

# **LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

## **On the Freedom of religious belief**

This Law creates guarantees for the implementation of freedom of religion in the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and international treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party, defines the status, rights and responsibilities of religious communities, regulates relations arising with regard to the activity of religious communities.

### **Chapter I. General provisions**

#### **Article 1. Freedom of Religious Beliefs**

Everyone has the right to believe in any religion, alone or in association with others, and to express and disseminate his or her beliefs about religion.

A person may not be prevented from expressing his / her religious beliefs, participating in worship, religious rites and ceremonies, or learning about religion. No one may be compelled to express (demonstrate) his religious beliefs, perform religious rites or participate in religious ceremonies. It is not allowed to propagate a religious belief or way of life by using or threatening to use force, as well as for the purpose of creating racial, national, religious, social hatred and enmity. The spread and propagation of religions (religious movements) that degrade human dignity or contradict the principles of humanity are prohibited.

Freedom of religion may be restricted only in the interests of public safety, public order, health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others, as provided by law and when necessary in a democratic society.

*Except for the cases provided for in the fourth part of Article 21 of this Law, religious propaganda by foreigners and stateless persons in the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic is prohibited.*

*Parents or other legal representatives may, by mutual consent, bring up children in accordance with their religious beliefs and attitudes. Forcing children to believe in a religion is prohibited. The religious upbringing of children should not adversely affect their physical and mental health.*

*Except for the cases provided for in the fourth part of Article 21 of this Law, the coverage of the basics of religious teaching during the performance of mass religious*

*worship, rites and ceremonies may be carried out only by religious figures appointed in accordance with this Law.*

*Activities aimed at promoting religious extremism, as well as the use of inter-religious and intra-religious differences for political purposes are prohibited.*

## **Article 2. Legislation on freedom of religious beliefs**

Legislation on freedom of religious beliefs consists of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, international treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party, this Law and other legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

## **Article 3. Duties of the Law on freedom of religious beliefs**

This Law:

Guarantees the right of every person in the Republic of Azerbaijan to determine and express his / her attitude to religion and to exercise that right;

Ensures social justice, equality, protection of the rights and legitimate interests of citizens, regardless of their religious attitude, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the norms of international law adopted by the Republic of Azerbaijan;

determines the responsibilities of the state in relation to religious communities;

determines the responsibilities of religious communities to the state and society;

promotes the manifestation of national morality and humanism, regardless of people's worldview and religious beliefs, and creates favorable conditions for the well-being and cooperation of citizens;

regulates relations related to the activities of religious communities.

## **Article 4. Equality of rights regardless of religious affiliation**

Everyone is equal before the law and the courts, regardless of religion. Indication of a person's religious affiliation in official documents is allowed only at his request.

No one may refuse or evade the performance of duties prescribed by law on the basis of his or her religious beliefs. Replacement of the performance of one duty with the performance of another duty due to religious beliefs is allowed only in cases stipulated by the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic.

#### *Article 4-1. Professional religious activity and cleric*

*4-1.1. Professional religious activity is an activity aimed at religious upbringing and religious education, meeting the religious needs of believers, spreading religions, performing religious rites, reading sermons, and administrative and organizational management of a religious community.*

*4-1.2. A cleric is a person with a religious higher and secondary education engaged in professional religious activities.*

*4-1.3. When religious figures are elected or appointed to state bodies, their professional religious activity shall be suspended during their term in office.*

*4-1.4. Religious titles (ranks) are given to clergy only by religious centers (departments).*

#### **Article 5. State and religious institutions**

In the Republic of Azerbaijan, religion and religious communities are separate from the state.

The state does not instruct religious communities to carry out any work related to it and does not interfere in their activities.

All religions and religious communities are equal before the law. No religion (religious movement) or religious community may have any advantages or restrictions over others.

Religious communities have the right to participate in public life, as well as to use the media along with public associations.

Religious communities do not participate in the activities of political parties and do not provide them with financial assistance.

~~When religious figures are elected or appointed to state bodies, their professional religious activity shall be suspended during their term in office.~~

Religious communities comply with the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and are responsible for violating them.

