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REHABILITATION AND PUNISHMENT IN MODERN CRIMINAL POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF LEGAL ENGLISH TRAINING

Modern criminal policy is undergoing significant transformation, driven by changes in the understanding of the purpose of punishment and the role of offenders within society. The traditional retributive model is gradually being replaced by a more balanced approach that combines punishment with rehabilitation and reintegration. This shift reflects global trends toward the humanization of criminal law and compliance with international human rights standards.

Punishment in contemporary criminal law is no longer viewed solely as a form of state retribution for committed offenses. It also serves preventive purposes, ensuring both general and special deterrence. While general prevention aims to discourage society at large from committing crimes, special prevention focuses on correcting the behavior of a specific offender. However, excessive reliance on punitive measures may lead to social exclusion and hinder successful reintegration into society [1].

Rehabilitation in criminal policy refers to a set of measures aimed at restoring the social status of an offender and facilitating their psychological, professional, and legal reintegration. It includes educational programs, psychological counseling, vocational training, and other forms of

social support. The primary goal of rehabilitation is to reduce recidivism and ensure sustainable reintegration of individuals into lawful society.

An increasingly important concept in modern criminal justice is restorative justice, which emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior rather than focusing exclusively on punishment. This approach seeks to balance the interests of the offender, the victim, and society by promoting compensation, reconciliation, and restoration of social harmony. Restorative justice contributes to more effective resolution of criminal conflicts.

A key issue in modern criminal policy is maintaining an appropriate balance between punitive and rehabilitative functions. Overemphasis on punishment without sufficient rehabilitation efforts may result in prison overcrowding and high recidivism rates. Conversely, excessive leniency may weaken the deterrent effect of criminal law. Therefore, proportionality remains a fundamental principle in shaping criminal policy.

Penitentiary institutions play a crucial role in implementing rehabilitation functions. Their task is not only to isolate offenders but also to prepare them for reintegration into society. The effectiveness of correctional systems largely depends on humane treatment conditions, availability of rehabilitation programs, and access to education and vocational training [2].

International practice demonstrates a clear trend toward reducing the use of imprisonment and expanding alternative sanctions such as probation, community service, and fines. These alternatives are considered more effective in achieving rehabilitation goals and reducing the negative consequences of incarceration.

In Ukraine, criminal policy is also gradually shifting toward humanization. Legislative reforms increasingly introduce alternative forms of punishment, expand probation mechanisms, and improve correctional practices.

However, challenges remain, particularly regarding insufficient funding of rehabilitation programs and limited infrastructure for their implementation [3].

In conclusion, modern criminal policy should regard punishment and rehabilitation as interconnected components of a unified system of crime control. Their balanced integration ensures both accountability and the possibility of successful reintegration of offenders into society. This dual approach reflects the fundamental goals of contemporary criminal law: justice, prevention, and social stability.

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