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FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN THE USA

Worldwide corruption undermines economic growth, hinders development and destabilizes governments, saps democracy, supplies openings for dangerous gangs like criminals, traffickers and terrorists.

The U.S. Department of State has made anti-corruption a national security priority and works over the globe in order to avoid graft, promote accountability, and empower reformers.

The Department's global anti-corruption efforts have three elements:

1. Preventing Corruption & Increasing Accountability: We assist countries committed to tackling corruption by both strengthening democratic institutions and building new support for reform by empowering citizen advocates to hold governments accountable to global standards.

2. Strengthening Law Enforcement Across Borders: We work with global partners to enhance law enforcement cooperation across borders, improve data sharing between major financial hubs, and develop tools to recover stolen assets.

3. Tackling the Corruption-Security Nexus: We address corruption in the security arena, exposing how corruption threatens national security and the ability to protect citizens, defeat terrorists, and defend national sovereignty.

By prioritizing anti-corruption, the Department of State seeks to make it even harder for criminals and terrorists to take root and spread, to promote governments that are more stable and accountable, and to level the playing field for U.S. businesses to compete in every region [1].

The US faces a vast range of domestic challenges dealt to the abuse of entrusted power for private goal, which is Transparency International's definition of corruption.

Key issues include the influence of wealthy individuals over government; "pay to play" politics and the revolving doors between elected government office, for-profit companies, and professional associations; and the abuse of the US financial system by corrupt foreign kleptocrats and local elites.

The United States believes addressing corruption begins with countries around the world sharing a common vision and a strong commitment to taking effective, practical steps to prevent and prosecute

corruption. To turn talk into action, the United States directly engages other countries, promotes internationally recognized standards, sponsors reform programming, and contributes to building the architecture for cross-border cooperation. To sustain this effort, INL engages in high-level diplomacy and reinforces the important role played by civil society, the media and the business community.

Promoting Shared Standards and Building Political Will: The United States helped negotiate the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and is working around the world to assist governments fulfil their obligations under this comprehensive set of standards. UNCAC covers all aspects of combating corruption, and with over 175 States parties, it is nearly universal. Through UNCAC, as well as separate anticorruption treaties enforced through the Organization of American States and Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the United States has led the effort to create roadmaps and benchmarks for reform in areas such as bribery, conflicts of interest, procurement, and independence of judges.

INL fights crime by helping foreign governments build effective law enforcement institutions that counter transnational crime – everything from money laundering, cybercrime, and intellectual property theft to trafficking in goods, people, weapons, drugs, or endangered wildlife. INL combats corruption by helping governments and civil society build transparent and accountable public institutions – a cornerstone of strong, stable, and fair societies that offer a level playing field for U.S. businesses abroad.

To ensure countries take their commitments seriously, INL is on-the-ground, strengthening the ability of governments and their citizens to promote better public transparency, accountability, and integrity. INL supported the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior to recruit, vet, and train 7,000 new patrol police, restoring citizens' trust in their police force. In Nigeria, INL is providing hands on mentoring to investigators and prosecutors going after the country's most corrupt officials. In a global environment, INL also works with regional and international bodies to bring law enforcement officials together to build networks for cross-border collaboration on cases, compare notes on good practices, and build capacity. INL supports these peer networks and regional initiatives in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Americas, and the Asia-Pacific [2].

Список використаних джерел

1. U.S. Anti-Corruption Efforts [Електронний ресурс] – Режим доступу: <https://www.state.gov/anticorruption/>

2. Combating Corruption and Promoting Good Governance
[Електронний ресурс] – Режим доступу:
<https://www.state.gov/j/inl/focus/combating/governance/index.htm>

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OVERVIEW OF CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF MINORS ACROSS EUROPE

Comparative research, especially in the field of youth justice, is fraught with difficulties. The very definition of a child, the classification of crime or penal custody for children and the extent to which aspects of youth justice are recorded, vary enormously throughout Europe [2, p. 295].

For instance, the terms "juvenile" and "young person" may in some places refer to a person under 18 and in others simply to a person who is treated differently by the criminal justice system from an adult. Most European systems have distinct ways of dealing young people under the age of 21 in conflict with the law. In some European countries, those deprived of their liberty will be detained in "youth custody" until their mid 20s and distinct procedures will be applied to young people over the age of 18 during the sentencing process.

Further, the age of criminal responsibility appears to have different meanings across Europe. The official age of criminal responsibility may not be the earliest age at which a child can be involved with the justice system due to being in conflict with the law [3].

For instance, in England and Wales, it is simply not possible to come before the criminal courts or to be arrested under the age of criminal responsibility, which is at the extremely low age of ten. However, while the age of criminal responsibility in Belgium is set at the much higher age of 18 (or 16 for certain serious crimes) much younger children can be dealt with through the criminal system and deprived of their liberty, even though they are not being given a criminal sanction. Similarly in France, where the age of responsibility is 13, children as young as ten can appear before a judge who can impose community or education orders.

Provided these variations are borne in mind, it remains useful to explore the wide ranging differences of approach towards juvenile justice across Europe. Further, it is also possible to identify developing trends that appear to reflect the global approach to youth crime and punishment.