

Implementing the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education: Uzbekistan's Experiences

National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Human rights education holds particular significance in promoting universal respect for human rights by every citizen and ensuring their observance. It is also crucial for preventing violence and conflicts.

The implementation of the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, 2020–2024 (WPHRE) in the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at empowering the youth through human rights education. In this regard, to further enhance human rights education in the country, ensure the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and effectively and timely address the objectives outlined in the fourth phase of the WPHRE for Human Rights Education, specific measures have been undertaken.

The promotion, protection, and observance of human rights are among the priority areas of the state policy of Uzbekistan. As part of the National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, targeted measures are being implemented to ensure that personal, political, economic, social, and cultural rights are protected and realized. Significant progress has also been made in improving human rights education.

The fourth phase of the WPHRE was implemented in Uzbekistan during the 2020 - 2024 period. This phase aims to instill in the youth the values of equality, respect for human rights, and non-discrimination, while providing education to create an inclusive and peaceful society.

To foster a culture of human rights, the Council of the Legislative Chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Council of the Senate of the *Oliy Majlis* of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the National Human Rights Education Programme of the Republic of Uzbekistan

for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training as well as its “Roadmap” on 15 July 2019.¹

A framework has been established to enhance and assess the legal literacy of public officials. Training courses on human rights observance and protection are organized by the National Center for Human Rights for employees of government agencies and civil society institutions.

An institute for postgraduate education specializing in “Human Rights” (Legal and Sociological Sciences) has been established to train high-level scientific and pedagogical personnel and to advance fundamental research in this area.

It is essential to involve government agencies, civil society institutions, the media, and educational institutions in promoting the principles of respect for universal human values and human rights, ensuring compliance with them, and improving public access to legal information.

Rationale for the National Programme for Human Rights Education

The monitoring of the implementation of courses and use of textbooks on human rights, women’s rights, and children’s rights in higher education institutions, academic lyceums, and vocational colleges revealed shortcomings. These include inadequate organization of the “Human Rights Studies” course in universities, lack of funding, and reliance on non-specialist instructors.

There is a pressing need to systematically organize professional development programs on human rights for employees of judicial, law enforcement, and other state bodies. This will foster respect for human rights and freedoms in society and facilitate the implementation of recommendations from international organizations.

Considering Uzbekistan’s international obligations, new challenges posed by the pandemic, and the tasks defined in the National Human Rights Strategy, it is imperative to organize human rights education that incorporates innovative approaches, methodologies, and practices.

Shortcomings in this area hinder the population’s legal literacy, especially among youth, their respect for human rights and freedoms, and the development of state officials’ knowledge and skills in human rights and gender equality.

In this regard, the adoption of the National Human Rights Education Programme of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Programme) becomes particularly important. This Programme aims to gradually expand and enhance the system of informing, educating, and training in human rights, raising the quality of personnel training to a new level in line with national legislation and international standards.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the “Roadmap” for implementing the Programme includes seven areas and consists of thirty paragraphs.

Roadmap Implementation Measures

Area I of the Roadmap: Raising Awareness among Youth About Human Rights and Freedoms

1.1. “Human Rights Week”

The National Center for Human Rights, together with a number of partner organizations, organized the “Human Rights Week” on 20-28 February 2024. As part of this “Human Rights Week,” the Youth Affairs Agency created the hashtag #Human_Rights_of_High_Value for young people across the republic, with about 4,000 young people in the country participating.

During the “Human Rights Week,” the Youth Affairs Agency organized various meetings in the districts, cities and neighborhoods of Uzbekistan on the topic “Human Rights - the Highest Value”: “Prosecutor and Youth,” “Judge and Youth,” “Head of Justice and Youth,” “Head of Internal Affairs and Youth,” and “Head of State Security and Youth.” More than 8,000 young people participated in the meetings organized across the republic and gained an understanding of today’s topical topics, namely, ensuring human rights and freedoms, theft, fraud, strokes, bodily harm and other acts that violate human rights, and information about legal measures to be taken in case of the commission of human rights violations.

Also, during the “Human Rights Week,” the territorial divisions of the Supreme Court in the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, together with a number of partner organizations, organized roundtable discussions and meetings on the topics “Human Rights - the Highest Value,” “New Uzbekistan and Human Rights,” “Judges and Youth,” “Human Rights,” as well as events such as “Information Hour” and “Spiritual Hours” on the topic “New Uzbekistan and Human Rights” in

educational institutions (universities, technical schools, lyceums, schools). In particular, more than one hundred fifty-three human rights promotion events were held during the week, including seventy-eight on television, sixty-six on radio, thirty-eight in newspapers and magazines, four hundred thirty-two articles in social media pages, seventy-six in enterprises and organizations, and two hundred three in educational institutions, with a total of 1,600 participants.

1.2. Implementation of Educational and Specialized Courses on “Human Rights,” “Women’s Rights,” and “Children’s Rights”

In collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, educational and specialized courses on “Human Rights,” “Women’s Rights,” and “Children’s Rights” were introduced. Members of the working group developed the corresponding curricula for the educational and specialized courses on these topics.

Higher education institutions where human rights courses have been introduced include:

- Tashkent State University of Law
- University of World Economy and Diplomacy
- Berdaq Karakalpak State University
- Samarkand State University
- Termez State University
- Bukhara State University.

