

ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DURING THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME

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INTRODUCTION

In today's society, the protection of children's rights is becoming increasingly important, reflecting a general global concern for the well-being and safety of our "younger" citizens. Children, as the most vulnerable group in society, often face various forms of violations of their rights, including violence, discrimination and lack of access to fundamental human rights. This is especially true during martial law.

The relevance of the topic lies in the fact that children's rights continue to be violated in different parts of the world, despite the efforts of many countries and international organizations. The National Police of Ukraine, as the main element of the law enforcement system, plays a leading role in ensuring the protection and observance of children's rights in our country. The effectiveness of its actions depends not only on the safety of the youngest age group in society, but also on the formation of a sustainable, safe and responsible socio-cultural environment in the future.

The purpose of the study is to conduct a theoretical analysis of the mechanisms used by the National Police of Ukraine to guarantee the observance of children's rights, to identify the problems and challenges faced by the units of the National Police of Ukraine, and to provide suggestions and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of their activities in the field of children's rights and freedoms.

The problematic aspects of the National Police of Ukraine in the field of child protection are of particular relevance during martial law and are of considerable scientific interest, as evidenced by the works of the following scholars: Gusak A.P. "Legal norms of crime prevention of juvenile offenders", Ishchenko L "Preventive work with children: actualization of the issue and research prospects", Pustovyi O.O. "Directions for Improving Special Criminological Measures Aimed at Preventing Crimes Committed by Homeless and Unattended Children", Zelenskyi Y.S. "Police Care of Minors: Content and Procedure for Application", Rumyantseva A.V. "Police Care of Minors as a Form of Child Protection". As part of the research work, the authors also studied legal acts in the field of ensuring and

protecting children's rights, as well as analyzed relevant material from the Ukrainian media.

Modern scientific approaches and methods of scientific research were used in the writing process. The logical-semantic method provided an opportunity to analyze the theoretical foundations of activity and determine the role of the National Police of Ukraine units in the field of child protection. The comparative legal method was used to analyze the types of programs developed by MoIA units in the field of child protection. The activity-based approach made it possible to reveal the content of the implementation of some of the latest practices in the activities of the National Police of Ukraine in the field of child protection.

Thus, within this section of the monograph, we set and plan to ensure the implementation of a number of tasks: to define the role of the National Police of Ukraine in ensuring children's rights; to review the national legislation of Ukraine on the protection of children's rights, which is used by the police in their activities; to characterize the peculiarities of the police's practical work to ensure children's rights; to outline the prospects for creating a specialized police unit to assist children who have suffered as a result of active hostilities on the territory of Ukraine.

1. Theoretical and legal basis of the National Police's activities to protect children's rights during martial law

Modern society faces numerous challenges and difficulties, especially when it comes to protecting the most vulnerable category of people – children. In the context of constant changes and development of social relations, the issue of ensuring the safety and rights of children is becoming the subject of increasingly close attention of scientists. In this context, the active participation of law enforcement agencies becomes an indispensable element of ensuring the rights and freedoms of children. However, in this issue, our attention is focused on the analysis of the activities of the National Police of Ukraine to protect children's rights, and to take measures to prevent and combat child abuse.

Children are the most vulnerable category of society, as they are more likely to be exposed to risks such as domestic violence, labor exploitation and trafficking. In addition to the fact that children may become victims of criminal acts, there is also a risk of an increase in the number of offences committed by minors during martial law.

The above is due to a number of factors, namely. Children are the least protected category of society, children are more vulnerable to the negative influence of circumstances and environment (imitation of deviant behavior); children, within the limits of their development, usually cannot protect their rights on their own; lack of full awareness of the negative consequences of their actions.

