
INTERETHNIC HARMONY AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE - AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ANCIENT TRADITIONS OF THE UZBEKS

Turdiyev Bexruz SOBIROVICH
A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophical Sciences
Bukhara State University, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

For thousands of years, Central Asia has been home to many different religions, nationalities and ethnic groups, with a mix of cultures and lifestyles. The priority of the principle of tolerance in the region has become a natural-historical norm for development and progress. If we look at the history of the Uzbek people, this region has always been a place where people of different religions, ethnicities and nationalities live together in peace. At present, for hundreds of years in this land there has been a process of enrichment of the universal cultures of the peoples of the world significantly.

KEYWORDS: Interethnic harmony, tolerance, universal values, development, monument, resolution, peace

Introduction

Today, interethnic harmony and interreligious tolerance play an important role in ensuring the stability and security of the Uzbek people. This glorious idea is a vital necessity for the peaceful and harmonious coexistence of more than 1,600 ethnic groups on earth. It is precisely inter-ethnic solidarity that is an invincible force that can withstand the contradictions of chauvinism, fascism and racism. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan has focused on ensuring interethnic and interreligious tolerance, forming a sense of tolerance and solidarity, educating the younger generation in the spirit of respect for national and universal values - a priority strategic task in the field of spiritual renewal in society.

Discussion

In this regard, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev said: "Development of a culture of tolerance and humanity, strengthening interethnic and inter-citizen harmony and harmony, educating the younger generation on this basis, in the spirit of love and devotion to the Motherland have been identified as one of the most important priorities of state policy in Uzbekistan. All this has found its full expression in life. The atmosphere of friendship and solidarity prevailing in our country is the most important factor in peace and stability, increasing the effectiveness of ongoing reforms, further enhancing the prestige of Uzbekistan in the international arena".

In his speech at the meeting dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Republican International Cultural Center, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev highlighted the following: "Religious organizations of 16 denominations operate freely in our country. Teaching in public educational institutions is conducted in 7 languages. The National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan broadcasts in 12 languages, and newspapers and magazines are

published in more than a dozen languages. 137 national cultural centers play a leading role in the development of ethnic identity and further harmonization of interethnic relations in our country" (Mirziyoev, 2017).

According to the decree of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 19, 2017 No 5046, the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established on the basis of the Republican International Cultural Center and the Council of Societies of Friendship and Cultural-Enlightenment Relations of Uzbekistan with Foreign Countries.

An example of true interethnic harmony and great humanity in Uzbekistan can be seen in the example of the Shomahmudov family. During the Second World War, Tashkent blacksmith Shoahmad Shomahmudov (1890-1970) and his wife Bahri Akramova (1903-1987) raised the idea of true tolerance in the upbringing of orphans of different nationalities. The recognition of this family in the country can be seen in the novel "Hazrati inson" by Rahmat Fayzi and the feature film "You are not an orphan" made by the Uzbekfilm studio. In honor of this family, on May 26, 1982, a monument to the humanitarian courage of Shoahmad Shomahmudov was unveiled at the Peoples' Friendship Square in Tashkent. In 2018, the monument was ceremoniously reopened (Sobirovich, 2021).

Taking into account the fact that today Uzbekistan is home to people of different religions and faiths, the necessary opportunities have been created for them to practice their faith, and special attention is paid to strengthening the age-old common values between them. This basis is enshrined in Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan as follows: "All citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall have equal rights and freedoms, and shall be equal before law without discrimination by sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, convictions, individual and social status (Sobirovich, 2020). Any privileges may be granted solely by law and must conform to the principles of social justice".

The fifth direction of the "Strategy of actions on the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021" also focuses on ensuring religious tolerance and interethnic harmony (Turdiyev, 2019). Given the fact that Uzbekistan is a multi-ethnic nation, taking into account their vital needs and aspirations, the current situation was critically analyzed in a very short period of time, and new promising directions were identified in line with modern requirements.

Scientists and cultural figures born in Uzbekistan, such as I. Kalantarov, Yu. Ishakov, L. Aronova, M. Koziev, B. Pinkhasov, N. Mallaev, Composers such as M. Leviev, S. Yudakov, artists such as Yusuf Elizarov, People's Artists of Uzbekistan Billur Davidova, Isohor Akilov, Maryam Yakubova and others belong to different nationalities and ethnic groups, as evidenced by their significant contribution to the development of Uzbek culture (Turdiyev, 2019).

Results

Today, the foreign press, well-known politicians and leaders praise the national policy of Uzbekistan. At a time when national-ethnic relations are complicated in some countries of the world, national-ethnic relations are complicated in some countries, and there are cases of discrimination of representatives of a small number of nationalities in some states, there is no

doubt that Uzbekistan, which lives as a single family in harmony and cooperation, is really a model for others today.

On December 12, 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted a special resolution entitled “Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance”. The document, drafted by Uzbekistan, was unanimously supported by all UN member states. The adoption of the resolution was a practical manifestation of the initiative put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2017.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that the main purpose of the resolution proposed by Uzbekistan was to “ensure the right to education for all, to eliminate illiteracy and ignorance”. The document is aimed at “establishing tolerance and mutual respect, ensuring religious freedom, protecting the rights of believers, and helping to prevent discrimination against them”. In order to implement this initiative, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with a number of other agencies, worked systematically to develop the text of the draft resolution and agree it with all UN member states. It is noteworthy that this resolution was not only unanimously supported by all UN member states, but also co-authored with more than 50 countries in North America and Latin America, Asia, Africa and other continents.

This is a testament to the international community’s high recognition of the urgency and timeliness of the Uzbek leader’s initiative. Co-authors include Azerbaijan, Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Ghana, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Canada, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, UAE, Oman, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, the Philippines, Japan and other countries are worth mentioning. The document supports all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting harmony in religion, culture and inter-confessional relations, as well as combating discrimination on the basis of religion and belief in certain persons.

Conclusion

In conclusion, all the reforms and conceptions, programs and normative legal acts carried out to strengthen the nation-wide relations with Uzbekistan will contribute to the further development of the Republic, strengthening peace and stability in the country and the region.

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