

UZBEKISTAN'S PRUDENT POLICY OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Burkhanov Takhir Makhammatzhonovich

Professor of the Military Security and Defense

University of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Doctor of

Pedagogical Sciences (DSc), Professor.

Abstract

The article is devoted to the issue of religious tolerance, which is one of the urgent problems of today. It provides an in-depth scientific analysis of the concepts of tolerance and religious tolerance, their gradual development, religious organizations in Uzbekistan, the conditions created for them, and the work carried out by our government in this area.

Keywords

religion, belief, faith, freedom of conscience, tolerance, religious tolerance, confession, religious organization.

Ensuring religious tolerance is essential in any country to ensure the safety and stability of society. Ensuring peace and stability in multi-confessional Uzbekistan, in turn, creates the basis for a peaceful life. In fact, religious tolerance is one of the main ideas of our national ideology. Qualities of tolerance, such as patience, mutual understanding, and human assistance towards other religions, are deeply ingrained in our country.

It is known that representatives of Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Christianity, Manichaeism, and Islam have lived in peace and harmony in our country since ancient times, and mosques, churches, and synagogues have functioned in many cities that were considered cultural centers. In turn, the free performance of religious ceremonies by nations and ethnic groups of different religions in these sacred places creates the basis for ensuring national security.

When it comes to religion, it is appropriate to discuss the universal concept of "tolerance," which harmonizes religious and secular views, and its problematic issues.

The "Declaration of Principles on Tolerance" adopted by UNESCO in 1995 defines the concept of tolerance as follows and explains its essence: Tolerance means respect, acceptance, and proper understanding of the various cultures in our world, ways of expressing oneself and manifesting individuality. Tolerance is created by knowledge, sincerity, open dialogue, respect for opinion, conscience, and belief. It is not only a duty but also a political and legal necessity. Tolerance is a force that ensures the achievement of peace and leads from a culture of warlessness to a culture of peace.

Tolerance is not a concession, consideration, or flattery, it is an active attitude that consists of recognizing universal human rights and freedoms. In any case, tolerance does not violate the above values. Tolerance must be demonstrated by all individuals, groups, and states.

Tolerance is a commitment to establishing human rights, promoting pluralism, democracy, and the rule of law. Tolerance is a concept that means renouncing dogmatism, absolutizing the

truth, and confirming the rules established in international legal documents in the field of human rights.

Manifesting tolerance does not mean being indifferent to human rights or tolerating social injustice, abandoning one's faith and favoring the faith of others. It means that everyone is free to practice their faith, and everyone must recognize that others have this right. It means that people differ in appearance, appearance, behavior, speech, behavior, and values, that they have the right to live in the world and preserve their individuality. It also means that one person's views cannot be forcibly imposed on others¹.

Today, many good and noble deeds are being carried out to ensure socio-political stability in the life of our multinational society, to establish broad relations with foreign countries in various fields, and to ensure interreligious harmony.

As a positive aspect of the work being done in these areas, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017 "On the Strategy of Actions for Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan" is of great importance. According to this decree, it is necessary to mention that within the framework of the fifth direction of the Action Strategy for the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, called "Ensuring security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, conducting a deeply thought-out, mutually beneficial and practical foreign policy", strengthening the independence and sovereignty of our state, forming an environment of security, stability and good neighborliness around Uzbekistan, strengthening the international prestige of our country is defined as a strategic task.

In particular, within the framework of this direction, it was envisaged to implement measures to protect the constitutional system, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the republic, to improve the system of information, regulatory and legal bases in the field of cybersecurity, to organize and develop the system of informing the population about emergency situations, to mitigate the consequences of the Aral tragedy, as well as to develop the concept of priority directions of the policy in the field of interethnic relations and the concept of state policy in the religious sphere.

Specifically, these factors demonstrate that the state of religious tolerance is positive in ensuring the security of society and the stability of the country in our country. In this regard, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev said: "For many centuries, representatives of different nations and nationalities, cultures and religions have lived in peace and harmony in our ancient and generous land. Hospitality, kindness, generosity of heart and tolerance in the truest sense have always been characteristic of our people and form the basis of its mentality."², he did not emphasize it in vain.

