

## RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN THE UPBRINGING OF THE YOUNG GENERATION (IN THE CONTEXT OF UZBEKISTAN)

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### ANNOTATION:

**In a time of changing world, the process of globalization is exerting a powerful influence over all realms of life. Like other factors, globalization has had positive and negative effects on society. For instance, the sweeping changes brought by modernity and globalization led many people to view the representatives of other religions as hostile to the traditions of their religion. It would be more straightforward if every person tried to be tolerant to one another and showed his/her respect to the followers of other religions. Moreover, it would be better if big attention was paid to the upbringing of youth in a spirit of tolerance since they are considered as the future of society. As F. D. Roosevelt, the political leader, noted: "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future. That's why we have to bring the younger generation up in a spirit of tolerance in order to prevent the future problems".**

### MAIN PART:

By taking a look at the etymology of the word "tolerance", one can learn that the word originated from the Latin word "tolerare" which stands for "to tolerate". Some scholars have also offered a number of definitions to the word of tolerance.

The topic regarding the essence of tolerance is discussed in the following researches as clarification of tolerance in Islamic sources by M. Alimova and others. [Alimova, M., & Nigmatullayev. 2019:13, Lazizakhon Abbasovna. 2020: 5, Mukhamedov

N., Turambetov N. 2020: 45, Mukhamedov N., Turambetov N. 2020: 799]

James Dobson, founder and first president of the organization "Focus on the family" mentioned that "It is very important to understand that pluralism is part of our system. We don't all think the same thing and part of our strength are that we come from different perspectives. We have to respect one another even when disagreeing with each other. There has to be a spirit of tolerance for the views of others, while also being deeply committed to the position we hold. If we do that, I think we can coexist and learn to love each other better".

According to the former UNESCO Director-General F. Mayor, the meaning of tolerance is described as follows: "The exact meaning of tolerance is the recognition of distinctions and a patient attitude to them. It means empathy, mutual understanding, and reconciliation, which do not allow contradictions to become conflict". [A. Grachev., V. Lomeyko. 1996: 15].

It should be mentioned that on the initiative of UNESCO, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1995 the United Nations Year for Tolerance and designated UNESCO as the lead agency for this Year. In conformity with its mandate and in order to call public attention worldwide to the urgent matter of tolerance, the General Conference of UNESCO solemnly adopted on 16 November 1995, the 50th anniversary of the signature of UNESCO's Constitution, the Declaration of the Principles of Tolerance.

According to the first article of the declaration, tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our

world's cultures, our forms of expression, and ways of being human. It is fostered by knowledge, openness, communication, and freedom of thought, conscience, and belief. Tolerance is harmony in difference. It is not only a moral duty, it is also a political and legal requirement. Tolerance, the virtue that makes peace possible, contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace. [Declaration of Principles on Tolerance. 1995: 5]

It should be noted that so as to generate public awareness, emphasize the dangers of intolerance and react with renewed commitment and action in support of tolerance promotion and education, 16 November was announced as the annual International Day for Tolerance.

Religious tolerance plays a significant role in the upbringing of the youth. Every young person should be perfectly educated in a spirit of tolerance. Because tolerance shapes a positive attitude in children not only to his/her teachers and friends but also representatives of other religions. If the youth don't know about the principles of tolerance, some problems might come out in the future.

The thing that needs to be mentioned here is that upbringing of youth for tolerance is the best way of struggling with intolerance. In this way, the first thing to be done is to equip the youth with knowledge about their share rights and freedoms. As stated in the UNESCO declaration on tolerance: "Education for tolerance should be considered an urgent imperative; that is why it is necessary to promote systematic and rational tolerance teaching methods that will address the cultural, social, economic, political and religious sources of intolerance -major roots of violence and exclusion. Education policies and programs should contribute to the development of understanding, solidarity, and tolerance among individuals as well as among ethnic, social,

cultural, religious, and linguistic groups and nations. Education for tolerance should aim at countering influences that lead to fear and exclusion of others, and should help young people to develop capacities for independent judgment, critical thinking, and ethical reasoning". [Declaration of Principles on Tolerance. 1995: 6]

In the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, there are a lot of legal norms, devoted to the principles of religious tolerance. As noted in the constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, all rights and freedoms are guaranteed to all, regardless of their nationality and religious belief.

Article 18 of the Constitution of Uzbekistan fixed that all citizens of the country have the same rights and freedoms, and are equal without distinction by gender, race, nationality, language, religion, origin, belief, personal and social status. The Constitution guarantees the rights of citizens for freedom of conscience. Everyone shall have the right to profess or not to profess any religion. Any compulsory imposition of religion shall be impermissible. (article 31) [The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2020:4]

Prof. Dr. Akmal Saidov noted in his article that—Article 57 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan prohibits the formation of religious associations that advocate religious hostility and the establishment of political parties on a religious basis. This means that religious organizations must tolerate other religions and the state in line with the law. Political parties are used as tools for carrying on political struggle and exercising power, banning the establishment of religiously political parties, depriving religious movements of any legitimate display of intolerance towards the state. [Prof. Dr. Akmal Saidov. 2007: 189]

It should be noted that the Law "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" adopted on 5 July 2021 shows

the role and status of the religious organizations and unions, as well as their relations with state bodies.

The law defines the main priorities for ensuring freedom of conscience, including the creation of equal conditions for citizens to exercise their rights to freedom of conscience, regardless of their attitude to religion, preventing the forced imposition of religious views, strengthening peace and harmony between confessions, ensuring religious tolerance in society, counteraction to the planting and dissemination of religious ideas and views that threaten public order, health, and morality, the rights, and freedoms of citizens of the republic, etc.

In the law, the procedure for creating a religious organization has been simplified. Thus, the requirement for the presence of 100 initiators for its creation is canceled. A religious organization is created by the decision of its initiators (founders) in accordance with the law. It can be created in the form of the central governing body of religious organizations in the republic, religious educational institutions, local religious organizations.

We live in a world of religious pluralism. There are approximately 1600 nations and nationalities in the world that have their own religious beliefs. Religious tolerance is becoming a growing social movement in society. All the above-mentioned legal norms regulate relations among people and show how to treat others.

The new policy of Uzbekistan in the field of religion is reflected at a high international level. In particular, the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to adopt a special UN Resolution "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance", voiced in 2017 at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, received support. In December 2018, all UN member states approved this initiative and adopted this document.

It is noteworthy that the resolution was not only unanimously supported by all UN member states, but also adopted with the co-authorship of over 50 countries in North and Latin America, Asia, Africa, and other continents, which indicates the high recognition by the international community of the relevance and timeliness of the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan.

Among the co-authors, one can highlight such states as Azerbaijan, Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Ghana, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Canada, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, UAE, Oman, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Philippines, Japan, and others.

The resolution adopted at the initiative of Uzbekistan emphasizes the important role of promoting education, peace, human rights, tolerance and friendship, and also recognizes the importance of integration, mutual respect, protection of human rights, tolerance, and mutual understanding in the name of strengthening security and peace on the planet.

The document welcomes all international, regional, and national initiatives aimed at promoting interreligious, intercultural, and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion or belief.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

In turn, the ongoing reforms to liberalize religious policy are widely recognized in the world.

In particular, in December 2020, the US State Department removed Uzbekistan from the list of countries that violate religious freedoms, thereby recognizing the significant progress of the Republic of Uzbekistan in ensuring freedom of religion.

It should be highlighted that some things like tolerance and spirituality have are deeply

rooted in the history and everyday life of people, and it is not easy to remove them. In order to ensure peace among religions, the upbringing of the young generation in a spirit of tolerance should be given priority attention.

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