



# **ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGAL BASIS OF NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KARAKALPAKSTAN**

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**Abstract.** Today, in the era of globalization, when geopolitical and ideological processes are intensifying, as well as in the context of increasing economic, political, national, religious, and other contradictions in the world, ensuring interethnic harmony is one of the main directions of the policy of every state. One of the urgent problems of historical science is the large-scale reforms being carried out in the Republic of Uzbekistan, including in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, in the sphere of interethnic relations, the scientific study of the activities of national cultural centers.

This article discusses that national-cultural centers are one of the necessary conditions for strengthening interethnic relations, the legal basis of national-cultural centers in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the work carried out by the centers, and the importance of national-cultural centers in preserving the ethnic identity of each ethnic group.

**Key words:** nation, language, national cultural center, legal basis, ethnic identity, interethnic harmony

**Introduction.** Ethnic relations are an important direction of any multinational, polyethnic society, including the socio-political life of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Ethnic policy, in a broad sense, is an integral part and specific aspect of policy in a multinational, polyethnic state. It is included in the general context of politics, which has a certain independence, and therefore can accelerate and slow down the process of social and national development. In a narrow sense, ethnic policy is the strategic direction of social movements of governmental structures, political parties, and multinational (polyethnic) states on a national issue, enshrined in legislation, special programs, and other relevant documents.

In a country where national policy and interethnic relations are rationally established, ensuring the country's sustainable development and interethnic harmony, the characteristic of multinationality is most clearly manifested. Interethnic harmony is considered one of the priority aspects of a country's policy and represents the coexistence and cooperation of representatives of different nationalities in a certain territory, state.

Today, in the era of globalization, when geopolitical and ideological processes are intensifying, as well as in the context of increasing economic, political, national, religious, and other contradictions in the world, ensuring interethnic harmony is one of the main directions of the policy of every state. In a multinational republic, the fate of representatives of each nationality, attention to their national characteristics, and the creation of opportunities for their development have been elevated to the level of state policy.

As a result of the national policy being implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan, a process of unification on ethnocultural grounds occurred among representatives of all



nationalities living in Uzbekistan. The creation of national-cultural centers paved the way for the development of national programs, cultures, and other unique characteristics of peoples.

**Material and methods.** The article is based on historical methods - historicity, comparative analysis, systematization, and the principles of objectivity, analyzing scientific articles, books, and press materials on this issue during the years of independence, as well as information from relevant agencies.

**Results.** National cultural centers are voluntary social organizations that serve to satisfy the specific needs and requirements of all nationalities and ethnic groups living in Uzbekistan in the sphere of culture, spirituality, national customs and traditions, thereby strengthening their consolidation on the scale of Uzbekistan.

The main tasks of national-cultural centers have three directions: 1) restoration of the language, culture, customs, and rituals of each nation, revitalization of ties and relations with the historical Homeland, opening wide opportunities for the manifestation of national feelings; 2) to recognize independent Uzbekistan as one's true homeland and to serve it selflessly and faithfully; 3) living in harmony with the Motherland, studying its culture, history, and language, living in friendship, cooperation, and harmony with the nation named after the independent state. The work carried out in these three areas is becoming increasingly diverse year after year in new forms, types, and directions, including:

- clubs for the study of national history, culture, language, and traditions are operating;
- clubs for the study of the history, culture, and language of Uzbekistan operate;
- national music, dance, and craft clubs are expanding their activities;
- events dedicated to national holidays are held, festivals are organized;
- history meetings are held with political figures and cultural figures from the historical homeland, etc.

National cultural centers contribute to the revival of the customs and traditions of nations and peoples. Ensuring the active participation of representatives of different nationalities living in the Republic of Uzbekistan in the social, spiritual, and educational life of the republic is one of the important areas of activity of national-cultural centers. Also, one of the main tasks of the center is the establishment of friendly, cooperative, cultural and educational ties and the development of friendly relations with related organizations and historical homelands of foreign countries, cooperation with the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Ties with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, interested ministries, departments, state and public organizations, and creative unions to promote the strengthening of civil harmony and interethnic accord.

Organizational and legal foundations for the activities of national-cultural centers have been created in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. On February 1, 2014, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan adopted a resolution on the approval of the composition and regulations of the Council for the Coordination of the Activities of National Cultural Centers in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. According to the decision of the Council of Ministers, the Council for Coordinating the Activities of National Cultural Centers in the Republic of Karakalpakstan (M. Aleuov) is tasked with monitoring the regular conduct and effectiveness of "round tables" on strengthening interethnic harmony and religious tolerance on the ground with the participation of responsible state and non-state organizations based on the instructions and conclusions set forth in the works and reports of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, strengthening interethnic harmony in the republic, improving the socio-spiritual

environment, the task was set to review, based on proposals and recommendations, the action plan aimed at promoting and implementing the essence and significance of the national ideology of independence among representatives of different nations and nationalities, to ensure, jointly with national-cultural centers and representatives of various confessions, the regular holding of spiritual and educational events aimed at preventing international terrorism, religious extremism, and missionary activity that undermine interethnic harmony and interfaith unity.