Religious communities must take measures prescribed by law to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.

## **Article 6. Religious education**

6.1. *In accordance with Part III of Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the state education system in the Republic of Azerbaijan is secular.*

6.2. *Citizens may study religion and receive religious education individually and (or) together with others.*

6.3. *Religious educational institutions shall be established by the religious center (department) in coordination with the body (institution) determined by the relevant executive authority. A religious center (department) can establish only one higher religious education institution.*

6.4. *Religious books study courses (groups) are established by religious communities in accordance with the charters of these religious communities with the consent of the religious centers (departments) to which they are subordinated, and this is reported to the body (organization) determined by the relevant executive authority.*

6.5. *Institutions of higher religious education and religious secondary special education institutions operate on the basis of licenses issued in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Licenses and Permits".*

6.6. *Students of religious educational institutions enjoy the rights and privileges established for students of state educational institutions.*

### **Article 6-1. Mass worship, rites and ceremonies**

6-1.1. *Mass worship, rites and ceremonies (except for funerals, mourning, iftar, kabinkasma, mawlid and ehsan ceremonies) are held in places of worship and shrines.*

6-1.2. *Mass religious worship, rites and ceremonies (except for funerals, mourning, iftar, kabinkasma, mawlid and ehsan ceremonies) are organized outside religious places of worship and shrines only with the consent of the body (institution) determined by the relevant executive authority.*

6-1.3. *Organized visits of believers to places of worship located in foreign countries and considered sacred for the relevant religion are carried out by the relevant religious centers (departments) and the body (institution) designated by the relevant executive authority is informed about it.*

## Chapter II

### RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

#### Article 7. Religious communities

Religious centers and departments, religious educational institutions and religious bodies, and their associations are religious communities. Religious communities are represented by their centers (offices).

~~Religious communities are voluntary organizations established for the joint exercise of the right of adults to freedom of religion, as well as for the dissemination of religious beliefs.~~

Religious communities shall act in accordance with this Law and its approved charters (regulations).

Islamic religious communities operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan submit a report on their activities to the Caucasian Muslims Office.

#### Article 8. Religious community

A religious community is a local religious body of adult religious persons living on the basis of voluntary association *within the same administrative territorial unit* in order to worship together and meet other religious needs. *A religious community shall be established by at least 50 (fifty) citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan who have reached the age of majority.*

*In religious matters* in the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic religious communities are subordinated to the Caucasian Muslims Board, while *other religious communities* have the right to subordinate and change their subordination to religious centers (departments) operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan and abroad.

*Religious figures in places of worship and shrines belonging to Islam are appointed by a body (institution) designated by the relevant executive authority and notified to the Caucasian Muslims Office and certified every five years. Certification is carried out with the participation of representatives of the Caucasian Muslims Office and specialists.*

~~*Islamic religious communities are established in mosques by citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan.*~~

*The appointment of religious figures in non-Islamic religious communities operating in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be carried out by the religious center (department) to which they are subordinated on the basis of the presentation of the religious community with the consent of the body (institution) designated by the relevant executive authority .*

*In the absence of a religious center (department) subordinated to the non-Islamic religious community operating in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the appointment of religious figures shall be carried out by the religious community with the consent of the body (institution) determined by the relevant executive authority.*

~~*Islamic religious communities are established only in places of worship and shrines belonging to the religion they represent.*~~

*Religious figures may be appointed by religious centers (departments) to places of worship and shrines where a religious community has not been established, in accordance with this Law.*

*When a clergyman appointed to a place of worship or shrine is relieved of his post, the religious community of the place of worship and the shrine shall suspend its religious activity until a new cleric is appointed to that position.*

## **Article 9. Religious centers and institutions**

Islamic religious communities in the Republic of Azerbaijan unite in their historical Islamic religious center - the Caucasian Muslims Office.

Non-Islamic religious communities with organizational centers abroad may be guided by the charters of these centers in cases where their activities do not contradict the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Relations of the state with religious centers and institutions, including religious centers and institutions outside the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which are not regulated by law, shall be regulated between them and in accordance with agreements with state bodies.

