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# ETHNOCULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS OF KAZAKHSTAN AS THE BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION OF INTERETHNIC DIALOGUE

Annotation. The article is devoted to the activities of ethno-cultural centers and associations of the West Kazakhstan region of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the preservation of interethnic dialogue between the peoples living in the country. The fundamental documents on the implementation of the state policy of Kazakhstan on the preservation of national accord are presented. The understanding of the essence of the concept of an ethno-cultural center is given. The article describes the experience of cultural interaction of ethnic groups in the modern development of a multicultural state. The article reveals the activities of the ethnocultural centers of the West Kazakhstan region, developing and promoting the national culture of Russians, Tatars, Koreans, and Azerbaijanis.

**Keywords:** ethno-cultural associations; interethnic harmony; national consolidation; West Kazakhstan region.

#### Introduction

In the context of the transformation of modern Kazakh society, in its search for its socio-cultural identity, the leaders of the republic strive to create an effective system of such a social organization that would effectively solve the problems of intercultural communication. Kazakhstan, being one of the multinational countries in the world, sets itself the task of preserving ethnic and cultural diversity, preserving the material and spiritual culture of the peoples living on its territory. The full-fledged social and cultural development of peoples, the creation of conditions for meeting national cultural, national educational needs, the preservation of national identity, ethnic socialization, the formation of the foundations of ethnic tolerance - this is all an incomplete list of the main issues that such public cultural and educational organizations as ethnocultural centers of Kazakhstan are currently dealing with.

In cultural, educational and educational work with a multinational population, Russian researchers note the special role of national cultural centers. In the Republic of Kazakhstan, national cultural centers were named ethnocultural associations in 1995. Therefore, when writing this article, we will use both the Russian and Kazakh names of these public organizations. According to Sh.V. National cultural centers are a range of public associations of national minorities of Kazakhstan, the purpose of which is the revival and preservation of national identity, the study of the native language,



history[1]. These public associations carry out their activities aimed at supporting and implementing national accord, at educating tolerant, communicative citizens who actively participate in the interaction of cultures of different nationalities living in the republic and perceive it as part of their lives. In our study, we studied the activities of ethno-cultural associations of the West Kazakhstan region, which is a vivid example of a multinational region of the republic.

## Materials and methods

The material of this study was the observation and fixation of various forms of communication among representatives of ethnocultural associations of the West Kazakhstan region. Theoretical methods of scientific cognition were also used, such as analysis, comparison, design, questioning, conversation, observation, forecasting.

## Literary Review

The problem of formation and development of national cultural centers. The scientific works of various researchers, both Soviet and modern, are devoted. Among the famous scientists are the works of A.V. Galeeva, Ts. M. Balzhinimaeva, I.R. Batyrshin, V.N. Begun, T.G. Bortnikova, E.G. Buyakina, L.V. Kurasa, D.V. Shamsutdinova, P.V. Suleymanova, O.B. Istomina, as well as Kazakhstani scientists Sh.V. Tlepina, Sh.S. Sultanbekov, S.K. Zhetpysbaeva et al., devoted to the theory and practice of the activities of national cultural autonomies, associations, centers.

Considering the essence of ethnocultural associations, T.G. Bortnikova defines their functional field of educational influence and indicates the relationship with the ideas of cross-cultural literacy and intercultural interaction[2].

I.R.Batyrshin argues that national cultural centers are an association of voluntary, self-governing citizens – representatives of an ethnic group who live in a multiethnic environment, in the realization of the right to national and cultural development in order to preserve national and cultural identity, the formation of national identity, language, education, customs and rituals[3].

P.V.Suleymanova in her work points out the relationship between educational institutions and national cultural centers. In her opinion, in the conditions of interaction between educational institutions and national cultural centers in a multinational region, the formation of socio-cultural competence is most effective, since theory is connected with practice, educational activities are harmoniously combined with leisure activities, opening up wide opportunities for the application of acquired knowledge, self-realization, self-identification, interethnic and international dialogue[4].

