


## The Concept and Essence of Social Rights of Youth and The Theoretical-Legal Foundations of Their Provision

 Azimov Azimbek Azizbek ugli

Basic doctoral student at the Institute of Legislation and Legal Policy under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan

Received: 28 Feb 2026 | Received Revised Version: 16 Mar 2026 | Accepted: 04 Apr 2026 | Published: 30 Apr 2026

Volume 08 Issue 04 2026 | Crossref DOI: 10.37547/tajpslc/Volume08Issue04-10

### Abstract

*The article systematically analyzes the stages of formation of state youth policy, its international legal frameworks, and its role in the development of modern society. In particular, within the scope of the research, the concept of “youth” and their identificational age category were studied separately, and special categories in state youth policy were addressed. The author approaches the concept of youth as a socio-demographic group and proposes an original definition encompassing its biological, social, and professional characteristics. Within our research, the importance of studying categories such as “social security”, “social right”, “social assistance” and “social problem” is emphasized. Furthermore, based on the research findings, a classification of the “social right” category was formulated, and the distinctions between social law and sociological law were elucidated.*

**Keywords:** Youth, social right, sociological law, social security, youth policy, constitutional law, socio-demographic group.

© 2026 Azimov Azimbek Azizbek ugli. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). The authors retain copyright and allow others to share, adapt, or redistribute the work with proper attribution.

**Cite This Article:** Azimov Azimbek Azizbek ugli. (2026). The Concept and Essence of Social Rights of Youth and The Theoretical-Legal Foundations of Their Provision. *The American Journal of Political Science Law and Criminology*, 8(04), 56–61. <https://doi.org/10.37547/tajpslc/Volume08Issue04-10>

### 1. Introduction

Viewing the younger generation as a force that ensures the progress of society has created conditions for the formation of state youth policies in various countries. The United Nations has played a major role in this process. During the 1960s-80s of the 20th century, the UN adopted several documents defining new principles regarding the treatment of the youth segment. In 1965, with the proclamation of the UN General Assembly’s “Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples,” the social problems of youth became a central focus of the organization's tasks. More than a hundred

documents related to youth issues were adopted within the framework of UNESCO. Specifically, at the initiative of UNESCO, the World Youth Congress began its activities in 1985, and that year was declared the "International Youth Year" by the UN.

In accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution of December 14, 1995, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond was adopted. Subsequently, resolution 54/120 of January 20, 2000, approved the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth held in Lisbon in 1998. These documents continue to serve in legally

strengthening the primary goal of youth policy- ensuring the active participation of youth and youth organizations in social life - at both international and national levels. Consequently, in any progressive state, ensuring the social rights of youth is considered a priority. In essence, state youth policy is a set of measures aimed at creating the necessary conditions and opportunities for the free socialization of young people in a way that serves the interests of the country and for the effective realization of their potential. As an important political direction, this policy is a consistent process that reflects the core aspects of reality related to the lives and role of youth in society.

In our country, youth policy is recognized as one of the priority areas of state activity, and its main goal is focused on creating the necessary socio-economic, legal, and organizational conditions for the social formation and comprehensive development of young people.

As Kriniskiy noted, youth is a socio-demographic group distinguished from other social layers by specific age criteria, possessing a unique social status, actively participating in the social system and cultural environment, and manifesting as an important subject of the socialization process. This concept encompasses individuals of a specific age category defined by social, cultural, and demographic criteria. Representatives of this group are distinguished by age-specific characteristics and occupy a unique place in the social structure of society. Young people are active subjects in the socialization process, forming their personal and collective identities. This process occurs through cultural and social norms. Furthermore, “modern age boundaries” imply that youth have defined limits not only biologically but also in social and cultural contexts.

In modern society, the social role of youth has become much more complex and multifaceted compared to previous views. They no longer appear merely as representatives of a specific age category, but as active participants in social change and renewal processes. Therefore, this definition evaluates youth as an essential component of society and highlights their interactions and place within the social system.

