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Concerning Social Organizations in the Republic of Uzbekistan

Expanding on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, this Law strengthens the inalienable right and freedom of citizens to form social organizations.

CHAPTER I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Article 1. Definition of a social organization

Social organizations are voluntary formations, arising as the result of the expression of the free will of citizens who have joined together for the cooperative realization of their rights, freedoms, and legal interests in the areas of politics, economics, social development, science, culture, ecology, and other aspects of life.

Social organizations are accepted to include the following: political parties, popular movements, trade unions, women's, youth, and children's organizations, organizations of veterans and the disabled, scientific, technical, cultural awareness, sport and leisure, and other voluntary societies, artistic unions, fraternities, foundations, associations, and other citizen groups.

The authority of the present Law does not extend to cooperatives and other organizations pursuing commercial objectives for profit with other enterprises and organizations, to religious organizations, to organs of regional social self-government (councils and committees of microregions, mahalla, apartment building, street, block, town, and village committees, and others), and organs of social individual initiative (citizen militia, citizen courts, and others) whose means of formation and activity are anticipated by other legislation.

Article 2. Legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan Concerning Social Organizations

Legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan concerning social organizations consists of the present Law defining the fundamental legal situation of social organizations, the Law of the Republic of Karakalpakstan Concerning Social Organizations, and other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 3. Reasons for Forming a Social Organization

Social organizations are formed with the goal of realizing and defending civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights and freedoms; developing the activity and individual initiatives of citizens and citizen participation in the management of governmental and social affairs; satisfying professional and amateur interests; developing scientific, technical, and artistic creativity; protecting the health of the population, and the population's participation in philanthropic activity; carrying out cultural awareness, physical fitness, and athletic work; protecting nature and historical and cultural monuments; patriotic and humanistic education; expansion of inter-republican and international contacts and strengthening intercultural peace and friendship; carrying out other activities not prohibited by law.

Not allowed is the formation of a social organization whose activity is directed toward the destruction of society's ethical foundations or general humanistic values, or which has the goal of illegally changing the constitutional system or destroying the unity of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, or advocating war, violence, and cruelty, exacerbating social, including class and race, national, and religious animosities which lead to social disintegration, or carrying out other activities not permitted under law.

Not allowed is the formation of social militaristic organizations and armed formations, and likewise religious parties and their affiliates and subordinate structures.

Social organizations and their organs are not permitted to employ anti-democratic coercion on legal and democratically formed government structures, departments, and authorized officials. Any attempts under the pretext of the democratic

process to influence the lawfully functioning organs of government power and its departments and officials is against the law.

In accordance with the law, the formation and activity of a social organization which infringes upon the health and morality of the population and the rights and legally guaranteed interests of citizens will be prosecuted.

Article 4. Principles of the Formation and Activity of Social Organizations

Social organizations are formed and operate according to the principles of voluntarism, the equal rights of its members (participants), self-regulation, observance of the law, and openness.

All social organizations, in carrying out functions anticipated by their charter and other official documents, act within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Constitution of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and other laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The participation or non-participation of a citizen in the activity of a social organization may not be a reason for the limitation of his rights and freedoms, or for presenting him with property, including official employment in a government organization, or be a reason for unfulfilled responsibilities required by law.

Legislation concerning employment, social welfare, and social security for workers applies to the employees of social organizations.

Article 5. The Government and Social Organizations

The government provides observance of the rights and legal interests of social organizations, and, in accordance with the constitution, guarantees the conditions for carrying out the goals outlined in the charters of social organizations.

The government provides material and financial support to youth and children's organizations and extends tax privileges to them, and provides children's organizations with the right to use the physical spaces of schools, extracurricular institutions, clubs, palaces, culture houses, and athletic and other structures free of charge or with special privileges.

The intercession of governmental organs and officials into the activity of social organizations, in equal measure as the intercession of social organizations into the activity of government organs and officials, is not permitted, except in cases when it is permitted by law.

The activity of organizations, political parties, and other social organizations is carried out, usually, outside of the normal work hours of its members (participants) and at the expense of these organizations.

Not permitted is government financing of political parties and popular social movements that pursue political objectives, with the exception of cases of financing election campaigns in accordance with legislation concerning the election of people's deputies and popular voting.

