



The Peerian Journal

Open Access | Peer Reviewed

Volume 6, May, 2022.

Website: www.peerianjournal.com

ISSN (E): 2788-0303

Email: editor@peerianjournal.com

Creation of Legal Bases for the Activities of Civil Society Institutions in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: the scientific article analyzes the main trends in the formation and development of non-governmental non-profit organizations in Uzbekistan. The role of independent media in the democratization of society and the improvement of the system of public relations is revealed. Also, the legal framework in this area and their implementation are the object of scientific research in this article.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, civil society, media, legislative framework, Constitution, non-governmental non-profit organizations.

Civil society institutions, in cooperation with independent, free media, should not only express but also shape public opinion and democratic values. Without the strengthening of democratic values in the minds of people, democracy by itself or through external efforts cannot be developed.

A special fund has been created under the Parliament of Uzbekistan to support the activities of NGOs. All the necessary regulatory and legal framework has been developed. It is very important that this positive process, in partnership with civil society institutions, continues. Civil institutions are actively involved in the implementation of socio-economic policy in the country[1]. In Uzbekistan, civil society institutions are becoming an important factor in protecting democratic values, rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of people, create conditions for citizens to realize their potential, increase their social, socio-economic activity and legal culture, and help maintain a balance of interests in society.

One of the feedback channels between government bodies and non-governmental non-profit organizations has also become the National Association of NGOs of Uzbekistan, which uses various forms and mechanisms of organizational, financial and material support for its members. More than 10,000 self-governing bodies of citizens make a great contribution to local development, in the regions, to the implementation of the profound democratic reforms being carried out in the country. Such an important institution of civil society as the mass media is also developing dynamically. The number of media outlets in the country exceeds 1,500, and many of them are non-state. Democratization of the information sphere is facilitated by the Public Fund for Support and Development of Independent Print Media and News Agencies of Uzbekistan and the National Association of Electronic Media[2].

In general, if we conduct a retrospective analysis, then the path traversed by Uzbekistan in the formation of civil society institutions, in essence, content and significance, can be divided into the following three stages:



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THE FIRST STAGE, from 1991 to 2000, is the stage of priority reforms, transformations of the transitional period and the formation of legislative foundations for the creation and functioning of various civil society institutions. First of all, this is the adoption in 1992 of the basic law of Uzbekistan - the Constitution, in which the highest value is proclaimed a person, his life, freedom, honor, dignity and other inalienable rights.

The Constitution secured the rights of citizens to unite in trade unions, political parties and other public associations, and to participate in mass movements. At the same time, Article 58 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that "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." The constitution also enshrined freedom of the media and prohibition of censorship.

During this period, a number of legislative acts were also adopted regulating the procedure for the creation and functioning of public associations, self-government bodies of citizens, NGOs, political parties and the media. In particular, these are the laws "On public associations in the Republic of Uzbekistan" (1991), "On trade unions, rights and guarantees of their activities" (1992), "On political parties" (1996), "On the mass media" (1997), "On the protection of the professional activities of a journalist" (1997), "On guarantees and freedom of access to information" (1997), "On non-governmental non-profit organizations" (1999).

THE SECOND STAGE, from 2000 to 2010, is characterized by the processes of active democratic renewal and modernization of the country, ensuring the independent functioning of civil society institutions. The main objective of this stage of reforms is a consistent and gradual transition from a strong state, which was objectively necessary in the context of the transition period and the formation of national statehood, to a strong civil society.

During this period, the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the principles and guarantees of freedom of information" (2002), "On public funds" (2003), "On guarantees for the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations" (2007), the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to assistance to the development of civil society in Uzbekistan" (2005), aimed at strengthening the role and importance of civil institutions in solving urgent socio-economic problems of citizens, protecting human rights, ensuring freedom of speech and information.

The next step in providing support to civil society institutions was the adoption in 2008 of the resolution of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to strengthen support for NGOs and other institutions of civil society".

It should be noted that during 2008-2013 from the State budget for the implementation of various socially significant projects of NGOs and other civil society institutions, the Public Fund was allocated funds in the amount of more than 28 billion soums. These funds, by decision of the Parliamentary Commission, were used to support the initiatives of civil society institutions by holding grant competitions, allocating subsidies and placing social orders.

