

RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND GLOBAL COOPERATION: CURRENT TRENDS

G'ulomova Shahnoza Ahmedovna

O'zbekiston Jurnalistika va Ommaviy kommunikatsiyalar Universiteti

Xalqaro munosabatlar va jahon siyosati yo'nalishi magistranti

Abstract

Religious tolerance is vital in fostering international cooperation and ensuring global stability. In today's interconnected world, religious diversity can either lead to conflict or become the foundation for peaceful coexistence. This paper investigates the modern trends in religious tolerance and international collaboration, examining the role of religious institutions, governments, and interfaith dialogues in promoting global peace. It also highlights the major challenges and suggests strategies to enhance religious tolerance worldwide.

Keywords: religious tolerance, global cooperation, interfaith dialogue, peace, religious diplomacy, secularism, multiculturalism, human rights.

Abstract

Diniy tolaranslik xalqaro hamkorlikni rivojlantirish va global barqarorlikni ta'minlashda muhim ahamiyatga ega. Bugungi kunning o'zaro bog'langan dunyosida diniy xilma-xillik mojaro sababchisi bo'lishi mumkin yoki tinch birga yashashning asosiga aylanadi. Ushbu maqola diniy tolaranslik va xalqaro hamkorlikning zamonaviy tendentsiyalarini o'rganadi, diniy muassasalar, hukumatlar va dinlararo muloqotlarning global tinchlikni targ'ib qilishdagi o'rnini tahlil qiladi. Shuningdek, asosiy muammolarni yoritadi va diniy tolaranslikni global miqyosda kuchaytirish bo'yicha strategiyalarni taklif etadi.

Kalit so'zlar: diniy tolaranslik, global hamkorlik, dinlararo muloqot, tinchlik, diniy diplomatiya, sekulyarizm, multikulturalizm, inson huquqlari.

Аннотация

Религиозная терпимость имеет важное значение для содействия международному сотрудничеству и обеспечения глобальной стабильности. В современном взаимосвязанном мире религиозное разнообразие может либо привести к конфликтам, либо стать основой для мирного сосуществования. В данной работе исследуются современные тенденции религиозной терпимости и международного сотрудничества, рассматривается роль религиозных учреждений, правительств и межконфессиональных диалогов в продвижении глобального мира. Также подчеркиваются основные проблемы и предлагаются стратегии для укрепления религиозной терпимости на мировом уровне.

Ключевые слова: религиозная терпимость, глобальное сотрудничество, межконфессиональный диалог, мир, религиозная дипломатия, секуляризм, мультикультурализм, права человека.

Religious tolerance has been a key aspect of peaceful societies throughout history. In the age of globalization, where cultural and religious ideas are exchanged rapidly, promoting religious harmony is more essential than ever. This paper looks into the development of religious tolerance and its impact on international cooperation, particularly within the contexts of diplomacy, globalization, and global relations. Religious institutions have always played a pivotal role in fostering peace and mutual understanding. Today, many religious organizations contribute to interfaith harmony through education, humanitarian projects, and diplomatic efforts. Examples include:

- Initiatives by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to enhance religious understanding.
- The World Council of Churches' (WCC) initiatives to foster dialogue between Christians and Muslims.

Religious intolerance has led to numerous human rights violations, some of the most severe in history. These violations deepen historical mistrust and jeopardize

both regional and global security. Recognizing the divisive nature of religious intolerance, the United Nations has focused on protecting freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and belief. Documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief address these issues. The World Conference on Human Rights presents an opportunity to evaluate our progress and the effectiveness of UN human rights instruments in protecting freedom of religion globally.

It's important to note that 1993 marks the 25th anniversary of the 1968 Conference on Human Rights in Tehran, as well as the 100th anniversary of the World's Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1893, which marked the beginning of greater cooperation among religious leaders. Additionally, religious non-governmental organizations have collaborated with the United Nations Economic and Social Council to prepare for the 1995 celebration of the International Year of Tolerance. Those of us working with the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief and attending the World Conference on Human Rights are firmly convinced that religion need not divide the world. On the contrary, we believe that religious teachings can help eliminate religious intolerance. All spiritual traditions share principles that promote peace, understanding, and reconciliation. We believe religious communities have a special responsibility, rooted in their teachings, to dissolve divisions, end conflicts, and establish trust and security.

Religions all promote love, and this principle is central to human well-being. Intolerance stands in opposition to this principle and harms the common good. Many governments and global organizations have adopted policies to promote religious tolerance and protect the rights of minorities. Key examples include:

- The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 18) on religious freedom.

- The European Union's approach to religious pluralism.
- The role of the U.S. State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom.
- These policies underscore the importance of legal protections for religious freedom and tolerance across nations.

Intolerance often arises from cultural and historical tensions tied to religious traditions. Since such antagonisms stem from ignorance and limited understanding, education can reveal the shared spiritual values among various beliefs, thereby fostering tolerance. The role of the individual in promoting religious tolerance is crucial. Legal mechanisms alone cannot eliminate intolerance if people view religious differences as grounds for discrimination. Therefore, education should focus not only on providing accurate information but on helping individuals appreciate diverse beliefs. School curricula should include the study of human rights declarations and the comparison of scriptures from different religions. This will uncover shared ethical values and help foster an appreciation for the importance of tolerance.

Nation-states also play a key role in promoting religious tolerance and cooperation. We urge those participating in the World Conference on Human Rights to recognize the urgent need to address conflicts, discrimination, and violence arising from religious intolerance. To be truly effective, the resources of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations must be combined with the political will of governments. Past negative experiences rooted in religious differences should be acknowledged, but efforts must be made to break the cycle of retribution to achieve lasting peace.

We recognize the important work done by the Human Rights Committee in drafting the General Comment on Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and we urge all states to respond effectively to this initiative. The contributions of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance Based on Religion or

Belief are invaluable, and we call for the continuation and strengthening of this work. Despite progress, challenges remain in achieving full religious tolerance and cooperation. Key issues include:

- Religious extremism and radicalization.
- Discrimination against religious minorities.
- Political manipulation of religious sentiments.
- The impact of secularism on religious expression.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving education, legal protections, and open dialogue. To enhance religious tolerance and global cooperation, the following strategies should be considered:

- “Education and Awareness”: Incorporating religious tolerance into school curricula to promote mutual understanding.
- “Legal Protections”: Strengthening legal frameworks at both national and international levels to protect religious freedoms.
- “Media Representation”: Promoting balanced and respectful depictions of religious communities in the media.
- “Diplomatic Efforts”: Strengthening intergovernmental cooperation to support religious harmony initiatives.

Conclusion

Religious tolerance remains a fundamental element of international cooperation and global peace. While challenges persist, modern trends indicate progress through interfaith dialogue, government initiatives, and grassroots movements. By fostering respect and understanding, societies can work toward building a more peaceful and inclusive world.

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