In view of the above, there is a need to develop an effective mechanism for the protection of children's rights and freedoms. The activities of the National Police of Ukraine in the area of children's rights can be considered an element of such a mechanism. The National Police of Ukraine, in accordance with its duties, ensures public safety and order; protects human rights and freedoms, as well as the interests of society and the state; combats crime: provides, within the limits established by law, assistance services to persons who, for personal, economic, social reasons or as a result of emergencies, need such assistance¹. The protection of children's rights and freedoms is a contextual task facing the National Police of Ukraine. It should be noted that the National Police of Ukraine is the main law enforcement agency responsible for the protection of the rights and freedoms of minors in accordance with the procedure established by law.

In its activities to ensure the rights and freedoms of children, the police is guided by the Constitution of Ukraine, laws of Ukraine, international treaties of Ukraine ratified by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and other acts of Ukrainian legislation, among which a special place is occupied by the Instruction on the organization of work of juvenile prevention units of the National Police of Ukraine².

Therefore, the role of the police in ensuring the rights and freedoms of children cannot be overestimated. Special attention should be paid to the activities of juvenile prevention units, as it is this unit that directly works with minors. The main areas of work of juvenile police units are:

- Preventive activities aimed at preventing children from committing criminal and administrative offences, identifying the causes and conditions that contribute to this, and taking measures to eliminate them within its competence;
- Maintaining preventive records of children prone to committing offences and conducting individual prevention measures with them;
- Participation in establishing the whereabouts of a child in case of his or her missing or obtaining data for this purpose within the framework of criminal proceedings initiated on the fact of his or her missing;
- Taking measures to prevent and combat domestic violence committed by and against children and child abuse;
- Taking measures to prevent child neglect, including police custody of minors;

¹ Про Національну поліцію України: Закон України. Відомості Верховної Ради, 2015, № 40-41, стор. 379. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/580-19#Текст>

² Про затвердження Інструкції з організації роботи підрозділів ювенальної превенції Національної поліції України: Наказ МВС від 19.12.2017 № 1044. Зареєстровано в Міністерстві юстиції України 07.06.2018 за № 686. /32138. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0686-18#Текст>.

– Interaction with other units of the National Police of Ukraine, state authorities and local self-government bodies on ensuring the rights and legitimate interests of children³.

The activities of the juvenile police in accordance with the above tasks and their methods of working with children which directly derive from their core functions, are essential for the general welfare of the state. Juvenile police units play a leading role in ensuring the safety of children as the most vulnerable category of society, as mentioned earlier. Police involvement helps to prevent crime, builds trust and promotes the development of good values in children's Preventive programs and activities of the juvenile police are aimed at teaching children the rules and responsibilities, and the cooperation of families in crisis situations has a positive impact on their stability. Juvenile police activities also foster civic responsibility in children, giving them a sense of identity and cooperation for the well-being of society. All in all, these efforts are aimed at creating a healthy and responsible generation that will have a long-term positive impact on nation-building

Thus, summarizing the above, it gives us a possibility to focus on the role of the police in the field of work with minors and draw appropriate conclusions.

The role of the police in safeguarding children's rights is fundamental to creating a safe and secure environment in which children can grow and develop properly. The following are the main aspects of the role of the police in this context:

- ensuring safety and legal security (the police are responsible for maintaining public order and preventing crime, which is important for ensuring the physical safety of children This should include responding to events that may affect children and preventing potential threats and dangers in their social environment);

- combating juvenile delinquency (a set of measures aimed at preventing juveniles from committing crimes);

- combating crimes against children (the police play a crucial role in investigating and preventing crimes against children, such as child trafficking, child labor and violence against children. Specialized departments and programs to address these issues are important and necessary for child protection);

- ensuring the observance of children's rights (the police ensure the observance of children's fundamental rights, in particular: the right to life, the right to protection from violence and exploitation, the right to education, etc);

³ Про затвердження Інструкції з організації роботи підрозділів ювенальної превенції Національної поліції України: Наказ МВС від 19.12.2017 № 1044. Зареєстровано в Міністерстві юстиції України 07.06.2018 за № 686/32138. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0686-18#Текст>.