In addition, at the Academy of Law Enforcement, educational and specialized courses on these topics have been integrated into the Academy’s undergraduate, master’s, and professional development programs.

1.3. Holding the National Competition on “Education and Innovations in the Field of Human Rights and Freedoms”

The National Center for Human Rights developed the regulations and program drafts for the national competition named “Education and Innovations in the Field of Human Rights and Freedoms.” The national competition on human rights was organized by the National Center for Human Rights, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, the Ministry of Preschool and School Education, the Youth Affairs Agency,

and in collaboration with the Youth Union. The competition was also announced on their official websites.

The competition was held with the following categories:

- Best educational course on human rights
- Best drawing on the theme “Human Rights in the Eyes of Children”
- Best video on human rights and freedoms
- Best educational literature on human rights and freedoms: printed educational literature and electronic educational literature
- Best article on human rights: best scientific article and best popular article
- Human rights expert
- Best innovative idea on human rights.

The materials for the competition were accepted from 1 June to 15 November 2023. Participants filled out an electronic application and sent it, along with their competition materials, by e-mail to the National Center for Human Rights (konkurs2023@nhrc.uz) until 15 November 2023. A total of eighty-one applications were submitted to the national competition.

In 2024, the competition was held with six categories, and eight hundred nineteen participants taking part.

The national competition was of great importance for promoting education and innovation in the field of human rights, enhancing legal culture in society, and supporting scientific research in this area. The achievements of the winners and active participants of the competition serve as an incentive for further efforts to develop human rights education.

1.4. Organizing Summer Schools and Competitions on “Human Rights – For Future Generations”

On 15 August 2023, the National Center for Human Rights organized a summer school on the topic “Human Rights for Future Generations” in the large conference hall. The event was attended by members of the Youth Affairs Commission of the Legislative Chamber of the *Oliy Majlis*, representatives of the Central Council of the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan, employees of the National Center for Human Rights, the Youth Affairs Agency, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, and other youth public organizations, as well as fifty students.

During the event, key aspects of protecting and ensuring youth rights were discussed. Participants debated issues related to quality education, active participation in social life, and many other areas concerning youth.

1.5. Developing Proposals for the Introduction of a “Human Rights” Curriculum in Medical Education

In order to ensure the implementation of this provision, the Ministry of Health developed a “Human Rights” curriculum for all medical education institutions, which was approved in May 2023 by the leadership of the Department of Science and Education and the Medical Education Development Center of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Starting from the 2023/2024 academic year, in accordance with Clause 5 of the standard regulations approved by Order No. 259 of the Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 9 June 2023 (“Process of Developing, Approving, and Implementing Regulatory and Methodological Documents for Higher Education Directions and Specialties), “Human Rights” module has been included in the curriculum for all third-year students of eleven medical education institutions (Tashkent Medical Academy, Tashkent Pediatric Medical Institute, Tashkent State Dental Institute, Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute, Karakalpak Medical Institute, Andijan State Medical Institute, Bukhara State Medical Institute, Samarkand State Medical University, Fergana Public Health Medical Institute, Tashkent Medical Academy Termez Branch, Tashkent Medical Academy Urgench Branch). A total of sixty hours of learning are allocated, with thirty hours in class and thirty hours for independent study.

Area II of the Roadmap: Enhancing the knowledge and skills of employees of government agencies in the field of human rights and gender equality

2.1. Introducing Training Courses (Hours) on Human Rights and Gender Equality in Retraining and Professional Development Systems

Starting from May 2023, the Academy of Public Administration introduced training hours on human rights and gender equality in the professional development system for managerial staff. Specifically, from 8 May 2023, four professional development courses, each lasting fifty-six hours, were organized for management staff of ministries and central government

agencies, with a total of one hundred sixty-five managerial staff participating. The professional development course program included two topics on human rights and gender equality, totaling three hours.

By the end of the 2022/2023 academic year, professional development courses were organized for one hundred management staff members from the central apparatus of ministries and agencies, as well as one hundred fifty candidates included in the Talent Pool, based on the designated training programs.

In the period from April to June 2024, a 527-hour program for the “Women Leaders’ School” special training course was developed, with the topic “Human Rights and Gender Equality” included in the curriculum. A total of forty-five active women from state and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were trained in the “Women Leaders’ School” special course.

From September 2023 to June 2024, one-week training courses were organized by the regional branches of the Academy of Public Administration for 4,550 middle and lower-level management staff from the regions.

2.2. Organizing a Summer School on “Ensuring Human Rights in the Implementation of Fair Justice”

From 29 July to 19 August 2023, the National Center for Human Rights, the Higher School of Judges, the Academy of Law Enforcement, and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan organized a four-week summer school on the topic “Ensuring Human Rights in the Implementation of Fair Justice.” The event was attended by nearly sixty employees from the Tashkent city and regional courts, and prosecutors’ offices, both in offline and online formats from other regions of the country. The main purpose of establishing the Summer School is to enhance the knowledge and skills of government officials in the practical application of human rights. Additionally, it aims to ensure the continuous professional development of specialists from state bodies and organizations involved in fulfilling Uzbekistan’s international obligations in the field of human rights, focusing on the international standards of human rights.

At the end of the event, certificates were awarded to fifty-seven participants who successfully passed the final examinations.

2.3. Short-Term Training Courses on Combating Torture

A training schedule, program, and module for short-term courses on combating torture were developed in collaboration with the National Center for Human Rights, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. On 1 March 2023, the National Center for Human Rights, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs approved the plan to conduct training courses throughout 2023.

