



ACADEMICIA
**An International
 Multidisciplinary
 Research Journal**
 (Double Blind Refereed & Peer Reviewed Journal)



DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2021.00743.6

**ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTERS IN THE REPUBLIC
 OF KARAKALPAKSTAN**

Nargiza Mynsyzbaevna Seytimbetova*

*Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh,
 Nukus, UZBEKISTAN

Email id: seytimbetovanargiza@umail.uz

ABSTRACT

Ensuring interethnic harmony is one of the main directions of any state policy in the current era of globalization, which is characterized by geopolitical and ideological processes, as well as in the context of growing economic, political, national, religious and other conflicts in the world. One of the urgent problems of history is the large-scale reforms in the field of interethnic relations in the Republic of Uzbekistan, including the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the scientific study of the activities of national cultural centers. This article discusses the activities of national and cultural centers in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the work carried out by the centers, the role of national cultural centers in preserving the ethnic identity of each nation.

KEYWORDS: *Nation, Language, National Cultural Center, Ethnic Identity, Interethnic Harmony*

INTRODUCTION

Interethnic harmony plays an important role in the political, socio-economic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In our multi-ethnic republic, the fate of each nation, the focus on their national characteristics, the creation of opportunities for their development has risen to the level of public policy.

In well-developed legal and civil countries, democratic processes divide society into three sectors: government, business, and non-governmental and non-profit organizations.

The public sector is engaged in solving political and war security, economic, social and other major problems at the state level, the business sector is engaged in solving all business problems in the country and serves to improve the living standards of the people.

Non-governmental and non-profit social organization contributes to improving the living standards of the people and accelerates the process of democratization in society, ensuring that many problems that are still lacking in the hands of the state can be solved without asking for funding from the state [1]. One of such non-governmental social organizations that contribute to the political, economic and social development of our country are national and cultural centers.

As a result of the national policy pursued in the Republic of Uzbekistan, there has been a process of ethnic and cultural unification among all nationalities living in Uzbekistan. The establishment of national-cultural centers paved the way for the development of national programs, cultures and other peculiarities of the peoples.

In 1989, social organizations of all nationalities and ethnic groups living in Uzbekistan - national and cultural centers - were established, and in that year their number reached 12. In 1989, the Republican Center for International Culture was established under the Ministry of Culture. In January 1992, the International Cultural Center was transformed into the Republican International Cultural Center. This process has developed rapidly due to the opportunities created during the years of independence. In 2002, there were 120 national cultural centers in the country [2, 187]. Currently, there are 147 national and cultural centers in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the organizational and legal framework for the activities of national and cultural centers has been created. On February 1, 2014, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan adopted a resolution approving the composition and the Charter of the Council for Coordination of National and Cultural Centers in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. According to the decision of the Council of Ministers, the Council for Coordination of National and Cultural Centers in the Republic of Karakalpakstan will be monitored on a regular basis and effectively to strengthen interethnic harmony and religious tolerance with the participation of local governmental and non-governmental organizations. Review of the action plan on the basis of proposals and recommendations to strengthen interethnic harmony in the country, improve the socio-spiritual environment, promote and implement the essence of the idea of national independence among representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups, with representatives of national and cultural centers and religions Spirituality aimed at preventing international terrorism, religious extremism and missionary movements that undermine inter-ethnic harmony and inter-religious harmony the task of ensuring the regularity of reef activities was set [3].

The establishment of the Council has played a practical role in coordinating the activities of national and cultural centers in the country, providing practical assistance for the development of national and cultural centers, 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.

In 1990, the Association of Korean Cultural Centers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan was established. Over the years, the center has been contributing to the strengthening of friendly relations between the peoples of Korea and Uzbekistan.

The Association of Koreans of the Republic of Karakalpakstan was registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Karakalpakstan on August 11, 1993. The main goal of the Korean Association is to create ample opportunities for the development of any economic and cultural sphere of Koreans [4].

