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SOCIO-LEGAL ROOTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND MODERN MECHANISMS FOR COMBATING IT

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Abstract: This article analyzes the underlying causes of domestic violence, its socio-psychological roots, and the mechanisms of legal regulation within both national and international frameworks. The study addresses the latent nature of domestic abuse, the rise of cyberbullying driven by technological advancements, and its profound impact on women and children. Furthermore, it highlights recent legislative reforms in the Republic of Uzbekistan, including pivotal amendments to the Criminal and Family Codes, the enforcement of Protection Orders, and the practical implementation of the National Strategy for Protecting Children from Violence.

Keywords: domestic violence, women's rights, cyberbullying, Protection Order, child protection, Family Code, Article 126-1 of the Criminal Code, social rehabilitation.

INTRODUCTION: In recent years, both globally and within our national society, the concept of "domestic violence" and the issue of combating it have become one of the most pressing legal and social topics. The seemingly increasing reports in the information space regarding assaults and harassment against women and children naturally raise a question: did such offenses exist previously—at the end of the last century—or is this merely a consequence of general digitalization and the development of social networks?

Criminological and sociological analyses indicate that violence within domestic and family relations has always existed. However, for many years, it was treated as a "closed family matter" and concealed under the guise of stereotypes such as "not taking the house's talk out to the street.[1]" Consequently, neither law enforcement agencies nor the general public could fully assess the true scale of the problem.

Concealing domestic violence is akin to a physical illness: just as it is illogical to simply put a bandage on a wound and wait for it to heal on its own, hiding systematic domestic abuse is equally dangerous. A hidden problem leads to severe complications over the years and undermines the stability of the entire society. Today, this issue has acquired the status of a global problem, requiring the establishment of a strict legal norm stipulating that under no circumstances can a victim of violence be blamed for the crime committed against them[2].

MAIN PART (ANALYSIS AND RESULTS)

Forms of Violence and Threats in Cyberspace In law enforcement practice, domestic violence should not be understood solely as inflicting physical injury (beating). According to current legislative norms, isolating an individual from society, restricting their legal rights, constant insults, intimidation by

[1] UN Women. "Handbook for Legislation on Violence against Women". – United Nations, 2021. – 142 p.

[2] Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. – T.: "Adolat", 2023 edition (Articles 126-1, 141-1, and 165).

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creating physical, psychological, or economic dependence, and humiliation are also clear forms of violence.

Particularly in the digitized modern world, cyberviolence (cyberbullying) has become a highly urgent problem. Based on statistical data, nearly 70 percent of the population today are active users of various social networks. In this context, it should be noted that cybercriminals and virtual abusers primarily use the following methods[3]:

Mass writing of derogatory and insulting comments on the victim's personal photos and videos (bullying);

Falsifying an individual's image (deepfakes) using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and graphics software to commit blatant blackmail;

Achieving material gain through psychological pressure and threats.

The main reason for such offenses in cyberspace is the illusion of anonymity formed among criminals on social networks. They fail to realize that their freedom of speech and actions ends at the point where another person's legal rights to inviolability begin[4].

The Social Significance of Protecting Children from Violence The most vulnerable segment of society is children. Violence against a child can occur not only by family members but also in educational institutions and public places. Accordingly, any intentional action or inaction that encroaches upon a child's health, sexual inviolability, or honor is strictly prosecuted by law[5].

In modern sociology, bullying (persecution) against children is being studied separately. Actions such as name-calling, mass boycotting, and confiscation of property cause the individual to grow up with psychological trauma in the future. From this perspective, the state has launched comprehensive legal and administrative mechanisms to protect its young citizens.

Conceptual Reforms in National Legislation In recent years, unprecedented legal reforms have been implemented in our country to honor human dignity. These include:

Improving the Family Code: According to recent amendments (Law No. ZRU-1053), if during divorce proceedings in court the plaintiff (husband or wife) states and proves that they have suffered from domestic violence, the court will not assign the up to six-month reconciliation period. This, in turn, serves to protect the victim from additional psychological pressure.[6]

Stricter Criminal Legislation: The introduction of Article 126-1 ("Domestic (family) violence") into the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan was the most crucial step in this field. From now on, inflicting damage to property, humiliating the honor, and beating a person living in the same household or former spouses with common children will serve as a direct basis for criminal liability (in aggravating circumstances, up to 12 years of imprisonment can be assigned). Additionally, strict

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[3] UNICEF. "Cyberbullying and online violence among youth". – New York: UNICEF Global Report, 2022. – 48 p.

[4] Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. – T.: "Uzbekistan", 2023. – 80 p.

[5] Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On protecting children from all forms of violence" (ZRU-995). // Lex.uz, 2024.

[6] Family Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan (as amended by Law No. ZRU-1053). – T.: "Adolat", 2025.

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administrative penalties for "sexual harassment" were established under Article 41-1 of the Code of Administrative Responsibility.

The Institute of Protection Orders: A practice has been introduced wherein prevention inspectors of internal affairs bodies immediately issue a protection order to women who have faced harassment, and if necessary, its duration is extended up to one year by a court order.

Strategic Protection: Based on Presidential Decree No. UP-256, the "National Strategy for Protecting Children from All Forms of Violence for 2026–2030" is being implemented. The mandate that the testimonies of child victims in criminal proceedings must be obtained solely through video recording is also an important solution for their psychological rehabilitation[7].

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Global studies by the UN show that nearly 30 percent of women worldwide experience some form of violence during their lifetime. Thus, the problem is not specific to a particular region.

The conducted legal and theoretical analyses provide grounds to conclude that in the fight against domestic violence, merely tightening legislation and aggravating punitive measures will not yield the fully expected results. It is crucial to eradicate rusted, unlawful stereotypes in the public consciousness and to shape the legal culture of every citizen from a young age. Only by instilling a firm civic position of "My rights are protected by law" instead of the misguided worldview of "What will people say?" can we build a legal and healthy society.

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