According to G.I. Fazylzyanova, ethnocultural centers are not only a means of satisfying and improving national cultural needs, but also an important system for transforming national relationships. The goals and principles of the ethno-cultural center fully correspond to the concept of updating national culture, which is designed not only to fit into the general context of world culture, but also to affirm the national spiritual values of their peoples as the fundamental cultural heritage of the past and the achievements of modern civilization[5].

We agree with the definition of V.V. Popov and F.H. Popova that a national cultural center is an innovative type of cultural institution, which implies state legal and public support[6].



Thus, there is reason to assert that national cultural centers are socio-cultural institutions that implement the task of social and cultural self–organization of people living in a multiethnic environment of an ethnic group.

### Results

Our research took place in the multinational West Kazakhstan region, which has a population of 661 thousand people. These are Kazakhs (76.83%), Russians (18.86%), Tatars (1.28%), Ukrainians (1.36%), and other peoples (1.7%).

Currently, in the West Kazakhstan region, there are more than twenty ethnocultural associations. We studied the experience of the Tatar Cultural Center, which unites 6 ethnocultural centers 1 (regional) in the city of Uralsk and 3 in the districts of the region (the ethnocultural association «Shatlyk» in the village of Peremetnoye, the ethnocultural association «Maryam» in the village of Darinskoye, the Tatar ethnocultural association «Altyn Gul» (Burlinsky district), the Tatar national cultural center «Izge-ai» (Chingirlau district), ethnocultural association of Tatars of Burlinsky district «Sarman» (Burlinsky district)). The main activities of the Tatar Cultural Center are: unification and coordination of the activities of Tatar cultural centers in the field; promotion of the revival of ethnic traditions and customs; opening of Tatar Sunday and evening classes; active participation in the education of youth and adults, familiarization with the achievements of Tatar national culture.

The Tatar Cultural Center organizes scientific and practical conferences on the problems of preserving Tatar culture, holds republican Sabantuy holidays. There are free courses for learning the Tatar language. Literary evenings, concerts, round tables are held with the support of the Akimat of the West Kazakhstan region, the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, the regional Department of Culture, Archives and Documentation. The public association "Tatar Cultural Center" invites not only members of the Tatar cultural center, but also participants of other ethnocultural associations, residents of the city of Uralsk, the border regions of Kazakhstan and Russia to all events. He constantly maintains contact in many areas of culture and education with his historical homeland, in preserving and popularizing the traditions of national culture, learning his native language, and providing social support to representatives of his nationality.

We also studied the activities of the public association «Center of Russian Culture». Its main areas of activity include the revival and development of Russian folk traditions, holidays, customs and rituals, culture, art, artistic and other crafts, crafts; participation in the restoration and protection of historical and cultural monuments; organization of charitable and peacekeeping activities. Sunday classes are available at the cultural center. Dance and music ensembles have been created and are operating. Work is actively underway to hold cultural days, contests and sports events. The Russian Russian Ethnocultural Association is a member of the Association of Russian, Slavic and Cossack Organizations of the West Kazakhstan region, the Republican Council of Russian Compatriots, cooperates with the Civil Alliance of the Republic of Kazakhstan, cooperates and is the founder of the public Fund «Zerde-Memor», the main purpose of which is the implementation of integration processes in Western Kazakhstan and neighboring provinces of Russia, the preservation of original culture and the history of all ethnic groups of the Urals. The Center organized the International Friendship



Club at the Children's Music School No. 1 in Uralsk. Over the years, concerts and talks have been held dedicated to figures of world culture and art – P.I. Tchaikovsky, G.V. Sviridov, S.S. Prokofiev, Uighur composer K. Kuzhamyarov, Armenian composer A. Khachaturian, Tatar composer N. Zhiganov, poets Gabdulla Tukai, Abai and Shakarim, the 105th anniversary of Garifolla Kurmangaliev and Dina Nurpeisova. A memorable evening of Mukan Tulebayev's creativity was held.

