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Victimological Aspects of the Behavior of Victims of Domestic Violence

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■ **Abstract.** The relevance of the subject under study is conditioned upon the need for an in-depth study of such a complex social phenomenon as domestic violence, which involves finding out the patterns of formation of victim behaviour of victims of domestic violence. That is why the purpose of this study is to prove and investigate the general and special qualities, properties, nature of victimhood, victimisation and characterise the specifics of the behaviour of victims of domestic violence. To achieve this goal, a complex of philosophical, general scientific, and special legal methods of scientific knowledge was used. The historical method, comparative legal method, system, hermeneutical, structural, and functional method, comparison method, generalisation and other methods of scientific research were applied, which in turn contributed to the effective scientific search for the chosen research subject. As a result of the study, the criminological and victimological aspects of victims of domestic violence are analysed in the context of modern theoretical and legal knowledge. The essence of domestic violence as a social phenomenon and as a crime is considered. The article highlights the general provisions of victimology in the field of scientific and criminological knowledge, as well as individual victimological characteristics of victims of domestic violence. The essence and characteristic features of victim behaviour are revealed, and the factors of victimhood and victimisation are identified. Typical coping strategies are described. The interdisciplinary analysis of victim behaviour of victims of domestic violence allowed us to consider psychological and legal aspects of various demographic segments of victims of domestic violence by gender and age: women, men, children. The system of causal relationship victim – abuser – victim behaviour in domestic violence is found. It is proved that victims of domestic violence are characterised by the presence of signs of emotional and behavioural disorders caused by systematic acts of domestic violence. The provisions formed and set out in the scientific article can be used in law of applicable activities – in the development and improvement of recommendations on preventing and countering domestic violence; research activities – for further research of solving the problem of domestic violence and developing general theoretical and practical recommendations, measures; educational process – during the preparation of lectures, seminars, criminology, victimology, criminal law, family law, social psychology, legal psychology, preventive psychology

■ **Keywords:** legal conduct; domestic violence; crime; abuser; victim; coping strategies

■ Introduction

In modern conditions of development of the processes of state creation, development of the rule of law and formation of a conscious civil society, issues of solving the problems of domestic violence and related vectors of legal behaviour in the family, everyday

life, and family are of particular importance. Thus, “according to the statistics of the National Police, the National Police of Ukraine in 2019 [1, p. 11] registered applications, reports of committed offences and other events related to domestic violence – 141814. Urgent restraining orders were issued – 15878 (of which men – 15259, women – 616). Since 2019, there has been an increase in the number of registered applications and reports of domestic violence-related offences. Among the reasons for this growth may be an increase in public attention to the problem of domestic violence, an increase in public awareness, the adoption of changes in legislation, the introduction

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of new norms and their wide discussion in society, namely in the media and social networks” [1, p. 11]. Therewith, in 2019 under Article 126-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine [2] 588 people were recognised as victims (women – 534, men – 49). Of these, victims of physical violence – 145 (women – 132, men – 12), from psychological – 412 (women – 376, men – 33), from economic – 7 (women) [1, p. 15].

In turn, “according to the statistics that were published during the voting for the Law of Ukraine “On Preventing and Countering Domestic Violence” it is indicated that “over 3 million children in Ukraine annually observe acts of domestic violence or are forced participants in them, and almost 70% of women are subjected to various forms of bullying and humiliation. Every year, about 1,500 women, and this trend has been increasing over the past three years, die at the hands of their own husbands. Children of offended mothers are 6 times more likely to commit suicide, and 50% – to drug abuse. Almost 100% of mothers who were subjected to violence gave birth to sick children – with neuroses, stuttering, enuresis, cerebral palsy, and mental disorders. Domestic violence in Ukraine is the reason for 100 thousand days of hospitalisation, 30 thousand appeals to traumatology departments, 40 thousand calls to doctors. At the same time, only 10% of victims seek help. To this day, many consider such relations “normal” [3].

It is also a matter of concern that domestic violence is the most common cause of family breakdown and divorce. “Victims of domestic violence (mostly women) cannot properly perform their parental duties, as a result of which the level of social orphanhood increases” [4]. And 21% of those who experienced physical violence in childhood also use physical force against children [4].

Thus, the relevance of the chosen research topic is beyond doubt and is due to the public demand for preventing and countering domestic violence. The relevance of the subject under study is also reinforced by the need to overcome stereotypical ideas about the privacy of legal behaviour in the family, family, everyday life, as well as by increasing the role of social control in preventing deviant behaviour in interpersonal relationships.