According to sociologist Muhammad Tagi Sheykhi, youth is a layer in every society distinguished by its cohesion, sensitivity, and potential to actively influence social processes.

At the same time, targeted investments in education, science, and the spiritual-moral sphere are effective in

developing youth and strengthening their social dynamics. Investments in these areas, while increasing the intellectual potential, knowledge, and skills of young people, also serve to ensure their active participation in social, economic, and cultural processes. Indeed, youth is a vital social layer that determines the future of society, and their educational and moral development directly affects the overall progress of the country. Consequently, creating a favorable environment and necessary opportunities for the effective development of youth is one of the essential conditions for ensuring the well-being of society.

## 2. Methods

“In this research, general and special scientific methods were used to study the issue of ensuring the social rights of youth. In particular, the development trends of youth policy and social rights were revealed through the dialectic method. Based on a systemic approach, the structural elements of state youth policy were analyzed in their interconnection. The historical method was employed to study the stages of youth policy formation at both international and national levels. Through the comparative-legal method, international instruments and national legislative norms were compared. The formal-legal method served as the basis for analyzing regulatory documents related to the social rights of youth. Using logical analysis, the essence of concepts such as “youth,” “social right,” “social security,” and “youth policy” was clarified. Finally, a sociological approach was applied to assess the role, interests, and social activity of youth in society”.

## 3. Results

Youth is a distinct socio-demographic group of society, characterized by biological age indicators, the process of social formation, and the stage of establishing professional and civic positions. This group acts as a strategic resource in the social, economic, and cultural development of society.

Today, the active participation of youth is crucial in the process of defining youth policy. International experience in state youth policy shows that the involvement of youth non-governmental organizations and representatives of the private sector in defining policy directions and making socio-political decisions serves as a guarantee of success. This is because young people themselves best understand and perceive the needs and interests of their peers. Currently, researching

youth problems from the perspective of youth policy is a multifaceted and comprehensive field. Before analyzing the specific characteristics of the state youth policy implemented in modern Uzbekistan, it is necessary to clarify the categorical apparatus related to this topic. To this end, clear definitions must be given to key concepts such as “youth policy,” “models of youth policy,” “principles of youth policy,” and “the object and subject of youth policy,” while also paying special attention to the analysis of political science methods used in studying state youth policy. Based on the general methodology of youth policy research, it becomes necessary to refer to political categories such as state policy, social policy, and state youth policy.

Ultimately, the analysis of these categories allows for a clear visualization of all elements of the concept of state youth policy. Since the early 1990s, broad, narrow, and institutional interpretations of this concept, which remain relevant today, have been under discussion. Youth policy maintains its significance to this day, with its content and scope expanding year by year. This signifies the important role this concept plays in the life of the state and society. Youth policy is aimed at ensuring social justice, creating equal opportunities, and supporting the active participation of young people in social life. At the same time, its content is interpreted within broad, narrow, and institutional approaches and is reflected in international and national regulatory legal acts adopted by many states. Examples include the UN declaratory documents on youth and the European Union's approaches to youth policy. In these documents, the concept of youth policy is defined quite broadly: specifically, it is noted that “youth policy is an integral part of state activity aimed at the comprehensive development of youth.” Youth policy is not limited to the activities of state bodies but also encompasses political parties, social movements, civil society institutions, and other social structures whose activities concern youth problems and interests.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, noted in his speech at the IV Congress of the “Kamolot” Youth Social Movement: “The education of the younger generation has always been important and relevant. However, in the 21st century in which we live, this issue is truly becoming a matter of life and death. “In the President’s initial activities as the head of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the issue of youth policy and ensuring their social rights did not lose its urgency.