Religious centers and institutions may establish *places of worship, shrines* and religious educational institutions in accordance with their charters (~~regulations~~).

*A religious center (department) may establish a branch and (or) representative office in the Republic of Azerbaijan and abroad.*

### **Article 9-1. Name and area of activity of religious community**

9-1.1. *The name of a religious community must reflect its organizational and legal form, the nature of its activities and the religion to which it belongs. Names of state bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as names of prominent personalities of Azerbaijan may not be used in the name of a religious community.*

9-1.2. *It is not allowed for a religious community (except for a religious center (department)) to operate outside its registered legal address.*

9-1.3. *The territory of the religious center (department) in the Republic of Azerbaijan is not limited.*

9-1.4. *In case of change of the legal address of the religious community, it shall inform the body (organization) determined by the relevant executive authority within 10 (ten) days.*

### **Article 10. Religious educational institutions**

~~Religious educational institutions may establish religious centers and departments only for the training of clergy and other personnel in religious specialties. Religious centers and departments may not establish more than one higher religious education institution. The relations between religious educational institutions and religious centers or institutions shall be determined by their constituent documents.~~

~~Religious educational institutions operate on the basis of a special permit (license) issued by the relevant executive authority in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.~~

~~Students of religious educational institutions enjoy the rights and privileges established for students of state educational institutions.~~

### **Article 11. Charter of a religious community**

11.1. *The charter of a religious community is adopted by its founders at its founding meeting.*

11.2. *The charter of a religious community shall specify the following:*

11.2.1. *name, legal address, type and religion of the religious community;*

11.2.2. *goals and objectives of the religious community, as well as the main forms of activity;*

11.2.3. *structure of a religious community, rules of management, governing bodies and rules of their organization, as well as powers of those bodies;*

11.2.4. *conditions and procedure for admission to and withdrawal from the founding of a religious community;*

11.2.5. *sources of property formation of a religious community;*

11.2.6. *adoption of the charter, procedure for making changes in it;*

11.2.7. *the procedure for liquidation of a religious community and the procedure for the use of its property in case of liquidation.*

~~11.3. *The charter of a religious community must be in accordance with the charter of its religious center (department).*~~

11.4. *Documents determining the religious activity of a religious community and resolving other internal issues are not registered with state bodies.*

## **Article 12. State registration of religious organizations**

All religious communities may operate only after state registration with the relevant executive authority and inclusion in the state register of religious communities. Religious communities may engage in *religious activities only in places of worship and shrines specified as legal addresses in the information submitted for state registration, after the appointment of a cleric to those religious communities in accordance with the procedure established by this Law.*

*Religious communities (taking into account the documents provided for in the third part of this article) apply to the body (institution) determined by the relevant executive authority for state registration with an application with the attached protocol, charter, as well as other documents provided for in the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On State Registration and State Register of Legal Entities”.*

*An application of a religious community must be submitted by at least fifty adults who have established it and shall attach list of the founders of the religious community, indicating their citizenship, place of residence and date of birth, copies of identity documents, basics of religious education, including religious Information on the history of the community, forms and methods of its activities, traditions, attitude to the family, marriage and education, restrictions on the rights and responsibilities of members of the community.*

*The relevant executive authority shall carry out the state registration of religious communities within the period established by law.*



*If there is any change in the information or documents required for its state registration, the state-registered religious community must inform the relevant executive authority within 20 days (taking into account the case specified in Article 9-1.4 of this Law) and submit the documents confirming the relevant change in the same manner.*

*Taking into account the third part of Article 1 of this Law, the state registration of a religious community may be refused in the following cases:*

*1) if the activity or goals of the religious community, or the essence and basic principles of the religious teaching it propagates contradict the Constitution and laws of the Azerbaijan Republic;*

*2) if the established body is not recognized as a religious community;*

*3) if the submitted charter (~~regulations~~) and other documents contradict the requirements of the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic or the information reflected in them is incorrect.*

*The denial of state registration shall be notified to the religious community, indicating the provisions of the legislation which gave rise to the refusal.*

*Refusal to register a religious community on any grounds other than those provided for in the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall not be allowed.*

### **Article 12-1. Abolition of a religious community**

Religious communities may be liquidated in the following cases:

1) by the decision of the founders or the body authorized by the charter (~~regulations~~);

2) by a court decision on the basis of an application of the relevant executive authority.