In 1937, the Koreans came to the Republic of Karakalpakstan, where at that time 1383 families, mainly fishermen, ie 6826 people settled in Moynak, Kungrad and Khojayli districts. They have made a significant contribution to the development of the region, especially in rice cultivation. Early ripening by breeders created Avangard, Nukus-2 varieties and produced a rich harvest. Experienced farmers have established rice cultivation schools in Kungrad district - Pak Guk, Kanlikul district - He Nam, Li Chun, Chimbay district - Kim Bon, Kim Moisey, Karaozyak district - Kim Victor rice cultivation [5]. At that time, in addition to agriculture, the Korean people made a great contribution to the development of science, education, medicine, construction and other sectors of the economy.

Currently, the center has language learning, dance and young artists' clubs. Every year 60-70 people attend the center to learn the language. There is a choir of older mothers called Ariran. The choir has 16 members, the oldest is 86 years old and the youngest is 69 years old. The ensemble actively participates in the annual festival "Uzbekistan - our common home" with concerts, exhibitions of our national culture, national cuisine [6].

The Karakalpak Association of Korean Cultural Centers regularly celebrates Korean folk holidays such as the New Year, Tano, and Chusok, which are celebrated according to the lunar calendar called Sol. The association is also holding a campaign of South Korean doctors to provide free medical care to the people of Karakalpakstan to further strengthen friendship between peoples.

It is difficult to call the Mugumhua Dance Ensemble of the Association of Korean Cultural Centers an ensemble composed exclusively of Koreans. The reason is that it includes Uzbeks, Karakalpaks, Tatars and Russians. They perform songs and dance in Spanish, Tsygan, and many other languages[7].

Among the national-cultural centers operating in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Russian Cultural Center has a special place. AN Efremov was elected its first chairman. In addition, its members I.A. Balakin, L.V. Kalacheva, N.V. Lyubimov N.V. made a great contribution. Today the chairman of the center is Zorkina Galina Alexandrovna, the members are Yu.I. Kulakov, K.A. Pirnazarova, T.L. Samolazova.

The Center of Russian Culture of the Republic of Karakalpakstan was registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Karakalpakstan on November 7, 1994. The main purpose of the Russian Cultural Center is to conduct educational work on the preservation of Russian culture, language, customs, in-depth study of Russian history and literature [8].

Today, there are more than 10,000 representatives of the Russian diaspora in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. All of them are actively involved in the construction of a sovereign republic.

The Center of Russian Culture of the Republic of Karakalpakstan works to preserve and develop the Russian language, culture, customs and traditions, develops cooperation with other national centers, creative associations and educational institutions [9].

The information received from the chairman of the Russian Cultural Center G. Zorkina during the research is noteworthy: "By the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, we were given a building to carry out our activities on a regular basis. In 2019, our center celebrated its 25th anniversary. Over the past years, the main task of the center has been to preserve the language, culture, traditions and programs of the Russian people. The events held at the Russian House in cooperation with the faculty of NDPI named after Ajiniyaz, school teachers of Nukus, the Center for Education and Development "Progress" are aimed at the promotion of the Russian language and culture. Poetry evenings dedicated to the works of Maslennitsa, AS Pushkin and M.Yu. Lermontov, various competitions have become a tradition. Happily, our young people take an active part in such celebrations, the Russian language is heard on the stages of higher and secondary special educational institutions. The doors of our center are always open, our library has more than two thousand books, methodical manuals. Most of the literature on Russian language and literature was donated by secondary schools, colleges and lyceums information resource centers. The center has an exposition dedicated to the works of AS Pushkin, as well as the Museum of the East. A number of school children watched our exposition and expressed their gratitude.

In order to cover people of all ages, the center has a group "Znayka" for preschool children, and since 2011 a club for young people "Alye parusa". Of course, we do not forget about the elderly: they are guests of the Russian House and take part in organizing and conducting various events. We provide material and moral support to the elderly who are unable to participate in our events"[10].

One of the first national-cultural centers opened in Karakalpakstan is the Kazakh National-Cultural Center, which has been contributing to the development of interethnic relations since independence.

The Kazakh National Cultural Center is a social and non-governmental organization founded by representatives of the Kazakh nation in Karakalpakstan. The Republican Cultural Center, established as a result of long-term prudent policy in the field of interethnic relations in multi-ethnic Uzbekistan, has its own charter. The Kazakh National Cultural Center, together with other national cultural centers of the republic, serves peace and friendship, solidarity and unity among the peoples of our country. In general, according to the charter of the National Cultural Center, its main and responsible task is to restore the spiritual life of our peoples, promote the ancient cultural heritage, literature and folklore, customs and art of the Kazakh people, turn them into spiritual food, further development [11].