– studying and working with the social environment in which the child lives (the police interact with parents, schools and other institutions to create a safe environment for children and ensure their well-being):

– preventive and educational work with children (the police contribute to the prevention of crime among children through educational programs, interaction with children and their parents and guardians, organization of educational events, mentoring support, cooperation with educational institutions, ensuring security in the areas where children live and social work. The purpose of such measures is to create a favorable environment for children's development and crime prevention). In this way, the combination of these aspects forms a large and responsible role of the police in ensuring the rights of children, which ultimately contributes to the formation of a safe, secure and responsive society for our future generation.

Preventive measures are another important factor in ensuring the rights and freedoms of children. First of all, the concept of a preventive measure should be defined. According to art. 29 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police of Ukraine", a police measure is an action or set of actions of a preventive or coercive nature that restricts certain human rights and freedoms and is applied by police officers in accordance with the law to ensure the exercise of powers⁴. Analysis of the above definition suggests that a preventive measure is a type of police measure that may restrict certain human rights and freedoms, and its purpose is to prevent and deter the commission of unlawful acts. The means of this measure include verbal and communicative ones without the use of physical force and special means.

The above leads to the question: is it legal to apply such measures to children and minors? Answer: all measures against children are enshrined in legislation, which prescribes the procedure and possibility of their application. Therefore, preventive measures against children that are enshrined in law are legal, permissible and have no signs of unlawfulness.

When analyzing preventive measures for children, special attention should be paid to «police custody».

Such a preventive measure as "police supervision" of minors is a measure to prevent the commission of administrative and criminal offences aimed at preventing their commission by minors under the age of 16, as well as by minors themselves⁵.

According to the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police", the consequence of police custody of minors under the age of 16 is their

⁴ Про Національну поліцію України: Закон України. Відомості Верховної Ради, 2015, № 40-41, стор. 379. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/580-19#Текст>

⁵ Зеленський Є.С. Охорона неповнолітніх: зміст і порядок застосування. Серія ПРАВО. Випуск 35. Частина I. Том 2. Науковий вісник Ужгородського національного університету. 2015. С. 116-119.

transfer to their parents or adoptive parents, guardians, trustees, guardianship and custody authorities⁶.

Such a police measure has an appropriate legal basis and is accompanied by a clear definition of the algorithm of police actions in relation to a child, but for the purposes of this issue, the specifics of the normative and procedural actions of the police officer are not taken into account.

The need to implement this measure is directly related to the need to protect children, their rights and freedoms, as children, given their level of physical, intellectual and psychological development, cannot protect them on their own, which puts them in a vulnerable position when offences are committed against them.

At the international level, the obligation of each state to provide the child with such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and obligations of his or her parents, guardians or other persons legally responsible for him or her, and to this end take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures⁷.

From the above, we can see that this measure is a necessity in terms of protecting the rights and freedoms of children.

It should be noted that the application of other preventive measures in relation to a child requires detailed attention and careful analysis. For example, a child may be interviewed only in the presence of his or her parents, guardians, legal representatives, teachers or psychologists, as well as the inspection of the child's personal belongings. As for other preventive measures provided for by the Law of Ukraine

"On the National Police, it seems doubtful that they should be used in relation to a child, as a child does not have certain legal opportunities (meaning the use of preventive measures such as stopping a vehicle, restricting a person's movement or actual possession of a thing; entering a person's home or other property, etc.)

In conclusion, the role of the police in ensuring the rights, freedoms and safety of children is key to a just and secure society. The police actively prevent crime, enforce the law and protect children's rights. Its functions include responding to incidents, preventive work, including cooperation with educational institutions and building trusting relationships with children of all ages.