Subject to the third part of Article 1 of this Law, a religious community may be liquidated in court on the following grounds:

1) carrying out activities by a religious community that contradict the goals of its establishment;

2) to propagate a religious belief and a religious way of life by force or threatening to use force, as well as to create racial, national, religious, social hatred or enmity, to express (demonstrate) a religious belief, to perform religious rites or forcing to participate in religious ceremonies, spreading and propagating a religion (religious movement) that degrades human dignity or contradicts the principles of humanity;

3) violation of public safety or public order;

- 3-1) engaging in religious extremist activities;
- 4) committing acts aimed at terrorism, terrorist financing, provocation or violent criminal acts;
- 5) obstruction of secular education;
- 6) incitement or coercion of members of a religious community and other persons to give up their property in favor of a religious community;
- 7) preventing a person from leaving a religious community by using force or other illegal actions;
- 8) incitement of persons to refuse to perform their duties established by law and to commit other illegal actions;
- 8-1) failure to eliminate the violation of the law within the period specified in the written request of the body (institution) determined by the relevant executive authority to eliminate the violation revealed in the activity of the religious community;
- 9) non-compliance with two written requests of the relevant executive authority to submit information on changes in the information or documents required for state registration within one year.

If religious centers and institutions have information on religious communities provided for in the second part of this article, they shall submit a petition to the relevant executive authority to change the composition of the founders of these religious communities or to liquidate the community.

The activities of religious communities engaged in religious extremist activities are prohibited.

In case of liquidation of a religious community, information (documents) on resolving property issues of the liquidated religious community in accordance with the Civil Code of the Azerbaijan Republic is submitted to the body (institution) determined by the relevant executive authority to be included in the state register of legal entities in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On state registration and state register of legal entities".

### **~~Article 13. Refusal to register the charter (regulations) of a religious community~~**

~~Registration of the charter (regulations) of a religious community may be refused if the goals and objectives set forth in it contradict the existing legislation.~~

~~The decision to refuse to register the charter (regulations) of a religious community shall be notified to the applicants in writing within ten days, indicating its grounds. Such a decision may be appealed in court in accordance with the procedure established by the Civil Procedural Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.~~

#### ~~**Article 14. Termination of the activities of religious communities**~~

~~The activity of religious communities may be terminated only in case of their liquidation in accordance with their charters (regulations) or violation of the provisions of this Law, as well as other legislative acts of the Azerbaijan Republic.~~

#### ~~**Article 15. Consideration of complaints on registration and termination of activities of religious communities**~~

~~Decisions on registration, refusal to register a religious community, termination of the activity of a religious community, extension of the time limits for making a decision provided for in this Law may be appealed to court in accordance with the procedure established by the Civil Procedural Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.~~

### **Chapter III STATUS OF ASSETS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**

#### **Article 16. Usage of Assets Owned by the State, Public Organizations or Citizens**

Religious communities have the right to use the premises and the assets assigned to them by the state organizations, public organizations or the citizens on the basis of agreement for their needs.

State-owned buildings of cult designation and other assets may be transferred to religious communities for gratis usage.

Religious communities shall have priority rights in getting a grant of the premises of religious assignation with the surrounding territory.

Decisions on transferring buildings of cult designation and property to religious communities shall be made no later than within one month since the date of receipt of a corresponding request, of which the applicant is notified in written form.

Religious communities shall use lands in accordance with the Land Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

#### **Article 17. Assignment and utilization of properties representing historical and cultural monuments**

Buildings, as well as things representing monuments of history and culture may be transferred, according to the law, to religious communities and be used by them.

Privatization of state-owned religious historical and cultural monuments and civil circulation of cultural property of religious purposes, included in the State List of the national cultural property of the Republic of Azerbaijan is not allowed.

### **Article 18. Property of religious communities**

Buildings, religious items, production, social and charitable facilities, monetary assets and other properties necessary to ensure activities of religious communities may be in their properties.