According to the approved plan, training courses titled "Combating Torture: International Practices and National Experience" were organized in both online and offline formats in Fergana (22-23 February), Bukhara (29-30 March), Tashkent (18-19 April), Surkhandarya (17-18 May), Andijan (20-21 June), Namangan (22-23 June), Jizzakh (25-26 July), Syrdarya (27-28 July), Navoi (19-20 September), and Samarkand (21-22 September). National and international experts were engaged to facilitate these courses, which involved a total of five hundred ninety participants, including fifty representatives from law enforcement agencies and ten from the prosecution system in each region. The participants consisted of personnel involved in pre-investigation inquiries, inquiry, preliminary investigations, and staff from penal institutions.

In each region, the training courses were organized based on the approved program and materials prepared and validated by experts, including presentations, case studies, and handouts. During the training courses held in Andijan and Namangan regions, international expert Azmat Shambilov participated online and delivered a presentation on the topic "The Revised Nelson Mandela Rules."

In 2024, training courses on "Combating Torture: International Practices and National Experience" were held according to the approved plan. The courses were held in various regions, including Qibray District, Tashkent Region (30 April and 1 May), the Republic of Karakalpakstan (21-22 May), Khorezm Region (23-24 May), Surkhandarya Region (2-3 July), Kashkadarya Region (4-5 July), Syrdarya Region (30-31 July), Jizzakh Region (1-2 August), Fergana Region (16-17 September), Andijan Region (18-19 September), Namangan Region (20-21 September), and Tashkent City (27-28 November).

The training courses were organized in online and offline formats, with the involvement of national and international experts. More than six hundred participants from each region attended the courses, including fifty

representatives from law enforcement agencies, ten from the prosecution office, regional judges, and staff from penal institutions. These sessions were designed to follow the approved schedule, using presentations, case studies, and handouts prepared and validated by experts to ensure the effective transfer of knowledge and skills.

2.4. Establishing a Section Dedicated to Human Rights Literature in Information and Library Centers

As part of the “Human Rights Week,” a total of 1,530 publications were presented to the National Library of Uzbekistan, information and library centers of Zangiota District, Syrdarya, Bukhara, Andijan, Namangan, and Fergana regions, as well as to school libraries and libraries of several higher education institutions.

Additionally, during the training sessions on “Combating Torture: International Practices and National Experience” held in Bukhara and Fergana, three hundred thirty books were distributed to participants.

The National Center for Human Rights also provided 1,600 copies of literature on human rights to the National Library of Uzbekistan, its regional branches in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, various regions, Tashkent City, and district (city) information and library centers.

In 2024, a total of five hundred sixty-four roundtable discussions and book exhibitions were organized in the information and library centers across fourteen regions of the republic on the following topics:

- Human Interests are the Highest Value
- Awareness – The Demand of the Time!
- Ensuring Human Rights is Our Primary Goal
- Human Rights – The Supreme Value
- New Uzbekistan and Human Rights
- Human Interests – A Symbol of Goodness
- Human Dignity is Great
- Human Dignity and Its Freedoms
- Do You Know Your Rights?
- Protection of Workers’ Rights
- Do You Know Your Rights?
- All Youth Must Know Their Rights
- Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men

- Women's Rights in the New Constitution
- Rights and Youth
- Youth Rights are Legally Protected
- The Role of Human Rights in Society.

These events were aimed at promoting awareness and understanding of human rights to the public.

2.5. Publishing Collections of International Treaties on Human Rights in the State Language

The National Center for Human Rights has published the following collection of international treaties on human rights:

- International Treaties on the Protection of Women's Rights and the Legislative Framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Editor: A. Kh. Saidov, Tashkent: National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023. – 204 pages, circulation: 100 copies;
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Tashkent: "Adolat" National Legal Information Center, 2023. – 32 pages. (Uzbek: Cyrillic script, 1,000 copies; Lot: 1,000 copies; Karakalpak: Cyrillic script, 500 copies; Lot: 150 copies; Russian: 350 copies).
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Tashkent: "Adolat" National Legal Information Center, 2023. – 32 pages, circulation: 1,000 copies.
- International Treaties on the Protection of Children's Rights and the Legislative Framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Editor: A.Kh. Saidov, Tashkent: National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023, 550 pages (in preparation).
- United Nations (UN) Human Rights International Treaties Collection
Editor: A.Kh. Saidov, Tashkent: National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023, 195 pages.
- United Nations Human Rights International Treaties Collection.
– Tashkent: National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023, 170 pages.

2.6. Continuous Professional Development of Specialists on International Human Rights Standards

To enhance the professional skills of specialists from state authorities and organizations involved in fulfilling the international human rights obligations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the training program “Implementation of Human Rights Obligations by the Republic of Uzbekistan: Practice and Reporting” was approved by the Chairman of the National Commission for the Implementation of the World Programme on Human Rights Education in Uzbekistan on 27 March 2023.

In accordance with the program, training courses titled “International Standards for Human Rights Compliance and Protection: Practice and Reporting” were held both online and offline at the Human Rights Monitoring Meeting Room (IHM) on 14-17 November 2023. The four-day sessions were dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Over twenty specialists from state bodies and organizations participated in the training in offline and online formats.

