



Article

The Role of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan in Enriching the Cultural Life of Society Under the Conditions of New Uzbekistan

Bokiyev Baxrom Uktamovich¹

1. Associate Professor, Department of Social and Humanitarian Sciences, Karshi State Technical University

* Correspondence: bokiyevbaxrom86@gmail.com

Abstract: Within the framework of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy, the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan played an important role in the process of cultural-spiritual reforms. As a result, the Union's contribution to the changes in the cultural life of society under the conditions of New Uzbekistan is highly appreciated. The article analyzes the Union's activities in 2017–2025: legal foundations (Decree PQ-3652, new building and Writers' Alley), support for young creators through the “My First Book” project, cultural events, international cooperation, and book publishing that contributed to the enrichment of society's cultural life.

Keywords: New Uzbekistan, Writers' Union of Uzbekistan, cultural life, young creators, “My First Book”, national idea, spiritual propaganda, creative freedom, international cooperation.

1. Introduction

The Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan is the principal policy document underlying the large-scale reforms that have been implemented in our country since 2017, in which the cultural and spiritual sphere occupies a special place. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphasized, “Strengthening the spiritual foundations of our society, developing the sphere of culture, and supporting the activities of scientific and creative organizations, as well as our esteemed intellectuals, will also remain one of our priority areas” [1][2].

This principle was also reflected in the “Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026,” in which “Ensuring Spiritual Development and Elevating the Cultural Sphere to a New Stage” was identified as a separate strategic direction. Changes in the cultural life of society are closely linked to such issues as the promotion of the national idea, the enhancement of reading culture, the expansion of creative freedom, the spiritual education of the younger generation, and the development of international cultural cooperation. In this process, the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan has been actively participating as an important institutional and creative actor.[3][4]

Although the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan was established in 1934, its activities were fundamentally renewed during the period of New Uzbekistan and became closely integrated with state policy. The Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, dated April 5, 2018, No. PQ-3652, “On Measures to Further Improve the Activities of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan,” created the legal foundation for this process. This document provided for the establishment of the “Ijod” Public Foundation under the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan, the creation of the Adiblar xiyoboni (Writers'

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Alley), the construction of a new building, and the implementation of projects aimed at supporting young writers and creators [5][6].

The relevance of this issue lies in the fact that, under the conditions of New Uzbekistan, cultural and spiritual reforms occupy a central place in strengthening social unity, promoting new interpretations of national values, and educating the younger generation as a well-rounded and harmoniously developed generation. The role of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan in this process consists in enriching the cultural life of society by revitalizing the literary process, supporting the first steps of young writers and creators, and intensifying spiritual and moral outreach.[7] At the same time, the changes in the activities of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan have received limited scholarly attention, which further enhances the relevance and significance of this topic.[8] The purpose of this article is to analyze the activities of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan in 2017–2025 within the framework of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan, as well as to evaluate its contribution to cultural reforms, youth support, spiritual development, and the enrichment of the cultural life of society.

2. Materials and Methods

The research is based on the principles of historicism, objectivity, comparative analysis, and systematic approach. The study relies on Presidential decrees and resolutions, state programs, official publications, speeches by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and institutional materials related to the activities of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan.

Particular attention was devoted to the analysis of Presidential Resolution No. PQ-3652 dated April 5, 2018, the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026, and legal documents concerning the promotion of reading culture, support for young creators, and the modernization of creative organizations. The article also employs institutional and cultural-historical methods in examining the activities of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan in the fields of publishing, youth support, literary education, international cooperation, and spiritual outreach.

3. Results

Within the framework of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan, reforms in the cultural and spiritual sphere necessitated elevating the activities of creative organizations to a new stage. In this process, the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan was reorganized as one of the principal practical implementers of state policy, and its material and technical base was fundamentally strengthened.[9][10]

The most important legal foundation for these transformations was the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, dated April 5, 2018, No. PQ-3652, "On Measures to Further Improve the Activities of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan." [11] This resolution provided for the adaptation of the Union's charter and organizational structure to the requirements of the present era, the strengthening of its material and technical base, and the introduction of mechanisms to support young writers and creators. In particular, it envisaged the establishment of Adiblar xiyoboni (Writers' Alley) in the capital, the construction of a new modern building for the Writers' Union, and the creation of writers' residences in the regions named after prominent literary figures.[12][13]

Construction of the new building began in 2017 and was completed in December of the same year. The building is located within Alisher Navoi National Park, where large-scale construction works were carried out over an area of 9.6 hectares. On December 24, 2017, Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the site, reviewed the progress of the building and the works at Writers' Alley, and highly praised the project. Adiblar xiyoboni was fully opened

in 2020 and currently serves as a central cultural space housing the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan, the Tashkent Museum, and other cultural institutions.[14]

Within the framework of the resolution, the "Ijod" Public Foundation was established under the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan. This foundation provides material and moral support to young writers and creators, promotes publishing activities, and finances various creative projects.