The purpose of this study is an analysis of victimological aspects in relation to victims of domestic violence. To achieve this purpose, the following tasks were outlined and performed: to highlight the historical aspects of the formation of the theoretical foundations of victimology as the doctrine of the victim; to determine the essence of the concepts: victim, victim, victim, victim behaviour; to outline conceptual approaches to the study of victim behaviour of the individual; determine the determining factors of victimisation of victims of domestic violence and consider the victimological aspects of different categories of victims of domestic violence based on gender, age, and

education; generalise received research results and make recommendations regarding the victimological prevention.

■ Literature Review

The problem of victimological aspects and legal behaviour in the family, family, everyday life is the object of close attention of foreign and Ukrainian scientists and practitioners. Researchers are interested in finding out the genesis of victimhood and criminal behaviour, which in turn causes *addressing the origins* the doctrine of the victim (victimology). “The idea of the victim’s place in the genesis of criminal behaviour is not new, it occurs in numerous literary sources since ancient times” [5, p. 223]. Among the famous scientists of the past, whose ideas and activities are directly related to the formation and development of victimology, it is worth mentioning the name of the German scientist Hans von Hentig, the Romanian researcher B. Mendelssohn, the Swiss scientists G. Elenberger and R. Gasser, the Lithuanian scientist L. Frank. The works of the above-mentioned scientists contributed to the formation of victimology as a branch of criminology.

In 1940, Hans von Gentig published his scientific work [6]. In this scientific article, the scientist expresses the opinion that there is a relationship between individual categories of criminals and the corresponding categories of the victim and identifies forms of victim behaviour (a victim who succumbs, contributes, or provokes a criminal situation). The author also outlines and presents widespread characteristics of the types of victims. Thus, for example, for the depressive type of victim, according to the scientist, the instinct of self-preservation is weakened [6, p. 304]. Subsequently, in 1948, the scientific work of Hans von Gentig was published [7]. where the researcher offers a new thesis in criminology – the role of the victim and focuses on how certain traits, features of the victim form the aggressive tendencies of the criminal [7]. Gradually, the doctrine of sacrifice became complex and interdisciplinary.

The current state of development of victimology is represented by various areas of theoretical research and practical developments in applied application. Thus, some issues of criminological definition of the term “victim of crime” were investigated by D. Vygovskyi, T. Nikiforova [8]. Analysis of victimhood as the main category of victimology was performed by B. Holovkin [9]. The problem of the victim of crime as the main element of victimology was studied by O. Dolgiy, T. Mudryak, L. Omelchuk [10]. Ya. Chaplak and G. Chuiko investigated victimhood as a socio-psychological problem of modern times [11]. Special attention should be paid to the dissertation thesis of V. Tulyakov, which is a fundamental scientific work in the field of criminal law, criminology, and victimology [12].

The search for solutions to the problems of domestic violence and legal behaviour in the family, everyday life, and family was carried out by many Ukrainian scientists. M. Pashkovska made methodological recommendations on preventing and countering domestic violence by national police units [13]. The study of the victimological portrait of victims of life-threatening domestic violence was carried out by M. Kuznetsov [14]. Features of coping strategies and types of victim behaviour in women who have experienced domestic violence, and those who have not had any facts of violence were studied by T. Klebais and K. Chernets [15]. The issue of male victimhood in the modern family is presented in the study by M. Dikova-Favorska [16].

Research in the context of comparative law plays a vital role in scientific research on the genesis of victimhood and other victimological aspects of victims of domestic violence. According to researchers from Rutgers University, N. Bhardwaj, J. Miller, who conducted a comparative interethnic analysis of domestic violence, such work brings us closer to understanding the common and different causes, patterns, and consequences of domestic violence in society and emphasises that marriage, religion and global processes reveal theoretically significant variations in the experience of women experiencing domestic violence [17]. N. Bhardwaj, J. Miller notes that domestic violence is a global phenomenon that affects countless lives, which in turn leads to the further development of intersectional comparative studies [17].

Interesting and promising scientific studies of the problem of victimhood in domestic violence are presented in the works of modern Canadian scientists. Thus, a historical retrospective of the 40-year practice of operating shelters (homes for living) of women victims of domestic (marital) violence was carried out by the Canadian researcher I. Côté [18]. The ethical difficulties associated with working with women who have suffered from domestic violence and do not want to report violence to the authorities have attracted the attention of Canadian scientists C. Lalande, S. Gauthier, M. Bouthillier [19]; the evolution of the social network of women victims of domestic violence was considered by scientists A. Nolet, C. Morselli, M. Cousineau [20].

The relationship between violence against women, victimisation of women and abuse of children by women in the context of domestic violence was studied by a group of Canadian scientists, in particular: D. Damant, S. Lapierre, C. Lebossé, S. Thibault et al. [21]. The results of the study revealed a connection between victimisation of women, violence against women, and subsequent abuse of children by women in the context of domestic violence. It is argued that women's abuse of their children can be seen as a consequence of their personal experience of domestic violence.

Therewith, women who have suffered from violence have free will, and therefore are responsible if they decide to use violence against their children [21].