The Korean ethno-cultural association is actively engaged in the development of the Korean ethnic group as an organic component of the multinational people of Kazakhstan. In the city of Aksai, West Kazakhstan region, there is a television channel «Karachaganak», the newspaper «Weekdays of Aksai», radio Aksai. In 2012, a Monument of gratitude to the Kazakh people «Kazak khalkyny myn algys» was erected in the city of Uralsk. In 2013, the Tonk-il International Friendship Club was opened in Uralsk, and international friendship clubs were opened in 6 schools in Aksai, Burlinsky district. The public association «Korean Ethnocultural Association» organizes scientific and practical conferences, holds international and national events. There are free Korean language courses. Classes on teaching the Korean language and the Kazakh state language have been opened in the House of Friendship. The association closely cooperates with other ethnocultural associations in its work, holds joint events, national holidays, folk festivals and New Year celebrations, takes part in all significant sociopolitical, cultural and mass events, and does a lot of work to strengthen friendship and interethnic harmony in the region.

The Azerbaijani cultural and educational society «Birlik» was established in 1999 under the auspices of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan. The ethno-cultural association has established and operates a youth wing, a council of elders, and a council of mothers. The Birlik Society aims to meet the cultural, spiritual and other needs of compatriots living in cities and rural districts of the region, promotes the strengthening of national and interethnic relations in a harmonious combination of public, state and national interests, promotes mutual enrichment of national cultures of ethnic groups, carries out close cooperation with other cultural organizations - educational centers in Kazakhstan and abroad, comprehensively studies the problems of the Azerbaijani population living in the region and takes measures to solve them in cooperation with state and public associations, organizes clubs, courses on the study of Azerbaijani and Kazakh languages, solves problems of preservation and development of national languages, creates youth folk art groups, organizes their public performances, competitions and events are held. The Ethno-Cultural Association, together with the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan of the West Kazakhstan region, conducts seminars, conferences and round tables, and also participates in all events implemented by the regional assembly. The Azerbaijani Ethno-Cultural Association is engaged in charitable activities, provides assistance to needy, lowincome and large families, including a boarding house for the elderly and disabled, a library for the visually impaired, orphanages, and veterans of the Great Patriotic War. Azerbaijanis living in the West Kazakhstan region take an active part in the activities of a public association aimed at carrying out educational activities in preserving the history, customs, traditions, and cultural development of the Azerbaijani people.



Discussions

As part of our research, we have revealed that the ethno-cultural associations of Kazakhstan act as the main resources for strengthening interethnic interaction of all ethnic groups, contributing to the harmonious development of personality, enriching the socio-cultural situation in the republic. However, there are some problems, among which it should be noted that the new generation often shows indifference to both its own national culture and the culture of other peoples who live in Kazakhstan; representatives of ethnic groups cannot always gain experience of favorable intercultural interaction, they strive for self-isolation.

To solve these problems, national consolidation and spiritual revival on the part of representatives of all ethnic groups living on the territory of Kazakhstan are necessary. This can be achieved if there is mutual understanding between the nations entering into relations with each other. And ethno-cultural associations can play a consolidating role in this.

If we consider national consolidation, then in many studies it is described as a historical phenomenon that reflects the totality of the social, social, and cultural life of a nation, including the content, level, and features of its spiritual progress. National consolidation among representatives of any nation arises in the collective consciousness of the national community.

In his research, G.I. Lutsishin considers national consolidation as an ethnopolitical process aimed at strengthening ethnonational groups by gradually removing barriers and forming common values [7].

From the point of view of N.B. Seisen, national consolidation is a conscious, on the basis of formed common interests, unification, rallying of the people in order to strengthen, intensify joint activities to solve urgent tasks, achieve common goals [8].

Speaking about national consolidation, it should be emphasized that the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan, which includes ethnocultural associations, has become the main institution for the consolidation of all ethnic groups of the country. The Assembly is the main initiator and coordinator of the multifaceted work to strengthen interethnic harmony. Thus, an important place in the formation of consolidating consciousness in society is occupied by the activities of ethnocultural centers.

Interethnic harmony is the basis of Kazakhstan's state policy. The idea of interethnic dialogue, equality of all ethnic groups and ethnic groups living in the republic, is a norm of the republican law. At the same time, the preservation of the ethnic identity and ethnic and cultural diversity of Kazakhstan is guaranteed. Today, Kazakhstan has formed its own model of interethnic harmony, which has been highly appreciated by the world community. Effective regulatory and legal documents have been created to ensure interethnic harmony: the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Law on the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, the Doctrine of National Unity and the concept of Development of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, the Law «On Languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan», the strategic plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025, the Message of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan «Kazakhstan -2050»: a new political the course of the established state, the program article A look into the future: modernization of public consciousness, the state program «Rukhani Zhangyru», the article «Seven facets of the Great Steppe», the message of the Head of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan K.K. Tokayev to the people of Kazakhstan «Constructive public dialogue is the basis of stability and prosperity of Kazakhstan».