The training was organized based on an approved program and presentations prepared by experts, along with distributed materials. To assess the participants’ learning outcomes, a test was conducted at the end of the course. Successful participants were awarded certificates from the National Center for Human Rights.

In addition, on 14-17 May 2024, a similar training on “International Standards for Human Rights Compliance and Protection: Practice and Reporting” was held, focusing on the 45th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the 40th anniversary of the Convention Against Torture, and the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. More than twenty officials from ministries and agencies participated in the training.

A practical session was also conducted, where specialists from the National Center for Human Rights provided detailed information about the e-learning platform for human rights education. Participants who successfully completed the course were awarded certificates.

Area III of the Roadmap: Training Pedagogical Staff and Supporting Scientific Research

3.1. Developing Proposals for Integrating Human Rights Subjects into Teacher Training and Retraining

From 10 June to 10 September 2023, an assessment was conducted on the status of educational programs in the teacher training and retraining system, specifically in the areas of “Human Rights,” “Women’s Rights,” “Children’s Rights,” and “Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” In collaboration with a working group, the content of the curriculum and sample study programs for the pedagogical and professional retraining courses included the module “Legal Issues in General Education Schools.” This “Legal Issues in General Education Schools” module explains the content and essence of International Law (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women) and National Law (Law on Education, Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Law on the Guarantees of Children’s Rights, and the Cabinet of Ministers’ Decision No. 638 on 12 October 2021, regarding the education of children with special educational needs) as well as study women’s rights guarantees.

3.2. Introducing a “Lawyer-Educator” Bachelor’s Program and Enhancing a Master’s Program in “International Law on Human Rights”

“Human Rights,” “Women’s Rights,” “Children’s Rights” educational and special courses were introduced starting from the 2023-2024 academic year based on the directive of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation. In particular, the course “Human Rights” was taught in groups in 2nd year (201, 202, 203, 204 groups, and in Russian in 205 and 206 groups) and 4th year (401, 402, 403, 404, 405 groups, and in Russian 406 group) at the Department of National Ideology, Spirituality, and Law.

Courses on “Human Rights” and “Children’s Rights” are offered by the joint faculty of the National University of Uzbekistan and the Belarusian State Pedagogical University. The Department of National Ideology, Spirituality, and Law had two professors who participated in a professional development program organized by UNESCO and Aydın University of Turkey (Istanbul), and received certification.

At the Department of National Ideology, Spirituality, and Law at the Tashkent State Pedagogical University, a foundation was prepared for the opening of the “Lawyer-Educator” bachelor’s program and the improvement of the “International Law on Human Rights” master’s program. The “International Law on Human Rights” master’s program is planned to be launched in the 2025-2026 academic year.

3.3. Enhancing Postgraduate Education in the “Human Rights” Specialization

A monitoring meeting was held regarding the effectiveness of the activities of doctoral students, candidate doctoral students, and independent researchers of the National Center for Human Rights. A specialized qualification examination was conducted for obtaining the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in the field of “Human Rights” (12.00.13) in legal and sociological sciences.

In accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 3, 13, and 15 of Chapter 3 of the “Regulation on Postgraduate Education” approved by Resolution No. 304 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 22 May 2017 concerning the further improvement of the postgraduate education system, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation announced the formation of quotas for candidate and doctoral programs in the field of human rights.

Additionally, an annual report (starting on 1 June 2023) on the needs for scientific personnel with academic degrees, the effectiveness of existing postgraduate educational institutions, the contingent of research interns, doctoral students, and independent researchers, the work of scientific advisors and consultants, as well as the number of research interns and doctoral students assigned to one scientific advisor or consultant will be submitted through a unified electronic system to the Innovation Development Agency of Uzbekistan. Based on this, proposals can be made for accepting new research interns, doctoral students, and candidate doctoral students starting from 2024.

3.4. State-Ordered Research Projects and Competitions in Human Rights Education

The National Center for Human Rights, along with ministries and agencies, has been tasked with submitting proposals (thematic topics) on

pressing human rights issues in accordance with the “Regulation on State Orders for Research Activities” approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 133 dated 9 March 2020. An official letter was issued regarding the submission of these proposals and their review by the respective ministry according to the established procedure (Ministry’s letter No. 89-03-113 dated 15 February 2023).

Additionally, the 77th round of the competition was held for research projects under state programs related to scientific activity in the field of “Law” with a focus on the development of the “Smart Hakim” platform and mobile application, aimed at facilitating online arbitration processes for alternative dispute resolution.

In the 78th round of the competition, the “Women Scholars” initiative for practical and innovative projects was announced. Among the proposals submitted under the “Law” field by Tashkent State University of Law, led by D. Umarhanova, were projects such as the creation of a platform for the Uzbek language texts of key international treaties in international law, the development of the “Protection” mobile application to safeguard women from pressure and violence by S. Niyazova, and the establishment of a legal advisory “Call Center” by D. Suyonova to provide free legal advice on criminal and procedural law matters.

The scientific projects submitted for competition have passed the initial technical examination and are now undergoing scientific expert review by the Scientific and Technical Council of the “Law” field. An official report on the implementation of these tasks has been submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers, the Accounts Chamber, and the Ministry of Justice, as per the letter dated 29 September 2023. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to improve the legal and regulatory framework for scientific and innovative activities in Uzbekistan.