The National Police of Ukraine aims to create a safe environment for the development of children, and in this regard, it organizes educational

⁶ Про затвердження Положення про патрульну службу МВС. Наказ МВС від 02.07.2015 № 796. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0777-15#Text>

⁷ Швець Я. І., Соколова І. О., Порушення прав дітей під час війни російською федерацією. *Науковий вісник Ужгородського Національного Університету*, 2022. Серія ПРАВО. Випуск 71. С. 99-103. Волонтерський рух в Україні: тенденції розвитку. Р. Х. Вайнола, А. Й. Капська, Н. М. Комарова. К. Академпрес, 1999. С. 112.

programs and activities aimed at interacting with society. In some cases, the protection of children's rights is accompanied by police intervention in family situations and the provision of conditions for their full development. In this context, the role of the police carries a huge responsibility to society aimed at ensuring favorable conditions for the growth and development of children. Analyzing the current legislation in the field of child protection is an integral part of the strategy to ensure the well-being and development of the younger generation. In light of the constant changes in socio-cultural dynamics and technological progress, updating and improving laws is becoming an important mechanism for adapting to new challenges.

Updating legal norms in the area of child protection is a guarantee of their proper development, ensuring that legislation is in line with modern social and psychological realities. In this section of the research paper, we draw attention to a comprehensive analysis of the legislation, focused on identifying the effectiveness of legal mechanisms and identifying potential areas for improvement, in line with the needs and changing realities of the children's environment.

After reviewing and analyzing, we divided all the legal acts regulating and protecting the rights and freedoms of children, which guide the National Police of Ukraine in its activities, into main and auxiliary ones.

The main ones are those that directly regulate the issue and are more often used in police activities related to this issue, and the auxiliary ones are those that highlight certain special legal principles of the child in certain specific cases and allow for the elaboration or resolution of certain problematic issues related to an individual list or event.

Today, a number of legal acts form the legal basis for regulating the protection and enforcement of children's rights and freedoms in the activities of the National Police of Ukraine.

In describing the legal framework for regulating the protection of children's rights in the activities of the National Police of Ukraine, we will provide a discaption of the main legal acts on the regulation and protection of children's rights and freedoms.

The Constitution of Ukraine. The importance of the provisions of the Basic Law of Ukraine in the work of the police, especially with regard to the protection of children's rights, is undeniable. The constitutional principles of legality, justice and guarantees of fundamental rights and freedoms provide the basis for police work in ensuring the rights and safety of children. The Constitution also defines children's rights as an important element of human rights that requires special attention from the state. It defines the principles of fair trial and establishes the responsibility of the police to society in ensuring children's rights, which contributes to their effective protection within the framework of national legislation and societal values.

The Family Codex of Ukraine. The Family Codex of Ukraine plays an important role in ensuring the rights of the child by the units of the National Police of Ukraine.

This Codex establishes a "legislative framework" for regulating family relations and protecting the rights and interests of children. In particular, the Family Codex of Ukraine defines: protection from violence and cruelty, judicial protection of children's interests, prevention of abduction and illegal detention of children, ensuring the welfare of children in foster families, and supports the principle of preserving family unity and the interests of children in case of family conflicts.

Thus, the Family Codex of Ukraine provides the police with legislative tools to protect the rights and interests of children in various family situations, which contributes to the creation of a safe and favorable environment for their development.

The Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences and the Criminal Codex of Ukraine. These two codes regulate the procedure for holding juveniles liable for offences committed by them. These legal acts also establish norms related to combating criminal and administrative offences, as well as those related to the rights and safety of minors.

The Criminal Codex of Ukraine defines criminal offences against children and establishes liability for their commission. The police use these provisions to investigate and stop crimes and to protect the rights of child victims.

The Administrative Codex defines administrative offences against children, for example, in cases of violations of public order or administrative safety rules. The police are able to apply administrative measures to resolve situations and provide assistance to children in accordance with the law.

The Law of Ukraine "On Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence". The law in question contains provisions regulating the rights and freedoms of a child who is a victim of domestic violence or who is a perpetrator of domestic violence, ie. a child abuser. This law provides for the procedure for implementing preventive and preventive measures to prevent violence against children, as well as an algorithm for preventing the commission of offences, as well as preventive and record-keeping measures regarding violence committed by the child.