Questions concerning the interests of social organizations in situations anticipated by legislation are decided by government organs and economic organizations with the participation or approval of the concerned social organizations.

Article 6. Republican and Other Social Organizations

Republican social organizations are organizations whose activity and chartered goals are distributed over the entire territory of the republic. In regard to this point, republican political parties and trade unions should have no less than three thousand members.

Local social organizations are those that are regional, district, city, town, or village.

Regional and Tashkent City social organizations are organizations whose activities and chartered goals are distributed over the entire territory of the region, and in the city of Tashkent over the entire territory of the city.

District (city) social organizations are organizations whose activities and chartered goals are distributed over the entire territory of the district (city).

Town (city) social organizations are organizations whose activities and chartered goals are distributed over the entire territory of the town or village.

In necessary situations inter-regional and inter-district social organizations can be formed.

Article 7. Unions of Social Organizations

Social organizations have the right to voluntarily combine into unions of social organizations.

Unions of social organizations form, work, and terminate their activities in the manner described by the Law concerning social organizations.

CHAPTER 2. THE FORMATION OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE CESSATION OF THEIR ACTIVITY

Article 8. The Formation of Social Organizations

Social organizations are founded on the initiative of no less than ten citizens.

The founders of the social organization call a founding convention (conference) or general meeting, in which a charter (or bylaws or another founding document) is approved and governing organs are formed.

Article 9. Membership in Social Organizations

Members (participants) of social organizations are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Except in the case of political parties, membership for foreign citizens or individuals without citizenship may be anticipated in the charter.

Members of political parties in the republic must be citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who have reached eighteen years of age.

A member of one political party may not simultaneously be a member of another political party.

Social organizations, except political parties and trade unions, in certain situations anticipated by their charters, may accept collective members and working groups of enterprises, institutions, organizations, and citizen groups.

Article 10. The Charter of a Social Organization

The charter of a social organization should contain:

1. name, goals, and objectives of the social organization;
2. the structure of the social organization and the territorial limits in which it carries out its work;
3. the conditions and method of membership in the social organization and the means of leaving the organization, in cases when the organization has a fixed membership;
4. the rights and responsibilities of members (participants) of the social organization;
5. the means and method of forming governing organs of the social organization and their organization, authority, and tenure.
6. the sources of financing and forming of the budget and other property of the social organization and its

omponents;

7. the place where the governing organ of the social organization is located;
8. the means by which changes and additions can be made to the charter of the social organization;
9. the means by which the activity of the social organization can be terminated.

The charter may anticipate other situations having relevance to the work of the social organization.

The charter of a social organization may not contradict existing legislation.

Article 11. Registration of the Charter of a Social Organization

The charter of international social organizations working in the Republic of Uzbekistan, republican and inter-regional social organizations are registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan (from August 3, 1992).

The means by which the charter of a social organization in the Republic of Karakalpakstan is registered is determined by the legislation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

The charters of social organizations whose work covers a region, district, city, town, or village, or two or more districts, cities, towns, or villages, are registered by departments of justice, regional executive committees, or the Tashkent City Council of People's Deputies.

In order to register the charter of a social organization, within one month from the day of the internal approval of the charter, an application is submitted, signed by the members of the organization's governing body, with their full names, dates of birth, and places of residence clearly shown. The application is accompanied by the charter, the minutes of the founding convention (conference) or general meeting which accepted the charter, and other materials affirming the execution of articles 6 and 8 of this Law.

The application for registration is considered within two months from the date of its submission.

Changes and additions to the charter of a social organization are subject to registration in the same manner and in the same periods of time as the registration of the charter.

Organs registering the charters of social organizations keep a register of those organizations.

A social organization and its components (organs) carry out their activities only after registration of their charters, in the manner prescribed by this Law and in accordance with civil legislation, and only then may be considered a legal entity.

On the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, not permitted is the work of international social organizations, their components, and affiliates, including popular movements and their structural components, and republican and local social organizations, including popular movements which have not registered their charter with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its local organs.

For registering the charter of a social organization, and later changes and additions to the charter, a registration fee is levied as determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Article 12. Denial of Registration of a Social Organization's Charter

Registration of a social organization's charter may be denied if the charter contradicts the conditions of articles 3, 4, or 10 of this Law, or if the charter has already been registered for a social organization of the same name.