3.5. International Cooperation for Higher Education and Professional Development.

The National Center for Human Rights received a letter with reference number No. 03/04/1202 about the lack of financial resources from the state budget allocated to the “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation to fund the professional development program for the staff and specialists of the Center at prestigious foreign research centers and higher education institutions.

From 10 October to 10 November 2023, applications were accepted online and electronically from candidates across all regions of the republic on a unified and equal opportunity basis. The documents were thoroughly reviewed and analyzed by the technical group of the selection committee in accordance with the legislation. According to the analysis, a total of 2,045 candidates (including four hundred ten for doctoral programs, eight hundred fifty for master's programs, and seven hundred eighty-five for bachelor's programs) registered electronically through the "El-Yurt Umidi" Foundation's online document submission platform at the end of the first stage.

In 2024, candidates' documents were accepted electronically from 25 June to 25 July 2024, in an online format, following a unified procedure and equal opportunity basis for representatives from all regions of the republic. A total of 4,017 candidates registered on the Foundation's platform to participate in the open scholarship competition. In terms of educational programs, there were 2,190 candidates for the bachelor's program, 1,352 candidates for the master's program, and four hundred seventy-five candidates for the doctoral program.

Area IV of the Roadmap: Increasing Awareness Among Vulnerable Groups

4.1. Seminar-Trainings on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment has developed an action plan on conducting seminar-trainings on the rights of persons with disabilities. In accordance with the approved seminar training program on the rights of persons with disabilities, a total of one hundred forty-three seminar-training events were held in 2023 at special boarding schools for persons with disabilities, focusing on the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In these seminars, regional departments of the Ministry of Preschool and School Education, along with specialized schools and boarding schools for children with special educational needs, the Disabled, Blind and Deaf Associations, representatives from local administrations, and other stakeholders collaborated on topics such as "Benefits and Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities," "We Are Not Inferior to Anyone," "Reflection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in National Legislation," "Inclusive Society – Fair State," "Opportunities

for Persons with Disabilities in New Uzbekistan,” “Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Yesterday and Today,” “Inclusive Education – The Foundation of an Inclusive Society,” and “The Rights and Freedoms of Persons with Disabilities under Legal Protection.” These seminars were organized with the participation of regional departments of the Ministry, the Disabled, Blind, and Deaf Associations, regional justice departments, local administrations, as well as representatives from higher education institutions. Over 13,200 students and teachers from schools and boarding schools participated in these seminar-trainings.

4.2. “Women’s Rights” Training Courses for Rehabilitation and Adaptation Center Employees

Taking into account the proposals provided by the Committee on Family and Women, a “Women’s Rights” training course program was developed and approved by the Chairman of the National Commission for the implementation of the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education in the Republic of Uzbekistan on 3 June 2023.

According to the program, on 6-7 September 2023 a training course on the topic “International and National Mechanisms for Protecting Women’s Rights” was organized by the National Center for Human Rights, the National Agency for Social Protection under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Republican Center for Women’s Rehabilitation and Adaptation.

The training was attended by fifty participants, including directors and legal experts from the Republican Center for Women’s Rehabilitation and Adaptation, its regional branches, and exemplary inter-district centers. The sessions were held both offline and online and covered the following topics:

- The content and significance of international human rights standards and their relevance to the national legal system;
- Legal foundations for protecting women’s rights: international and national mechanisms;
- Measures being taken to eliminate violence and pressure on women, including preventive work with perpetrators of violence;
- Assistance for women victims of violence and pressure, and measures to hold offenders accountable;

- Promoting gender equality: enhancing participants' knowledge based on international and national experiences.

On 9-11 July 2024, a three-day training course on the same topic was organized at the initiative of the National Center for Human Rights, in cooperation with the National Agency for Social Protection under the President and the Republican Center for Women's Rehabilitation and Adaptation.

The main goal of the course was to enhance the knowledge of employees of the Women's Rehabilitation and Adaptation Centers on international human rights standards, legal mechanisms for the protection of women's rights, and the recommendations of UN charter bodies and treaty committees.

The training also focused on analyzing the effectiveness of measures taken to eliminate pressure and violence against women and developing the necessary skills in this area. The training continued with a presentation by Oybek Ahmadow, the Assistant Director of the National Center for Human Rights, on "International Standards for Human Rights and Protection Mechanisms."

The first day of the training course was rich in lively questions, answers, and debates. The sessions saw the participation of forty-two attendees, including the directors and legal experts of the Republican Center for Women's Rehabilitation and Adaptation, its regional departments, and exemplary inter-district centers, all of whom joined online.

4.3. Seminar-Trainings on "International Human Rights Standards" for Inspectors Preventing Offenses among Minors

To implement this activity, the National Center for Human Rights, in collaboration with partner organizations, developed a training course plan on "International Human Rights Standards and Guarantees of Children's Rights," which was approved on 8 May 2023.

On 26 August 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ombudsman for Children's Rights (Children's Ombudsman) of the *Oliy Majlis*, the National Center for Human Rights organized a seminar-training on "International Human Rights Standards" for inspectors on issues of preventing offenses among minors.

The event involved representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and inspectors-psychologists working in fourteen regions of the Republic. During the training, a number of topics were discussed, including:

- The national system for the protection of human rights and freedoms;
- National legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the protection of children's rights;
- Specific features of crimes committed against minors;
- Issues such as smartphones in educational institutions and socio-legal analysis.

4.4. Training Courses on “Migrant Rights”

The National Center for Human Rights, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment developed a training course program on the topic “Migrant Rights: International Standards and National Legislation,” which was approved on 16 May 2023.

