

Religious laws

Uzbekistan is officially a secular state. According to Uzbek law any religion can be freely practised and its followers are protected against any religious offenses and discrimination. The majority of Uzbeks are Sunny Muslims, yet there is a noticeable Russian Orthodox community in the country and there are some synagogues, buddhist temples and other christian churches in the country. According to Uzbekistani law, any religious institution shall be registered as such and must gain official recognition from the state. From 1st of November 2023 Uzbekistan has significantly strengthened its laws regarding religious discrimination. According to new law perpetrators might face up to 5 years of custodial duty for verbally or physically abusing followers of other religions, desecrating holy sites (mosques, churches, other temples) and sharing offensive comments online. However, many Muslims converting to Christianity often face disapproval from their community, are often heavily stigmatized and even harassed. Some smaller faiths like Jehovah's Witnesses or Baptists are often looked down upon and often do not receive needed protection from the state due to limited recognition of their religious institutions. The state reserves the right to stop any faith from being practiced on the territory of Uzbekistan.

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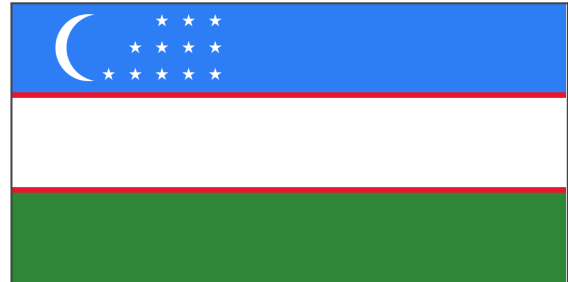
<https://lex.uz/docs/5491541>*Rt

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-report-on-international-religious-freedom/uzbekistan/>

<https://tass.ru/obschestvo/19174799>*Rnt

*R: Russian language, translation available on web-resource

*Rnt Russian language, translation extension needed



Internet freedoms

Constitutionally Uzbekistan allows self expression on the internet. Some information can not be posted. This includes calls to violent protests, information considered to be calling for religious extremism, insults to police and public officials, calls for fundamental constitutional changes. The definitions are generally quite broad, so technically according to the cyber police a lot of stuff can be qualified to be a cyber crime. In December 2023 Olimjon Khaidarov received 8 years of prison for insults addressed to certain government officials. Due to the broad definitions Uzbekistan is considered to be one of the most totalitarian countries when it comes to internet access, even tho there is no official state censorship

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<https://lex.uz/ru/docs/6213428>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/05/uzbekistan-blogger-sentenced-8-years-prison>