Religious communities have the ownership right over the assets acquired or created at their own expense, donated by citizens, organizations or transferred by the state, as well as acquired according to other reasons stipulated by the law.

Property abroad may also be owned by religious communities.

Religious communities may apply for voluntary donations, as well as accept such donations, including monetary donations, in cash or by bank, post, plastic card, electronic payment systems, or the Internet. The procedure for acceptance of donated funds by religious communities shall be determined by the body (institution) determined by the relevant executive authority. The religious community may not directly or indirectly give, offer or make a promise to provide material and other values, any privileges or concessions to the donator or any other person in return to received or promised donations. A person who makes a donation to a religious community may not demand or accept any material or other blessings, privileges or concessions for himself or third parties in exchange for donations made or to be made, nor may he agree to such an offer or promise.

The funds of religious centers and institutions are formed at the expense of funds, received subject to the requirements of this Law, as well as of the voluntary contributions of physical and legal entities, religious associations and sanctuaries.

State agencies and local self-government bodies can provide financial assistance to religious associations.

The ownership right of religious institutions shall be protected by law.

**Note:** “the donation” referred to in this Article shall be understood as an assistance provided in the form of financial means and (or) other material form without putting an obligation on religious associations to achieve any purpose.

### **Article 19. Production and economic activity of religious associations**

Religious associations, in accordance with the legislation and their respective charters (~~provisions~~) have the right to establish publishing and printing houses, production,

restoration and building facilities with the status of legal entity, orphanages, boarding-schools, infirmaries and so on.

**Article 20. Order on assets of religious communities, the activity of which has been terminated**

Non-foundation property provided by the state, public organizations or individual citizens for the use of religious communities shall be returned to its previous owner upon termination of their activity.

The assets assigned by the state organizations, public organizations or individual citizens for utilization by religious associations without agreements shall be returned to their owners after termination of their operation.

Under cessation of activity of a religious community, the property it owned shall be disposed in accordance with the community's charter (~~provision~~) and existing legal provisions.

Creditors have no right to claim for property of religious designation owned by a religious community.

In the event of absence of legal successors, the property shall pass to the state.

**Chapter IV  
RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AND RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS ON RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM**

**Article 21. Religious rites, rituals and attributes**

*Religious communities have the right to patronize, maintain and use places of worship and shrines.*

*Subject to the requirements of Article 1 of this Law and except for the cases specified in Article 6-1, religious worship, rites and ceremonies shall be conducted without hindrance in shrines, places of worship and burial, offices of religious communities, apartments and houses of citizens.*

*Except for the cases provided for in the fourth part of this Article, religious worship, rites and ceremonies shall be conducted only by citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan who have received religious education abroad may be allowed to perform Islamic rites and ceremonies by the Caucasian Muslims Office in coordination with the relevant executive authority.*

*Religious worship, rites and ceremonies may be conducted by a foreign or stateless religious figure invited by a religious center (department) operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan or on an official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan.*

*The command of a military unit may not prevent servicemen from worshipping in their spare time, except in cases of combat operations, combat duty, guard and garrison*

*service, and military training. The activity of religious figures in military units is allowed with the consent of the command of the military unit.*

*Religious services in medical and social service institutions, dormitories, prisons and penitentiaries are held at the request of persons in those institutions. These bodies assist in the invitation of clergy and participate in determining the time and other conditions of religious worship, rites or ceremonies.*

*Religious communities may apply to medical and social service institutions, dormitories, prisons and penitentiaries for the organization of religious services.*

*It is prohibited to display religious slogans and other religious attributes (except for the religious attributes worn by a person) in public places outside religious places of worship and shrines. Religious flags may be placed only in the closed areas of places of worship and shrines, religious centers and offices.*

## **Article 22. Religious literature (on paper and electronic media), audio and video materials, goods and products and other information materials of religious content**

Citizens and religious organizations may obtain and use religious literature (on paper and electronic media), audio and video materials, goods and products, and other information materials with a religious content marked with a control mark issued by the relevant executive authority in any language.

Religious communities and other non-religious legal entities and individuals may produce, import, export religious literature (on paper and electronic media), audio and video materials, goods and products and other religious information materials with the consent of the relevant executive authority, as well as they can spread freely after being marked with a control mark.