The Kazakh National Cultural Center of the Republic of Karakalpakstan was registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Karakalpakstan on July 3, 1996. The main purpose of the Kazakh National-Cultural Center is to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of the Kazakh people living in Karakalpakstan, to develop their language and traditions, thereby strengthening friendship between peoples [12].

The Kazakh National-Cultural Center is working effectively to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of the Kazakh people living in our country, to provide them with educational literature in their native language.

The Kazakh National-Cultural Center of Karakalpakstan has distributed more than 800 collections of art and literature books to Kazakh-language schools in the country.

Measures are being taken to further strengthen the cultural, humanitarian and friendly ties of national cultural centers operating in our country with national and cultural centers abroad. In particular, the Kazakh National Cultural Center organized a meeting of the youth of the institute with the editor-in-chief of the socio-political newspaper "Aktobe" of the Aktobe region of the Republic of Kazakhstan, poet Baurjanov Babajan oglu on February 27, 2020 at the Nukus State Pedagogical Institute [13].

Currently, Kungrad district is the second largest city in the Republic of Karakalpakstan after Nukus in terms of the number of Kazakhs (35,659 people). Therefore, the branch of the Kazakh National Cultural Center operates in Kungrad district.

In order to create the necessary conditions for the effective operation of the National Cultural Center, a separate room for the Kazakh National Cultural Center was allocated from the music school named after Esemurat Jirao' in the district and provided with the necessary equipment. In Kungrad district, where people of different nationalities live, every effort is being made to ensure the well-being of the population, to create decent working and living conditions for them [14].

Representatives of the Turkmen nation have a special place among the peoples living in our country. They work effectively in all spheres of the national economy, among them well-known scientists, painters, artists and other creators.

The Turkmen National-Cultural Center of the Republic of Karakalpakstan was registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Karakalpakstan on December 26, 1999. The main purpose of the Turkmen National Cultural Center is to preserve and develop the Turkmen culture, language, customs, literature, rituals, to strengthen and develop friendly relations between nations and peoples [15].

The center, which operates in the city of Turtkul in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, has been a member of the World Humanitarian Association of Turkmens since 2002. The center houses the editorial office of the Turkmen-language newspaper "Mekan" and a library with literature in Turkmen and other languages. Today, more than 20 schools in Turtkul teach in Turkmen. Textbooks in the Turkmen language in Uzbekistan are also being prepared by Karakalpak authors.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning the work of A. Kadyrov, G. Velbegov, G. Abdullaeva, who used their efforts in the creation of textbooks and other literary books in the Turkmen language [16].

The Turkmen National Cultural Center is headed by B.Sultanov, the holder of the Order of Friendship since 2002, and Muratbay Taganmuradov, an agricultural worker and holder of the Order of Friendship since 2004.

The Turkmen folk ensemble "Orzu" ("Dream") demonstrates its diverse repertoire and brings joy to the hearts of our multinational people. The ensemble's repertoire includes not only Turkmen national songs, but also works of art of other fraternal peoples. There is a class of Turkmen national musical instruments in the art school of the Turtkul district branch of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, where more than twenty Turkmen children study. Weddings have been opened in every densely populated village and mahalla of the Turkmen Diaspora, where all opportunities for cultural events have been created. Weddings, cultural events in a national tone, in a manner worthy of tradition

carried out.

The first information about the mass migration of Ukrainians to the Uzbek lands was recorded in the XIX century. Today, more than 71,000 ethnic Ukrainians live in Uzbekistan. The Republican Ukrainian Cultural Center "Slavutich", founded in 2001, and its cities of Nukus and Angren, as well as its branches in Tashkent region make a significant contribution to the preservation and development of the unique culture of Ukrainians [17].

