

Basic Principles Of The Concept Of State Policy In The Religious Sphere In The Republic Of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: The article analyzes the basic principles of the concept of state policy in the religious sphere in the Republic of Uzbekistan. It reveals the role of the concept in ensuring freedom of conscience in a secular state, strengthening religious tolerance, maintaining a stable environment of interfaith harmony in society.

Keywords: Freedom of conscience, secularism, state policy, religious tolerance, Uzbekistan legislation.

Introduction: During the years of independence, Uzbekistan has carried out great positive work in various fields, including religious and educational. Historically significant reforms in the new Uzbekistan, efforts to build the foundation of the Third Renaissance have led to great progress in the field. The first article of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted on April 30, 2023, firmly established the principle of "Uzbekistan is a secular state". Over the past period, there has been a need to clarify the content of this principle. The Law "On ensuring freedom of conscience of citizens in the Republic of Uzbekistan and approving the concept of state policy in the religious sphere", adopted on February 25, 2025 under the number ZURQ-1037, was an important step towards implementing the constitutional principle. After all, the problems of a secular state and religious tolerance are gaining particular importance in the current globalization processes. The Constitution and legislative framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan are based on the principle of secularism. In this sense, it is worth noting that state policy in the religious sphere is aimed at ensuring freedom of conscience, strengthening inter-national and inter-confessional harmony.

METHOD

Conscience freedom and secular state principles

Uzbekistan Republic in the Constitution everyone for conscience freedom guaranteed (Article 35). Har one person wanted to religion belief to do or no which one to religion belief not to do to the right At the same time,

the state and between religion relationships legal basically in order is established. Freedom of conscience is based on the democratic principles of the state and guarantees the freedom of personal choice of each person. One of the main features of a secular state is its equal attitude towards all religions and the absence of any religious doctrine. Based on the principle of secularism, the state ensures equal rights and opportunities for representatives of different faiths. In Uzbekistan, relations between the state and religion are regulated on a legal basis, and in this process, the government's establishment of dialogue with religious organizations has been one of the main factors of stability in society.

Freedom of conscience ensures that citizens make free decisions in their personal and social lives. In this process, the state does not support any religion or belief, but strives to ensure equality between all confessions. Uzbek legislation has developed specific mechanisms for regulating the activities of religious organizations and coordinating their participation in public life. The Law "On Ensuring Freedom of Conscience of Citizens in the Republic of Uzbekistan and Approving the Concept of State Policy in the Religious Sphere", adopted on February 25, 2025 under the number ZURQ-1037, became an important event in this direction. It is worth noting that this Concept, consisting of seven chapters and 41 articles, serves as a specific mechanism to protect the minds of citizens, especially young people, from various destructive ideas such as radicalism and extremism. Its Article 7 notes the achievements in this area: "Today, Uzbekistan is

developing steadily as a sovereign, democratic, legal, social and secular state, where interethnic and interreligious harmony is practically ensured. More than 2,300 religious organizations belonging to 16 confessions operate freely in the country, and representatives of more than 130 nations and ethnic groups live there. The fact that the state has created the opportunity to receive education in 7 languages, that television and radio programs are broadcast in 12 languages, that newspapers and magazines are published in 14 languages, and that 155 national cultural centers operate freely is a practical example of an environment of interethnic harmony, interreligious tolerance and harmony." The third chapter of the Concept is devoted to the "Goals, main tasks and principles of state policy in the religious sphere in the Republic of Uzbekistan", and its 10th article states: "State policy in the religious sphere in the Republic of Uzbekistan is based on the following basic principles: legality, freedom of conscience, separation of religion from the state, equality, free choice, interfaith dialogue and mutual understanding." Information about these principles is presented below:

1. The principle of legality. Legality is one of the main principles of state policy, which implies that all religious activities in the country are carried out in accordance with the law. Ensuring legality requires state registration of religious organizations and their official legal status. This maintains stability and order in society. In the religious sphere, the principle of legality means that the state does not give priority to any religious denomination and accepts all religious organizations on an equal basis. By regulating the activities of religious organizations, the state ensures that they operate in accordance with the laws of the country. The principle of legality also plays an important role in protecting the freedom of conscience of citizens. Everyone has the right to practice their religious beliefs without any oppression, and this right is guaranteed and protected by the state

2. The principle of freedom of conscience. Freedom of conscience is a constitutional principle that ensures the right of every person to profess any religion or not to profess any religion. This principle is an integral part of human rights and serves the free development of various beliefs and ideologies in society. Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan guarantees everyone the right to freedom of conscience. The principle of freedom of conscience is aimed at respecting the personal beliefs of citizens and creating the opportunity to freely exercise their religious views. The state guarantees equal treatment of all citizens, regardless of their religious or secular views, without giving priority to any religion or

denomination. Equal conditions are also created for the legal activity of religious organizations and the satisfaction of the religious needs of citizens. Freedom of conscience also plays an important role in ensuring peace and harmony and religious tolerance in society. The state takes strict measures to protect religious freedom so that people of different faiths can live in an environment of mutual respect and harmony. And this in society interracial and interdenominational harmony to strengthen service does.