Other important documents aimed at improving the activities of the Writers' Union include the following:

By the Presidential Decree of January 12, 2017, and the Presidential Resolution of September 13, 2017, a special commission was established and a comprehensive program was approved to promote book reading and enhance the culture of reading among the population.

By the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers dated December 14, 2020, the "National Program for the Development and Support of Reading Culture in 2020–2025" was adopted.

These documents strengthened the role of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan in working with young writers and creators, revitalizing the literary process, and intensifying spiritual and moral outreach. As a result, under the leadership of Sirojiddin Sayyid, the Union's regional branches became more active, and creative schools and literary seminars have been conducted on a systematic basis. These legal and institutional transformations are fully consistent with the policy of spiritual development in New Uzbekistan and have turned the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan into a leading actor in the cultural life of society.

One of the principal priorities of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan is to educate the younger generation as well-rounded individuals, to help them realize their creative potential, and to promote the principles of the national idea and a new way of thinking. As Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emphasized, "Educating our youth to become spiritually strong, patriotic, knowledgeable, and modern-minded individuals is one of the most important tasks of our state". This principle is being put into practice in the activities of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan through mechanisms designed to support young writers and creators.

One of the most significant projects aimed at systematically supporting young talents is the "My First Book" project (also referred to as "My First Book Publication"). Although this initiative was launched in the 2010s, it was substantially expanded and developed on a much larger scale during the period of New Uzbekistan.[15]

Within the framework of the Presidential Resolution No. PQ-3652 of April 5, 2018, thousands of copies of the first books by young poets and writers are published at state expense and distributed free of charge to educational institutions and libraries. This initiative provides young creators not only with financial support but also with strong motivation for creative development.

Speaking about the practical outcomes of the project, hundreds of young writers' debut books have been published in recent years. For instance, in 2024, within the framework of the project, 18 first books by 19 young authors were published, including poetry collections, prose works, and even books in the Karakalpak and Russian languages. The authors of these books were paid royalties, and official presentation ceremonies were organized.

In the first half of 2025, the first books of 18 students of creative schools were published (including 9 presented in May), and official presentation ceremonies were held. In total, nearly 200 young authors' debut works have been published in book form within the framework of the project to date.

The success of this project is closely connected with the traditional Zomin seminar. The Zomin seminar is a creative skills school for young writers, held annually in the Zomin

district of Jizzakh region. Within the framework of the seminar, master classes, creative discussions, and literary analyses are conducted with the participation of prominent writers and literary scholars.

According to Presidential Resolution No. PQ-147 dated April 1, 2024, it has been established that at least five students from each creative school must participate in the Zomin seminar, and the works of the most active participants are to be published within the “My First Book” project.

As a result, the seminar has become an effective platform for identifying the talents of young writers and involving them in the professional literary sphere. In addition, the Union has established special positions dedicated to working with young creators (including deputy chairpersons responsible for youth affairs), as well as creative schools, seminars, and open dialogues. The Council of Young Writers is also actively functioning, and open discussions with young people are being held across the regions.

4. Discussion

The reforms implemented within the framework of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan demonstrate that culture and spirituality have become important priorities of state policy. In this context, the Writers’ Union of Uzbekistan has transformed from a traditional literary organization into an influential institutional actor actively participating in the modernization of society’s cultural life. The adoption of Presidential Resolution No. PQ-3652 significantly strengthened the Union’s institutional capacity and expanded opportunities for supporting writers, especially young creators. The establishment of Writers’ Alley, the new Union building, creative schools, and publishing initiatives created a modern infrastructure for literary and cultural development.

Particular importance belongs to the “My First Book” project, which has become one of the most successful mechanisms for supporting talented youth. By providing young authors with opportunities for publication, presentation, and professional development, the project contributes not only to literary growth but also to the spiritual education of society and the strengthening of reading culture. The increasing openness of the Union to international cooperation, literary dialogue, and cultural exchange also reflects the broader policy of New Uzbekistan aimed at integrating national culture into the global cultural environment while preserving national identity and spiritual values.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Writers’ Union of Uzbekistan has played an important role in the process of spiritual development in New Uzbekistan, and it will undoubtedly continue to play a leading role in enriching the cultural life of society, developing national literature, and spiritually educating the younger generation in the future.

The reforms implemented during 2017–2025 fundamentally renewed the Union’s organizational structure, strengthened its legal and material foundations, and expanded its opportunities for supporting young creators and promoting literature. Projects such as “My First Book,” the establishment of Writers’ Alley, and the organization of creative seminars have significantly contributed to the revitalization of the literary process and the enrichment of society’s cultural life.

Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and within the framework of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan, the Writers’ Union of Uzbekistan has become one of the central institutions ensuring spiritual development, preserving national values, and strengthening the cultural identity of society in the context of globalization and modern challenges.

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