The Slavutich Ukrainian National Cultural Center in Nukus was established in 2005 and works closely with other national centers, especially the Russian National Cultural Center, to strengthen and develop friendship between peoples. Currently, about a thousand Ukrainians live in the republic. All of them consider Uzbekistan as their homeland and are proud of it. This is because the friendship between Ukraine and Uzbekistan has a long history. It should be noted that the great Ukrainian poet and painter Taras Shevchenko was exiled by the tsar in the XVIII century to the shores of the Aral Sea for 10 years. In the Second World War of the last century, Uzbeks and Karakalpaks set an example of courage by participating in the liberation of the Ukrainian land from the German Nazis. Everyone knows that Ukrainian builders were active in dealing with the aftermath of the earthquake in Tashkent. Uzbek volunteers also took part in the liquidation of the Chernobyl accident.

As for the activities of the center, together with the Russian National Cultural Center, Navruz, Mustaqillik, Easter, Maslenitsa, New Year holidays will be held, and well-known war and labor heroes of the republic, writers and poets will be invited to it. Meetings and roundtables are held at educational institutions. They also have good relations with the Embassy of Ukraine in our country, where they donated the national costumes of the Ukrainian people. It is also helping young Ukrainians graduating from secondary schools to study at the expense of state scholarships by providing them with referrals to higher education institutions in Ukraine. Currently, four of our students are studying in Ukraine on the recommendation of the center. The center also provides holiday care to the elderly living in the country [18]. The Center has done a lot to provide comprehensive, both moral and material assistance to the Ukrainian people living in our country.

Currently, the Ukrainian national-cultural center "Slavutich" is headed by Olga Artemovna Mironets. His main profession is medicine, he works as a laboratory manager at the State Center for Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. At the same time as working in his difficult profession, O. Mironets faithfully carries out his duties, uniting the representatives of the Ukrainian nation living in our republic for a common goal. He was awarded the Medal of Fame on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the International Cultural Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017 for his heroic deeds before the state.

In conclusion, it can be said that the national-cultural centers operating in the Republic of Karakalpakstan are taking bold steps to strengthen interethnic relations in our republic. Interaction between different cultural centers, cultural performances are important.

The national-cultural centers of the republic contribute to the strengthening of interethnic harmony in many areas. These are clearly seen in the events related to historical-ethnographic, cultural-enlightenment, musical, scientific-popular, scientific, informational and social-charitable.

National-cultural centers serve to reveal the unique features of each nation, to pass their traditions to the next generation, to further develop their native language.

REFERENCES:

1. Erkin Karakalpakstan newspaper. The relationship between both non-state and non-commercial societies. July 8, 1999 №81 (17209)
2. Usmanov Q. History of Uzbekistan. No'kis.2012.187-p
3. <https://sovminrk.gov.uz/uz/pages/show/6494>
4. CSA RK F. M-541, Op.1, Ed.xr. 418, 11-p.
5. <http://erkinkarakalpak.uz/index.php/69-2012-02-20-19-27-53>
6. Karakalpakstan Jaslary newspaper. Miynetkesh is also a keel of the broad-minded people. October 10, 2019, №41 (8057)
7. Erkin Karakalpakstan newspaper. Association that unites national programs, December 18, 2010, №151 (18989)
8. CSA RK F. M-541, Op.1, Ed.xr. 418, 17-p.
9. https://erkinkk.ucoz.org/blog/nasha_rodina_uzbekistana/2011-11-19-47
10. Materials of the Russian Cultural Center of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Nukus-2020
11. Materials of the Kazakh national-cultural center. Nukus-2021
12. CSA RK F. M-541, Op.1, Ed.xr. 418, 17-p.
13. Materials of the "Secretariat for Relations with Public and Religious Organizations" of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Nukus-2020
14. The newspaper "Karakalpakstan morning". Interethnic harmony and tolerance are the strong pillars of society. October 29, 2020, №42 (1415)
15. CSA RK F. M-541, Op.1, Ed.xr. 418
16. Erkin Karakalpakstan newspaper. Our friendship and brotherhood are eternal. July 25, 2013 №91 (19397)
17. <https://interkomitet.uz/mita-a-ida/millij-madaniy-markazlar/slavutich-respublika-ukrain-madaniy-markazi/?lang=oz>
18. Erkin Karakalpakstan newspaper. On the way to strengthening the friendship of peoples. January 19, 2012 №8 (19158)