The Law of Ukraine "On Protection of Childhood". This law serves as the basis for many regulatory acts and is one of the main pillars of the National Police of Ukraine's activities in the context of child protection. This law defines child protection in Ukraine as a strategic national priority, which is important for ensuring the national security of Ukraine, the effectiveness of the state's domestic policy, ensuring the realization of the child's rights to life, health care, education, social protection,

comprehensive development and upbringing in a family environment, and establishes the basic principles of state policy in this area based on ensuring the legitimate interests of the child⁸.

As for the additional legal acts, as previously mentioned, they are an auxiliary tool in the activities of the National Police of Ukraine resolving special issues of establishing violations of children's rights in individual cases. Thus, they regulate the procedure for protecting the fundamental rights of the child in a separate procedure, their norms are of a clarifying nature and take into account the specifics of a particular child's right.

In conclusion, the main purpose of the above legal framework for the National Police of Ukraine to ensure the safety, rights and freedoms of children is to regulate and comply with any procedural and non-procedural actions for their protection taken by the National Police of Ukraine within the limits established by law, as well as to exclude illegal actions by the National Police of Ukraine against children. However, there are also problematic issues in the area of adaptation and consideration of the circumstances that have arisen as a result of active hostilities and the introduction of martial law in our country, which complicate the work of the National Police of Ukraine in terms of ensuring children's rights.

2. Organizational framework for the National Police to protect children's rights during martial law

This section provides a comprehensive analysis of the mechanism for the National Police of Ukraine to implement measures made at protecting children's rights, freedoms and safety, as well as existing police programs to ensure them. It examines the impact on public opinion in terms of understanding and appreciation of the importance of police measures in the area of child protection. An important component of the work is also an analysis of current challenges related to technological development, socio-cultural changes and global threats, as well as the impact of these factors on police work in the context of ensuring child safety.

The protection of children's rights in the activities of the National Police of Ukraine is an important issue of constant relevance, as children are the future of our society, and it is our duty as law enforcement agencies to ensure their safety and rights, thereby ensuring the reliable and stable well-being and development of our country in the future.

An analysis of existing programs developed by the MoIA system to protect children's rights and freedoms, as well as to take preventive and proactive measures to prevent crime among children, and which are directly related to the activities of the National Police of Ukraine, has made it

⁸ Про охорону дитинства: Закон України. Відомості Верховної Ради України (ВВР), 2001, № 30, стор. 142. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2402-14#Текст>.

possible to identify the following important features of these programs: cooperation with society, the community and state institutions; special training of police officers to work in such programs; overcoming stereotypes in such activities; and the use of modern technologies.

Let's take a closer look at each component:

Cooperation with society, the community and government agencies.

We believe that it is important to constantly draw the attention of society to the protection of children's rights. Parents, teachers and society as a whole should be informed about the role and powers of the National Police in this area, as well as how they can cooperate with the police to ensure the safety of children.

Effective protection of children's rights requires active cooperation with society. The National Police should work with parents, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations to create a safe environment for children. The development of effective programs and activities aimed at educating and sensitizing children about their rights and safety is an integral part of this process.

Special training for police officers to work in such programs.

Members of the National Police of Ukraine should receive special training on child protection.

This includes training in recognizing signs of child abuse, working with children in difficult situations, and effective interaction with children in criminal and administrative proceedings. Another important aspect of this issue is the study of the peculiarities of the child's psychological state and behavior, special skills of communication with children, and special attention should be paid to the communication skills of police officers with child victims of crime. Such training of police officers would increase the level of effectiveness in taking measures both individually and in general prevention of child crime.

Building trust between children and law enforcement agencies will help reduce the number of crimes committed by children and increase public confidence in the National Police of Ukraine.

