

THE RIGHTS OF UZBEK AND BRITISH WOMEN IN THE 20TH CENTURY AND THEIR ROLE TODAY

*Foreign language and literature department of
Shahrisabz State Pedagogical Institute*

Student: Numonova Ozoda

Scientific supervisor: Khujamurodova Fayoza

ANNOTATION

The 20th century was a transformative period for women's rights, both in Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom. As both societies experienced significant social, political, and economic changes, the role of women evolved dramatically. This article explores the historical context of women's rights in these two countries and examines their contemporary roles and contributions.

Key words: feminist philosophy, economic changes, diplomatic service, leadership positions, legal, social, psychological, role models, work hard.

XX ASRDA O'ZBEK VA BRITANIYA AYOLLARINING HUQUQLARI VA ULARNING BUGUNGI ROLI

ANNOTATSIYA

XX asr O'zbekistonda ham, Buyuk Britaniyada ham ayollar huquqlari uchun o'zgarishlar davri bo'ldi. Ikkala jamiyat ham muhim ijtimoiy, siyosiy va iqtisodiy o'zgarishlarni boshdan kechirar ekan, ayollarning roli keskin rivojlandi. Ushbu maqola ushbu ikki mamlakatdagi ayollar huquqlarining tarixiy kontekstini o'rganadi va ularning zamonaviy rollari va hissalarini ko'rib chiqadi.

Kalit so'zlar: feministik falsafa, iqtisodiy o'zgarishlar, diplomatik xizmat, rahbarlik lavozimlari, huquqiy, ijtimoiy, psixologik, namuna, qattiq mehnat.

ПРАВА УЗБЕКСКИХ И БРИТАНСКИХ ЖЕНЩИН В XX ВЕКА И ИХ РОЛЬ СЕГОДНЯ

АННОТАЦИЯ

XX й век стал периодом преобразований в области прав женщин как в Узбекистане, так и в Соединенном Королевстве. Поскольку оба общества пережили значительные социальные, политические и экономические изменения, роль женщин резко изменилась. В этой статье исследуется исторический контекст прав женщин в этих двух странах и рассматривается их современная роль и вклад.

Ключевые слова: феминистская философия, экономические перемены, дипломатическая служба, руководящие должности, юридические, социальные, психологические, ролевые модели, упорный труд.

INTRODUCTION

The twentieth century in England was pivotal for women's rights. Significant transformations occurred following the emergence of feminist ideas, writings, and groups in the nineteenth century. Furthermore, the First and Second World Wars dramatically altered women's roles in public life.

The Nineteenth Century Beginnings

In the nineteenth century, society was marked by strong family values that excluded women from public life, confining them to private and domestic roles. Women had virtually no rights regarding their bodies, property, or political participation. However, the Victorian Era saw the emergence of several influential women who inspired the women's movement and advocated for their rights.

Writers like Charlotte Brontë, with her novel "Jane Eyre," provided social criticism of society and women's limited roles. Additionally, Mary Wollstonecraft's "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: with Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects" (1792) is regarded as the earliest work of feminist philosophy.

The Right to Vote

In 1897, local groups advocating for women's voting rights united to form the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS). This moderate organization consisted of members known as suffragists. However, in 1903, a more radical organization called the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was established, led by Emmeline Pankhurst. The members of this group, known as suffragettes, engaged in acts such as arson and vandalism. The WSPU only advocated for voting rights for women who met certain property qualifications. Their campaign was suspended with the onset of the war in 1914.

In 1918, British women over 30 who met property qualifications were granted the right to vote. By 1928, the Representation of the People Act allowed all women over 21 to vote, the same age requirement as men. Significant milestones included Nancy Astor becoming the first woman MP to take her seat in the House of Commons in 1919, Margaret Bondfield becoming the first female cabinet minister in 1929, and Margaret Thatcher becoming the first female Prime Minister in 1979.

Birth Control and Reproductive Rights

Abortion was illegal and contraception could be legally punished during this era, yet working-class women often used these methods to avoid pregnancy and alleviate poverty and unemployment. It wasn't until the Family Planning Act of 1961 that women could access oral contraception through the National Health Service. The

Abortion Act of 1967, which took effect in 1968, legalized abortion following heated debates led by David Steel. The debate over reproductive rights, particularly the 'right to life,' remains ongoing.

