

Human Rights Protection in the Republic of Uzbekistan: A Legal Framework Analysis

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Abstract

The protection of human rights is a fundamental principle of democratic governance and the rule of law. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, human rights protection is guaranteed through constitutional provisions, national legislation, and institutional mechanisms aligned with international standards. This article aims to analyze the legal framework for human rights protection in Uzbekistan. The study examines key laws, institutions, and enforcement mechanisms that ensure the protection of civil, political, social, and economic rights. The findings indicate that Uzbekistan has significantly strengthened its legal and institutional framework for human rights protection, although challenges remain in implementation and public legal awareness.

Keywords: *Human rights protection; Republic of Uzbekistan; constitutional guarantees; national legislation; rule of law; Ombudsman institution; equality before the law; legal reform; access to justice; human rights enforcement.*

1. Introduction

Human rights protection is a core obligation of modern states and a central component of legal systems worldwide. In Uzbekistan, human rights are recognized as supreme values and are legally protected by the Constitution and related laws. Since gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has undertaken substantial legal reforms to align its national legislation with international human rights standards.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan declares that the individual, their life, freedom, honor, dignity, and other inalienable rights are the highest values of society and the state. The purpose of this article is to examine how human rights are protected under Uzbekistan's legal system, focusing on constitutional guarantees, national legislation, and institutional mechanisms.

2. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative legal analysis method. Primary sources include the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, national laws, presidential decrees, and official legal documents. Secondary sources consist of academic literature and reports related to human rights protection in Uzbekistan.

The analysis focuses on:

Constitutional provisions related to human rights

National laws regulating human rights protection

Institutional mechanisms responsible for enforcement

3. Results

3.1 Constitutional Guarantees

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides a strong legal foundation for human rights protection. Chapter II of the Constitution is dedicated entirely to fundamental rights, freedoms, and duties of citizens. These include:

The right to life (Article 24)

Freedom and personal inviolability (Article 25)

Freedom of thought, speech, and belief (Article 29)

The right to education (Article 41)

The right to work and social protection (Articles 37–39)

The Constitution emphasizes equality before the law and prohibits discrimination based on gender, race, nationality, language, religion, or social origin.

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3.2 Legislative Framework

Uzbekistan has adopted numerous laws aimed at protecting human rights, including:

The Law “On the Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis for Human Rights (Ombudsman)”

The Law “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men”

The Law “On Protection of Children from Information Harmful to Their Health”

These laws strengthen legal safeguards and establish procedures for protecting vulnerable groups.

3.3 Institutional Mechanisms

Several institutions are responsible for human rights protection in Uzbekistan: The Ombudsman (Human Rights Commissioner) investigates complaints from citizens regarding violations of their rights.

Courts ensure judicial protection of rights and freedoms.

Law enforcement agencies are legally obliged to respect and protect human rights during investigations and public order activities. Recent reforms have increased transparency and accountability within these institutions.

4. Discussion

The results demonstrate that Uzbekistan has established a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for human rights protection. Constitutional guarantees and national legislation reflect international human rights principles. The creation and strengthening of institutions such as the Ombudsman indicate the state's commitment to protecting citizens' rights.

However, challenges remain in the practical implementation of these laws. Limited legal awareness among citizens, procedural delays, and enforcement gaps can weaken the effectiveness of human rights protection. Therefore, legal education, public awareness campaigns, and continued institutional reforms are essential to improve human rights enforcement.

5. Conclusion

Human rights protection in Uzbekistan is firmly grounded in constitutional and legal provisions. The country has made significant progress in developing a legal framework aligned with international standards. While the legal basis for human rights protection is strong, continued efforts are required to ensure effective implementation, institutional independence, and public access to justice. Strengthening legal literacy and monitoring mechanisms will further enhance the protection of human rights in Uzbekistan.

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