Overcoming stereotypes in such activities. Attention should also be paid the need to overcome stereotypes and prejudice against children. The police should consider each case with the interests and rights of children in mind, ensuring a fair and impartial investigation. In our opinion, some of the established principles on the treatment of children are a factor in slowing down the work of the police, and work with children does not allow any manifestation of discrimination on certain grounds or personal bias towards a child.

Use of modern technologies. We are currently living in a time of development of new modern technologies, the use of which in the activities of the National Police of Ukraine would significantly increase its

effectiveness. With the progress of technology, it is necessary to actively use it in the work of protecting children's rights. This includes monitoring social media, using video surveillance and other means to detect cases of child abuse, exploitation or other unlawful acts against children.

We propose to move on to the review and analysis of existing programs of work with children by units of the National Police of Ukraine. Among them are the following: The School and Police Program; The School Police Officer Project, The School Police Office; The Children's Justice Centre.

School and Police Program. To fulfil the objectives of the Concept of Priority Measures for Reforming the System of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, approved by the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 22 October 2014 № 1118, the National Human Rights Strategy for the period up to 2010, approved by the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 23 November 2015, No. 1393, and the provisions of the Partnership Agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine of 29 February 2016, educational institutions in Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Odesa and Kyiv, School Police Officer project was also implemented as part of this program in 2016/2017⁹. The project was implemented gradually, based on orders of the National Police and the Patrol Police Department, orders between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Education of Ukraine, as well as between the Patrol Police Department and the Department of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of the executive body of the Kyiv City Council (Kyiv City State Administration)¹⁰.

The School Police Officer program is aimed at introducing effective preventive and explanatory work among school-age children and establishing trusting relationships between children and police officers. It is worth noting that it is developed in accordance with European standards. It uses modern interactive tools.

The program has developed a special approach to different age groups of children, taking into account their emotional and intellectual development, so information is provided in a language that children understand and in a form that is easier for them to understand. Thus, for children who are primary school students, such classes are conducted in a playful way, as this is the most effective way for young children to perceive the environment and information.

Patrol police officers were selected as school police officers, who were then given special courses and qualified training. In addition to working

⁹ Програма для школи та поліції. Інститут модернізації змісту освіти. URL: <https://imzo.gov.ua/osvita/pozashkilna-osvita-ta-vihovnarobota/programa-shkola-i-politsiya/>

¹⁰ Проект «Шкільний офіцер поліції». Безпека в громаді. URL: <https://cop.org.ua/ua/dosvid/ukrainskyi-dosvid/zahalnoukrainskyi-dosvid/proektshkilnij-ofitser-politsiji>

with children, another objective of the program it established interaction with parents. Overall, the program has had a positive impact on the formation of children as law-abiding citizens of Ukraine in the future and has been a tangible success.

The School Police Office is a continuation of the program of active cooperation between the National Police of Ukraine and educational institutions and was introduced in 2021. The main goal of the Police Office program is to counteract bullying in the educational environment. Bullying is the aggressive and extremely unpleasant behavior of one child or group of children towards another child, accompanied by constant physical and psychological influence¹¹. This phenomenon is widespread in practice and has negative consequences, so it requires careful study, research, appropriate response and counteraction.

According to the pilot project, the juvenile police officer will conduct conversations and trainings with minors in a playful way. He also has his own office equipped with everything necessary to work with minors¹².

The Children's Justice Centre is another new program that is currently being improved and will be gradually implemented in practice from 2021.

The Children's Justice Centre is a team of specialists consisting of representatives of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, forensic experts, healthcare, social protection and lawyers who will be present during the interview of the child and make decisions on the investigation process and provide social and psychological support to the family¹³. The program is aimed at improving the mechanism of protecting children's rights and freedoms and promoting public trust in law enforcement agencies.

A systematic analysis of the above programs reveals that each of them is based on the use and consideration of all the important components discussed in the text of the paragraph above, namely; cooperation with society, the community and state institutions; special training of police officers to work in such programs; overcoming stereotypes in such activities; and the use of modern technologies.

