



THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REVISED CONSTITUTION IN ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS

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Received:	8 th September 2025	This article provides a scientific analysis of how human and civil rights and freedoms are reinforced in the new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basis of innovative approaches, as well as their significance in legislation and legal practice.
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The most important aspirations and goals of citizens are fully reflected in the Basic Law – the Constitution. During the years of independence, on the basis of the Constitution, comprehensive reforms and large-scale transformations have been carried out with the aim of building a democratic legal state and a just civil society in which human dignity is upheld, and rich experience has been accumulated in this regard.

Today, Uzbekistan is entering a new stage of its development. The full implementation of the urgent tasks aimed at building a just and people-oriented state, as outlined in the Development Strategy of the New Uzbekistan, requires the formation of a new, strong constitutional space commensurate with the goals and scale of these reforms.

From this perspective, constitutional reforms are a natural result of social development and are of exceptional importance for determining our future steps as a nation and a people; they represent a major step toward building a just society.

Accordingly, the ongoing reforms in our country are aimed at establishing as an absolute principle that from now on the honor, dignity, rights, and freedoms of the individual will have priority in all spheres. In other words, the idea of "For Human Dignity" and the approach "Human – Society – State," which serves as the main principle of today's reforms, have been deeply embedded in the essence and content of the revised Constitution.

In his address at the meeting with members of the Constitutional Commission, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphasized: "Our main goal is to bring this document to such a perfect level that every compatriot will proudly say: this is my Constitution."

In this sense, the fact that, prior to being submitted to the referendum, the draft was thoroughly discussed by broad segments of the public on an unprecedented scale, that more than 220,000 proposals were received as a result, and that the draft constitutional law was formed on the basis of these proposals clearly demonstrates that the revised Constitution is, in the full sense of the word, a people's Constitution.

The revised Constitution entered into force without any additional documents or procedures after the people voted for it, starting from the day the results of the referendum were officially announced by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The revised Constitution was adopted directly by the people and became the first document in our history to be put into effect through a direct popular vote. Most importantly, in expressing opinions on the revised Constitution, the vote of every citizen had equal legal status and equal force. That is, regardless of a person's profession or position, the choice and opinion of each individual were significant and decisive in the process of adopting, voting on, and approving the Constitution.

Indeed, under the conditions of the New Uzbekistan, the most important features of the revised Constitution are associated with transformations aimed at ensuring the rights and interests of the individual, his or her life, freedom, dignity, and inviolable rights, as well as with the development of a free and just civil society and the building of a democratic state governed by the rule of law.

In the revised Constitution, constitutional guarantees aimed at implementing the principle of the rule of law were established. In order to ensure that state activities are carried out on the basis of the supremacy of law, the supreme legal force of the Constitution and its direct effect were закреплены, and human rights and freedoms were guaranteed in accordance with international law and constitutional norms. In this regard, special attention is paid to the further strengthening of the norms related to the principles of a social state in the revised Constitution. In particular, provisions on ensuring quality education and medical services, supporting socially vulnerable groups, creating decent working conditions and a fair wage system, protection against unemployment, and ensuring the right to housing were further improved. At the same time, the reliable protection of human rights and freedoms was defined as a constitutional obligation of the state. New provisions related to the introduction of free market mechanisms, ensuring healthy competition and the inviolability of private property, and supporting



entrepreneurship were also reflected in the revised Basic Law.

In the revised Constitution, the rights and obligations of all parties—on the one hand, the state and its system of bodies, and on the other hand, the individual, the citizen, and society—are clearly and concisely set out in a manner understandable to everyone. This has become a basis for further strengthening Uzbekistan's stability and its ability to serve as a reliable shield against any threats.

The natural and inalienable rights that belong to a person from birth include the right to life, honor, dignity, liberty, equality, freedom, security, and inviolability. These rights are recognized as inherently belonging to every individual regardless of whether they are explicitly established in legislation or not.

As emphasized by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, at the meeting with the Constitutional Commission on June 20, 2022: "Human dignity, fundamental rights and freedoms are inviolable and inalienable; they belong to everyone from birth."

In a democratic state governed by the rule of law, it is of great importance not only to establish the inviolability and inalienability of human dignity, fundamental rights and freedoms, but also to recognize that they belong to everyone from birth.

For this very purpose, Article 19 of the revised Constitution establishes the fundamental rule that human rights and freedoms belong to everyone from birth.

By virtue of this provision, the protection of the basic, natural, and inalienable rights of the individual is constitutionally *закреплена* as one of the primary duties of the state and society. These rights include the right to life, the right to liberty, personal and home inviolability, the right to shelter, property rights, the right to judicial protection, freedom of speech and belief, freedom of movement, the right to choose a place of residence, the right to citizenship, the right to work, the right to education, the right to health care, and other related rights.

The principle that human rights and freedoms belong to everyone from birth is enshrined in more than 80 international human rights instruments to which Uzbekistan is a party. These include the seven core United Nations human rights treaties and their optional protocols, conventions of UNESCO and the International Labour Organization, international humanitarian law conventions, the OSCE "Human Dimension" documents, as well as the instruments of regional organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the CIS, all of which play an important role in the further improvement of national legislation.

The provision that human rights and freedoms belong to everyone from birth is also enshrined in the constitutions of Spain, Italy, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic.

Strengthening human rights and freedoms in the Constitution and laws, as well as ensuring their compliance with international standards, is one of the priority tasks of a democratic state governed by the rule of law.

At present, Uzbekistan has acceded to more than 80 international human rights instruments, including the seven core United Nations treaties and four optional protocols. Within this framework, the country regularly submits national reports to the UN Human Rights Council and treaty bodies on the implementation of these obligations. Article 19 of the revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan enshrines the following humanistic norm: "Human rights and freedoms in the Republic of Uzbekistan are recognized and guaranteed in accordance with the universally recognized norms of international law and this Constitution."

The introduction of this provision into the Constitution implies the recognition of human rights and freedoms in accordance with both the Constitution of Uzbekistan and international instruments. In particular, it provides for the direct application in practice of universally recognized norms enshrined in international documents, their incorporation into national legislation, and their implementation through other legal mechanisms.

The recognition of human and civil rights and freedoms in accordance with the universally recognized norms of international law and the Constitution is enshrined in the constitutions of almost all democratic states.

This norm, first, ensures that the legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan are developed and adopted in compliance with international human rights instruments, and that state bodies and officials observe the requirements of these instruments when making decisions. Second, it creates guarantees for citizens to protect their rights in relations with state authorities, including in judicial and investigative practice, by relying on the norms of international documents.

In conclusion, the revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan has initiated a qualitatively new stage in the protection of human and civil rights and freedoms. It recognizes human dignity as the highest social value and establishes that the activities of all state bodies must serve this fundamental principle. This, in turn, contributes to the further strengthening of the rule of law, social justice, and democratic governance mechanisms in society.

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