Analysing the victimological aspects of victims of domestic violence, the question of the victim's response to manifestations of domestic violence naturally arises by contacting law enforcement agencies and the police. For example, the study of factors that encourage, encourage, or prevent victims from reporting domestic violence and contacting the police was carried out by R. Felson, S. Messner, A. Hoskin and G. Deane [22]. The results of the study showed that the response of victims to attacks is quite a complex issue. Based on the generally accepted perception that victims of domestic violence, especially women, are reluctant to call the police, the researchers found that victims of domestic violence are less likely than victims of other types of violence to go to the police because of concerns about privacy, privacy and fear of revenge on the part of the abuser and at the same time a desire to protect the offenders. Therewith, scientists pay attention to the victim's desire for self-defence, gender role and the victim-criminal relationship regarding the reporting to the police [22].

Rethinking access to justice through the eyes of survivors of domestic violence in rural areas was studied by American scientists A. Magnus and F. Donohue [23]. Analysing the problems of domestic violence in rural areas, scientists emphasise that access to justice, as a theoretical construction and applied principle in the US legal system, can be used in many ways [23].

Thus, the analysis of scientific works of Ukrainian and foreign scientists shows that despite a significant number of scientific developments, the solution of the problem of domestic violence does not lose its relevance and encourages us to find out the components of the links in the system of causal relationship of domestic violence, and in particular, to understand the features of the nature, sources, and factors of victimhood in domestic violence.

■ Materials and Methods

The methodological tools were chosen considering the purpose, object, and subject of the study. The theoretical and methodological framework of this study constitutes a pluralistic approach to scientific knowledge of victimological aspects of victims of domestic violence. A set of philosophical, general scientific and special methods and techniques was used to solve these problems. Thus, the use of the historical method allowed us to consider the retrospectives of the formation and development of the science of the victim of criminal attacks; the use of the system method allowed us to consider the process of victimisation of the person and identify the structural components of determination, as a result of the interaction of various

factors: objective, subjective, internal, external, acquiring the essence of biological and social characters; with the help of the hermeneutical method, individual units of the potentially categorical apparatus of victimology, as the doctrine of the victim, are revealed and interpreted. The structural and functional method helped to present the results of the study on a modular system. Scientific developments of modern Ukrainian and foreign scientists are considered using the comparative method. Classification as a type of analysis was applied when considering the variability of victim behaviour; the generalisation method was used to find out the general and characteristic features inherent in a person as a victim of domestic violence; the regression analysis method was used to search for hidden patterns and features of the formation of victim behaviour and identify an interdependent connection with the coping strategy.

The information base of the study was the current regulations of the current legislation of Ukraine and official statistical data. Namely: the Law of Ukraine No. 2229-VIII “On Preventing and Countering Domestic Violence” of 12/07/2017 [24]; Letter No. 1/11-5480 of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine “Methodological Recommendations for Preventing and Countering Violence” dated 05/18/2018 [3]; Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 728-R “On Approval of the Concept of the State Social Programme for Preventing and Countering Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence for the Period Up to 2025” of October 10, 2018 [4].

■ Results and Discussion

Domestic violence in its consequences and actions is one of the key problems of public and private existence. However, the nature of the problem of domestic violence is a complex causal chain, the solution of which requires balance, objectivity, legality. In situations of domestic violence, social and personal configurations can be traced, which are a complex of objective and subjective conditions and factors that accumulate unmotivated manifestations of aggression and form favourable conditions for domestic violence.

In addition, “contradictions of public opinion regarding the background phenomena of domestic violence and the preservation of discriminatory ideas about behaviour models and overcoming conflicts complicate the solution of problematic situations of domestic violence” [25, p. 81].

Against this background, “domestic violence has deep roots in outdated oppression based on inter-sex, economic or physical dominance in family relationships. Such violence is committed with the illegal intention of causing direct or indirect influence on the behaviour of a dependent family member and is associated with causing material or moral damage. Moreover, the lack of understanding and condemnation

of such offences in society and in individual families makes it particularly difficult to counteract domestic violence” [26].

At the same time, the problems of latent and open forms of domestic violence are often associated with moral and psychological failure, cultural taboo, fear of judgment, shame and other unfavourable ideas that are the result of long-term stereotypical thinking about the criterion of legality in the family, everyday life, family. This vision is based to a considerable extent on the factors of micro – and macro – culture of tolerance, inertia, outdated modes of normativity and deviation in Family-Family and everyday relations. The current problems are compounded by the inability to properly protect one’s honour, dignity and defend one’s legitimate rights and interests. In this regard, one of the strategic tasks of the principal guide to preventing and countering domestic violence is to overcome stereotypical discriminatory ideas about legal behaviour in family and family relations and develop a fresh style of interpersonal communication.

