent. The most important thing is that all these theoretical postulates are tested by life from year to year. Although each year is unique

in its own way, 2020 will forever remain in our memory as the year of the pandemic, which identified and revealed new problems in the field of human rights (Alicia Ely Yamin, 2020, Katrina Perehudoff, Lisa Forman, 2019, Alicia Ely Yamin, 2019). However, research and work in the field of human rights, both in the world and in Uzbekistan, actively continued. Thus, in June 2020, taking into account the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council and the UN treaty committees, the National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Human Rights was adopted and consistently implemented for the first time (14). In August 2020, the Samarkand Forum on Youth Rights was held under the auspices of the United Nations. It discussed the draft Convention on the Rights of Youth prepared by Uzbekistan, adopted the Samarkand resolution "Youth 2020: Global Solidarity, Sustainable development and Human Rights", which is presented as an official document of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, posted in the UN official documents system. And in October 2020, for the first time in the history of national statehood, Uzbekistan was elected to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for a three-year period beginning on January 1, 2021. And this, undoubtedly, was evidence of the recognition by the international community of the achievements of the republic and the observed progress in implementing reforms in the field of liberalizing society, strengthening fundamental human rights and freedoms, as well as international and regional initiatives of the head of our state in the field of human rights and freedoms protection. It is important to note that the problem of ensuring human rights and freedoms in Uzbekistan is under the close attention of not only the state, but also the whole society.

Thus, civil society institutions, within the framework of the current legislation, take an active part in its improvement, conducting public monitoring of the rights of socially vulnerable segments of the population, information and educational activities, as well as in the preparation of periodic national and alternative reports on the implementation of international obligations in the field of human rights. For example, in 2020, under the conditions of a pandemic, at the initiative of NGOs, a lot of work was done in the fight against coronavirus, charity events, efforts to protect the health of citizens were extremely effective. At the same time, projects and programs implemented by non-governmental non-profit organizations (currently there are about 9200 non-governmental non-profit organizations in Uzbekistan (15) are yielding tangible results in healthcare, science, culture, education and other areas.



Life shows that the formation of a culture of human rights, as well as the formation of a legal consciousness adequate to the norms of the rule of law, begins with the formation of adequate ideas about freedom, equality and responsibility. As they say, "in the exercise of human rights, the most important thing is not one's own legal claims, but respect for the rights of others." The human rights and freedoms proclaimed as the highest value outside of his legal and moral responsibility turn into freedom of arbitrariness and lawlessness in practice. "No society will tolerate absolute freedom (even freedom of speech) and no society will reduce it to zero. The difference between the regimes is only in the degree of freedom," argued the American political thinker Joseph Schumpeter. Naturally, each of the freedoms is limited, each of them has reasonable limits – the freedom to create organizations excludes the creation of terrorist groups, freedom of speech does not mean that it is possible to slander a citizen. Such extremes are clear to everyone. Freedom is possible only in conditions of law and order. And order in modern society is provided by the authorities. The law forces all segments of the population to reckon with the civilized rules of the game, the same for everyone. Here the most important principle of the rule of law comes into force – "Everything that is not prohibited is allowed." As we can see, the constitutional obligation to recognize a person, his rights and freedoms as the highest value is realized through a complex mechanism of power, in which almost all state bodies and the entire legal system of the country participate. The responsibility of each person is a fundamental element of the legal consciousness of civil society and is inextricably linked with the factor of the realization of his rights. This means that a person exercising his rights and freedoms in society is responsible for not encroaching on the similar rights of other citizens. In a word, all these factors and postulates have manifested themselves especially vividly in our life under the conditions of the pandemic. When an attentive attitude to such rights as the right not to be discriminated against, and principles such as transparency and respect for human dignity, was able to prevent the negative consequences associated with the introduction of excessively broad restrictions.

Such situations once again confirm the importance of human rights education. Within the framework of the implementation in our country of the World Programme for Human Rights Education and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, - A system of education on human rights issues has been formed, covering preschool and

school-age children, students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, civil servants, law enforcement officers and courts, pedagogical, medical and social workers who improve their knowledge in the field of human rights within the framework of relevant institutes, centers, advanced training courses. In order to further improve the effectiveness of work to improve the legal awareness and legal culture of the population, the introduction of modern methods of improving the legal knowledge of citizens in harmonious combination with socio-political transformations, - the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved the Concept of improving legal culture in society (16) and its "Roadmap", as well as - A joint resolution of the Kengash of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved the National Action Program for the implementation of the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education (17) and Training and the Roadmap for its implementation. This is very important, because ensuring human rights and freedoms is possible only when a person is enlightened, when he is not just a consumer of the benefits of democracy, but an active creator and defender of them. Without profound changes in people's minds, no social changes are possible. That is why human rights education in modern conditions is considered as an integral part of professional training. And the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is actively involved in these processes – cadets and students are trained here in the subjects "General theory of human rights" and "Organization of human rights protection in the activities of internal affairs bodies". Knowledge of international standards in the field of human rights and the ability to apply them in practice is both a professional and political task of police officers, because respect for human rights is the basis for social progress and prosperity of society, sustainable development of the State as a whole.

Today, in the context of the active process of formation of civil society and the rule of law, it is important not only to create the necessary conditions, guarantees and mechanisms for the realization of human rights, but also to eliminate direct violations of rights, as well as the causes that give rise to them. Thus, all these serious and consistent steps of Uzbekistan testify to the firm and unwavering decision of Uzbekistan to follow the path of democracy, promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms, on which peace, stability and well-being of citizens depend.



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