



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S UZBEK SERVICE – RADIO OZODLIK

JUNE 6, 2018

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Uzbek Service, known locally as Radio Ozodlik, began broadcasting to Uzbekistan on March 18, 1953;

WHEREAS, the Uzbek Service has for 65 years produced journalism that shines a light into Uzbek society, exposing news and information that would otherwise not be reported by state-controlled media in Uzbekistan;

WHEREAS, despite operating in one of the most restricted societies in the world, the Uzbek Service has successfully cultivated a wide network of contacts and sources inside of Uzbekistan to uncover news and engage with audiences, pursuing constant innovation and dedication to its mission;

WHEREAS, the Uzbek Service circumvents government restrictions upon access to its content via the use of modern anti-censorship tools as well as a focus on news-gathering and content distribution across mobile and social media platforms;

WHEREAS, the Uzbek Service has demonstrable impact within Uzbekistan, addressing issues that would otherwise be absent from the media market in Uzbekistan, engages in accountability journalism by exposing both disinformation and corruption at all levels of Uzbek government, and empowers people to take an active role in addressing their issues directly to the government via several popular programs; and

WHEREAS, the Uzbek Service has garnered trust among its audiences in Uzbekistan, leading to millions of views of the Service's reporting and record-breaking levels of audience engagement across social media. The Service's work was recognized via YouTube recognizing the Service with a silver plate for surpassing 100,000 subscribers.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) that we commemorate and applaud the 65th anniversary of RFE/RL's Uzbek Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO celebrate and thank current and former members of the Uzbek Service for their dedication to the mission of providing independent news, context and analysis to audiences in Uzbekistan.