Sale of religious literature (on paper and electronic media), audio and video materials, goods and other religious information materials marked with the control mark shall be carried out only through specialized sales outlets established with the consent of the relevant executive authority.

The form, rules of registration, use and issuance of the control mark, as well as the amount of the fee paid for the receipt of the control mark shall be determined by the relevant executive authority.

Funds paid for the purchase of control stamps are transferred to the state budget. The procedure for controlling the receipt of these funds in the state budget and keeping records shall be established by the relevant executive authority.

The relevant executive authority shall ensure the production of control marks.

### **Article 23. Charitable and cultural-enlightening activity of religious communities**

Religious communities carry out charitable and cultural-educational activities both independently and through the foundations they have established, including public foundations.

~~Donations and means for these purposes are exempt from tax.~~

### **Article 24. International relations and contacts of believers and religious communities**

*Citizens and religious communities may participate individually or in groups in international religious events, religious ceremonies abroad, and make pilgrimages.*

*Sending citizens to study in religious educational institutions of foreign countries, exchange of students and teachers of religious educational institutions, as well as religious figures and specialists is carried out by the religious center in coordination with the relevant executive authority.*

## **Chapter V**

### **LABOR ACTIVITY IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AND THEIR INSTITUTIONS**

#### **Article 25. Labour and legal relations in religious communities**

Labor relations between the religious community and employee are governed by the Labor Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Religious community, in the established order, shall register the labour agreement and documents determining the terms of payment for the work of religious persons.

Citizens working for religious communities according to a labour agreement have the right to be members of a trade union.

#### **Article 26. Labour rights of citizens working in religious communities**

The requirements of the law on labour shall be applied to the citizens working for religious communities without exception.

~~The income of citizens, including clergy, from work in religious associations is generally taxed.~~

## **Article 27. Social insurance and pension provision for employees of religious communities**

Social insurance for employees of religious communities is governed by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Social Insurance", and pensions - by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On labor pensions".

## **Chapter VI**

### **STATE BODIES AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**

#### **Article 28. Control over the law on freedom of religious belief**

The law on freedom of religious belief of the Azerbaijan Republic shall be controlled in accordance with the existing legislation.

#### **Article 29. Relevant executive authority**

Relevant executive authority:

~~render, upon request of religious communities, necessary assistance to *religious communities* reach agreements with state bodies (*institutions*) and for issues requiring decision by state bodies;~~

help strengthen mutual *respect, understanding and tolerance atmosphere* among religious communities of various religions;

~~carries out registration of charters (regulations) of religious communities in accordance with this Law, as well as makes amendments and additions to them;~~

assist local executive authorities in the implementation of legislation on freedom of religion;

keep contact with the relevant bodies of foreign countries;

create, in the Azerbaijan Republic, a database of religious associations ~~and for fulfilment of the legislation of freedom of religion;~~

*receive information and financial reports provided by law from religious centers (departments) and religious communities;*

*promote the participation of religious organizations in business relations with international religious movements, forums, international religious centers and foreign religious organizations, taking into account the requirements of this Law;*



*provide conduction of theological examination, involve representatives and specialists of religious communities in this work;*

*give an opinion on the construction and reconstruction of places of worship and shrines, taking into account the proposal of the relevant religious center (department);*

*analyze and approve the programs of religious educational institutions together with the relevant executive authority, give an opinion to determine the quality of religious education;*

*carry out inspections of the sale of the literature of religious assignment (on paper and electronic media), audio and video materials, goods and articles and other religious information materials marked with holographic stamp, in specialized points of sale in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On regulation of inspections in the field of entrepreneurship and protection of interests of entrepreneurs".*

### **Article 30. Liability for violation of this Law**

*Persons violating the requirements of this Law shall be liable in cases provided for in the Civil Code of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.*

### **Article 31. International agreements**

If an international agreement, in which the Azerbaijan Republic takes part, establishes rules distinguished from that established by the law of the Azerbaijan Republic on freedom of religion, the rules of the international agreement shall then be applied.

Baku, August 20, 1992

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