In this context, it is worth paying attention to the results public opinion research, carried out by Ukrainian scientists G. Kuzan and N. Hordiienko [27, p. 131]. As a result of the conducted research, several provisions are formulated. According to G. Kuzan and N. Hordiienko, it is established: “systematic unjustified jealousy on the part of a man, which often ended in threats and scandals, women explained the ban on communicating with colleagues primarily by their husband’s love, jealousy or ordinary unbalance. Financial restrictions of the wife, total control on the part of the husband over expenses from the family budget were most often explained by his thriftiness and the fact that he is the real owner or the dependence of the wife on her husband, if her earnings are small” [27, p. 131].

In turn, O. Dmytrashchuk also emphasises that domestic violence is characterised by group victimisation of the female sex. The victim who has been harmed by domestic violence is a woman over the age of 18, married, working, has a secondary education, and lives together with the abuser. Such a person is prone to passive behaviour and due to their psychophysiological characteristics, is not able to resist the abuser, which contributes to the commission of domestic violence. The abuser causes harm to the victim with this characteristic [28, p. 143].

The problem of victim behaviour of victims of domestic violence against vulnerable categories of the population is particularly acute: people with disabilities; children; the elderly; people who are in difficult life circumstances and have the highest risk of insufficient social or psychological protection.

Regarding the use of alcoholic beverages and the crime of domestic violence, it is worth noting that almost one in six cases of domestic violence (16%) was committed during or at once after drinking alcohol.

At the same time, women are 3 times more likely than men to commit domestic violence while sober. This trend looks quite natural against the background of the deterministic role of victim behaviour in the mechanisms of domestic violence committed by people revealed above of different intensity [29, p. 92].

At the same time, we emphasise that the essence of the category “victim of crime” is still quite contradictory in science and practice. It is argued that the concept of “victim” is a broader concept than “victim”. The conceptual provision in this sense is the statement of V. Tulyakov that “any individual (social community) who has suffered physical, material, or moral damage by the crime is recognised as a victim of a crime” [12, p. 11].

Considering the distinction between the definitions of the concept of “victim”, “victim” and “injured person”, it should be noted that Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine “On Preventing and Countering Domestic Violence” states as follows: “a person who has suffered from domestic violence (hereinafter referred to as the victim) is a person who has experienced domestic violence in any form” [24, p. 1]. In criminal proceedings, the victim is one of the parties taking part in criminal proceedings, with the definition of the status of “victim” and is endowed, per the Criminal Procedural Code and the fundamental principles of judicial proceedings, with the corresponding subjective rights and legal obligations. Paragraph 2 of Article 55 of the Criminal Procedural Code of Ukraine States: “the rights and obligations of a victim arise in a person from the moment of filing an application for committing a criminal offence against him or an application for involving him in proceedings as a victim” [30, p. 55].

In general, victim behaviour, as well as the phenomenon of “victimhood” cover, among other things, socio-demographic, socio-role, criminal-legal, moral, and psychological components. Under these circumstances, S. Hura emphasises the importance of analysis in victimhood, its forms, and phenomena in various spheres of life. This approach allows, according to S. Hura: “to determine the features of interaction between the victim and the criminal in the mechanism of criminal behaviour” [31, p. 32].

Let us consider scientific approaches to defining the concepts of “victimism” and “victim behaviour”. For example, N. Lishchuk tends to recognise the complex structure of victimhood, according to which victimhood is considered as “a complex of relatively stable typical social and (or) psychological (less often physiological) personality traits that determine in interaction with external circumstances an increased “ability” of a person to become a victim of crime” [32, p. 99]. According to N. Lishchuk, the properties of a person’s ability to become a victim of a crime can be corrected, changed, and even completely neutralised. The researcher

notes: “victimisation is primarily a personal characteristic. A person can contribute to their own victimisation by victim behaviour, both considering these victim personal inclinations, and due to a random combination of circumstances” [32, p. 100].

V. Tulyakov notes: “victimhood as the ability of a subject to become a victim of a socially dangerous manifestation and acts in its general theoretical understanding as a social phenomenon (status characteristics of role victims and behavioural deviations from safety standards), mental (pathological victimhood, fear of crime, and other anomalies) and moral (interiorisation of victimogenic norms, rules of behaviour of the victim and criminal subculture, self-determination of oneself as a victim)” [12, p. 15].

N. Lishchuk notes the relationship of guilty behaviour with the characteristics of the victim’s personality. The researcher claims that guilty behaviour is often “a consequence and implementation of victimogenic deformity of the victim’s personality” [32, p. 103].

The article substantiates the opinion that victimhood is considered at the individual, group, and mass levels. In turn, victimisation is considered by scientists as a process of formation and development of victimhood, at various levels of organisations of social communities (individual, group, mass levels), which is based on factors of social and psychological nature [33, p. 12].