That is why such programs are effective, successfully implementing mechanisms to protect children's rights and freedoms and taking effective preventive measures to prevent crime against children.

¹¹ Що таке булінг і які його причини. Булінг: поради батькам, учителям і дітям. URL: <https://pntl.edu.vn.ua/index.php/osvitnij-protses/tips-forparents/109-bulinh-porady-batkam-uchyteliam-ta-ditiam>

¹² У Вінниці відкриють першу в Україні школу «Офіс поліції». 2021. URL: <https://susplne.media/130252-u-vinnici-vidkriut-persij-v-ukrainiskilnij-ofis-policejskogo/>

¹³ Захист прав дитини є пріоритетом діяльності МВС та Національної поліції. Урядовий портал. Єдиний веб-портал органів виконавчої влади України. 02.04.2021. URL: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/zahist-prav-ditej-ye-prioritetnim-napryamkomdialnosti-v-mvs-ta-npu>

The above allows us to conclude that the prevention and detection of juvenile delinquency used by the relevant units of the National Police of Ukraine includes a variety of strategies and methods. Educational programs are conducted in schools and public places to raise children's awareness of safety rules, rights, freedoms and the consequences of criminal acts. The police actively engage with parents, teachers and other members of society to create a united front in supporting children and preventing crime.

Organizing activities and programs can help children find positive activities to do, preventing them from becoming involved in criminal situations.

Police can provide mentoring support to children, especially those disks, to help them develop positive skills and make good decisions.

Cooperation with educational institutions enables police to identify early signs of problems and provide additional support to children in difficult situations. Police officers work to improve safety in neighborhoods where children live and develop strategies to improve public spaces to prevent child crime. Cooperation with social services helps to identify and address family problems that may pose a risk to children. In general, such measures are aimed at creating a healthy environment that supports children's development and prevents them from becoming involved in criminal activities.

3. The role of the National Police in the re-socialization of children affected by active hostilities

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the aggressor state, society has faced a number of problems, and the proper protection of the rights, freedoms and personal safety of citizens has been directly threatened. Again, we note that in this situation, children require additional attention and protection

Since the first days of the war, the National Police of Ukraine has strengthened measures to ensure the safety and order of citizens and began to perform additional tasks during martial law. The task of scientific interest within the framework of our study is the participation of the National Police of Ukraine in the evacuation of civilians from the combat zone. It should be noted that the evacuated population also includes children.

Military operations have a significant impact on children's rights and their general protection, as during active hostilities, the fundamental rights of children, such as the right to life, medical care, protection from violence and abuse, etc. may be violated. In this regard, we will outline some problematic aspects of the protection of children's rights during martial law:

- a constant threat to the child's personal safety (children are at risk of physical injury, maiming, and even death as a result of active hostilities):
- the child's psychological state (children may face trauma and stress due to the hostilities, seeing the destruction of their homes and neighboring

houses, losing loved ones and experiencing violence. As a result, children may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological problems that can affect their overall well-being, behavior and tendency to aggression);

- health risks and lack of adequate medical care (hostilities can limit access to medical care and services for children, which increases the risk of spreading diseases and deteriorating health);

- unattended children (as a result of active hostilities, children may be orphaned or lose their guardians, which causes problems in ensuring their protection and well-being);

- children who have been exploited (during military operations, children are at risk of trafficking, illegal exploitation, etc.).

All of these factors affect the child's general condition, which has a negative impact on the child's behavioral pattern and the emergence of signs of destructive behavior, which increases the risk of such children committing offences, violence against others and abuse of other children. These factors also cause severe mental trauma to the child, which also affects his or her future.

It is during evacuation measures that police officers face this problem most often. Therefore, in view of the above, we consider it appropriate to propose the concept of developing a specialized police unit to assist children affected by active hostilities on the territory of Ukraine.

The purpose of such a unit should be to ensure the rights and freedoms of children affected by Russian aggression.

