

**PREVENTION OF EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM AMONG YOUTH**

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**Annotatsiya**

Maqolada zamonaviy ijtimoiy-siyosiy o'zgarishlar kontekstida yoshlar orasida ekstremizm va terrorizmning oldini olishning nazariy va amaliy jihatlari tahlil qilinadi. Yoshlarning ekstremistik va terroristik faoliyatga jalb bo'lishiga hissa qo'shuvchi omillar tahliliga, shuningdek, ushbu salbiy hodisalarni oldini olishda davlat, ta'lim muassasalari va fuqarolik jamiyati institutlarining roliga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Huquqiy, ijtimoiy-psixologik va ta'limiy chora-tadbirlarni o'z ichiga olgan kompleks yondashuvning zarurligi asoslanadi. Xulosa shuki, yoshlar orasida ekstremizm va terrorizmning samarali oldini olish faqat oldini olish tadbirlarida ishtirok etuvchi barcha subyektlar o'rtasidagi tizimli o'zaro ta'sir orqali mumkin.

**Kalit so'zlar:** ekstremizm, terrorizm, yoshlar, oldini olish, radikalizatsiya, huquqiy ta'lim, fuqarolik jamiyati.

**Abstract**

The article analyzes the theoretical and practical aspects of preventing extremism and terrorism among young people in the context of contemporary socio-political transformations. Particular attention is given to the factors contributing to the involvement of youth in extremist and terrorist activities, as well as to the role of the state, educational institutions, and civil society in countering these phenomena. The study substantiates the necessity of a comprehensive preventive approach that combines legal, socio-psychological, and educational measures. It is concluded that effective prevention of extremism and terrorism among young people is achievable only through systematic and coordinated interaction among all actors involved in preventive activities.

**Keywords:** extremism, terrorism, young people, prevention, radicalization, legal education, civil society

**Аннотация**

В статье рассматриваются теоретические и практические аспекты профилактики экстремизма и терроризма среди молодёжи в условиях современных социально-политических трансформаций. Особое внимание уделяется анализу факторов, способствующих вовлечению молодёжи в экстремистскую и террористическую деятельность, а также роли государства, образовательных учреждений и институтов гражданского общества в предупреждении данных негативных явлений. Обосновывается необходимость комплексного подхода к профилактике экстремизма, включающего правовые, социально-психологические и воспитательные меры. Сделан вывод о том, что эффективная профилактика экстремизма и терроризма среди молодёжи возможна лишь при системном взаимодействии всех субъектов профилактической деятельности.

**Ключевые слова:** экстремизм, терроризм, молодёжь, профилактика, радикализация, правовое воспитание, гражданское общество.

In the context of globalisation and integration, information openness and rapid development of digital technologies, the problem of extremism and terrorism is becoming particularly acute. Young people are the most vulnerable social group in this context. The younger generation,

which is not yet fully oriented in the social space and is still in the process of forming its worldview and value orientations, is susceptible to manipulation. That is why they often become the target of deliberate ideological influence by extremist and terrorist organisations.

The study used general scientific and special methods of cognition, including analysis, synthesis, comparative legal and formal legal methods.

Extremism and terrorism pose a serious threat to global security, social stability and law and order. They undermine the foundations of the constitutional order, violate the rights and freedoms of citizens and contribute to growing social tensions. In this regard, the prevention of extremism and terrorism among young people is becoming one of the priorities of state policy.

The relevance of this topic is due to the need for scientific understanding of the causes and conditions of the radicalisation of extremist ideas among young people, as well as the development of effective preventive mechanisms aimed at forming a stable ideological immunity among young people and their ability to understand the state policy pursued in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Terrorism, in turn, is associated with the use of violent actions aimed at intimidating the population and achieving political, religious or ideological goals.

In recent years, research by international organisations has confirmed that young people are particularly vulnerable to radical ideology due to their active use of digital technologies. According to UNESCO, there are approximately 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 in the world, and many of them regularly use the internet and social media, which extremist organisations are increasingly using as a platform to disseminate radical content and recruit new supporters. This creates conditions in which young people may accidentally or deliberately encounter extremist material, increasing the risk of their radicalisation and involvement in destructive groups. [1]

Terrorism, in turn, is associated with the use of violence against young people, which is due to a number of factors: social instability, the search for life goals, protest behaviour, and the influence of the internet and social media.

Extremist organisations actively use modern communication technologies to recruit young people, masking their intentions under slogans of social justice, self-realisation and the fight against discrimination.

The process of involving young people in extremist and terrorist activities is usually multifactorial. The main factors of radicalisation include: firstly, socio-economic difficulties (unemployment, low standard of living, social inequality); secondly, insufficient knowledge of law and religion; thirdly, the younger generation's excessive enthusiasm for religious beliefs, which influence their psychological characteristics, subsequently exposing them to destructive information via the Internet.

