

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

(Extract)

CHAPTER II. BASIS OF STATE

Article 7. The Azerbaijani state

1. Azerbaijani state is democratic, legal, secular, unitary republic.

Article 18. Religion and state

- I. Religion in the Azerbaijan Republic is separated from state. All religions are equal before the law.
- II. Spreading and propaganda of religion (religious movements), humiliating people's dignity and contradicting the principles of humanism are prohibited.
- III. State educational system is secular.

CHAPTER III. BASIC RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF A PERSON AND CITIZEN

Article 47. Freedom of thought and speech

III. Propaganda provoking racial, national, religious and social discord and animosity is prohibited.

Article 48. Freedom of conscience

- I. Everyone enjoys the freedom of conscience.
- II. Everyone has the right to define his/her attitude to religion, to profess, individually or together with others, any religion or to profess no religion, to express and spread one's beliefs concerning religion.
- III. Everyone is free to carry out religious rituals, however this should not violate public order and contradict public morals.
- IV. Religious beliefs and convictions do not excuse infringements of the law.
- V. No one shall be forced to express (to demonstrate) his or her religious faith and belief, to execute religious rituals and participate in religious ceremonies.

Article 56. Electoral right

III. Participation in elections of military personnel, judges, state employees, religious officials, persons imprisoned by decision of law court, other persons specified in the present Constitution and laws might be restricted by law.

CHAPTER IV. MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS

Article 76. Defence of motherland

II. If beliefs of citizens come into conflict with service in the army then in some cases envisaged by legislation alternative service instead of regular army service is permitted.

CHAPTER V. LEGISLATIVE POWER

Article 85. Requirements to candidates to the posts of deputies of the Parliament (*Milli Majlis*) of the Azerbaijan Republic

II. Persons having double citizenship, those having obligations to other states, those working in the bodies of executive or judicial power, persons involved in other payable activity except scientific, pedagogical and creative activity, religious men, persons whose incapacity has been confirmed by law court, those condemned for grave crime, serving a sentence due to verdict of law court may not be elected the deputies of the Parliament (*Milli Majlis*) of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Source: http://www.azerbaijan.az/portal/General/Constitution/doc/constitution_r.pdf