On the Eve of International Women's Day

Deputy Head of Mission Fiona Maxton highlights the role women play in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the UK's global efforts to prevent violence against women and promote their rights. She also discusses the British Embassy's contributions to improving the status of women in Uzbek society.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The British diplomatic service is highly regarded worldwide, thanks to the professionalism and dedication of its 14,000 employees, nearly 10,000 of whom are local employees, across 160 countries. Maxton believes that the service's success is closely linked to the fact that about 45% of FCO employees are women. In Tashkent, a third of the Embassy staff are women.

Over the past thirty years, the role of women in the British civil service, including the diplomatic service, has significantly increased. Within a single generation, there has been a notable rise in the proportion of female employees in the FCO, with a growing number of women in leadership positions. For instance, when Maxton began her career in the late 1980s, there was only one female Ambassador. Today, about 40 women serve as UK Ambassadors worldwide, including in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Notably, Dame Barbara Hay was the first female diplomat accredited as an Ambassador in Central Asia, serving as the second British Ambassador to Uzbekistan from 1995 to 1999.

The UK Government believes it has a moral obligation to protect women's rights globally. It actively supports international efforts to combat and prevent sexual violence in armed conflicts, which primarily affects women and girls. Former British Foreign Secretary William Hague, alongside Hollywood actress and UN Special Envoy Angelina Jolie, launched the Prevention of Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) in 2012. In September 2013, Hague presented a draft of the Declaration on Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflicts to the UN General Assembly. The document was supported by 150 UN member states, including Uzbekistan, the first Central Asian country to sign it.

In June 2014, London hosted the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, attended by 140 countries, including Uzbekistan. The summit led to the adoption of the International Protocol on Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, aimed at strengthening prosecutions for rape in conflict and ending the culture of impunity for sexual violence.

The UK believes that only an educated, economically stable woman, living in an environment free of violence and fully enjoying her civil and political rights, can

contribute to building a safe and prosperous society. Hence, the FCO and the Department for International Development (DFID) focus on increasing the economic and political roles of women worldwide. This includes implementing the 2014-2017 UK National Action Plan (NAP) for UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The plan outlines measures the UK Government will take to promote women's rights in conflict-affected states such as Afghanistan, Burma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Somalia, and Syria.

British diplomatic missions abroad implement numerous projects in cooperation with local and international partners to protect women's rights and improve their status in society, including in Uzbekistan. In 2014, the British Embassy in Tashkent partnered with international organizations, local women's NGOs, and companies on several projects. These included publishing booklets about NGOs providing legal, social, and psychological assistance to women and organizing Women in Business Week in Nukus, Karakalpakstan, where around 100 women received entrepreneurial skills training. Additionally, in 2014, two young women from Uzbekistan were awarded Chevening Scholarships to study for Master's degrees at top UK universities. They will return to Uzbekistan to contribute to its development, serving as examples of modern and successful Uzbek women.

During her seven months in Uzbekistan, Maxton has met many professional and determined women working in state, public, and business sectors. These women serve as role models and work hard for the benefit of their country and families, representing the face of modern Uzbekistan.

Women in Britain and Uzbekistan come from different cultures but share common aspirations: to be equal members of society, live in a world free from violence, fully participate in professional and public life, and provide for their children's development. On the eve of International Women's Day, Maxton congratulates the women of both countries and wishes them success in achieving their career and personal aspirations.

Historical Context: Uzbekistan

In the early 20th century, Uzbekistan was part of the Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union. During this period, the status of women was heavily influenced by traditional patriarchal norms. However, the Soviet government implemented policies aimed at promoting gender equality. Women were encouraged to participate in the workforce and education, and many legal reforms were introduced to improve their rights.

The Soviet era saw significant advancements in women's rights, including the right to vote, access to education, and employment opportunities. Women in Uzbekistan became doctors, engineers, and teachers, contributing to the nation's development. However, these changes were often implemented top-down, and traditional attitudes persisted in many parts of the country.