On 16 August 2023, the National Center, the Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Agency for External Labor Migration, and the Academy of Law Enforcement, in collaboration, organized a training course on the topic “Migrant Rights: International Standards and National Legislation.” The training course aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the staff of the Migration Agency regarding international and national migration law norms that regulate migration rights and relations, theoretical foundations of administrative and legal regulation of migration processes, the content and main directions of state policy on migration at the modern stage. Around one hundred employees from the central office and regional branches of the External Labor Migration Agency participated in the event.

On 22 June 22, 2023, a training course on “Migrant Rights: International Standards and National Legislation” was held in the Namangan region. The training course was organized by the National Center for Human Rights with the initiative of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Ten employees from the Namangan region's prosecutor's office and fifty staff from the internal affairs system attended the training as listeners. The training sessions covered international standards related to migration law, the legal foundations of

migration policy, and discussions on protecting migrant rights and supporting them in the fight against human trafficking and forced labor.

4.5. Competition for State Grants and Social Orders in “Human Rights Education”

In accordance with the 29th decree of the Parliamentary Commission of the Legislative Chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* dated 11 May 2023, the Public Fund under the *Oliy Majlis* announced the third grant competition for the State Grant on the topic “Enhancing the legal consciousness and communication culture of the population and increasing the activity of civil society institutions in the field of human rights education.”

The projects that support gender equality, the protection of women’s rights, freedoms, and legal interests, strengthening a healthy environment in the family, protecting motherhood and childhood, combating human trafficking, and fighting domestic violence were prioritized in this competition.

In the third state grant competition held between May and June 2023, ten projects from NGOs, mass media, and other civil society institutions were selected as winners, and they were supported with a total amount of 925 million *soums* in the form of state grants.

In the state grant competition held in 2024, eight projects from NGOs, mass media, and other civil society institutions were selected as winners, and they were supported with a total amount of one billion two hundred ninety million *soums* in the form of state grants.

Area V of the Roadmap: Collaboration with Civil Society and the Private Sector

5.1. Joint Events with Civil Society

On 20 July 2023, the National Center for Human Rights organized a training course on the topic of “Enhancing the knowledge and skills of representatives of non-governmental, non-profit organizations in preparing alternative reports.” The aim of the training course was to direct and develop the activities of non-governmental, non-profit organizations, as well as to assist in improving their effectiveness and quality, and to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field to foster mutually beneficial cooperation with government bodies. The training, conducted by staff of the National Center for Human Rights, covered practices, experiences, and future tasks

of working with international organizations, preparing analytical reports, and implementing human rights agreements. It provided detailed information on preparing alternative reports and their key aspects. Around twenty representatives from non-governmental, non-profit organizations participated in the event.

In 2023, a total of one hundred five events were held in all fourteen regions of Uzbekistan by the NGO Support Agency in collaboration with civil society institutions on the topics of “Human Rights,” “Women’s Rights,” and “Children’s Rights.” Specifically, the breakdown is as follows:

- Human Rights: fifty-one events
- Women’s Rights: forty-three events
- Children’s Rights: eleven events.

5.2. “Business and Human Rights” Training Courses for Entrepreneurs and Farmers

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, together with the National Center for Human Rights and the Business Ombudsman, developed a plan for organizing “Business and Human Rights” training courses for entrepreneurs and farmers. This schedule was approved on 3 June 2023, by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, the Council of Farmers, Dehkan Farms, and Private Landowners, the National Center for Human Rights, and the Ombudsman for Protection of Entrepreneurial Rights and Legal Interests under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

From 21 August to 1 December 2023, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, the Council of Farmers, Dehkan Farms, and Private Landowners, the National Center for Human Rights, and the Business Ombudsman, jointly held online and offline training courses on “Business and Human Rights” in the regions of Andijan, Bukhara, Kashkadarya, Navoi, Surkhandarya, Jizzakh, and Samarkand, with a total of seven hundred fifty-two entrepreneurs and farmers participating. In the second phase of the training course, 3,745 farmers and entrepreneurs participated.

Based on the approved schedule, more than sixty training sessions were held across the regions of the Republic, with almost four thousand entrepreneurs taking part, starting from September 2023.

From August to December 2024, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, the Council of Farmers, Dehkan Farms, and Private

Landowners, the National Center for Human Rights, and the Business Ombudsman again collaborated to organize “Business and Human Rights” training courses in the same regions. This course, held both online and offline, reached more than eight thousand individuals (4,192 entrepreneurs and 4,004 farmers). Topics included: “Entrepreneurs’ Land Rights and Their Implementation Mechanisms,” “The Activities of Organizations Protecting Entrepreneurs’ Rights,” “Combating Corruption in Business and Developing Entrepreneurs’ Legal Awareness,” “The Organization of Dehkan Farms and Support for Established Dehkan Farms,” and “Legal Analysis of Entrepreneurship Rights Protection Legislation.”

Over 8,500 farming households were directly informed about the content and meaning of newly adopted legal documents and decisions in the field of “Business and Human Rights” through the “Fermer Minbari” Telegram group and channel.

