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COMBATING FAMILY VIOLENCE: FOREIGN EXPERIENCE

Relevance of research. Research on the topic of combating family violence and analysis of foreign experience is of great relevance, since family violence is a serious social problem that affects the safety, health and well-being of families and communities. Researching this problem can contribute to its understanding and solution.

Domestic violence leaves serious psychological and physical consequences for victims, and it is important to learn effective ways to help and support them. Many countries have developed various strategies and programs to combat domestic violence. Studying foreign experience can help other countries develop better laws, primarily Ukraine. Foreign experience can also influence legislation and policy in the field of combating domestic violence.

The overall goal of research on this topic is to create better conditions for ensuring the safety and well-being of families by developing and implementing effective strategies to combat family violence based on the best foreign experience.

The purpose of this study is the analysis of foreign experience regarding the specifics of combating violence in the family.

This question was studied in the writings of V. Averyanov, Yu. Bytyak, I. Holosnichenko, E. Dodin, R. Kalyuzhny, T. Kolomoets, V. Kolpakov, A. Komzyuk, and others.

Presenting main material. Domestic violence is one of the most urgent problems that require greater attention at the level of national legislation. This is a violent criminal offense, its manifestation not only violates a person's right to life and normal physical and mental health, but also encroaches on a number of other rights and fundamental freedoms of a person, which are inalienable. In particular, domestic violence encroaches on decent treatment and decent living conditions, freedom of movement, privacy of personal life, the right to protection from torture, cruel or inhumane treatment, the right of minors to normal mental and physical development. And this list can be continued [1, p. 31].

This problem is more acute for economically underdeveloped countries, while women in these countries are more likely to accept such violence against themselves as justified. Thus, the percentage of women who reported that they had experienced domestic violence at least once in their lives varied from 15% in Japan to 71 % in Ethiopia. According to other data, the level of violence against women in the family is about 23 % in Sweden, 4 % in Japan and Serbia, 30–54 % in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Peru and Tanzania [2, p. 3].

Belgian law treats domestic violence as a criminal offence. Domestic violence falls within the scope of Article 442 of the Criminal Code and is considered harassment. Domestic violence is now considered an aggravating circumstance, leading to a harsher sentence. This rule applies to married and unmarried couples and any other person who maintains or has maintained a long-term emotional and sexual relationship with the victim. Since 1997, victims have received police assistance and since 2003, judges have been able to impose restraining orders, and the victim support system has been strengthened with new measures. In May 2001, the first Belgian National Action Plan against violence was introduced, which covers domestic violence and other areas of violence [3, p. 114].

It is worth noting that the adoption by France of the Law No. 2006–399 dated April 4, 2006 «On the strengthening of prevention and punishment for violence in the family or in relation to minors» was the beginning of active opposition to domestic violence. A feature of this Law was the ability of family judges to issue special rulings that ensure the safety of victims of family violence. Such decrees enable a woman who has become a victim of domestic violence to change her place of residence or remove her husband

from her place of residence. In France, in particular, the interaction of police units with a «mobile hotline» has been effectively established, which enables prompt arrival at the scene of domestic violence. In addition, police units have the right to immediately remove persons who have committed domestic violence from the place of common residence with the victim, and the court can order such a measure against domestic violence as the use of electronic ADR bracelets. With the help of these bracelets, the police receives a signal that the person who committed violence in the family is approaching the victim, and they can immediately react to it [2, p. 5].

In Norway, as early as 1988, unconditional prosecution in the case of domestic violence began to operate. The criminal case will be brought to court, even if the woman has withdrawn her statement. Victims of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, have the right to free legal assistance.

Portuguese law also defines domestic violence as a crime. It is classified as «(physical or psychological) cruel treatment of a spouse, a minor or a disabled person» and entails imprisonment from one to five years, while the prosecution of the offender does not depend on the statement of the victim [4, p. 385].

Foreign scientists associate the cause of violence in the family with violence against the parents themselves in childhood (50 % of families in which both father and mother were subjected to violence in the family themselves commit violence against their children). A characteristic feature of German legislation in this area is the focus on removing the person who committed domestic violence from the family. According to German legislation, such a person must leave the residential premises on a police order for a period of up to 10 days. In addition, in Germany there are so-called family violence commissioners' departments among the criminal police units, which deal with cases of domestic violence. Having expanded knowledge in the specified field, employees of these units more effectively conduct investigations and reveal the facts of the circumstances of domestic violence, establish contact with the victim and the aggressor in order to stop future cases of violence [2, p. 4].

The analyzed experience of legal counteraction to family violence and domestic violence in foreign countries regarding counteraction to these types of violence can serve as a serious legal basis for the development of domestic law and law enforcement practice [4, p. 385].

Conclusions. So, summing up, it can be emphasized that the study of the topic of foreign experience of combating violence in the family is an extremely relevant and important task. Domestic violence is a social problem that has serious consequences for victims and society as a whole. Foreign experience in this field can serve as a valuable source of knowledge.

Studying foreign strategies, programs and legislation to combat domestic violence can contribute to improving approaches and policies in this area at the national level. It is also important to consider the gender aspect of this problem and strive to create equal conditions for all family members.

Further research and sharing of experiences in the field of combating domestic violence is essential to improve the lives and safety of many people around the world.

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