In the case of denial of registration of the charter, the applicant is notified in writing with explanation of the legislative

moments which the charter contradicts.

A denial of registration of a social organization's charter may be appealed in court and is reviewed in the manner prescribed by civil procedure legislation in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Charter registration denial of an international, republican, or inter-regional social organization may be appealed in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and charter registration denial of local social organizations may be appealed in the appropriate regional or Tashkent City court.

Article 13. Symbol of Social Organizations

Social organizations may have emblems, flags, and pennants for symbols.

The emblems of social organizations are affirmed by the organizations' governing organs in accordance with their charter. The emblems and pennants of social organizations may not advocate the goals outlined in the second part of Article 3 of this Law.

Flags and pennants are subject to government registration in the prescribed legal manner.

Article 14. Termination of the Work of Social Organizations

The termination of the work of social organizations may be carried out through reorganization (merger, joining, fraction) or liquidation.

The reorganization of a social organization is carried out by decision of its convention (conference) or general meeting. The registration of the charter of the newly reorganized social organization is carried out in the manner prescribed in Article 11 of this Law.

The liquidation of a social organization is carried out by decision of its convention (conference) or general meeting or as the result of the reasons and in the manner anticipated in Article 22 of this Law.

The property of the social organization which is liquidated by decision of its convention (conference) or general meeting, is directed towards the goals outlined in its charter.

CHAPTER 3. THE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article 15. The Rights of Social Organizations

Social organizations are equal before the law.

The rights of social organizations are enforced by their charters.

In order to meet the goals and objectives outlined in their charters, programmatic documents, and other acts, social organizations freely distribute information about their goals and activities. In the conditions and manner prescribed by legislation they:

- participate in the formation of organs of governmental power and management;
- participate in the decision making process of organs of governmental power and management;
- represent and defend the legal interests of their members (participants) in governmental and social organs;
- exercise other authorities prescribed by the present Law and other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, by the legislation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Article 16. Political Parties, Mass Popular Movements, and Trade Unions

Parties expressing the political will of their members place as their primary objective participation in the formation of governmental power and management, and likewise participation in the activities of power structures through their representatives elected to councils of People's Deputies.

Parties have programmatic documents published for general inspection.

Parties have the right to nominate candidates for people's deputies, conduct pre-election campaigns, and form groups of its supporting deputies in corresponding councils of people's deputies.

Mass popular movements pursue political and other goals and do not have a fixed membership.

Members of the military and persons employed in government law organs are governed in their work by the letter of the law and are not connected to the decisions of political parties and mass popular movements pursuing political objectives.

Trade unions, in cooperation with government organs, economic organizations, cooperatives, and other social organizations, represent and defend the interests of members of trade unions in the area of production, and in the socio-economic and cultural areas in accordance with the current legislation concerning trade unions.

Political parties and trade unions have only fixed individual membership.

Article 17. Production and Economic Activity of Social Organizations

Social organizations, in the manner prescribed by law, carry out production and economic activity. They form, only for the goal of meeting the chartered goals, enterprises and economic organizations having the rights of a legal entity.

Income from the production and economic activity of social organizations may not be distributed among members (participants) of these organizations and is used only to meet the chartered goals. Social organizations may use their resources for philanthropic objectives, even if these objectives are not anticipated in their charters.

Enterprises and organizations formed by social organizations contribute funds to the budget of the social organization in the manner and quantity prescribed by law.

Article 18. The Property of Social Organizations

Social organizations and their components may own buildings, constructions, apartments, equipment, inventory, property of cultural awareness and health care significance, monetary resources, stocks, securities, and other property necessary for the material support of the activities anticipated in their charters. The property of social organizations may also be publishing houses, other enterprises, and philanthropic enterprises formed from the resources of these organizations in accordance with the goals outlined in their charters.

Legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, legislative acts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, may determine the types of property which in consideration of governmental and social security, or in accordance with international agreements, may not be the property of social organizations.

The monetary resources of social organizations form from membership fees and dues anticipated in the charter; voluntary contributions and donations; funds from lectures, exhibitions, athletic and other events, and lotteries carried out in accordance with the charter; income from production, economic, and publishing activities; and other funds acquired legally.

