

ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE PREVENTION OF JUVENILE OFFENSES

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In our country, the commission of offenses by minors occurs in conjunction with socio-economic problems. According to the Prosecutor's Office, in 2022 a total of 3,112 minors committed 2,404 crimes, and 3,040 violations of the law were identified as a result of 746 inspections conducted on the implementation of preventive legislation [1]. These figures indicate shortcomings in the prevention system and confirm the relevance of the topic. Protecting children's rights and reducing the number of offenses among the younger generation are priority tasks in all countries; therefore, the prevention of juvenile offenses occupies an important place in the legal development of our society.

Uzbek scholars and legal researchers have carried out a number of studies on the prevention of juvenile offenses. For example, Abbos Ilyosovich Eshmurodov, an employee of an institution under the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan, analyzed prosecutorial oversight in preventing neglect and offenses and studied the legal foundations of this activity [2]. There are also studies devoted to improving preventive measures within the internal affairs system. In particular, S.R. Gofurov of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs examined issues of further improving the activities of internal affairs bodies in preventing offenses among minors [3]. In addition, the criminological and legal literature analyzes the causes and factors of juvenile offenses, methods of prevention, and existing barriers in practice. At the same time, it is noted that the problem should be examined more broadly before the public on the basis of general practice and foreign experience.

According to Yu.S. Pulatov and M.I. Makhsadov, "In our opinion, increasing the effectiveness of combating corruption can be achieved by including in the sanctions of norms that establish criminal liability for official crimes such additional punishments as deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities, deprivation of special, military, or honorary titles, class ranks and state awards, as well as confiscation of property"[4].

The study of the prevention of juvenile offenses serves, in scientific terms, to enrich theories regarding the protection of the rights of future generations and youth policy. Criminology, social

pedagogy, and legal studies enable new analyses in this area and the development of a theory of offense prevention. In practical terms, the results of this research serve to provide applied recommendations for improving legislation, increasing the effectiveness of the prevention system, and further refining local practice. From the standpoint of international standards, the UN and other international organizations emphasize social integration and education in combating juvenile crime [5]. Thus, the study of global practice is an additionally important reason for improving practice.

In the researcher's view, measures aimed at prevention are effective when they are organized on the basis of minors' access to education, upbringing in a family environment, and engagement with the local community. Instead of administrative punishment, it is necessary to strengthen mechanisms of social-educational and psychological assistance. For example, it is advisable to increase the role of educational institutions and local communities in creating opportunities for minors and further improving the institution of community mentors. At the same time, based on academic research, it is deemed necessary to strengthen the role of institutions that oversee the implementation of laws on prevention (for example, the prosecutor's office and protection bodies). In this regard, the author advocates expanding cooperation with the social sphere and civil society institutions in protecting minors.

In Uzbekistan, the prevention of juvenile offenses is regulated by the following key normative legal acts:

- **Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the Prevention of Neglect and Juvenile Offenses”** (29.09.2010, No. 263) — defines the concepts of “minor” and “prevention” and establishes the system [5].

- **The Code of Administrative Liability and the Criminal Code** contain special provisions on minors (including norms on exempting minors from administrative and criminal penalties or applying mitigated punishment).

- **Presidential resolutions and decrees** (e.g., PQ-2833/2017, PQ-2896/2017, PQ-4075/2018) — establish measures to improve the system for the prevention of offenses [6].

- **Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 339 of 03.06.2021** — regulates the procedure for appointing community mentors for minors [2].

- In addition, there are laws and national programs regulating the activities of children's rights protection commissions under schools, preschool institutions, and municipal (city) authorities.

In practice, the system for preventing juvenile offenses is largely reactive. It is noted that work with children in situations of neglect and poverty is often undertaken after an offense has already occurred. According to Eshmurodov, prevention today is limited mainly to registration and accounting after an offense has been committed; a system of advance measures has not been adequately established [3]. It is also noted that the criteria for evaluating the preventive work of internal affairs officers have not been updated and that motivation mechanisms are insufficient. UNICEF reports that although preventive units of internal affairs bodies have been established, the absence of a specialized court system for minors is a major shortcoming [5]. Furthermore, gaps remain in information support and in establishing cooperation between institutions and organizations to increase the effectiveness of preventive measures.

Uzbekistan also aligns with many international treaties and standards in the prevention of juvenile offenses. The country ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992 [4]. The UN Beijing Rules (1985) and the Riyadh Guidelines (1990) emphasize social integration and education in protecting minors from crime [5]. In addition, there are special UN ESCAP (Asia-Pacific) decisions on fair trial for minors, which recommend ensuring special judicial safeguards for juveniles. Although preventive units of internal affairs bodies have been established in Uzbekistan, there are no specialized juvenile courts as indicated by international standards. This analysis shows the need to develop Uzbekistan's legal system in line with international requirements.

Based on the results of the study, the following proposals are advanced to improve legislation. First, it is necessary to introduce specialized courts and positions for cases involving minors. For example, according to international recommendations, specialized courts handling juvenile cases should be established [5]. Second, staff of internal affairs and other relevant bodies should be involved in specialized training courses on working with children, and the number of psychologists and social workers should be increased. Third, the roles of mahallas (community structures) and families should be strengthened by activating the community mentor system and school counseling centers. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen oversight measures for preventive work, train qualified personnel, and engage the public more broadly in these processes. The introduction of the social and educational measures reflected in the guidelines will help reduce juvenile offenses in our country.

In conclusion, legally grounding the prevention of offenses by minors remains an urgent task. The analyses show that although current laws and decisions specify preventive measures, a

number of problems persist in their implementation. To further improve the prevention system, it is necessary to strengthen legislative, oversight, and social support measures. Taking into account the requirements of international standards in the field of crime prevention—particularly UN recommendations—will further improve the legal framework and help protect the rights of youth effectively. Overall, harmonized legislation and its effective implementation to protect the criminal and social rights of minors will contribute to increased youth employment and the maintenance of legality in society.

References.

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