It should be noted that the Republic of Kazakhstan has accumulated a unique experience of interethnic harmony. Representatives of various ethnic groups who are members of specific ethnocultural associations have made a huge contribution to this achievement. Work continues to transform ethnic and cultural diversity into a competitive advantage and an effective tool for strengthening the independence and development of the country [9], and we must expand these opportunities further by creating solid foundations of the state system [10].

Thus, ethno-cultural associations, whose activities are aimed at realizing the revival of national cultures of various peoples, should contribute to improving the effectiveness of interethnic interaction, strengthening civil society in preserving friendship and harmony between nations living in the country. Efforts should be made to further progress the activities of ethnic and cultural associations of Kazakhstan, bringing their experience to a modern qualitative level, which implies active intercultural communication in the future.

#### Conclusions

It is known that one of the main foundations of national unity in modern Kazakh society is interethnic harmony based on mutual respect for representatives of different cultures, on their concrete awareness of the common path that Kazakhstan has chosen once and for all [7].

The established harmony and stability between ethnic groups suggests that Kazakhstan is on the right path to preserve and realize national needs in society. Friendship and mutual relations of all nations and nationalities are the result of the formation of new intercultural communications between the peoples of the country and a powerful core of cohesion, unity of modern society, which has an increasing impact on the further development of Kazakhstan.

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# Дюсенбаев Азамат, Бактыгалиева Эннака ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ЭТНОМӘДЕНИ БІРЛЕСТІКТЕРІ ҰЛТАРАЛЫҚ ДИАЛОГТЫ ДАМЫТУ МЕН САҚТАУДЫҢ НЕГІЗІ РЕТІНДЕ

Аңдатпа. Мақала Қазақстан Республикасы Батыс Қазақстан облысының этномәдени орталықтары мен бірлестіктерінің елімізде тұратын халықтар арасындағы этносаралық диалогты қолдаудағы қызметіне арналған. Қазақстанның ұлттық келісімін сақтау жөніндегі мемлекеттік саясатын жүзеге асырудың негізгі құжаттары ұсынылған. Этномәдени орталық ұғымының мәні туралы түсінік беріледі. Көпмәдениетті мемлекеттің қазіргі дамуындағы этникалық топтардың мәдени өзара әрекеттесу тәжірибесі сипатталған. Батыс Қазақстан облысындағы орыс, татар, кәріс, әзірбайжан ұлттарының мәдениетін дамыту және насихаттау бойынша этномәдени орталықтарының қызметі зерттелген.

**Кілт сөздер:** этномәдени бірлестіктер; ұлтаралық келісім; ұлттық консолидация; Батыс Қазақстан облысы.

# Дюсенбаев Азамат, Бактыгалиева Эннака ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ ЭТНОКУЛЬТУРНЫХ ЦЕНТРОВ И ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЙ КАЗАХСТАНА В СОХРАНЕНИИ И УКРЕПЛЕНИИ МЕЖНАЦИОНАЛЬНОГО ДИАЛОГА

Аннотация. Статья посвящена деятельности этнокультурных центров и объединений Западно-Казахстанской области Республики Казахстан в сохранении межнационального диалога между народами, проживающими в стране. Представлены основополагающие документы по реализации государственной политики Казахстана по сохранению национального согласия. Дается понимание сущности понятия этнокультурного центра. Описывается опыт по культурному взаимодействию этнических групп в современном развитии поликультурного государства. Раскрывается деятельность этнокультурных центров Западно-Казахстанской области, развивающих и пропагандирующих национальную культуру русских, татар, корейцев, азербайджанцев.

Ключевые слова: этнокультурные объединения; межнациональное согласие; национальная консолидация; Западно-Казахстанская область.