

## **REFLECTION OF TOLERANCE AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN UZBEKISTAN**

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When we think of tolerance and religious tolerance, we envision representatives of various religions and nations peacefully coexisting across the entire territory of the country, based on mutual respect. In the socio-economic life of society, relationships among the population certainly hold a special place.

In Uzbekistan, where representatives of various nationalities live in harmony, national and religious tolerance prevails. Tolerance means that people of different nationalities and various religious beliefs coexist in a single space, a united homeland, sharing noble ideals, dreams, goals, and intentions, and living together as partners, like-minded individuals, and allies.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh. Mirziyoyev, speaks about the principle of tolerance, which is increasingly taking a deep and strong place in our people's worldview: "For many centuries, various nationalities, cultures, and religious representatives have lived peacefully in our ancient and generous land. Hospitality, goodness, the generosity of the heart, and true tolerance has always been characteristic of our people and form the basis of its mentality".

Currently, the population of Uzbekistan exceeds 36 million, representing more than 130 different nationalities. About 94% of the population adheres to Islam, approximately 3.5% are Orthodox Christians, while the remaining individuals belong to other confessions.

In our republic, there are 2,239 religious organizations belonging to 16 different confessions. Among them, 2,065 are Islamic organizations, 157 are Christian organizations, 8 are Jewish communities, 6 are Baha'i communities, and there is one Krishna community and one Buddhist temple. Additionally, there is a Bible society operating in the republic.

The diversity of the population in Uzbekistan is considered a favorable factor for social and economic development. Specifically, education in our country's state educational institutions is conducted in seven languages. The National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan broadcasts programs in twelve languages, and more than ten languages are used for publishing newspapers and magazines. There are 138 national-cultural centers under the Friendship Committee for relations among nations and with foreign countries, as well as nearly 2,300 religious organizations belonging to 16 different confessions. We sincerely believe that these factors will contribute to Uzbekistan's development. [3:8]

The policy being implemented in Uzbekistan in the national and religious spheres is in harmony with the principles and provisions of the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights,' adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948. It is also emphasized that our state fully complies with all international agreements it has undertaken to ensure freedom of conscience.

In accordance with the Resolution of the President of our country dated April 16, 2018 "On measures to improve the activities of the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan", a new composition of the Council on Confessional Affairs under the Committee on Religious Affairs was approved.

The principle of "equality" is applied in the socio-economic life of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The law does not allow the violation of the rights of representatives of any nationality or religion.

The respect for people who are in accordance with the customs and traditions of our people is a vivid example of the cultural perfection of our people. The Avesta, which is the main source illuminating the history of the most ancient period of Central Asia, also glorifies warm relations between people, mutual respect, and noble qualities.

After the Arab conquests at the beginning of the 8th century, Islam spread widely in our region. Once our ancestors accepted the religion of Islam, the region entered a new stage of social, economic, cultural, and scientific development. As a result, the Renaissance period began to take shape in the Central Asian region during the early middle ages.

In Uzbekistan, special attention is being paid to preserving the values of various religions, creating necessary conditions for all citizens to practice their beliefs, strengthening

mutual respect among religions and nationalities, and developing ancient shared traditions among them.

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