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# RELIGION AND REFORMS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN NEW UZBEKISTAN

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# ABSTRACT

The new image of Uzbekistan, which is being renewed by the world's leading initiatives in this direction, is being presented to the world community. In turn, it deserves high recognition and support from the international community. The article discusses reforms in religion and religious education in New Uzbekistan.

## **KEYWORDS**

New Uzbekistan, freedom of conscience, religious education, secular education, religious educational institutions.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

New Uzbekistan is a free, prosperous and prosperous state for our people, which is based on the principles of friendly cooperation with the world community, while adhering to the universally recognized norms and principles of democracy, human rights and freedoms. [1:12]At the heart of the idea of a "new Uzbekistan" are the dreams and aspirations of our great ancestors, who in general, are the foundations of the First and Second Awakening in our national history.



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In recent years, the country has taken steps to strengthen the bonds of friendship and solidarity between the religious and educational spheres, especially among members of different religions, as well as the principles of religious tolerance.

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During this period, the community was able to spread the teachings of moderate Islam in depth and to propagate it, channel its educational power to creativity and development of science, by studying scientific heritage of our ancestors reinforce immunity against foreign spirituality, especially in straightening spirituality of the youth. Extensive work has been done on the surface, as President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev claimed, "Today, we believe that the most important task is to convey to the world community the true humanitarian nature of Islam. Because Islam calls us to goodness and peace, to the preservation of true human virtues" [2: 2].

In particular, international experts in the field of religious freedom, experts in the field during their visits to our country are directly involved in ensuring religious freedom, simplification of existing norms, the fight against radicalism, as well as practical work on education against ignorance.

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on December 12, 2018, at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, the representatives of 193 member states adopted a special resolution "On Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance" unanimously. It is also important to note that this resolution is aimed at ensuring the right to education for all, promoting the eradication of illiteracy and ignorance, and, most importantly, tolerance and mutual respect, as well as religious freedom. It is characterized by tolerance and mutual respect, ensuring religious freedom, protecting the rights of believers, and helping to prevent discrimination. In the past, in spite of all the good deeds that have been done, there have been a number of misconceptions about our sacred religion.

In the past, without looking to good deeds, which were done, negative attitudes aroused against our holy religion. Regarding such negative attitudes, President Sh. Mirziyoyev said at the 72nd session of the UN: "We consider it the most important task to convey to the world community the true human nature of Islam.

Conceptually, the focus is on the idea of "enlightenment against ignorance", expanding the scope of knowledge of young people, educating them on the basis of the noble ideas expressed in the works of our ancestors. It is education and enlightenment that are the main factors in the well-being of a society, it calls people to goodness, it encourages them to be generous and patient [3: 285].

In the past, effective work has been done to ensure the right of citizens to freedom of conscience, to preserve our national and religious values, to study and promote our rich scientific and historical heritage, and to study religious teachings.

We understand science in a broad sense. For this reason, along with secular educational institutions, schools and madrasas, scientific and educational centers are being established in our country [4: 290].

In particular, the newly adopted Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" is aimed at ensuring interfaith harmony, strengthening mutual understanding and solidarity between members of different religions and faiths in society.



From time immemorial, along with Islam, other religions have developed in our land without interfering with each other and contributed to the spiritual growth of society [5: 232].

Another important issue is that in the last 5 years, the system of religious education has been radically improved, and new educational institutions have been established.

At present, the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan specializes in training mature specialists in secular and religious sciences, as well as the Tashkent Islamic Institute, Mir Arab Higher Madrasah, School of Hadith, 10 secondary special Islamic schools, Orthodox and Protestant seminaries.

Today, the field of religious education in Uzbekistan can be conditionally divided into 3 spheres:

- Professional religious education in theology;
- Academic education in religion in secular educational institutions;
- To study the rules of religious practice, which are of interest to the population and are considered necessary for everyday life, as well as to acquire knowledge based on religious views on issues related to morality (domestic religious education) [6:23].

In order to study the rich historical, scientific and spiritual heritage of Islamic science and culture, to introduce it to the world community, and most importantly, to reveal the humane nature of Islam. Over the past five years, the Islamic Civilization Center in Uzbekistan -Research Center, School of Hadith, Imam Termizi International Research Complex in Surkhandarya, Abul Muin Nasafi Complex in Kashkadarya. Kolaversa, Tasawwuf schools in Bukhara region, Aqeeda schools in Kashkadarya region, Islamic law schools in Fergana region, Hadis and Kalam schools in Samarkand region have been launched.

Furthermore, "Tasawwuf" in Bukhare region, "Aqeede" in Kashkadarya region, "Islam Law" in Feghana region, "Hadith" and "Kalom" scientific schools were established.

In-depth study of the heritage of our great scholars, who made an invaluable contribution to the development of Islamic culture and science in our country, development of sacred steps, preservation of the purity of our sacred religion, protection of the population, especially youth, from the influence of religious ideas. Extensive work has been done to educate our religious values in the spirit of respect. Significant work has been done to bring these processes to the attention of the population and the world community, to disseminate them widely, and to bring the news of religious and enlightenment life to the community in a timely manner.

In particular, 55 websites have been upgraded in the system of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan alone, and 1300 resources have been provided for the regular operation of social networks.

It should be noted that during this period, the number of printed and electronic literature imported for the purpose of developing the activities of religious educational institutions, research centers has increased. In particular, in the last four years, 3,500 books of 644 titles have been delivered to the Imam Bukhari International Research Center, about 1,500 books of 356 titles have been delivered to the School of Hadith, and more than 7,000 titles of electronic literature on Islamic sciences have been delivered.

At the same time, the Center for Islamic Civilization has prepared more than 10 books and pamphlets on the

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role of Muslim thinkers in the development of world civilization in Uzbekistan. More than 20 works of Imam Termizi, Hakim Termizi and other Termez scholars have been translated into Uzbek by the Imam Termizi International Research Center. Imam Bukhari, Imam Moturidi, Imam Nasafy, Saffar Bukhari and others, represents Imam Bukhari International Research Center. Most of the works of such great scholars have been translated and more than 50 books have been published.

In order to meet the needs of our people in religious education, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the program of Measured approved by Decree № PF- 5416 of 16 April 2018 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to radically improve the activities of religious education" Paid training courses were organized. According to him, the Regulations of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan "On the course of reading the Koran and Tajweed" have been approved.

In accordance with the requirements of the Regulation, starting from June 10, 2018, training courses on teaching the Holy Quran and Tajweed have been launched. The training courses continue according to the programs approved by the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan.

These courses are organized in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Andijan, Bukhara, Surkhandarya, Samarkand, Jizzakh, Fergana, Namangan, Kashkadarya, Khorezm regions and the city of Tashkent.

To date, more than 22,000 of our citizens have successfully completed these training courses. Currently, 2,120 citizens are studying at the next stage.

Preservation of our national and religious values, study of the invaluable heritage of our great ancestors, who made a great contribution to the development of world science and culture, and upbringing young people as full-fledged human beings is one of the most important social and spiritual conditions in society.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan has been an important part of the Great Silk Road for thousands of years. Science and culture centers have always been developed here. Naturalness, hospitality and respect for other cultures of our people are the main factors in their development. That is why today in our country the customs and traditions of different peoples are developing in harmony.

As a result, the sharp policy pursued by the head of our state in the field of religion and education, in the true sense of the word, serves as a basis for peace, tranquility and stability in the world.

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