In this context, it is worth noting the position of V. Tulyakov, who emphasises: “victimhood and criminal behaviour of a person are formed through antagonism between the levels of recognition (social aspect), opportunities (mental aspect) and claims (moral, spiritual aspect), and at the mass level reflect various manifestations of the existence of deviation as a social form” [12, p. 8].

V. Tulyakov states: “the homeostatic interaction of dependent but independent manifestations of criminal and victim behaviour forms a stable criminogenic system. This process occurs at the level of both the social whole and individual groups and individuals” [12, p. 11].

It is also worth noting the opinion of S. Hura on the allocation of general and specific victimhood. Thus, according to S. Hura, general victimisation is represented by the social, role and gender characteristics of the victim. At the same time, “specific victimhood is realised in the attitudes, properties, attributes of the individual” [31, p. 36].

In this regard, scientists distinguish the following types of victim behaviour: legitimate; neutral; illegal. In turn, according to the degree of risk, there are: a random victim; a victim with a low degree of risk; a victim with an increased degree of risk; a victim with a remarkably high degree of risk. Depending on the stages of criminal influence, victims are distinguished: potential; real; latent. According to the principle of

activity and critical perception, there are: active; proactive; passive; non-critical. In addition, victim behaviour is divided into individual; specific; group; mass.

Without denying the logic of the above statements, we emphasise that the degree of victimhood of any person can be minimised depending on whether a person chooses the best behaviour option to prevent a victimogenic situation [10, p. 32].

According to A. Dzhuzha and D. Tychyna: “the fundamental provision on the partial dependence of the criminal’s behaviour on the victim’s behaviour becomes important. Of course, the actions of the victim can also be different due to their legal assessment, namely: illegal, legitimate, indifferent from the point of view of law, and sometimes morality. In some cases, the behaviour of victims often serves as an impetus for the commission of a crime” [34, p. 91].

The above provisions also apply to victimhood in family and family relations. Thus, S. Filippov notes: “victimisation of a person who has suffered from domestic violence is defined as an integral property of the individual, which is characterised by low self-esteem, disproportionately critical attitude to oneself; an increased level of anxiety; a low ability to overcome external pressure; a noticeable attitude to helplessness; such behavioural dispositions in family relations that are guided by victim stereotypes” [35, p. 158-159].

Given this, even the very fact of provocations in domestic violence often has the usual character of long-term systematic conflict interaction of both the offender, the victim, and observers, conquerors, and other third parties, creating a gradually threatening atmosphere of hatred, rage, revenge, and over time becomes a potential risk of crime. N. Honcharova notes that experts in the field of criminal law and criminology have repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that prolonged domestic violence is highly likely to lead to the commission of a crime either by the subject of violence or by its victims. In the first case, a person who commits violence against their loved ones, without meeting adequate resistance, gradually becomes confident in their own impunity, and from swearing and insults passes to bullying and beatings, which can later end in injury or death of victims of violence in the second – the ongoing process of violence leads to the accumulation of frustrating emotions in the victim and subsequently to a surge of aggression in the form of a dangerous criminal act – murder, causing grievous bodily harm, etc. There is also a third variant of the development of events when for some time there is a periodic inversion of psychological roles in the rapist-victim dyad, and only on the case depends who will eventually become the subject of the crime, and who is the victim [36, p. 141].

At the same time, we will pay attention to the characteristics of the victim/injured person, which is indicated in the methodological recommendations

for preventing and countering violence [3]. Thus, the injured person – “this is often a person who sees the act of violence to get love through suffering”. Victims have problems with setting boundaries, boundaries, do not know how to defend them, and you can interfere in their space with impunity. Their inherent features are shame, problems with a sense of self-esteem. The victim of cyclical violence can enjoy the benefits of violence, such as the opportunity to take advantage of feelings of guilt felt by the perpetrator during periods of tranquillity, or to receive pity from others (compassion). Psychologists also apply such a concept as “acquired helplessness” to victims – a phenomenon that is formed because violence was not protected, it could not be avoided, it was indulged, and therefore, protection from it has lost its meaning. That is, a person begins to use their position as a victim to obtain certain benefits” [3].

Researcher N. Lishchuk emphasises: “according to most experts, women victims of domestic violence are characterised by a passive-contemplative position, feelings of fear, anxiety, patience, sacrifice, and rigidity. There is the presence of low self-esteem, self-doubt, dependence on a man, imbalance, which can manifest itself in increased emotionality, vulnerability or inadequate reactions, aggression” [32, p. 78]. In this context, it is also worth paying attention to the so-called “beaten woman syndrome” (“*Le syndrome de la femme battue*”).