Political parties and mass popular movements with political goals are not allowed to receive financial or any material assistance from religious organizations, or foreign governmental organizations and citizens. Any such funds are directed to the Ministry of Finances of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the government's use.

Political parties publish their budgets each year for general inspection.

The law protects the property of social organizations.

The competence of unions and their constituent organizations to use and distribute property belonging to them and their constituent organizations is determined by the charter of a union of social organizations.

Article 19. Mass Media and Publishing Activity of Social Organizations

Social organizations have the right to sponsor media of mass information and carry out publishing activity in accordance with current legislation concerning the press and other media of mass information.

Political parties and mass movements pursuing political goals do not have the right to carry out publishing activity and maintain printing organs from resources contributed from religious organizations or foreign governments, organizations, or citizens.

CHAPTER 4. MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS. RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSGRESSIONS OF LEGISLATION

Article 20. Control Over and Monitoring Of the Activities of Social Organizations

Financial organs carry out monitoring of the sources of finances and income of social organizations, the quantity of the contributions they receive, and their payment of taxes in accordance with legislation.

Law enforcement organs carry out the work of monitoring the compliance of social organizations with the law.

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its local organs, having registered the charter of a social organization, monitor the organization's functioning in accordance with the goals outlined in its charter. The registering organ has the right to demand from the governing body of the social organization an accounting of decisions taken, send its representatives to participate in the activities being carried out by the social organization, and receive explanations from members of the social organization and other citizens concerning questions related to observance of the social organization's charter.

Article 21. The Basis of Responsibility

Transgressions of the legislation concerning social organizations incur criminal, administrative, material, and other responsibilities in accordance with current legislation.

Responsibility for transgressions of the legislation concerning social organizations is carried by the guilty persons in government and social organs, and likewise citizens.

Social organizations, including those whose charters are unregistered, in cases of transgression of the legislation concerning social organizations, carry responsibility in accordance with the law.

In the cases when social organizations pursue activities that are outside the objectives and goals determined by their charter or that break the law, the governing organ of the social organization in question may receive a written warning from the organ which registered that organization's charter or by the prosecutor's office.

Article 22. Liquidation of a Social Organization in Cases of Violations of the Charter or Law

Social organizations are liquidated by decision of the court in cases when the social organization works in the ways described in the second, third, and fourth parts of Article 3 and in the fourth part of Article 18 of the present Law.

A court may liquidate a social organization in the case of a second offense in the course of one year of the type described by the fourth part of Article 21 of this Law.

The property of a social organization liquidated by court decision may, without remuneration, become the property of the government.

The liquidation of an international social organization and its departments and affiliates, and republican and inter-regional social organizations can take place by decision of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the motion of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Chief Governmental Tax Department, and also by motion of other organs and officials authorized in this activity by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. A decision of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan concerning the liquidation of a social organization may not be appealed.

The liquidation of local social organizations occurs accordingly in regional and Tashkent City courts. These decisions may be appealed in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

CHAPTER 5. INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS.
INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Article 23. International Contacts of Social Organizations

Social organizations, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and their charters, may join international social (nongovernmental) organizations, maintain direct international contacts and communications, and conclude corresponding agreements.

Article 24. International Social Organizations

A social organization formed in the Republic of Uzbekistan may be given international status if its work, anticipated by its charter, is to take place on the territory of Uzbekistan and at least one foreign government.

If a republican social organization joins an international social organization, formed in a foreign country, as a collective member, the former's charters are subject to registration in accord with this Law.

A social organization expanding its activity into the territory of a foreign government presents the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan with accordingly revised charters for re-registration.

Social organizations whose goals are to strengthen peace, develop international cooperation, and other forms of humanitarian activity may use the privileges accorded them by legislation.

The work of affiliates (and other structural components) formed in Uzbekistan of social organizations of foreign governments is covered by the conditions of this Law.

Article 26. International Agreements

If an international agreement of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes other rules than those contained in this Law, the rules of the international agreement take precedence.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

I. Karimov

Tashkent, February 15, 1991

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Law accepted February 15, 1991 (with changes and additions from June 3, 1992) by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan