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## **VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST MINORS**

A violent crime against minors is a serious global issue that has devastating consequences for children and adolescents. It encompasses a wide range of harmful behaviors, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse that affects the normal development of the child through child sexual abuse, child pornography, or sex trafficking of minors. These acts of violence can occur in various settings, such as homes, schools, and communities, at night or day.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. Children, who by definition need the guardianship and care of adults, are among the most vulnerable and innocent victims of crimes.

Criminal child abuse cases most of ten involve physical abuse. For example, a parent or guardian hits a child, causing bodily harm. If the child is seriously injured, law enforcement is likely to treat the incident as a criminal offense. If the abuser is a parent or guardian who lives with the child, the state may also consider charges of domestic violence. Most of ten, parents deny abusing their children, arguing that they were engaging in reasonable physical discipline of the child. This defense most of ten arises when the charge involves spanking the child in a way that leaves marks.

Child sexual abuse is one of the most serious criminal offenses today, severely punished in the criminal justice system.

Sexual crimes against children have devastating and long-lasting consequences. The causes of these consequences can be diverse: children who have been sexually abused may suffer physical injuries, including sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and chronic pain. The psychological trauma that occurs in cases of sexual abuse can lead to serious emotional trauma, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and low self-esteem.

Sexual abuse of a child can interfere with a child's normal development, affecting their ability to form healthy relationships and trust others. Children who have been sexually abused are at higher risk of further abuse or violence in the future.

Victims of violence are more likely to experience a range of problems, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse. Additionally, they may have difficulty forming healthy relationships and may be more likely to engage in criminal activity or become victims of violence themselves in the future.

The causes of violence against minors are complex and multifaceted. They may include factors such as poverty, family dysfunction, substance abuse, mental illness, and societal attitudes that condone violence.

Preventing violence against minors requires a comprehensive approach that can help in the future. It is necessary to start by educating children, parents and citizens about the signs of violence against others, the ability to distinguish it and the importance of reporting violence against minors.

Providing support services to victims of violence, such as counseling, work with a psychologist, post-traumatic therapy and legal assistance, can also affect the investigation of violent crimes, since minors are afraid to talk about it.

In turn, law enforcement agencies must ensure that laws that protect children from violence are implemented and that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

Nowadays, it is possible to develop programs that will help promote healthy interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution and positive parenting.

#### *Список використаних джерел*

1. Convention on the Rights of the Child. URL: <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>

2. Crimes against Children. URL: <https://www.findlaw.com/criminal/criminal-charges/crimes-against-children.html>

3. Violent crimes against Children. URL: <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/vcac>

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### **ENGLISH AS THE LANGUAGE OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH: PROSPECTS FOR UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES**

In today's world, English has emerged as the global language of science, technology, and academic research. It serves as the primary medium of communication within the international scientific community, opening up new opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange. Given the rapid changes in the global information landscape, the importance of proficiency in English within Ukrainian universities and research institutions is growing. Consequently, the teaching of English as the language of science becomes crucial for enhancing the competitiveness of Ukrainian scholars on the international stage.

Firstly, the dominance of English facilitates international collaboration. Ukrainian universities can establish partnerships with foreign institutions, such as joint research projects and exchange programs,