5.3. Proposals for Human Right Education at the Academy of Labor and Social Relations

According to the official information from the Academy, starting from the 2023/2024 academic year, the course “Human Rights” has been introduced in all seven fields of study:

- Labor Protection and Safety Engineering (by industry) [61020200]
- Life Activity Safety [61020100]
- Human Resources Management [60411400]
- Social Work (in various fields) [60920100]
- Psychology (by types of activity) [60310900]
- Management (by industry and sector) [60411200]
- Jurisprudence [60420100].

Starting from 18 September 2023, in the second year, third semester, the topic “Human Rights” was included in the Jurisprudence [60420100] curriculum, with six credits (thirty hours of lectures, thirty hours of practical sessions, and thirty hours of seminars). The course materials including lectures, practical sessions, seminars, and the student evaluation system, have been uploaded to the “Hemis” information system.

For the other fields of study (Labor Protection and Safety Engineering [61020200], Life Activity Safety [61020100], Human Resources Management

[60411400], Social Work [60920100], Psychology [60310900], Management [60411200]), the “Human Rights” course was offered in the working curriculum from 29 January to 11 May 2024 for full-time students, and in April-May for part-time students.

Area VI of the Roadmap: Media and Public Outreach

6.1. Creating a “Teaching Children’s Rights” Methodological Guide for Preschool Teachers

In order to ensure the implementation of this provision, the “Teaching Children’s Rights” methodological guide and the “Children’s Rights” illustrative guide for students were reviewed by specialists of the education agency. These guides were developed in accordance with the state requirements for the development of preschool and early childhood children in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the “First Step” state curriculum, as well as the pedagogical approach to teaching children’s rights to preschool education institution teachers. Additionally, on 6 October 2023 (letter number 03/567), the Preschool Education Agency under the Ministry of Preschool and School Education sent the illustrative guides to the Ministry of Preschool and School Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, as well as to the preschool and school education departments of regions and the city of Tashkent for distribution in preschool education organizations and integration into the educational process.

6.2. Radio and Television Programs on the National Human Rights System.

The UZMTRK (Uzbek National Television and Radio Company) aired several human rights-related programs across various channels from January to December 2024. The “Uzbekistan 24” TV channel broadcasted programs such as “Special Report” (forty-five episodes), “Election 2023” (three episodes), “Right 24,” “Report 24,” “Studio 24” (twenty-four episodes), “Interview 24” (nine episodes), “In Our Eyes” (one episode), “For Human Dignity 24” (three episodes), “Information 24” (twenty-eight episodes), and many others, which focused on human rights, women’s rights, children’s rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities in Uzbekistan, along with the wide-ranging reforms being carried out in the country and their outcomes.

Programs aired on various other channels, including “Youth” TV channel, “Bolajon” TV channel, “Mahalla” TV channel, and “Toshkent” TV channel, also highlighted issues related to human rights, gender equality, children’s rights, and the efforts aimed at raising awareness and knowledge about these issues, especially among the younger generation, government employees, and vulnerable social groups.

In addition, the independent TV and radio channels within the UZM-TRK system, such as “Information 24,” “News 24,” and others, broadcast content in Uzbek, Russian, and English, focusing on the objectives, tasks, and expected results of the decree, including discussions on human rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, children, and migrants.

In 2024, based on monitoring results, a total of one hundred eleven materials were published in the media. Of these, thirteen were in print publications, thirty-three in social media, thirty-five on the Telegram messenger, eight on internet websites, sixteen on national TV channels, and six on radio channels.

6.3. Training Courses for Press Services and Mass Media on “State Policy in the Field of Human Rights Protection”

The National Center for Human Rights, in collaboration with the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, developed a training program and module for employees of ministries, departments, organizations, and local government information services, as well as for the mass media, on the topic of “State policy in the field of human rights protection and the implementation of international obligations in this area.”

On 7 March 2023, the training plan was approved by the Director of the National Center for Human Rights and the Director of the Information and Mass Communications Agency.

On 27-28 September 2023, a training course on the topic “State policy in the field of human rights protection and the implementation of international obligations in this area” was organized by the National Center for Human Rights and the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The purpose of the course was to improve the effectiveness and quality of conveying information on the state policy in the field of human rights

protection and the fulfillment of international obligations in this area to the public and circles that shape the policies of foreign countries.

The training course was organized for employees responsible for public relations in government institutions and international cooperation in the field of human rights, as well as for press secretaries. A total of seventy-nine employees from ministries, departments, organizations, the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional administrations, and the city of Tashkent participated in the course.

Additionally, the event was attended by Akmal Saidov, First Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* of the Republic of Uzbekistan; the Director of the National Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan; Asadjon Khodjaev, Director of the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Administration of the President of Uzbekistan; and Shukhrat Bafaev and Dilorom Fayzieva, Committee Chairs of the Legislative Chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Feruza Eshmatova, Ombudsman of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as National Center for Human Rights employees, experts, and professors.

During the training courses, presentations, lectures, and interactive sessions were held on topics such as “Uzbekistan’s international obligations in the field of human rights,” “The role of Parliament in ensuring human rights,” “The role of mass media in ensuring and protecting human rights,” “Legal foundations for the protection of women’s rights: international and national mechanisms,” “Ensuring children’s rights in Uzbekistan – a key area of state policy,” “The role of the Ombudsman in the protection of human rights,” “Implementation of the National Human Rights Education Program in Uzbekistan,” and “Issues of ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities in Uzbekistan.”

