

Role of civil society institutions of Uzbekistan in protecting human rights and freedoms

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Abstract: This scientific article reveals the development of civil society in Uzbekistan. The main attention is paid to the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations in the field of human rights protection. It is scientifically analyzed that the protection of human rights and freedoms in Uzbekistan has become a strategic direction of state and public policy.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, human rights, civil society, non-governmental non-profit organizations, media, social partnership, development strategy.

Currently, the Republic of Uzbekistan is undergoing a systematic, dynamic process of reforming all aspects of society, the development of political, legal and socio-economic systems, spiritual revival and the establishment of democratic values. The consistent process of building a democratic rule of law and the formation of a strong civil society continues. The most important principle of the chosen Uzbek model of modernization of the country is being implemented in the republic - "the transition from a strong state to a strong civil society."

Various processes taking place in the world community today influence the formation of the principle "man - society - state", and accordingly it is undergoing profound changes. This is primarily due to the changes that are taking place in the legal sphere of each state, of course, in terms of the institutional development of NGOs as an important factor in the development of civil society.

One of the priority directions of the political development of Uzbekistan is the development of civil society institutions. The state, implementing the policy of social partnership, encourages the development of non-governmental organizations, among which a certain part carries out human rights activities. It is difficult to overestimate the role and importance of these organizations in strengthening democratic values in the minds of people, increasing their political and civic activity, expanding the scale and deepening the democratic transformations taking place in the country. More than 250 laws have been adopted that regulate relations between the state and civil society institutions. Among them, an important role is played by the laws "On the openness of the activities of public authorities and administration" and "On social partnership"[1].

From the first days of independence, Uzbekistan has set itself the goal of building a democratic rule-of-law state with a dynamically developing economy and an open civil society, in which a person is the highest value, his rights, interests and freedoms are protected, and there are favorable conditions for self-realization. The creation and development of independent, stable, diverse institutions of civil society,

enjoying the support of broad strata of the population, was identified as the most important task along this path.

The basis of civil society in every state is made up of independent public organizations. Its basis in Uzbekistan was formed by such institutions as non-governmental non-profit organizations, and these are: political parties, trade unions, public associations, foundations, associations, movements, independent media, as well as citizens' self-government bodies (makhallas) and others. Today they are engaged in the provision of social services to the population, socially significant activities, the protection of human rights, the solution of various issues of local importance, through the invested mechanisms of public control, they contribute to the transparency and efficiency of the work of state bodies. Along with their social activity in Uzbekistan, a number of measures are being implemented to create organizational, legal, material conditions for their formation and development.

More than 9 thousand non-governmental non-profit organizations operate in Uzbekistan, incl. about 30 international and foreign representative offices of foreign NGOs. The state pursues a policy of social partnership, actively develops the institutions of civil society[2]. In June 2005, the Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations was formed, which represents their interests in relations with the state.

The state ensures the observance of the rights and legitimate interests of public associations, creates equal legal opportunities for them to participate in public life. Interference of state bodies and officials in the activities of public associations is not allowed.

With the adoption of a joint decision by the chambers of the Oliy Majlis on the creation of a Public Fund to support NGOs and other civil society institutions, as well as the Parliamentary Commission for managing the Fund's funds, a democratic, transparent system of financial support for NGOs was created in the country, independent of the executive authorities[3].

Significant work in the field of ensuring human rights, raising the legal and political culture of citizens is carried out by the mass media. For their successful and vigorous activity, an extensive legal framework has been created in Uzbekistan, which continues to improve taking into account international experience and modern realities.

Currently, there are more than 1,500 mass media in the republic. The total daily airtime of only TV channels of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan is 616 hours, while before independence it was only 48 hours. It is noteworthy that the structure of the media is also changing dramatically. This is confirmed by the fact that in our country about 53 percent of all TV channels and 85 percent of radio channels are non-state.

In order to create in Uzbekistan the organizational and legal foundations of social partnership, a number of interrelated tasks are being consistently solved: a) the laws and regulations on state bodies reflect their obligations to facilitate the participation of citizens in governance more fully; b) training civil servants and deputies in the basics of political and legal behavior; c) providing access to the legal

education system for the population; d) improving the interaction of state bodies with parties and other public associations; e) constant analysis of the changing attitude of the population towards public authorities and its formation in accordance with the political course. In the future, one should take into account the factors that give rise to criticism and alienation of citizens from power, and seek their recognition and support for specific programs and actions.

Within the framework of the Concept of Administrative Reforms in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, it is planned to introduce new approaches to the relationship between state bodies and citizens on the basis of the adoption of the Law "On Civil Service"[4].

It is planned to form a system for the constant study of the situation in each region (we are talking about monitoring), first of all, on the execution of decrees and decrees, the effectiveness of their implementation, the development of proposals to increase the responsibility of state bodies in this area. State bodies should increasingly actively develop and expand cooperation with both NGOs and other institutions of civil society. Almost every state body should have its own system and mechanisms of cooperation with NGOs in the field of human rights.

An analysis of the practice of interaction between NGOs in the field of ensuring human rights shows that in the future it is necessary to develop the following conceptual areas of cooperation with NGOs on the basis of the adoption of the Law "On Public Control", joint monitoring of the situation in the field of observance and protection of human rights in the Republic of Uzbekistan by:

- identifying cases of human rights violations and the formation of a data bank by categories of citizens, by the geography of their distribution;
- exchange of information, documents, research testifying to the violation of human rights;
- mutual consultations, discussions on the prevention of human rights violations;
- the development of contractual relations between state structures and NGOs for the study and research of the observance of the rights of a certain category of citizens by the relevant non-governmental organization;
- development of joint programs to assist in ensuring the rights of certain categories of citizens;
- conducting a public examination of draft laws and developing joint assumptions to eliminate gaps in human rights legislation and bring it in line with international law.

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