Historical Context: United Kingdom

In contrast, the women's rights movement in the United Kingdom was driven largely by grassroots activism. The early 20th century saw the rise of the suffragette movement, which fought for women's right to vote. In 1918, British women over 30 gained the right to vote, and in 1928, this right was extended to all women over 21, on equal terms with men.

The post-World War II era brought further advancements, including the Equal Pay Act of 1970 and the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975. These laws aimed to eliminate gender-based discrimination in the workplace and broader society. The feminist movements of the 1960s and 1970s played a crucial role in raising awareness about issues such as reproductive rights, domestic violence, and workplace equality.

Women's Role in Contemporary Uzbekistan

Today, women in Uzbekistan continue to navigate the legacies of both Soviet-era policies and traditional cultural norms. The country has made significant strides in improving women's rights and promoting gender equality. The government has implemented various programs to enhance women's access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

However, challenges remain. Rural areas, in particular, often see higher rates of gender inequality, with women facing limited access to resources and decision-making opportunities. Nevertheless, many Uzbek women are emerging as leaders in business, politics, and civil society. Initiatives such as the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and various NGOs work tirelessly to advocate for women's rights and empowerment.

Women's Role in Contemporary United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, women have made substantial progress in achieving gender equality. Women now occupy prominent positions in politics, business, and academia. The UK has seen female Prime Ministers, and women are well-represented in the Parliament. Educational attainment among women has also increased significantly, with more women than men now pursuing higher education.

Despite these achievements, gender disparities persist. Issues such as the gender pay gap, underrepresentation in certain industries, and workplace discrimination continue to be areas of concern. The #MeToo movement and other social initiatives have brought renewed focus to these challenges, prompting ongoing efforts to address them.

Comparative Analysis

While both Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom have made significant advancements in women's rights, the paths they have taken reflect their unique historical and cultural contexts. In Uzbekistan, state-driven initiatives have played a crucial role, while in the UK, grassroots activism and legal reforms have been pivotal.

In both countries, women have shown remarkable resilience and determination in

overcoming obstacles. Today, they are integral to their nations' progress, contributing to various fields and advocating for continued advancements in gender equality.

CONCLUSION

The 20th century was a period of significant change for women's rights in both Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom. While their journeys have differed, the impact of these changes is evident in the roles women play today. As both countries continue to address the remaining challenges, the contributions of women remain vital to building more equitable and prosperous societies. The ongoing efforts to promote women's rights and gender equality in Uzbekistan and the UK are a testament to the enduring spirit of progress and empowerment that has characterized the women's rights movement throughout history.

REFERENCES

1. E.Giddens Sotsiologiya. – Toshkent. “Sharq”. 2002. 185-bet.
2. M.M.Nosirova “O‘zbekistonda gender tenglik: xotin-qizlar o‘rtasida jinoyatchilikning ortib borishi uning oldini olish choralari //Theoretical& applied science. USA, Philadelphia. 2019. P.49
3. B.R.Ahmedov “O‘zbek tilida Gender tadqiqi” Magistr darajasini olish uchun tayyorlangan dissertatsiya. Andijon 2012. 11-12-b.
4. Организация Объединенных Наций, Департамент по экономическим и социальным вопросам, Статистический отдел (2020 г.). Добейтесь гендерного равенства и расширения прав и возможностей всех женщин и девочек.
5. United Nations office on drugs and crime. Global study on homicide. Gender-related killing of women and girls. 2019. Page 10
6. United Nations office on drugs and crime. Global report on trafficking in persons. 2018. Page 25-28.
7. Организация Объединенных Наций. Генеральная Ассамблея. Активизация усилий в целях искоренения всех форм насилия в отношении женщин и девочек. Доклад Генерального секретаря. 30 июля 2020 г. стр. 4.
8. ООН-женщины и ПРООН (2020).COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker.
9. Yangi O‘zbekiston. №38(294), 2021-yil 23-fevral
10. Yangi O'zbekiston. №36(292),2021-yil 19-fevral
11. (<https://www.un.org/ru/sections/issuesdepth/gender-equality/>)
12. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-wedo/ending-violence-against-women>