

FOOTBALL AS A MEANS OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES*Mirbabaev Muzaffar Ismatillayevich**Department of Physical Culture and Sports of TSPU named after Nizami Associate Professor*

Annotation. This article examines the problem of integrating refugees into society through football. The problem of social adaptation in the context of transformations in modern countries is of particular relevance for forced migrants. Additional barriers to the social adaptation of refugees include social, socio-economic, socio-cultural, legal, and ethnic barriers. It is thanks to sports, or rather football, that refugees can adapt more successfully to a new environment.

Keywords: sports, football, social integration, refugees

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается проблема интеграции беженцев в общество посредством футбола. Проблема социальной адаптации в условиях преобразований современных стран имеет особую актуальность для вынужденных мигрантов. Социальной адаптации беженцев препятствуют такие дополнительные барьеры как социальные, социально-экономические, социокультурные, правовые, этнические. Именно благодаря спорту, а точнее футболу беженцы могут успешнее социально адаптироваться в новой среде.

Ключевые слова: спорт, футбол, социальная интеграция, беженцы

The process of social integration of refugees is complicated by insufficient state attention to this problem, which is manifested in the insufficient development of targeted government programs to optimize the social adaptation of various groups of the population and provokes social instability, criminalization and marginalization of society. The problem of social adaptation is currently very relevant for forced migrants. The social adaptation of refugees is hindered by such additional barriers as social, socio-economic, socio-cultural, legal, and ethnic.

In the context of ongoing social transformations, the migration influx creates difficulties in providing refugees with housing and social infrastructure facilities, and the indigenous population may also demonstrate dissatisfaction with forced migrants. As a result, refugees find themselves in an extremely difficult social situation. At the same time, successful social adaptation of migrants makes a significant contribution to the development of social relations, the formation and maintenance of political stability, reduces social tension in society, and mitigates the effect of depopulation of the indigenous population.

Nelson Mandela, during a speech on World Refugee Day in 2006, said that the language of sport is universal for people of all ages and nationalities. Sport is an ancient and integral part of human culture, and sports contacts are part of the cultural contacts of every country. Sport breaks down boundaries and provides equal opportunities for all people, regardless of race, skin color, religion, age, physical abilities, circumstances, or economic background, to join, participate, and succeed both socially and professionally.

It is also worth noting that in many countries sport is included in the sphere of foreign cultural policy. As an example, we can mention the concept of Uzbekistan foreign cultural policy, which states that relations in the field of physical culture and sports should be considered an important means of mutual understanding, expression of goodwill and strengthening relations between peoples. Contacts through sports federations, societies, and clubs through the exchange of sports delegations, coaches, and

specialists, as well as through the participation of athletes and teams in international sports competitions, create a favorable "climate" for interstate interaction.

One of the most popular sports is football, which is the most popular sport in the world. Since football is a team sport, it forces all players to interact with each other. Currently, the main goals of sports and sports competitions are: obtaining financial benefits from sporting events, achieving certain individual success in sports through competition, demonstrating the strength and authority of one state over others, however, perhaps one of the main goals of sports is humanitarian, which is reflected in the mottos, slogans, and concepts of most competitions. Humanitarian activities have gained independent importance in the work of individual sections, conferences, symposiums and other events, which are currently an important part of sports competitions.

However, today there are a number of sports competitions, the content of which is directly related to humanitarian activities. The program of such competitions is dedicated to helping people who find themselves "thrown out" of ordinary life, in need of support and assistance from the international community. It should be noted that the processes of humanization in sports and the humanization of international relations developed almost in parallel, which allowed many reputable football organizations, such as FIFA and UEFA, to cooperate very fruitfully.

It is football, because football is the most popular and team sport and forces players to constantly interact with each other. International organizations and clubs are trying to use the enormous potential of football for noble purposes: for the benefit of humanitarian and social development, the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, as well as to promote the idea of peace. In addition, a large number of football championships are held under the motto of humanitarian issues. "Football can bring people together and break down barriers, which enables the International Football Association to improve standards of education and health, as well as improve living standards and quality of life around the world".

It is also worth noting the Australian Football League (AFL), which organizes successful intercultural programs that are expanding every day and promotes ideas of racial tolerance. At the moment, thanks to her, there are many football competitions held at the local level, as well as one-time international cups. The AFL is currently actively supporting the development and recruitment of refugees through these intercultural programs, and some of these recruits are now playing in major league soccer.

These players are seen as role models and gain cult hero status among the locals. Thus, holding football competitions or football matches with the participation of refugees can significantly help in the formation of interethnic social relations and the destruction of social barriers.

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