Victimisation of child victims of domestic violence deserves special attention in the structural segmentation of victims of domestic violence. Children are known to belong to one of the most vulnerable demographic groups. Therefore, without a doubt, raising a child in an atmosphere of harmony, harmony, and kindness is the key to its development neuropsychiatric health and successful comprehensive development. But family troubles, misunderstandings, the inability of adult family members, family members to find compromises in advance and constructively resolve conflicts negatively affect the mental, physical, moral development of the child, his legal socialisation, which leads to the likelihood of increasing marginality and the problem of “social orphanhood”.

When conducting research on the victimological aspects of domestic violence, it is also worth paying attention to the phenomenon of male victimhood in domestic violence. The problem of male victimhood is relevant in the segmentation of domestic violence and is understudied. Accordingly, there are not enough comprehensive studies of the voiced segment. Although statistics of domestic violence show that about 10% of men suffer from domestic violence. At the same time, the latency of domestic violence against men is significantly higher. Usually, men try not to disclose these cases about their suffering as a victim of domestic violence.

However, “90% of victims of violence are women. During 2019, more than 130 thousand complaints of citizens about domestic violence were recorded, which is 15% more compared to the same period last year, of which 88% were from women, 10% from men. 1,055 requests were received from children” [37]. In these circumstances, the opinion of D. Dikova-Favorskaya about the need for new approaches “that would take into account the interests of men and recognise domestic violence not only as a gender problem, but as a problem of a general social scale “seems reasonable [16, p. 231].

In the scientific work of D. Dikova-Favorska, analysing the individual psychological traits of male victims of domestic violence, she concludes that there are common features that are observed in victims of both male and female sex. In particular, there are the following features: “low self-esteem, anxiety, neuroticism, dependence, self-doubt, internal aggressiveness, loss of orientation, as well as lack of formation of moral values, lack of value orientations regarding spiritual development, low respect for oneself and others” [15, p. 230]. The researcher also draws attention to cases of male alcoholism, “when a woman, having no other means of influence, resorts to psychological and economic pressure, or even physical force” [16, p. 230]. D. Dikova-Favorska emphasises: “men who are subjected to domestic violence often have sexual problems or are marked by inadequate gender-role self-identification; in such families, there is a confusion of social roles, which is manifested primarily in the dominance of women, complete subordination and helplessness of a man who has a low level of needs and desires, an unformed sense of self-esteem. The characteristic behaviour of men in conflict is to choose a strategy of avoidance (leaving home) or confrontation (retaliatory violence). Constructive resolution of the family conflict was unsuccessful” [16, p. 230]. It follows from the above that domestic violence, like victimisation in domestic violence, has no age or gender boundaries.

Thus, the universal characteristics of victims of domestic violence include psychological instability, emotional exhaustion, unbalance, feelings of fear, anxiety, intemperance, disharmony. This is to a certain extent combined with psychological incompatibility with the abuser and accumulates outdated grievances, thereby disturbing the psychological balance of these individuals. Failure to independently break the cycle of domestic violence and economic disorder, dependence on a partner produces new acts of domestic violence. Long-term conflicts of domestic violence from time to time give rise to the formation of various forms of deviant behaviour, both passive and active. This in turn indicates an internal conflict of the individual and provokes tragic consequences: bipolar disorder, depression, auto-aggression, or suicide.

V. Papusha, summarising the conceptual provisions regarding the nature of victim behaviour,

identifies the following approaches: a) psychodynamic approach; b) socio-cognitive; c) dispositional. According to the psychodynamic approach, victim behaviour is a “syndrome of pathological personality development” [38, p. 71]. The prerequisite for victim behaviour in this case is “an unconscious internal-personal conflict” [38, p. 71]. In turn, V. Papusha notes: “representatives of the socio-cognitive directly a certain set of behavioural reactions and actions is considered as prerequisites, formed over the course of life”. Therewith, V. Papusha notes: “according to the dispositional approach, its weighty prerequisites are: features of Family Education, forming victim dispositions of the individual and self-stigma as a victim; individual reactions of the individual to environmental conditions, taking into account the phenotype of his parents; features of the influence of personal experience of ontogenetic development; value dispositions of the individual, taking into account his social environment” [38, p. 71].

The multiplicity and multifactorial nature of victim behaviour naturally coordinates the researcher to find out strategies for resolving conflicts in the family-family household sphere and to the so-called phenomenon of coping strategies. Coping in the example from English means “to overcome”. Coping strategy covers cognitive, emotional, and behavioural strategies for coping with stressful environments. The definition of coping strategies of the individual allows you to reveal and interpret the trend of style and behaviour patterns when overcoming various obstacles. The phenomenon of coping strategies is quite clearly manifested in the origin, formation, and development of the model of overcoming difficulties in the family and household family sphere and provides a certain legal understanding of the abuser-victim, revealing at the same time the prospects and conditions for the transformation of stressful conflict situations, misunderstandings into motivating factors of domestic violence. This allows finding structural elements of the genesis of victim behaviour of victims of domestic violence in the polyphony of the deep conflict “domestic violence”.

