

**NEW UZBEKISTAN AND THE FORMATION OF A SOCIAL STATE:
CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION**

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Abstract

This article discusses reforms such as ensuring reliable protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and representatives of the older generation, providing housing for socially vulnerable groups of citizens, and establishing a minimum wage, among other changes.

Keywords: qualified medical care, families, children, women, elderly people, social state, quality education, coverage of women's higher education expenses, consistent policy of increasing citizens' incomes.

In our country, the principle of “the individual – society – the state” has been firmly enshrined at the level of constitutional legislation and constitutional practice. Therefore, over the past seven to eight years, the fundamental requirements of a social state have been fully implemented in practice. In particular, as a social state, reforms aimed at ensuring quality education, qualified medical care, comprehensive support for families, children, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, provision of housing for those in need, creation of safe working conditions, and poverty reduction have become tangible in the daily lives of our population.

This can be clearly seen through reforms in the healthcare and education sectors alone. Over the past seven to eight years, funding allocated to healthcare and education has increased six to seven times. A comprehensive system has been created that links primary care at the mahalla level with specialized services. More than 400 high-tech medical procedures that were previously performed only in the capital are now being carried out in regional and district centers. Even kidney transplantation procedures are now performed in the regions. Previously, citizens had to travel to the capital or even abroad, spending significant time and money to receive such treatment.

In addition, nearly one million new student places have been created in schools and 1.5 million in preschool institutions. Preschool coverage has increased threefold, reaching 78 percent. More than ten types of salary bonuses have been introduced for teachers based on criteria such as professional qualifications, foreign language proficiency, new assessment systems, and participation in academic competitions. As a result, 60,000 teachers who effectively benefited from these incentives are now earning salaries ranging from 8 to 12 million soums. Preschool educators' salaries have increased by 65 percent, reaching parity with those of school teachers.

Moreover, special attention is being paid to the education of children from socially vulnerable and low-income families. Each year, the higher education expenses of 2,000 women are fully covered. Until recently, most children with disabilities received education in isolation from the broader social environment. Thanks to the initiatives of the President, barrier-free environments and necessary conditions have been created to enable their attendance at general education schools.

Support for citizens who have lost income or health and fallen into difficult social situations has been gradually expanded. At the same time, the scope of social services and assistance aimed at ensuring the social integration of persons with disabilities is being widened.

Another significant change is the improvement in the population's economic opportunities. Five years ago, 23 percent of the population—approximately 7.5 million people—had incomes

that did not even reach the poverty line. During this period, income-generating opportunities were created for 3.5 million citizens, reducing the poverty rate to 11 percent. Over the next three years, it is planned to further reduce this figure to 7 percent.

In particular, to reduce poverty and strengthen social protection, 500 billion soums from the state budget have been allocated for this year. Another innovation is the gradual introduction of a unified “Social Card” system, which integrates social services, assistance, and benefits into a single platform.

In conclusion, the principle of “New Uzbekistan as a social state,” firmly закрепел as a constitutional norm, is increasingly being reflected in all spheres of life. In addition to the examples mentioned above, this includes preventing child labor, ensuring reliable protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and the elderly, providing housing for socially vulnerable groups, and establishing a minimum wage.

To further improve living standards, expand the scope of measures aimed at increasing citizens’ incomes, and strengthen social protection, a Presidential Decree titled “On Increasing the Amounts of Wages, Pensions, Scholarships, and Allowances” was adopted recently. This document is of particular importance as it serves to improve living standards, ensure social equity, and reduce income disparities. According to the decree, starting from July 1, 2025, the amounts of pensions and allowances, as well as child benefits and financial assistance for low-income families, will be increased by 10 percent. This initiative will help a large portion of the population not only with food expenses but also with medicines and utility payments.

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