

## CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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Today in Uzbekistan there is a perception that the process of reform is focused on a specific goal, progress and effectiveness depends entirely on certain individuals, specific people. The success of our reforms, the future of our country will depend on what these people will be like, what spiritual, cultural and moral values they will remain faithful to. The task is to create a state-law mechanism that will reliably guarantee the initial equal opportunities for all people to demonstrate and realize their abilities, to meet their needs.

"A democratic society is, first and foremost, a civil society. The essence of true democracy is the harmonization of interpersonal, interethnic, state and socio-political relations. In this, man and society, society and state power live in peace. "

The process of citizen participation in public life is intensifying and is reflected in the activities of political parties, non-governmental organizations, the media aimed at joint social control over the activities of bodies and officials in all spheres of life, including human rights.

Civil society is a society of conscious individuals who actively participate in the solution of socio-political issues, the rule of law, which does not allow the tyranny and interference of the state, and work on the basis of cooperation between citizens and the state. Although the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan does not define civil society, it recognizes the legal basis for the establishment and operation of civil institutions, and sets out the principles of their interaction with the state.

The Constitution states:

- Public associations (trade unions, political parties, other types of associations of citizens) must be registered in the manner prescribed by law;
- aimed at forcible change of the constitutional order, encroaching on the sovereignty, integrity and security of the republic, constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, promoting war, social, national, racial and religious hatred, encroaching on the health and spirituality of the people, as well as militarized the formation and activity of associations, political parties and public associations on national and religious grounds is prohibited;
- public associations have equal legal opportunities to participate in public life, ensure the observance of the rights and legitimate interests of public associations;
- state bodies and officials do not interfere in the activities of public associations, as well as public associations do not interfere in the activities of state bodies and officials;
- political parties report openly to the Oliy Majlis or the body it represents on the sources of financing their activities;
- the state does not interfere in the activities of religious organizations;
- Dissolution of public associations, prohibition or restriction of their activities is carried out only on the basis of a court decision;
- the media is free and operates in accordance with the law, censorship is not allowed;
- The procedure for electing local self-government bodies, the organization of their activities and the scope of their powers are regulated by law.

The above-mentioned constitutional principles of civil society institutions include the Law on Public Associations, the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Law on Public Funds, the Law on Political Parties, the Law on Financing of Political Parties, and the Law on Citizens' Self-Government Bodies. It is reflected in the laws "On Trade Unions", "On Mass Media", "On Protection of Journalism", "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations", "Public Oversight", "Social Partnership" and others.

Government agencies are actively developing and expanding cooperation not only with NGOs, but also with other institutions of civil society. Almost every government agency has developed its own system and mechanisms for cooperation with NGOs in the field of human rights.

For example, the National Center for Human Rights establishes and strengthens close ties with non-governmental organizations and public groups directly or indirectly involved in the protection and promotion of human rights. There are several important reasons for this.

First, the support of these bodies is very useful in promoting the activities of the Center, thanks to informing the general public about the existence of the Center. NGOs are often the initiators of efforts to improve the work of the National Center for Human Rights. Such contacts are used to cover the activities of the Center and to ensure that its work is supported by the public.

Second, the practical reason why the national center cooperates with NGOs is that individuals who suffer most from human rights abuses often do not seek to contact any official body to file a complaint or seek legal protection. In such cases, non-governmental organizations can act as intermediaries between those whose rights have been violated and the National Center for Human Rights. NGOs can also provide the necessary assistance and information to encourage citizens to have a personal relationship with the Center.

Third, NGOs have specific knowledge and characteristics that make them an ideal partner in efforts to create a national climate that promotes respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Given their ability to adapt quickly, NGOs can often provide the national center with detailed information on the human rights situation in the country, structural or legislative gaps, as well as its focus on social or other changes. Such information can be used to inform the Center and to try to maximize its importance and effectiveness. Information can be provided on a case-by-case basis, or the process can be formalized through regular (formal or informal) consultation.

It should be noted that the National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in turn, provides comprehensive support to NGOs in improving their knowledge of human rights, to improve their activities:

- Conducting special seminars and trainings for NGOs;
- Involve them in human rights information activities for law enforcement agencies;
- Monitoring of human rights legislation with the participation of NGOs;
- to include them as executors in the National Action Plans for the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Committees on the results of consideration of national reports on the implementation of international human rights obligations by Uzbekistan;
- Obtain relevant information on human rights compliance for inclusion in Uzbekistan's national human rights reports;
- through joint information and educational activities aimed at raising the level of knowledge of the population on human rights issues and through other means.

It should be noted that the National Center is not limited to a single area of activity in cooperation with non-governmental organizations. As the Center deals with almost all categories of human rights, it cooperates extensively and comprehensively with civil society institutions.

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