S. Hrabovska, M. Yesyp note the existence of different approaches to the interpretation of the phenomenon of coping strategy. Scientists distinguish psychoanalytic, dispositional transactional directions. Thus, according to the authors: “in the psychoanalytic approach, coping is understood as a mechanism of psychological protection; dispositional – as a person’s tendency to overcome difficulties, depending on the personality traits of a person; transactional – as a set of cognitive and behavioural efforts aimed at solving a problem; in the resource approach, attention is focused on the various opportunities that a person has” [98, p. 188].

An important characteristic feature of choosing

coping strategies is the relationship of coping strategies with individual psychological personality traits. Very revealing in this sense are the scientific achievements of Ukrainian scientists T. Klibais and K. Chernets regarding the coping strategies of women who have experienced domestic violence and suffer from domestic violence. Thus, in 2019, T. Klibais and K. Chernets presented to the academic community and a wide audience the results of the study “coping strategies and types of victim behaviour in women who have experienced domestic violence and those who did not have any facts of violence”. The results of the study showed that among women who have suffered from domestic violence, the most common coping strategies are: a) “escape-avoidance”; b) “distancing” [15, p. 153]. In addition, T. Klibais, K. Chernets note: “women who have experienced domestic violence are most often inclined to use confrontational coping, escape-avoidance strategy and search for social support in stressful situations” [15, p. 152]. Therewith, “the most successful types of behaviour used by women who have not experienced domestic violence were identified: self-control strategies and problem-solving planning” [15, p. 153]. In addition, as T. Klibais and K. Chernets note, “for women who have never experienced domestic violence, the main coping strategy is to create a plan to get out of a critical situation” [15, p. 152]. Currently, “women who have not experienced domestic violence are more likely to use a self-control strategy in demanding situations” [15, p. 152].

The determinants of victimisation of victims of domestic violence are a complex of interrelated factors of a biological and social nature. Along with biological factors, there are also social factors, namely the legal and economic status in the social hierarchy, the level of mandatory social security, the social role, etc. Biological factors include, first, the presence of certain pathological changes in cells, tissues, and organs of various etiological origin, which under certain conditions give rise to the inability of the victim to adequately defend their legal rights and interests and, accordingly, protect themselves and (or) their relatives and relatives. Structural elements that characterise individual psychological factors include intellectual, sensory, and emotional loads in the personal sphere, internal tension, and “frustration”. In the formation and formation of victim behaviour and the affirmation of the role of the victim in domestic violence, actions and actions, views, reasoning produced by pathogenic thinking acquire a peculiar significance. Often, the first bricks of victim behaviour are laid in childhood. When in the family circle, the family begins to instil the label “victim” in a small child; they delay with ideas, beliefs of pathogenic thinking and words like “unhappy, ugly, loser”, thereby forming the “stigma of the victim” and victim behaviour. The “victim stigma”

and victim behaviour formed in primary socialisation sometimes become one of the catalysts for domestic violence and manifest themselves in the long-term role of the victim, which has been fixed for years, and the inability to independently break the circle of domestic violence. A separate place in this sense is occupied by the so-called “victim syndrome”. Thus, in the formation and development of victim behaviour in family-household, family role interaction, along with situational factors, environmental and genetic factors occupy a prominent place.

The analysis of the studied problems suggests that any inconsistency in family and household kinship relations with the inability and lack of readiness, desire, ability, and conditions for a constructive solution to the conflict gradually encourages the accumulation of complaints and claims and the distribution of roles of the abuser, victim, observers, instigators, advisers. At the same time, with the identification of the roles of participants in a deep polyphonic conflict and a socially dangerous act, which is domestic violence, increased attention of the researcher is drawn to finding out the analytical quantitative and qualitative characteristics that are associated with the existence of the phenomenon of victimhood of victims of domestic violence. It is the above-mentioned context that determines the researcher to find out the stable and natural in the problem of victimhood and victimisation of victims of domestic violence and, accordingly, encourages the search for the relationship of the individual, special and general, which in turn serves as a significant factor for studying the relationship between objective and subjective in the behaviour of victims of domestic violence. Taking this approach into account, the general classification characteristics of victim behaviour are indicated. Therewith, it is necessary to use both the fundamental and special foundations of the doctrine of sacrifice. The fundamentals stand for the initial canons of general victimology theory and victim behaviour theory. Special principles hold specific structural elements of victimhood of certain types and groups, categories, namely victimhood of victims of domestic violence. In this process, there is a close private abuser-victim interaction, situational conditions of the dynamics of legal reality, psychological compatibility-incompatibility, culturally defined narratives of a stereotypical model of legal conduct, legal national mentality, cultural and traditional customs, fragmentary changes in the life cycle, etc.