There are several explanations for the need to create such a unit: firstly, children affected by armed aggression require a separate special approach due to psychological trauma; secondly, it will increase the effectiveness of the work of the National Police of Ukraine in ensuring the rights of children affected by armed aggression through a special approach to this problem.

Given the purpose and grounds for establishing a specialized unit to ensure the rights of children affected by armed aggression, we propose to highlight the following tasks:

- ensuring the safety of children affected by active hostilities;
- ensuring the protection and restoration of the rights and freedoms of children affected by active hostilities;

- participation in evacuation measures for children from areas of active hostilities;

- providing necessary assistance to children affected by active hostilities within the competence of a specialized unit as defined by the current legislation;

- providing first psychological help to children affected by active hostilities.

The above raises the need to introduce special training for police officers who will work in such a unit, which will include the acquisition of skills in

providing first aid to a child, skills in effective communication with children, and improving the special service skills of a police officer.

We also consider it appropriate to include the involvement of police psychologists in this subsection.

It is worth noting that the development of such a project is relevant and promising in the context of strengthening the rights and freedoms of children affected by active hostilities, as such children require special, in particular "competent and qualified" attention and protection.

CONCLUSIONS

Having inspected the role of the National Police of Ukraine in protecting children's rights during martial law, based on the analysis of legislation and its practical activities, we note the following important provisions.

Firstly, it is important to emphasize the importance of having appropriate legislation that early defines the responsibilities of the National Police of Ukraine in relation to the protection of children's rights. The existence of effective legal provisions aimed at preventing violence, protecting children from discrimination and ensuring their safety are fundamental principles of effective law enforcement

Second, an important element is the practical implementation of police work in the area of child protection. This includes both responding to cases of rights violations and active involvement in preventive activities. Training of police officers, public awareness, and cooperation with social services and other institutions are particularly important factors in the successful performance of their duties by the National Police of Ukraine.

It should also be emphasized that police officers should take into account socio-cultural differences and age-specific peculiarities of child psychology when interacting with children. Ensuring respect for children's rights, preventing their stigmatization and discrimination are essential principles in police work.

In general, the observance and protection of children's rights is a multifaceted and complex process that requires not only legislative support, but also the active participation of the National Police of Ukraine in the field of education, prevention and interaction with other public institutions. Responsibility to the future generation sets an important mission for the National Police of Ukraine, the effective implementation of which will contribute to the formation of a safe and caring society.

SUMMARY

This chapter of the monograph aims to achieve a number of objectives: to define the role of the National Police of Ukraine in ensuring children's rights; to review the national legislation of Ukraine on the protection of children's rights which guides the police in its activities; to characterize the peculiarities of the police's practical work in ensuring children's rights; to

outline the prospects for creating a specialized police unit to assist children who have suffered as a result of active hostilities on the territory of Ukraine.

Based on the results of the implementation of these tasks to determine the place of the National Police of Ukraine in the protection of children's rights during martial law, the following provisions are highlighted based on the analysis of legislation and its practical activities. Currently, there is a body of relevant legislation that clearly defines the responsibilities of the National Police of Ukraine in relation to the protection of children's rights.

The existence of effective legal provisions aimed at preventing violence, protecting children from discrimination and ensuring their safety are fundamental principles of effective law enforcement. An important element is the practical implementation of police work in the area of child protection. This includes both responding to cases of rights violations and active involvement in prevention activities.

Training of police officers, public awareness, and cooperation with social services and other institutions are particularly important factors in the successful performance of their duties by the National Police of Ukraine. It is also emphasized that police officers should take into account socio-cultural differences and age-specific features of child psychology when interacting with children. Ensuring respect for children's rights, preventing their stigmatization and discrimination are essential principles in police work. The protection of children's rights is a multifaceted and complex process that requires not only legislative support, but also the active participation of the National Police of Ukraine in education, prevention and cooperation with other public institutions. Responsibility to the future generation gives the National Police of Ukraine an important mission, the effective implementation of which will contribute to the formation of a safe and caring society.

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