On this basis, if we turn to the scope of social rights, this

concept is broad in nature, and the possibility of setting certain boundaries is determined by states based on their internal capacities. Historically, social rights originated from the social contract theory. In this, a system of mutual rights and obligations arises between the state and society, which, in turn, creates liability for failing to fulfill contractual obligations. In short, it is a contract formed as a result of the state and individuals agreeing upon their rights and obligations. These are also reflected in documents such as the US Declaration of Independence and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. In the 20th century, the international community focused on social rights and in 1948, the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which consolidated economic, social, and cultural rights.

#### 4. Discussion

Within the scope of our research, it is essential to study categories such as “Social Security,” “Social Right,” “Social Assistance,” and “Social Problem,” and to focus on a precise analysis of the ideas expressed in these concepts.

If we look at the meaning of the word “social,” it signifies a community that lives together and utilizes mutual interaction in the process of activity and life.

According to Martha Nussbaum, social rights are understood as legal guarantees aimed at ensuring a person's basic capabilities through obligations (resources, services, institutions) undertaken by the state. A. Vakhobov, in his monograph, emphasizes that social rights represent a person’s constitutional right to social protection, such as social security, education, healthcare, medical assistance, and other similar forms of support.

We have developed the following author’s definition for the concept of “Social Right”: A social right is a set of legal norms aimed at ensuring a decent standard of living for citizens, protecting them from social risks, and establishing social justice. Our constitutional rights support this view: the right to protection from unemployment (Article 43), the right to professional and vocational retraining (Article 43), the right to rest (Article 45), the right to social security (Article 46), the right to be provided with housing (Article 47), the right to healthcare and qualified medical assistance (Article 48), and the right to education (Article 50) all fall within the group of social rights.

In this context, international legal instruments were

studied, and Social Rights were classified as follows:

By Subject Matter: a) labor-related; b) healthcare-related; c) education-related; d) social security and protection; e) decent standard of living; f) protection of family, motherhood, and childhood; g) cultural life and social development.

By Subject (Beneficiary): a) general social rights; b) special social rights; c) rights based on professional status (military personnel, civil servants, students).

By Character of Implementation: a) minimum guarantees requiring immediate fulfillment; b) rights implemented progressively (expanding based on resources and capabilities, though the state is obligated to take constant measures).

By Provision Mechanism: a) rights provided through public services (education, medical services); b) rights based on insurance contributions (pensions, social insurance); c) targeted social assistance (subsidies for low-income populations); d) mixed (combined) mechanisms (e.g., state-guaranteed healthcare + insurance + social assistance).

Furthermore, as noted by A. Vakhobov, social security is a state system for paying benefits for temporary disability, unemployment, and to women, children, and the elderly.

Analyzing this definition in detail, Social Security is a system of material assistance and services provided by the state to citizens in specific life situations (old age, disability, temporary incapacity for work, unemployment, loss of a breadwinner, etc.) to ensure their minimum standard of living. In other words, it is a service provided by the state that can be granted at any time, whether during youth (between ages 14-30) or old age.

Our research identified another issue noted in the conclusions of scholars: the distinction between sociological law and social law. While sociological law studies real relationships, customs, and practices in society (how law “works”), social law defines the place of individuals in society, their well-being, and state-guaranteed rights (education, labor, social security). The main difference is that sociological law investigates reality, while social law focuses on norms and social protection. Additionally, Sociological Law (Sociology of Law) views law as a living, developing system. It studies the impact of legal norms on society and the role of

public opinion and customs in legal regulation. Social law (Socio-legal norms) refers to human rights within the social contract, such as social protection like pensions, medical aid, and labor rights. While sociological law assesses the effectiveness of law, social law serves to ensure justice and social equality. In conclusion, sociological law is the practice of legal life, whereas social law is the concept of being socially protected.

