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# Development of the Idea of Religious Tolerance in Uzbekistan during Independence

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**Abstract:** This article reflects the views of the author on the guarantee of peace, inter-religious and inter-ethnic unity and the rights of citizens to freedom of conscience and religion during the years of independence.

**Keywords:** globalization, Islam, tolerance, freedom of conscience, interethnic harmony, ideology, President, Navruz, Constitution, international, ISESCO, law.

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In today's world, globalization is bringing peoples closer together. This rapprochement provides intercultural interaction and creates a favorable environment for improving relations between them. Mutual understanding between peoples plays an important role in the formation of national, religious and cultural tolerance and universal values. Such an exchange of values also affects the process of reproductive renewal of the unique national and cultural values of each nation.

Among the many challenges facing humanity in the process of globalization, interethnic harmony and tolerance are among the most important. It is also true that religious and national conflicts in some parts of the world today are caused by a lack of religious tolerance and national harmony<sup>1</sup>.

We know that in the first years of independence, as in the former Soviet republics, there was an ideological vacuum in our country. This ideological gap could be filled only by renewing the cultural, enlightenment, spiritual and religious spheres. Thanks to the prudent policy and efforts of the first President I.A.Karimov, peace, social harmony and mutual cooperation have been strengthened in the newly independent republic.

In 1992, Navruz was given official status. The holiday of Navruz, which we all look forward to and celebrate with great joy, is for us a unique expression of the eternity of life, the primordial power and boundless generosity of nature, our millennial national image, our noble traditions. Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, the Muslim holy days, have been declared public holidays<sup>2</sup>.

After the independence of Uzbekistan, man declared his rights and interests as the highest value. Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" adopted on December 8, 1992<sup>3</sup>The law enshrines the idea of religious tolerance. As a result, the country has opened the way to freedom and national pride, patriotism and humanity, internationalism and religious tolerance on the basis of the ideology of national independence.

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<sup>1</sup>Quronov Mvaboshq. Dunyoningmafukuraviymanzarasi. T.: Muharrirashriyoti, 2017. 3-b.

<sup>2</sup>A.Asqarov. O'zbekxalqiningkelibchiqishtarixi. T.:O'zbekiston, 2015. 564-b.

<sup>3</sup><https://lex.uz/acts/-65108>.

The fact that the Republic of Uzbekistan has gained state independence and chosen a specific path of economic and social development has necessitated the reorganization of the structure and content of training and a number of measures: "Education is the key. and the National Training Program. This Law and the National Program were adopted on August 29, 1997 at the IX session of the OliyMajlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan of the first convocation. According to the law, 12 years of compulsory free education has been introduced in our country. This allowed young people to get a full education and get a profession. At the same time, a wide range of opportunities has opened up for young people to receive religious education.

In fact, before independence, only the Mir Arab Madrasah in Bukhara and the Islamic Institute in Tashkent functioned in our country. began to operate.

In 1998, religious schools were re-registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and all madrassas were renamed secondary special Islamic schools. Today, there are 10 religious educational institutions, the Tashkent Islamic Institute and 9 secondary special Islamic schools (2 of them are women's schools) in the country<sup>4</sup>.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 23, 2003, diplomas issued to graduates of these educational institutions are recognized as state educational documents, taking into account the fact that students receive religious and secular knowledge in accordance with state standards. , that is, individuals with diplomas are given the right to continue their education in the state higher education system.

The establishment of the Tashkent Islamic University under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1999 at the initiative of the First President was an important historical innovation in the system of religious education of our country. It is the only educational institution in Central Asia that has all the facilities to teach young people religious and secular sciences in harmony, based on the philosophical and spiritual roots of our ancestors.

In order to develop religious education, to further increase the interest in religious education among young people, since 1991, the "Recitation Competition", since 2001, the "Barkamol Avlod" sports games, as well as since 2002, the "Single Olympics" The first place winner will be given the right to enter the Tashkent Islamic University on the basis of a special state grant of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan without tests and exams, which will further increase the number of talented young people.

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 99 of March 1, 2004 "On Licensing the Activities of Religious Educational Institutions" is the main normative document aimed at regulating the religious education system. It is through this document that religious educational institutions are operating in the country.

It should be noted that religious education and tolerance in our country are not left out of the spotlight of the world community. In 2007, Tashkent was awarded the status of the Capital of Islamic Culture by ISESCO, the Organization for Islamic Cooperation's Department of Science, Education and Culture<sup>5</sup>.

The legislation of the independent Republic of Uzbekistan has created a legal framework that fully meets the requirements of international law. Uzbekistan has equal rights to religious education, charity, pilgrimage, and dialogue between different faiths.

During the years of independence, more than 60,000 citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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<sup>4</sup> <https://lex.uz/acts/-65108>.

<sup>5</sup> N. Jo'rayev. O'zbekistonning yangitarixi. II- kitob. T.:2014. 324-b.

have been able to visit Saudi Arabia for the Hajj, and more than 150 citizens have visited places in Russia, Greece and Israel that are sacred to Christians and Jews<sup>6</sup>. The state provides comprehensive assistance to pilgrims, special planes, medical care, foreign exchange and visa exit and entry visas. In 2007, at the initiative of the First President, a new modern two-storey building was built for the Tashkent Islamic University in the Hazrati Imam complex.

In the renewed Uzbekistan, by the decision of President Sh.M.Mirziyoyev, the Imam Bukhari International Center was established in Samarkand region. The purpose of the center is to study in depth the essence of the holy book of Islam, the Koran and the science of hadith, the scientific and spiritual foundations of the school of hadith, the heritage of our great hadith scholars such as Imam Bukhari, Imam Termezi. to share the great heritage with the world community as well.

The transformation of Tashkent Islamic University into the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan in 2018 by the decision of President Sh. Mirziyoyev is a clear proof of our opinion. In short, thanks to the prudent policy pursued by the President of our country Sh.M.Mirziyoyev, peace, social harmony and mutual cooperation in our country are becoming stronger. The fact that different nations and peoples live in peace in our country shows how tolerant our people are.

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<sup>6</sup>Yuksakma'naviyatvaqonunustuvorligiasosidayashash, el-yurtgasadoqat, halollikvajasoratfazilatlarinikamoltoptirish. T.: "O'zbekiston"NMIU, 2013. 365-b.