

## THE CONSTITUTION IS A GUARANTEE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

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**Abstract.** The article highlights that human rights are the highest value, that fundamental human rights and freedoms are protected and guaranteed by the state, and emphasizes that Uzbekistan remains firmly committed to its international obligations in the field of human rights.

**Key words.** Human, human rights, Constitution, rule of law, supreme value, UN, human rights and freedoms, international documents.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the human being, his or her life, honor, dignity, rights and freedoms are recognized as the highest value. The recognition and protection of human rights and freedoms constitute the fundamental obligation of the State. This principle occupies a central place in the system of foundations of the constitutional order. Its essential feature is that human rights and freedoms represent the supreme value in the formation of all other social relations, including the very structure of the State.

The primacy of human rights, as a principle of democratic statehood, is enshrined among the foundations of the constitutional system of the Republic of Uzbekistan and is organically linked with the other principles that flow from it, namely the separation of powers, ideological and political pluralism, a multi-party system, social justice, and citizens' self-governance.

As is well known, the Constitution is the fundamental law of every state; it is a political document that establishes the socio-economic and political system, the basic rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as the foundations of the traditions, culture and spirituality of the people living in that country. In this sense, the Constitution can be called the face of every state and the people who inhabit it. By studying a country's Constitution, one can gain a complete understanding of its political system, form of government,

economic foundations, spirituality, culture and customs. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan likewise fully reflects the will, aspirations, goals, spirituality and culture of the people of the republic.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh. M. Mirziyoyev, has emphasized: “It is the honorable duty of all of us to study our Basic Law in depth, to comprehend it, to put it into practice in life, and to follow it unreservedly.”<sup>1</sup>.

The Constitution is the Fundamental Law of the state – a normative legal act possessing supreme legal force that regulates the most important social relations arising between the individual, society, and the state. In terms of its content and essence, the Constitution reflects the laws governing the development of society and the state.

In recent years, on the initiative of the Head of State, the subject “Human Rights” has been introduced and is now taught in all educational institutions, along with many other disciplines. This serves to ensure that young people acquire sufficient knowledge and skills regarding their rights and obligations. Only when the population possesses an adequate level of legal literacy and legal culture can violations of people’s rights and their infringement by others be prevented.

Indeed, the contribution of the country’s leader to the reforms being carried out in the field of human rights and freedoms is enormous.

The Presidential Decree No. PQ-46 of 7 February 2023 “On Approval of the National Human Rights Education Programme in the Republic of Uzbekistan” became an important step toward fulfilling the obligations our country has undertaken in this sphere. It clearly demonstrates in practice the firm position of the Head of State that “Uzbekistan remains firmly committed to its international obligations in the field of human rights.”

In his speeches delivered on behalf of the Uzbek state as a member of the UN Human Rights Council, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emphasized that “ensuring the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual occupies the most important place in the reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan” and that the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030 are being implemented in our country on the basis of the principle of “leaving no one behind,” which aims to guarantee the rights and lawful interests of every person.

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<sup>1</sup> Қаранг: Билимли авлод – буюк келажакнинг, тadbirkor халқ – фаровон ҳаётнинг, дўстона ҳамкорлик эса тараққиётнинг кафолатидир. // Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президенти Ш.М.Мирзиёевнинг Ўзбекистон Республикаси Конституцияси қабул қилинганининг 26 йиллигига бағишланган тантанали маросимдаги маърузаси. Халқ сўзи, 2018 йил 8 декабрь

Honoring and respecting the human being and effectively ensuring his or her rights and freedoms in practice remains the most important and urgent task. That is why tremendous work is being done in our country to safeguard human rights. The fact that the very core of the reforms in Uzbekistan is embodied in the life-giving idea that “human interests are above all,” and that today Uzbekistan actively cooperates in various fields with many countries around the world and major international organizations, serves as clear evidence of this. In particular, our state’s cooperation with the United Nations is steadily strengthening and becoming ever more active day by day.

In his address, the Head of State noted that ensuring fundamental human rights and freedoms holds the highest priority in the reforms underway in Uzbekistan, and that the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030 are being implemented in our country on the basis of the “leaving no one behind” principle, which envisages guaranteeing the rights and lawful interests of every individual. These are not mere lofty words – we all know very well that honoring the human being, expressing and protecting his or her rights and interests, and ensuring comprehensive personal development have been elevated to the central idea of our Constitution. The reason is simple: all states that truly respect human rights and dignity are today marching confidently toward progress and prosperity.

The further deepening of democratic transformations in Uzbekistan and the priority areas of activity within the framework of the Human Rights Council have been highlighted through the following key points:

- first, that ensuring fundamental human rights and freedoms occupies the most prominent place in the reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan;
- second, the resolute continuation of efforts to radically increase the role of women in the country’s socio-political life and in the business sphere with regard to gender-policy issues;
- third, the provision of serious attention to guaranteeing the rights of persons with special needs.

Among all the above-mentioned issues, it must be emphasized that the fact that human rights and lawful interests are firmly guaranteed lies at the very heart of all our reforms and represents one of our greatest achievements. The adoption in 2021 – the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour – of the Law on the Children’s Ombudsman stands as vivid and truly historic proof of this.

Indeed, in the 21st century humanity has achieved significant successes in ensuring human rights and freedoms. This can be observed in the transformation of the United Nations into an authoritative international organization and in the ever-growing

importance, status, and priority of the legal instruments it adopts in shaping national legal systems. It would be no exaggeration to say that these very international legal instruments, conventions, and treaties serve as the main barrier and protection against inhumane and undemocratic phenomena becoming a global reality.

In conclusion, in order to prevent any situations that degrade the honor and dignity of individuals and citizens, it is essential to improve the activities of law-enforcement bodies, to further align national legislation with the international standards to which Uzbekistan has acceded in the field of human rights, to conduct regular monitoring in this area, and to strengthen cooperation with international organizations. Raising the legal culture of the population through measures strictly oriented toward protecting and respecting human rights will always remain at the center of our attention. In a word, every citizen must know the Constitution, strictly observe its norms, and respect them. Only then will we create a solid foundation for the great goals of building a democratic rule-of-law state and a civil society.