Summing up the above provisions, it is also worth noting the role of victimological prevention in the field of preventing and countering domestic violence, as a set of measures aimed at slowing down the rate of victimisation and preventing, identifying, eliminating and neutralising victimhood factors. Under these circumstances, victimological prevention is divided into primary; secondary; tertiary prevention. Macro-

micro-, and meso-levels of victimological prevention are also distinguished. General and special victimological prevention are distinguished by their target orientation. Separately, we note social and individual victimological prevention. In particular, individual victimological prevention, along with social and spiritual components, includes the individual's own work to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities to reduce the influence of victimogenic determination factors and, accordingly, minimise victimogenic situations. This implies finding the individual's own resources, developing the individual's own autonomy, which, among other things, acts as a significant predictor of a harmonious well-coordinated existence of the individual.

■ Conclusions

Thus, the results of the study allowed us to emphasise the complexity of the social phenomenon of domestic violence as a social phenomenon and as a socially dangerous act. The analysed main theoretical approaches provided an opportunity to highlight a wide range of scientific views on the source of victimhood, victim behaviour and identify moral, psychological, mental, and legal characteristics of victims of domestic violence. The results obtained indicate a complex system of causal chain of macro-and microenvironment

factors, and, accordingly, raise many new questions for the researcher about the nature and factors of victim behaviour in domestic violence. Given the above, the authors of this study conclude that victims of domestic violence are characterised by the presence of emotional and behavioural disorders, which are caused, among other things, by systematic acts of domestic violence.

A characteristic feature is psychological instability, emotional exhaustion, unbalance, feelings of fear, anxiety, intemperance, disharmony. This is to a certain extent combined with psychological incompatibility with the abuser and accumulates outdated grievances. At the same time, the inability to independently break the circle of domestic violence and economic disorder (lack of economic, psychological, moral autonomy, dependence on a partner) produce new acts of domestic violence, depriving a person of a harmonious perception of their own being. Such forms of deviant behaviour as auto-aggression, suicidal behaviour, and other adaptive behaviour disorders are particularly relevant in domestic violence. These signs, in turn, indicate many questions that remained outside the scope of this work and emphasise the need for further interdisciplinary research on the genesis of victimhood in domestic violence by group and species, as well as the development of appropriate preventive and rehabilitation measures.

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Віктимологічні аспекти поведінки жертв домашнього насильства

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■ **Анотація.** Актуальність теми значною мірою обумовлена необхідністю поглибленого дослідження такого складного соціального феномену, як домашнє насильство, що передбачає з'ясування закономірностей формування віктимної поведінки жертв домашнього насильства. Метою статті є встановлення та дослідження загальних і спеціальних рис, властивостей, природи віктимності, віктимізації, а також визначення специфіки поведінки жертв домашнього насильства. Для реалізації поставленої мети використано комплекс філософських, загальнонаукових і спеціально-юридичних методів наукового пізнання. Застосовано історичний, порівняльно-правовий, системний, герменевтичний, структурно-функціональний методи, а також методи порівняння, узагальнення тощо, які сприяли ефективному науковому пошуку обраного предмета дослідження. Унаслідок проведеного дослідження проаналізовано кримінологічно-віктимологічні аспекти жертв домашнього насильства в контексті сучасних теоретико-правових знань. Розглянуто сутність домашнього насильства як соціального явища та як злочину. Висвітлено загальні положення віктимології в галузі науково-кримінологічного знання, а також окремі віктимологічні характеристики жертв домашнього насильства. Розкрито сутність і характерні особливості віктимної поведінки, виокремлено чинники віктимності та віктимізації. Описано типові копінг-стратегії. На підставі міждисциплінарного аналізу віктимної поведінки жертв домашнього насильства встановлено психологічні та правові аспекти різних демографічних сегментів жертв домашнього насильства за статевою та віковою належністю: жінки, чоловіки, діти. Визначено систему причинно-наслідкового взаємозв'язку «жертва – кривдник – віктимна поведінка» у домашньому насильстві. Встановлено, що жертвам цих протиправних діянь притаманні ознаки емоційних і поведінкових розладів, які спричинені систематичними актами домашнього насильства. Викладені в науковій статті положення можуть бути використані у: правозастосовній діяльності під час розроблення, удосконалення рекомендацій з питань запобігання, протидії домашньому насильству; науково-дослідній діяльності – для подальшого дослідження проблематики домашнього насильства й розроблення загальнотеоретичних і практичних рекомендацій, заходів; освітньому процесі – під час підготовки лекцій, семінарів з кримінології, віктимології, кримінального права, сімейного права, соціальної психології, юридичної психології, превентивної психології

■ **Ключові слова:** правова поведінка; домашнє насильство; злочин; кривдник; жертва; копінг-стратегії