A strong life position for youth is vital for the stable future and development of the entire nation and society. This is also recognized in socio-political literature, stating: “The greatness of a nation largely depends on its level of national self-awareness, political maturity, and national solidarity.” Looking at the history of youth policy, the average life expectancy in Ancient Rome was 27 years. In the first half of the 19th century in England, a 12-year-old child was practically considered an adult: the labor laws applied to them were equivalent to those for adults. At the end of the 19th century in Russia, average life expectancy was only 48 years. In short, humans transitioned quickly from childhood to adulthood. From an early age, most children were involved in the labor process. Based on historical processes, the categorization of people into age groups has changed over time due to physiological conditions and the development of social relations.

Today, according to our national legislation, youth are specifically defined as persons who have reached the age of 14 and are not older than 30. This age range was established based on the situation of youth in the country and the age categories cited in international law. V.V. Pavlovskiy, a representative of “Juventology” (the science of youth, from Latin *juventus* – youth, and Greek *logos* – word/study), defines the age limits of this group as the period from 15 to 30 years, occupying a transitional state between the commonality of adolescence and adulthood.

In the “Explanatory Dictionary of Spirituality: Basic Concepts,” the concept of youth is defined as: “The boundaries of youth are unstable and difficult to distinguish clearly, but specialists in the field often measure it between 15-30 years”. In some sources, youth includes those from 14 up to 40 years old. However, in most countries, especially Central Asian states like Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, youth is defined in their legislation as being between 14 and 30 years old. Some sociologists define youth membership as being from 16 to 29 years old. Within the scope of our research, if asked what the age range for the youth category should

be, we should include those from 14 to those who have not yet reached 31.

In this case, a proposal is being put forward to clarify the legislation with a slight change—namely, the “not yet reached 31” suggestion. The commonality of views, interests, values, actions, and desires among young people is the main indicator of their life position formed toward society. As V. Chuprov notes, the specific socially significant feature of youth is determined by the ability of the younger generation to inherit the system of social relations, process it, and adapt it to life. State youth policy, as one of the important political directions, is a continuously developing process that reflects the core aspects related to the status, lifestyle, and interests of youth in society. Therefore, this policy has been shaped in close connection with the social changes, deep reforms, and transformational processes concerning youth that occurred during the years of Uzbekistan’s independence and were consistently implemented by the state.

## 5. Conclusion

“At present, reforms are being implemented in the following priority areas of state youth policy in our republic: creating and continuously improving the legislative framework that guarantees the protection of youth rights; supporting the necessary institutional foundations related to the protection of youth rights in an enhanced manner; comprehensively elevating the spirituality of youth and increasing the quality of their education; and forming a healthy lifestyle among young people while raising them as harmoniously developed individuals remains one of the priority tasks of our time.

Consequently, within the scope of our research, the following conclusions can be drawn:

A proposal must be developed to fully clarify the social rights of youth, as current approaches often interpret youth social rights primarily as a category of protection. It is proposed that this concept should be formulated not only with a compensatory meaning but also with developmental and transformational content.

As an author’s definition of the category of youth social rights, the following is proposed: The social rights of youth—in the context of a social state—is a system of complex legal guarantees aimed not only at the social protection of youth but also at the formation of their human capital, the realization of their innovative potential, and ensuring their active participation in the

sustainable development of society.

It is necessary to study categories such as “Social Security,” “Social Right,” “Social Assistance,” and “Social Problem,” and to develop proposals that reveal the true essence of these concepts.

The differences between social rights and sociological rights were clarified, and their unique characteristics were studied; within this research, the author’s conclusion was presented, providing a definitive solution to existing misunderstandings.

The rationale for defining youth specifically within the 14–30 age range was analyzed, and a proposal was made to slightly amend the legislation to define youth as citizens over the age of 13 and under the age of 31. Recognizing that youth are both a sensitive and an influential group in every society, it is essential to constantly improve their social rights within state youth policy based on modern requirements, as they are the segment that first engages with new relations emerging in social life.