The work carried out during the course, the lesson processes, and other organizational activities were widely covered on the official websites <https://dunyo.info.uz>, <https://www.insonhuquqlari.uz>, as well as on <https://uzdaily.uz>. This event was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

6.4. Developing an Electronic Platform for Human Rights Education

In collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Technologies, the updated version of the electronic platform for education in the field of human rights was developed and launched with the following steps:

- The concept, technical specifications, and passport of the electronic platform for education in the field of human rights were prepared and sent to the Ministry of Digital Technologies. The materials were reviewed and approved by the Ministry.
- The platform was launched in test mode by the National Center for Human Rights at the domain <http://ecourse.nhrc.uz/>.
- A section titled “Access to Human Rights” was introduced on the electronic platform.

Area VII of the Roadmap: International Cooperation and Capacity-Building

7.1. Strengthening Cooperation with OHCHR, OSCE, and Other International Organizations

The National Center for Human Rights, in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, conducted a series of training sessions and developed manuals to support the implementation of international standards in Uzbekistan. These initiatives included:

1. 6-8 June 2023: A training on “Empowering Women’s Role in Peace and Security” for judges and law enforcement representatives was held as part of the OSCE project “Supporting the Strengthening of Women’s Role in the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.”
2. 9 June 2023: A manual on “Ensuring the Rights of Women and Children in Emergency Situations” was developed for the Ministry of Emergency Situations and discussed in a workshop with the Ministry’s representatives.
3. 19-21 June and 22-24 June 2023: In cooperation with the OSCE Project Coordinator and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a three-day training on “Preventing Torture and Other Cruel Treatment According to International Standards” was conducted for employees of correctional institutions in Tashkent and Bukhara cities.
4. 31 March 2023: A webinar on “Best Practices in Preparing the National Report for the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR)” was held in cooperation with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human

Rights (OHCHR) and the UPR Info NGO. It was attended by over twenty representatives from government agencies, specialists and experts.

5. 30 April – 3 May 2023: A four-day training for correctional facility staff in Tashkent on “Preventing Torture and Promoting Human Rights,” based on the Nelson Mandela Rules, was conducted to introduce international standards for preventing torture.

6. May-August 2024: The National Center for Human Rights, in collaboration with the OSCE Project Coordinator, held a series of seminars and training sessions on:

- Promoting Women’s Leadership
- Eliminating Statelessness in Our Region
- Practical Aspects of the UN High Commissioner for National Minorities’ Recommendations on Social and Economic Participation of National Minorities
- Strengthening National Mechanisms for Implementing Human Rights Recommendations
- UN Rules on the Treatment of Female Prisoners
- The Role of Women in Strengthening Peace and Security.

In total, one hundred sixty-nine participants from government organizations, non-governmental organizations, and civil society attended these courses.

7.2. Cooperation with the Council of Europe “Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals” (HELP) Program

On 29 November 2023, a meeting was held at the National HELP for Human Rights with Christina Khokhlova, the coordinator of the HELP project in Central Asia from the Council of Europe’s Cooperation Programs Directorate, and Norwegian prosecutor Rudolf Kristoffersen to collaborate on the organization of seminar-trainings on the topic “Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals” in March 2024.

The Academy of Law Enforcement hosted a seminar for prosecution officers on topics related to the fight against human trafficking and the protection of women from pressure and violence within the framework of the “Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)” program in Central Asia for the years 2020-2023. The seminar included presentations

from international experts on the methodology of the HELP program, the fight against human trafficking, and protection of women from violence, alongside practical aspects of investigating such crimes. Over sixty prosecution officers and postgraduate students from the Academy attended.

During the seminar, experts presented international standards and European Court of Human Rights case law related to human trafficking and discussed challenges and best practices in investigating related crimes.

On 26-27 June 2023, representatives of the Academy participated in the second online meeting of the regional management committee of the HELP project in Central Asia, a part of the Council of Europe's rule of law program. Participants discussed the progress of implementing the National Programme for Human Rights Education in Uzbekistan and examined future cooperation opportunities, focusing on enhancing the capacity of prosecutors to fight violence against women and human trafficking.

On 5-6 March 2024, a two-day training seminar was held in Tashkent on the topic of "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities: International Standards and National Practices." This event was organized by the National Center for Human Rights, in collaboration with the National Agency for Social Protection under the President of Uzbekistan, the Association of People with Disabilities, the Council of Europe's HELP program, and other stakeholders. The seminar aimed to exchange best practices on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, discussing strategies for improving the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the national and international levels.

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants adopted recommendations on enhancing the protection of persons with disabilities, including legislative analysis, aligning national laws with international standards, and creating accessible environments in public spaces, transport, educational institutions, and workplaces. The recommendations also focused on supporting the employment of persons with disabilities, promoting inclusive workplaces, and encouraging employers to offer training and career development opportunities.

Conclusion

Uzbekistan's efforts under the Fourth Phase of the WPHRE (2020–2024) demonstrate a comprehensive strategy to integrate human rights educa-

tion in legislation, formal and informal learning, professional training, and multi-stakeholder engagement. These initiatives linked to the corresponding paragraphs of the WPHRE 2020–2024 underscore Uzbekistan’s commitment to fulfilling its international obligations, promoting a culture of respect for human rights, and ensuring that human rights principles are understood, upheld, and mainstreamed across all sectors of society.

Endnote

¹ See full text of the “Roadmap” in volume 13 of this publication, www.hurights.or.jp/archives/asia-pacific/section1/hreap_v13_appendix.pdf.