Another public organization that has won wide public support is the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, established in 2008 in order to protect the environment, people's health, improve the ecological culture of the population, rational use of natural resources, and exercise public control over the implementation of laws and government decisions on environmental issues. and healthcare.



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Given the importance of the tasks facing this movement, in 2008 a norm was introduced into the legislation of the republic, providing for the election of 15 deputies of the lower house of parliament from the Ecological Movement. The reform policy is aimed at creating in Uzbekistan the foundations of a democratic legal state that protects the most important rights and freedoms of citizens: the right to political choice, freedom of conscience, entrepreneurship, speech, and the right to property. They are provided by the Constitution, Codes and Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the activities of the Ombudsman - the Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis for human rights. Ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, more than 30 other international documents on human rights.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the establishment of the National Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights" in October 1996, the National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established. She is engaged in the development of a strategy for the implementation of generally accepted international legal norms, the development of cooperation with international and national organizations.

A number of public organizations also operate in Uzbekistan. For example: Trade unions of Uzbekistan unite on a voluntary basis representatives of different professions, regardless of their gender, religion, race and nationality. There are 21 branch trade unions in Uzbekistan. According to the territorial principle, there are Councils of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, 12 viloyats and 1 city trade unions.

In December 1996, according to the order of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Council of Veterans was reorganized into the Nuroniy Foundation.

A number of measures have been taken in Uzbekistan to create the legal framework for the mass media. First, the Constitution noted (Article 67) the freedom of the media, their activities under the law, and the inadmissibility of censorship. The adoption of a number of laws, including the Law "On the activities of publishing houses", the Law "On copyright and other rights", the Law "On freedom of guarantees for obtaining information", the Law "On the protection of the activities of a journalist", the law "On the mass media" outlined the legal framework media appropriate to a democratic society[3].

Decrees of the President, government resolutions, laws adopted by the Oliy Majlis during the years of independence create conditions for the activities of the media at the level of the "fourth power".

Civil society is a society of conscious individuals who actively participate in solving social and political problems, where law prevails, excluding arbitrariness and state interference, where citizens and the state act on the basis of partnership. Although the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan does not provide a definition of civil society, it establishes the legal basis for the creation and operation of civil society institutions, and defines the principles of their interaction with the state[4]. The constitution establishes the following:

- public associations of citizens (trade unions, political parties, other associations of citizens) must be registered in accordance with the procedure established by law;
- the creation and activity of political parties, as well as other public associations that encroach on the constitutional order, sovereignty, integrity and security of the republic, the constitutional rights and freedoms of its citizens, propagandize war, social, national, racial



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and religious hatred, the health and morality of the people, and also paramilitary associations, political parties on national and religious grounds, secret societies and associations;

- public associations have equal legal opportunities to participate in public life, the state ensures that their rights and legitimate interests are observed;
- state bodies and officials do not interfere in the activities of public associations, and the latter do not interfere in the activities of state bodies and officials;
- political parties are obliged to submit to the Oliy Majlis or an authorized body public reports on the sources of funding for their activities;
- the state does not interfere in the activities of religious organizations;
- dissolution, prohibition or restriction of the activities of public associations may take place only on the basis of a court decision;
- the media are free and operate in accordance with the law, censorship is not allowed;
- the procedure for elections, the organization of activities and the scope of powers of self-government bodies are regulated by law.

During the years of independence, a number of laws were adopted on the rights and guarantees of the activities of citizens' self-government bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations, public funds, and trade unions. The above constitutional principles of the activities of civil society institutions also received their specification in the laws: "On public associations", "On non-governmental non-profit organizations", "On public funds", "On political parties", "On financing of political parties", "On self-government bodies Citizens", "On Trade Unions", "On Mass Media", "On Professional Activities of Journalists", "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations", etc.

Non-governmental non-profit organizations reflect the legitimate interests of citizens, contribute to the resolution of their problems. The functions of non-governmental non-profit organizations have a rich palette. They serve citizens in the realization of their social, political, economic and cultural rights, as well as fully support and approve their initiative in the management of state and public affairs. The place and importance of non-governmental non-profit organizations in society are determined by the fact that they express the interests of various social groups of the population, participate in the process of strengthening democratic values in the minds of citizens, increasing their political activity, interacting with state bodies in the work of increasing national self-awareness, legal awareness and culture.

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