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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AS A GLOBAL PROBLEM: THE UKRAINIAN AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF COUNTERACTION

The only effective way to reduce and prevent juvenile crime is to balance tough enforcement measures with targeted, effective and intervention initiatives

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Fighting juvenile crime is one of the major problems of national law enforcement authorities. Furthermore, delinquency is found in all nations and is particularly widespread in highly industrialized nations that have large cities. Juvenile delinquency has drastically increased over the years. This oppression created by adolescents is a major concern all over the world. That is why this article is devoted to the analysis of the current Ukrainian situation in the field of juvenile delinquency, its legal regulation both on national and international levels.

The aim of the article is not only to research statistics of crimes committed by children, reasons that push them on a criminal path but also problems of legal regulation of this sphere and the efficiency of law enforcement practice. Due to the fact that today the number of crimes among the youth is increasing, we will also pay attention to prevention of juvenile delinquency, which is primarily a pedagogical problem because it is associated with a particular solution of educational tasks. The following anxious point is that for many young people today, traditional patterns guiding the relationships and transitions between family, school and work are being challenged. Social relations that ensure a smooth process of socialization are collapsing; lifestyle trajectories are becoming more varied and less predictable. In condition of war that Ukraine had to face, in addition to the complicated political and economic situation, and also the increase of the negative indicators of crime, which caused the need to stabilize the crime situation and create circs for positive dynamics in the protection of national security, human life and health. All of the above caused the necessity of implementation of juvenile justice and restorative justice for Ukraine, because the state of juvenile delinquency in the country is the reason of deep concern and determines the need in searching for new means of its prevention.

The topical issues of juvenile delinquency as a global problem are presented in the works of the following scholars: Y.M. Antonyan, T.S. Kegs, V.I. Barca, I.P. Boshkatova, F.G.Burchak, V.M.Burdin, A.J.Grisha, G.A.Dusheyka, D.A. Koretsky, N.Y. Maximov, P.P.Mikhaylenko, L.A.Frost, L.I.Moroz, V.V.Stashysa, V.Y.Trays, S.I. Yakovenko and others.

It is impossible to develop effective prevention programmes without understanding the reasons behind juvenile involvement in criminal activity. Different approaches are used in scientific and practical literature on juvenile crime and violence to define and explain delinquent behaviour by young people. For criminologists, juvenile delinquency encompasses all public wrongs committed by young people who are under sixteen years of age (in some serious cases, the subjects of criminal liability are persons aged from 14 to 16 under the Criminal Code of Ukraine). Sociologists consider the concept more broadly, believing that it covers a multitude of different violations of legal and social norms, from minor offences to serious crimes, committed by juveniles.

Today the problem of juvenile delinquency is complex than ever. Statistics show that 30% of crimes in Ukraine are committed by minors. 26% of adolescent, boarding school graduates replenish the ranks of prisoners. Many adults commit crimes involving minors to avoid responsibility. The investigators state that criminality is rapidly "becoming younger". If earlier the larger part of teenage criminals took 16-year-olds, now more and more 11-year-olds violate criminal law. If we look at statistics in Europe over the last decade, we will see that the number of crimes committed by young offenders has increased by one third. In the UK, every third teenager of 14-15 years old admitted that he or she committed the offense at least once. According to the Metropolitan Police about 170 youth gangs operate in the city. Not surprisingly, that the research held by the UK Barnardo's Charitable Foundation, showed that almost half of Britons (49%) believe that children are an increasing danger for adults as well as for each other. And 43% believe that they must "do something" to protect Britons from children.

So, the high level of juvenile delinquency, the crisis in the social and economic spheres of Ukraine caused the need to

strengthen social protection of children, identify priority areas in this important work, one of which is paying the attention to children in case of their conflict with the law. International and domestic experience shows that implementation of the juvenile justice system is an essential factor that has a positive impact on society and helps to strengthen the position of local communities. The juvenile justice system has existed for over 100 years. The US was a pioneer in this case, when in 1899 it created the first "children's court" in Chicago. Currently, there are several effective models of juvenile justice - Anglo American, Continental, Scandinavian. As a rule, they are based on separate legislation of the judicial system and procedure in the organs of juvenile justice. In the USA a federal law on juvenile justice and prevention of juvenile delinquency (1974) makes up such a basis), in the UK - a number of laws on children and youth (implemented since 1908), in Poland - Act on the procedure for cases of minors (1982 g.) in Canada - the Law on criminal justice for minors (1 April 2003).

In conclusion it should be noted that in Ukraine, the establishment of the system that would protect the rights of a child is a very necessary measure. Experience shows that the social rehabilitation of children who are in conflict with the law is an effective social mechanism that allows to restore physical, psychological and social status of a child using considerable cost savings. Considering the complexity of the demographic situation in Ukraine, the upward trend of juvenile crime and the need to improve the situation in this sphere, social rehabilitation of children-offenders will help to restore their full social status, which ultimately reduce social tension in society and improve the nation's health.

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