At the meeting, the Regulations on the Council for the Coordination of the Activities of National Cultural Centers in the Republic of Karakalpakstan were approved by Appendix No. 2 to Resolution No. 01-08/15-02/57 of February 1, 2014. The Regulation defines the main tasks of the Council:

- coordination of the activities of organizations, departments, public organizations, and creative unions involved in the work being carried out to further strengthen interethnic harmony and educate the younger generation in the spirit of loyalty to the ideas of independence;

- coordination, support and encouragement of initiatives aimed at developing the culture of interethnic relations of the public, supporting the principles of interethnic harmony;

- comprehensive study of the spiritual and cultural needs of representatives of nations and nationalities living in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, assisting in their full and comprehensive satisfaction;

- support for the implementation of international education and the organization and conduct of events aimed at the development of amateur art;

- studying and summarizing the experience of national-cultural centers, providing methodological and practical assistance in organizing their work;

- participation in the preparation and conduct of events aimed at harmonizing interethnic relations;

- assistance in improving the activities and strengthening the material and technical base of national-cultural centers;

The Council is responsible for considering other issues related to its work.

The creation of the Council played a practical role in coordinating the activities of national-cultural centers in the republic, providing practical assistance for the development of the activities of national-cultural centers, and organizing and conducting events promoting interethnic harmony.

Currently, the Association of Koreans, the Russian Cultural Center, the Kazakh National Cultural Center, the Turkmen National Cultural Center, the Ukrainian National Cultural Center, the Kazakh National Cultural Center of Kungrad District operate in Karakalpakstan. The main purpose of these national-cultural centers is to strengthen friendly relations between the representatives of different nationalities living in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, to preserve and develop the national characteristics, historical values, and traditions of each nation.

The "Secretariat for Relations with Public Organizations and Religious Organizations" of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan is carrying out effective work in coordinating the work carried out in the field of interethnic relations in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

The Secretariat for Relations with Public and Religious Organizations is a structural subdivision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The Secretariat's



activities are aimed at providing the Council of Ministers and its Presidium with information and analytical materials on the prevention of religious extremism and missionary work, further strengthening interethnic harmony, and developing the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations.

One of the main tasks of the Secretariat is to coordinate the activities and joint actions of the relevant local government bodies, public and religious organizations in the implementation of measures to ensure and further strengthen interethnic harmony, religious tolerance, and prevent the spread of religious extremist ideology. The Karakalpak branch of the Russian Cultural Center of Uzbekistan, the Karakalpak branch of the Ukrainian Cultural Center "Slavutich," the Kazakh National Cultural Center of Karakalpakstan, the Turkmen National Cultural Center of Karakalpakstan, and the Association of Koreans of Karakalpakstan maintain contact for joint work and analysis of the state of affairs.

**Discussion.** The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan approved the Action Plan for the Development of Ethnocultural Infrastructure in the Republic of Karakalpakstan to ensure the implementation of paragraph 7 of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 15, 2019 No. UP-5876 "On Approving the Concept of State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Sphere of Interethnic Relations" and the "Roadmap" for the Implementation of the Concept of State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Sphere of Interethnic Relations for 2019-2021.

On March 17, 2020, No. 01-09/11-03/275 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan approved the composition of the Public Council for Ensuring Interethnic Harmony, Tolerance and Solidarity under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Also, in order to ensure ethnic and cultural equality of different nationalities living in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, as well as to strengthen interethnic harmony, a working group was approved to ensure the implementation of the plan of practical measures aimed at organizing and monitoring the prevention of possible interethnic conflicts and disputes in society by the public. This working group studied the state of interethnic relations on the ground and did not identify any conflict situations or conflicts. This indicates that representatives of different nationalities live in peace and harmony in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, contributing to the development of the republic, preserving ties of friendship and solidarity.

Various competitions are held to preserve and develop the language, culture, traditions, and customs of representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in the republic, strengthen the sense of a large multinational family in society, further strengthen friendship and harmony between representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in the republic, educate the younger generation in the spirit of love and devotion to the Motherland, as well as provide state support to non-governmental non-profit organizations.

In November 2020, the Public Foundation under the Oliy Majlis announced the 5th competition for the allocation of state grants on the topic "Strengthening Social Partnership in Ensuring Interethnic Harmony and Stability," in which socially significant projects of non-governmental non-profit organizations, mass media, and other civil society institutions were accepted. The purpose of the competition is to organize and hold festivals, forums, competitions, meetings, and other events aimed at further strengthening civil and interethnic peace and harmony, to develop national cultural centers, and to further enhance the level of



interaction between state bodies and organizations, local executive authorities, and civil society in institutions in the field of interethnic relations.

Based on the final results of the competition, a total of 37 projects were recognized as winners by the Parliamentary Commission, and a state grant of 1,450,000,000 soums was allocated. The project "We are one family" of the Russian National Cultural Center of the Republic of Karakalpakstan was also recognized as the winner of this competition.

In 2021, the state alone allocated about 8 billion soums to support national cultural centers. Subsidies of 4.5 billion soums are allocated to all national cultural centers of the republic. Also, the 5th competition grant of the Public Fund of the Oliy Majlis provides for the allocation of 2 billion soums to more than 50 national cultural centers. These figures testify to the attention paid to this area in the republic.

By the Decree of the head of our state dated May 4, 2018, "Houses of Friendship" were organized in the centers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and the city of Tashkent. Such a House of Friendship was commissioned in the city of Nukus in December 2021.

**Conclusion.** National-cultural centers operating in the Republic of Karakalpakstan are working with bold steps to strengthen interethnic relations in the republic. Mutual cooperation between various cultural centers and cultural performances are of great importance.

National-cultural centers of the republic contribute to the strengthening of interethnic harmony in many areas. These are clearly visible in events related to historical-ethnographic, cultural-educational, musical, popular science, scientific, informational, and social-charitable activities.

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