The solution to these misunderstandings lies in increasing the legal literacy of young people and teaching them what their social rights consist of and how to exercise them, specifically through integrated education for upper-year students of academic lyceums and secondary specialized schools who are just entering independent life.”

## References

1. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti Shavkat Mirziyoyev. (2017, 30 iyun). “Kamolot” yoshlar ijtimoiy harakatining IV qurultoyidagi nutqidan // [https://president.uz/oz/lists/view/729?utm\\_source](https://president.uz/oz/lists/view/729?utm_source)
2. Молодежь в Организации Объединенных Наций. (1995). Библиотека документов ООН, связанных с молодежью. <http://www.un.org/youth.html>
3. Лиссабонская декларация по молодежной политике и Брагский план действий в интересах молодежи (A/53/378). (1998). Библиотека документов ООН, связанных с молодежью. <https://cdn.sida.se/publications/files/sida1985en-world-youth-conferences-in-portugal-august-1998.pdf?utm>
4. Кирницкий В.В. (2016). Проблема формирования патриотических ценностей в массовом сознании российской молодежи: диссертация... кандидата

- философских наук. Москва.
5. Mohammad Taghi Sheykhi. (2021, 29 July). *Sociology of Youth*, Page 1-110.
  6. Finn Yrjar Denstad. (2009, September). *Youth Policy Manual*. Council of Europe Publishing. p.53.
  7. Меркулов П. А. (2012). Методология изучения государственной молодежной политики — приглашение к дискуссии // *Вестник Ассоциации ВУЗов туризма и сервиса*. № 4(23). С. 79–82.
  8. Н.Жўраев. (2002). Янгиланиш концепцияси: яратилиши, эволюцияси ва амалиёти. – Т.: Маънавият, – Б. 43
  9. Сайдуллаев Ш. (2018). Давлат ва ҳуқуқ назарияси. Дарслик. –Тошкент: ТДЮУ.
  10. Martha Nussbaum (2007). *Human rights and human capabilities* // *Harvard human rights journal*.
  11. A.Vahobov. (2020). *Ijtimoiy ish ijtimoiy ta'minotga kirish*. Darslik. –Toshkent: “Innovatsiyo-Ziyo”,. – В. 20.
  12. Социальная защита населения как институциональная система общества: социологический аспект. (2018). *Научные заметки. Социология*. №3.. – С. 212.; Хусанова Х.Т. (2021). Институциональные основы социальной защиты нуждающихся слоёв населения. *Междисциплинарный научный журнал “Общество и инновации”* // Выпуск №2. – С. 302-310.
  13. Раҳмонов Р., Ғофуров З. (1999). *Мустақиллик ва миллий ўзликни англашнинг тикланиши*. Тошкент: Ўзбекистон,. –Б. 20.
  14. Ильинский, И. М. (2001). *Молодежь и молодежная политика: философия. История. Теория*. - М.: Голос,. - 696 с
  15. Павловский В.В. (2001). *Ювентология: проект интегративной науки о молодёжи*. – М., – С.74.
  16. Чупров В.И., Зубок Ю.А., Уильямс К. (2003). *Молодежь в обществе риска*. - М.: Наука.
  17. Ильинский И.М. *Молодежь и молодежная политика. Философия. История. Теория*. М.: Голос, 2001; *Корпоративное управление*. Под ред. М.Г. Антонова. М. (2006). -С. 12
  18. Т.И.Исмоилов.(2021).*Ўзбекистонда уюшмаган ёшларнинг ижтимоий фаоллиги... монография*.
  19. Everette B. Penn, Shannon A. Davenport. (2022, February 2). *Police and Youth*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429424519>
  20. Checkoway B. (2006). *Youth Participation and Community Change*. New York: Routledge.
  21. Mcmellon, C., & Tisdall, E. K. M. (2020). *Children and young people’s participation rights: Looking backwards and moving forwards*. *The International Journal of Children’s Rights*, 28(1), 157-182. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15718182-02801002>