It should be noted that the radicalisation of young people often occurs gradually, beginning with the formation of a negative attitude towards the existing social order and ending with the adoption of violent methods of struggle.

The active participation of educational institutions, families, the media and civil society institutions plays an important role in the prevention of extremism and terrorism among young people. The state plays a key role in developing a regulatory framework aimed at countering extremist activities, as well as in implementing comprehensive programmes to prevent extremism.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has adopted a number of legislative acts in the field of countering extremism, for example:

The National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Combat Extremism and Terrorism for 2021-2026, which was approved by Presidential Decree No. PF-6255 of 1 July 2021.

This document defines the priority areas of the fight: firstly, the formation of patriotism, traditional values and tolerance; secondly, the prevention of the spread of extremism among

young people; thirdly, countering the use of the internet and social networks for extremist activities; and fourthly, strengthening international cooperation.

Based on the above, patriotic education, along with the promotion of national, cultural and spiritual values, plays a key role in the prevention of extremism. The development of positive self-identification and a sense of social community reduces the risk of radical movements offering simplistic solutions to complex life problems.

Today, young people in Uzbekistan spend an average of up to 8 hours a day on the internet, noted President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. He called on parents to monitor this process. [2]

However, it is not the amount of time spent on social media that matters, but the quality, appropriateness and reasonable approach to the use of digital technologies. Skills in using modern digital technologies indicate a high predisposition of young people to information technologies. In order to prevent negative social consequences, it is necessary to be able to channel competencies in the right direction in the field of information and communication technologies to avoid deviating from destructive ideologies.

Social networks are an ideal platform for manipulating public opinion. The deliberate dissemination of misinformation or fake news, targeted advertising campaigns, and the use of social network algorithms to promote certain views or ideas can all influence public opinion and have social consequences. [3]

Based on the above, it seems appropriate to note that educational institutions are the most important institutions for the socialisation of young people. The education system is responsible for shaping legal awareness, tolerance, respect for the law and democratic values. Educational work aimed at developing critical thinking and media literacy plays a significant role in the prevention of extremism.

According to the authors, the key direction in the prevention of extremism and terrorism among young people should be systematic work in educational institutions focused on the development of critical thinking, legal culture and media literacy. It is not enough to limit oneself to regulatory, legal and punitive measures, as they do not address the root causes of radicalisation. Effective prevention is only possible if young people develop stable values, the ability to analyse information and resist manipulative ideological influences.

Civil society institutions, including youth and community organisations, help to engage young people in socially useful activities, foster active citizenship and prevent social isolation.

Effective prevention of extremism and terrorism among young people is only possible through a comprehensive approach that includes legal, social, psychological and educational measures. An important element is the early detection of signs of radicalisation and the provision of timely psychological and social support to young people at risk.

The most notable improvements in the fight against terrorism have been in Iraq and Afghanistan. For the first time, Iraq did not make it into the top ten worst countries in the index, with fewer than 100 deaths from terrorism recorded in 2023. The total number of deaths has fallen by 99% compared to the peak in 2007, and the number of incidents by 90%. Afghanistan has also seen a significant reduction in the impact of terrorism: since 2007, the number of deaths and incidents has fallen by 84% and 75% respectively. [4]

Information and educational activities aimed at eradicating extremist ideology, forming stable value orientations and strengthening inter-ethnic and interfaith harmony are of particular importance.

An important area of focus is partnership with the United Nations, within the framework of which Uzbekistan joins global initiatives to combat terrorism and violent extremism. This cooperation allows for the application of advanced international approaches, adapting them to national realities and focusing on preventive measures. Complementary and equally important is cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, where priority is given to ensuring

regional security, exchanging valuable information and coordinating the actions of Central Asian states.

This multilateral approach contributes to increasing society's resilience to radical ideologies, strengthening trust between countries and creating favourable conditions for sustainable development. International partnership is becoming not just a tool for ensuring security, but also a fundamental factor for achieving long-term social and political stability.

Uzbekistan is actively developing a systematic approach, combining punitive measures with prevention to reduce security threats through education, improving socio-economic conditions and strengthening the legislative framework. [5]

According to the authors, the younger generation should be viewed not only as the target of preventive measures, but also as an active agent in countering extremism. Involving cadets and students in educational, volunteer and analytical projects in the field of information security contributes to the formation of a responsible civic position and reduces the risk of involvement in radical movements. This practice is particularly relevant for departmental educational institutions, where future defenders of public security are trained.

Thus, extremism and terrorism among young people are complex social phenomena that require a systematic and scientifically based approach to prevention. The youth environment needs special attention from the state and society, since it is at this stage that the foundations of an individual's worldview and civic position are laid.

The prevention of extremism and terrorism must be comprehensive in nature and based on cooperation between all social policy stakeholders. Fostering a culture of lawfulness, tolerance and resistance to radical ideologies among young people is key to ensuring public safety and the sustainable development of society.

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