¹Declaration of Principles on Tolerance. - T.: Adolat, 2004. - B. 91-92.

²Mirziyoyev Sh.M. We will resolutely continue our path of national development and raise it to a new stage. - Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 2017, page 295.

This situation demonstrates that religious tolerance in Uzbekistan is a unique symbol of harmony and solidarity, and is a positive example of tolerance towards representatives of all religions. Therefore, the existing religions in the world, by their nature, embody goodness, peace, kindness, friendship and constructive ideas. In particular, religion calls people to honesty and purity, compassion, brotherhood and tolerance. In all religions, the essence and meaning of human life, the establishment of political-legal and moral relations between people on the basis of equality and justice are reflected. Religious sources promote ideas that encourage humanity and tolerance, such as not killing, not stealing, not giving false testimony, and not disturbing people. Religious tolerance means freedom of conscience, respect for another person or religion. It requires different religions and confessions to live side by side and in peace with each other, despite the diversity of ideological opinions in their beliefs. In any multinational, multi-religious country, inter-ethnic harmony and inter-confessional cooperation are factors that create a solid foundation for stability and development in society and determine its future.

Today, more than 130 nations and ethnic groups live in harmony and solidarity in our country, and 2,243 religious organizations belonging to 16 confessions are officially operating. In particular, the fact that cultural centers of many nations are freely operating confirms our opinion.

Over the past period, many mosques, churches, synagogues and temples have been built and renovated. These include Orthodox churches in the cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Navoi, the Catholic Kostel in Tashkent, the Armenian Apostolic Church in Samarkand, and the Buddhist temple in Tashkent. The result of these positive efforts is of great importance in strengthening the environment of religious tolerance for representatives of all religions in the republic, ensuring mutual solidarity, harmony and harmony among the citizens of the country. Therefore, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, ensuring and strengthening peace and stability are an important component and condition of our main strategic goal - "Building a free and prosperous Motherland, a free and prosperous life."

The state promotes the establishment of mutual compromise and respect between citizens who profess different religions and those who do not, religious organizations of different faiths, and does not allow actions aimed at opposing and escalating religious and other fanaticism and extremism, and inciting hostility between different confessions. This situation is of great importance in preventing inter-religious conflicts in Uzbekistan, where tolerance is ensured in all inter-religious relations, and creates a basis for the formation of mutual cooperation, solidarity and harmony among representatives of different religions. This factor directly serves the peace and development of the country, the development of universal culture and spirituality.

It should be emphasized that one of the main reasons for the political processes and bloody clashes taking place in the world is the contradictions in the religious worldviews of people who profess different religions. Today, the positive result of the wise policy pursued by our government in our country is of great importance in ensuring national and religious tolerance. The fact that representatives of all religious confessions freely perform their religious traditions and customs is a confirmation of our opinion. In particular, the "Center of Islamic Civilization", built in the capital of our country at the end of 2025, is a clear example of our above-mentioned thoughts. It should be noted that the museum exposition of the Center consists of the halls "Pre-Islamic Civilizations", "First Renaissance Period", "Second Renaissance Period", "Uzbekistan - in the XX century", "New Uzbekistan - the foundation of the Third Renaissance", "Holy Quran". These sections reflect different periods of the development of civilization in our country.

The Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan is an international platform embodying a new innovative form of scientific, educational, religious and spiritual infrastructure, the main task of which is to study and promote the heritage of great ancestors, popularize the idea of "New Uzbekistan - the foundation of the Third Renaissance" and to deeply study the achievements of our people in the past and the New Renaissance.

In short, the peaceful life and friendly environment firmly established in our country on the basis of the principles of interethnic harmony and tolerance are of great importance in ensuring our security and stability. As our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said: "It is the sacred duty of every person who considers Uzbekistan his homeland to be even more vigilant and alert, to protect and further strengthen the unity and solidarity of our multinational people, which is our most important asset and we are rightfully proud of. Only in this way can we effectively resist all the threats and dangers of today, create a strong immunity against various destructive ideas in our society, and achieve even more significant results on the path of democratic development that we have chosen."³.

³Mirziyoyev Sh.M. We will resolutely continue our path of national development and raise it to a new stage. - Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 2017. - B. 298-299.