3. The principle of separation of religion from the state. One of the main principles of a secular state is the separation of religion from the state. This principle ensures that the state treats different religions equally, does not give priority to any religion, and that state governance is carried out solely on the basis of legislation. According to this principle, the state does not grant official status to any religious organization and does not interfere in their work. The principle of separation of religion from the state also implies that religious organizations do not influence state political processes. State governance is aimed at creating equal rights and opportunities for citizens, regardless of their religious views. Therefore, state institutions, the education system, and law enforcement agencies operate on the basis of the principle of secularism. In addition, the state may regulate the activities of organizations engaged in religious affairs, but is not obliged to support or finance them. This, in turn, guarantees the independence of religious organizations and limits state interference in their internal affairs. This principle serves to ensure religious tolerance in society.

4. The principle of equality. The principle of equality ensures the creation of equal rights and opportunities for all citizens of the state, regardless of their attitude to religion. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, every person has equal rights, regardless of race, nationality, religion or social origin. This principle prevents discrimination of citizens based on their religious beliefs and serves to ensure stability in society. Religious in the field equality principle of the state no a religion or to the denomination priority not to give means All religious organizations same legal to the status owner being , they are the state from the list passage and activity in the process of conducting equal to opportunities have Also the state by religious of organizations to the activity equal conditions creation The principle of equality also prohibits discrimination against citizens based on their religious beliefs in public service, education, or other socio-economic processes. This principle, in turn, serves to create a just environment in society and strengthen interethnic harmony.

5. The principle of free choice. The principle of free choice ensures the right of every person to independently choose his or her religious beliefs. According to this principle, citizens have the right to profess a certain religion, to follow its requirements, or not to believe in any religion at all. The state should not force anyone to adopt a particular religion or belief. At the same time, free choice principle religious education and prayer in matters both is used. Har one person himself interesting religious the doctrine study, religious at ceremonies participation verb or own to believe suitable actions to perform to the possibility owner to be In this case, the state The task is this rights protection to do and their to provide guarantee from giving The principle of free choice plays an important role in creating an atmosphere of tolerance in society and supporting religious pluralism. The culture of respecting the personal beliefs of each person serves to strengthen peace and interfaith harmony in society. Therefore, great attention is paid to ensuring this principle as one of the main directions of state policy.

6. Interfaith conversation and mutual understand
Interfaith conversation and mutual understanding – religious tolerance and in society stability in providing important from principles is one This principle is different confessions and religious groups between open conversation installation, mutual respect and cooperation environment to shape in view in Uzbekistan this on the way one row initiatives to do expanded, various religious confessions between harmony to strengthen directed. The state is religious organizations and society between the conversation development for conditions creates In this process representatives of different denominations for meetings, conferences and events organization their each other better understanding and cooperation to do opportunity is created. Not only that religious tolerance strengthens, but also international harmony both strengthens Also interfaith conversation international to the extent both important to the point have in Uzbekistan various religious confessions representatives international at conferences participation eat, world on a scale interfaith cooperation to develop contribution is adding. This, in its own in turn, the country international prestige increase and world with the community relationships in strengthening plays an important role.

CONCLUSION

One of the main goals of the Constitution is to ensure an environment of tolerance between nations and religions. 16 denominations and more than 2,300 religious organizations operate in the country. Also, wide opportunities have been created for the free celebration of religious holidays and the development

of pilgrimage tourism. Religious in the field state policy radicalization and to extremism against the fight both includes. In this regard, in 2021 reception made "Conscience freedom and religious organizations "about" new Law to radical currents against measures to see in view The world experience that shows that religious tolerance provision for of the state active participation demand will be done. Like France, USA and Germany countries both worldliness on principle relies on. In Uzbekistan to do being carried out religious politics also national customs and traditions and to values both is based on. Ensuring freedom of conscience and religious tolerance in the Republic of Uzbekistan is one of the priorities of state policy. The principle of secularism serves to strengthen peace and stability in the country. The harmony of the state and society, as well as the mechanisms of legal regulation in the religious sphere, should continue to be improved in the future.

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