# INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

SJIF 2019: 5.222 2020: 5.552 2021: 5.637 2022:5.479 2023:6.563 2024: 7,805

elSSN:2394-6334 https://www.ijmrd.in/index.php/imjrd Volume 11, issue 11 (2024)

#### RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE ISSUES IN THE NEW REFORMS IN UZBEKISTAN

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**Abstract:** This article examines the issues of religious tolerance within the context of recent reforms in Uzbekistan. It highlights the government's initiatives aimed at promoting a harmonious society among diverse religious communities. The article discusses legislative changes, educational programs, and international cooperation as key components in fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding. By addressing historical grievances and encouraging dialogue, Uzbekistan aims to create a stable society where individuals of all faiths can coexist peacefully.

**Keywords**: Uzbekistan, religious tolerance, reforms, government initiatives, legislation, education, international cooperation, diversity, coexistence, mutual respect.

The issues of reforms in the country, including religious tolerance, are also noteworthy in the country during the time of the new Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan, historically multi-ethnic and people belonging to different religions are currently doing a number of important initiatives aimed at ensuring religious tolerance. Religious tolerance plays an important role in maintaining peace and stability in society. In order to protect against religious extremism and radicalism, the Government of Uzbekistan is developing the registration and control of religious organizations [1]. This, in turn, serves to increase the openness and accountability of religious organizations. The education system is also important for the development of religious tolerance. The Uzbek government opens many educational institutions in order to further develop religious education, strengthen understanding between Muslims and other representatives of Muslims. The lessons taught in these institutions also covers ideas of religious knowledge, but also human rights, civil society, and religious tolerance.

In addition, international cooperation is also an important factor in improving religious tolerance. Uzbekistan, in cooperation with various international organizations, is implementing projects and programs aimed at developing religious tolerance. Among them are the initiators to strengthen dialogue between representatives of religious and cultural events, seminars and conferences, representatives of various religions and reconciliation.

Another important aspect is to create a spirit of religious tolerance and the spirit of self-esteem between citizens. To do this, strengthen cooperation between the state and society, strengthen religious and cultural events. Such measures, interethnic and religious relations in all regions of Uzbekistan serve to strengthen interethnic and religious relations, as well as the development of joint living culture in society. In general, the issues of religious tolerance are taking attention in the framework of the reforms in the new Uzbekistan [1]. Given the fact that religious organizations and citizens are, it is important to ensure the stability and to maintain peace in society. The process is also expected to have a positive impact on the social, cultural and economic development of Uzbekistan in the future.

In particular, the culture of tolerance and humanitarianism, religious tolerance, the environment of inter-confessional harmony, in turn, are of great importance in educating our citizens, especially the young generation, in the spirit of loyalty to the Motherland. Based on this, on April 16, 2018, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev signed the decree No. PF-5416 "On

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measures to fundamentally improve the activities of the religious and educational sphere" [3]. This document is aimed at ensuring the continuity of the religious education system in Uzbekistan: from the primary level (secondary special Islamic educational institutions or madrasahs) to higher and further religious education. In turn, these factors were identified as one of the most important priorities of state policy in Uzbekistan. In accordance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev dated February 7, 2017 "On the strategy of actions for the further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan", ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, foreign policy ensuring mutual interest and practicality, religious tolerance and inter-confessional harmony in strengthening the independence of our state and the international prestige of our country.

It is these factors that create the basis for the development of our country, peace, stability, international harmony and religious tolerance at the world level. Representatives of Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Christianity, Monism, and Islam have lived in harmony and peace in our country. In particular, there are mosques, churches, and synagogues in many cities of our country [2]. In turn, peoples and peoples of different religions performed their religious rituals in these holy places. Therefore, this situation can be seen in the example of mutual cooperation of all nationalities and peoples living in our country who believe in different religions. It is known from history that during the period when the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan was declared, there were no religious confrontations between all religions in strengthening the foundations of peace and sustainable development through inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance. In this regard, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said: "Our country is a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional country. Today, representatives of more than 130 nationalities and peoples live in our country as children of one family. In this regard, there is no doubt that the ancient traditions of tolerance of our people play an important role" [3].

This, in turn, is a unique example of interethnic harmony, religious tolerance, interconfessional harmony and solidarity in Uzbekistan, and a positive example of tolerance towards all religions. Therefore, the roots of ethnic, cultural and religious tolerance of our people, which is an integral part of our spirituality, go back to the distant past, as recognized by representatives of other religions. It should be noted that the world's religions embody the ideas of goodness, peace, kindness, friendship, and creativity. In particular, religion calls people to honesty and purity, kindness, harmony and tolerance [4]. The religions of Islam and Christianity promote moral standards that embody the ideals of humanity: mercy, compassion, honesty, purity of heart, courage and solemnity. Christianity, one of the world's religions, encourages its believers to show kindness, tell the truth, help oppressed and hardworking people, work hard, and live in harmony based on religious and ethical ideas.

Today, ensuring peace and development in Uzbekistan is of great importance. Representatives of all religions are equally interested in the rule of peace, tranquility, stability and prosperity in the republic. In turn, the state helps to strengthen mutual reconciliation and respect between citizens and non-citizens of different religions, religious organizations of different religions, to fight against religious and other fanaticism and extremism and to strengthen relations, does not allow the increase of enmity between representatives of different nationalities. beliefs. The head of our state, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, commented on this issue, "...nowadays, in different regions of the world, the conflict between nations and religions is increasing, nationalism, religious intolerance is increasing. These evils have penetrated the state and are ruining the society, and is becoming the ideological basis of radical groups and currents. In such a difficult situation, it is becoming more and more important for us to further strengthen friendship and solidarity between representatives of different nationalities and religions in our country. This is undoubtedly a reliable representative, is serving. It is the guarantee of peace and tranquility in our country, it has

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created a foundation for the growth of the creative potential of our people, confidence in the future." In particular, ensuring inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance relations in Uzbekistan, primarily by preventing inter-religious conflicts, creates a basis for the formation of mutual cooperation, solidarity and mutual understanding between representatives of different religions. This factor directly serves the peace and development of the country, the rise of universal culture and spirituality [5].

All nationalities and ethnic groups living in our country have been created in their native language and the educational institutions have been created, all, newspapers and magazines, many languages, and telecommunications and magazines, and telecommunications. The fact that radio broadcasts are is clear. The ideas of religious tolerance and interethnic harmony in our country include the main ideas of the National Development Strategy, which can be divided into the field to the following stages.

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