



HISTORY OF ACTIVITY OF NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTERS IN UZBEKISTAN

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The Republic of Uzbekistan ranks among the multinational republics of the world and occupies a leading position in terms of the scope of the reforms implemented in this regard.

Historical studies show that the territory of Uzbekistan has been a sacred homeland for different nationalities and peoples since ancient times. In the course of historical development, all the peoples living in the regions of Central Asia bravely passed the glorious and trying paths and left to the next generations highly valued traditions and values such as nationalism and tolerance among their best qualities. The nation, which has preserved these unique traditions and values like the apple of an eye, is continuing the systematic reforms of the state by polishing it further during the years of Uzbekistan's independence.

During the time of the Soviet Union, along with other republics within the Union, Uzbekistan, as well as other republics of the Union, had reached the brink of reforms in the field of inter-ethnic relations. In May-June 1989, inter-ethnic conflicts took place in Fergana, Tashkent regions and Andijan city, which caused a great uproar in the republic and the whole country and led to a sharp turn of the political situation in the republic.

In such a situation, the political leadership led by the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov decided to independently determine the measures to get out of the socio-economic recession that occurred in the republic, without asking the Center. As a result of the active actions of the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the representatives of Uzbeks and other nationalities living in the republic, a complicated situation was discovered.

The government found ways to strengthen state sovereignty and achieve material and moral equality of all nationalities in the state. The national conflicts in the republic prompted the leadership to regulate inter-ethnic relations.

As a result, at the end of 1990, the issue of improvement of national cultural centers and their work was discussed at the Council of the President of Uzbekistan.

It was recommended to help local councils, ministries and agencies in solving the problems posed by national-cultural centers, to look at the preservation and





development of the culture and identity of each nation as an important factor in the improvement of inter-ethnic relations.

National-cultural centers are public organizations that serve to satisfy the national cultural needs of representatives of a certain nationality living in Uzbekistan.

The first national-cultural centers were established by Koreans, Kazakhs, Jews, Armenians in the regions of the Republic in 1989. Major changes in the activity of these centers were a result of the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan. After the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the number of national cultural centers is increasing every year, and the efficiency and quality of their activities are increasing.

In 1992, there were 10 national cultural centers, in 1995 their number increased to 72, by 2003 to 135, in 2017 to 137, to 143 in 2020, and to 147 in 2021.

As a result of the national policy systematically implemented during the past period, a unique experience and a model of national policy corresponding to world standards appeared in Uzbekistan.

The basis of achieving such results is the creation of legal foundations that determine the main directions of national policy. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan clearly defines the main directions of the state's national policy.

On the basis of the Constitution, on May 1, 1998, the Law "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" was adopted. According to Article 3 of the law, freedom of conscience is a guaranteed constitutional right of citizens to believe in any religion or not to believe in any religion.

Also, on January 13, 1992, the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the International Cultural Center of the Republic" was adopted, and it was decided to transform the International Cultural Center of Uzbekistan into the International Cultural Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan. On April 8, 2003, the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On issues of the activity of the international cultural center of the Republic" was adopted.

In the first years of independence, significant work was done in the field of inter-ethnic relations, and the fact that the activity of national-cultural centers is improving year by year is a proof of this.

On February 7, 2017, at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a decree on the Strategy of Actions on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 was adopted.

As the fifth priority direction in the action strategy, "Priority directions in the field of security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, as well as deeply thought-out mutually beneficial and practical foreign policy" were defined.





During 2017-2021, a number of regulatory documents were adopted and systematic reforms were implemented during the implementation of plans aimed at ensuring international harmony in the Action Strategy.

On May 19, 2017, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further improve international relations and friendly relations with foreign countries" was announced.

It is aimed at further improving the inter-national relations and friendly relations of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan with foreign countries, expanding friendship and cultural-educational relations with foreign countries. On the basis of this decree, the Committee of International Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basis of the Republican International Cultural Center and the Council of Societies of Friendship and Cultural-Educational Relations of Foreign Countries of the Republic of Uzbekistan was built.

On November 15, 2019, the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-5876 on approval of the concept of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of international relations was adopted. As a result, in 2019-2021, a road movement was developed for the consistent and effective implementation of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of inter-ethnic relations.

Also, in the structure of the committee of international relations and friendly relations with foreign countries, instead of the department of scientific and practical research, methodology and expertise, the center of scientific and practical research on international relations, consisting of 4 employees, was established in the state without creating a legal entity. Consent was given to his proposal.

Chapter 5 of Appendix 1 to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the concept of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of inter-ethnic relations is entitled "Measures of State Support and Promotion of National-Cultural Centers". In the first paragraph of this chapter, the national-cultural centers that strive to contribute to the development of Uzbekistan, to help preserve and popularize its cultural, scientific, spiritual heritage and modern achievements, in the implementation of their activities, Uzbekistan is comprehensively it is marked as "will help".

It should be emphasized that learning the language, culture, customs and traditions of the nations and peoples living in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including creating the necessary conditions for artistic and theater groups and clubs, as well as the Republic of Uzbekistan Under the Oliy Majlis, non-governmental non-commercial organizations and other institutions of civil society, such as providing





state grants and social orders at the expense of the public fund, assisting in the organization of youth units on the basis of national-cultural centers, are performed on the basis of separate clauses in the Decree. Its demonstration had a positive effect on the quality and systematic implementation of the work in this regard within its term. As of 2022, as of 2022, 152 national-cultural centers are operating as a result of systemic reforms in the field of inter-ethnic relations. 14 of them are national and cultural centers of the Republic. These are the National Cultural Center of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Armenian National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, the Jewish National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, the Kazakh National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, the Association of Korean Cultural Centers of Uzbekistan, " Wiedergeburt" German Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, "Svetlitsa Polska" Polish Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, Russian Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, Turkish National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, Republican Turkmen Cultural Center, Uyghur Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, " "Slavutich" is the Ukrainian cultural center of the Republic, Tajik national cultural centers of the Republic. Each republic's national-cultural center has its own departments in the regions. In addition, there are also national cultural centers of representatives of other nationalities in all regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, Tashkent city, districts and cities. Tashkent region ranks first in terms of the number of active national cultural centers. As of 2022, 29 national cultural centers are operating in Tashkent region. Also, 23 in Tashkent city, 12 in Bukhara region, 11 in Samarkand region, 10 in Navoi region, 9 in Fergana region, 8 in Surkhandarya region, 6 each in Kashkadarya and Jizzakh regions, 6 in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Andijan and There are 5 national cultural centers in each of the Syrdarya region, and 4 in each of the Khorezm and Namangan regions.

In conclusion, more than 130 nationalities and peoples live in harmony in the Republic of Uzbekistan today. All necessary conditions for the prosperous living of each nation have been created. The Committee on International Relations and Friendship Relations with Foreign Countries, established for the systematic implementation of the policy of inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, has been launched. This committee coordinates the activities of the national cultural centers operating in the Republic and provides close support for their further development.

