

of the President of the Republic of Belarus dated 30.07.1996 No. 277 "On the establishment of a holiday - Mother's Day", Mother's Day was introduced in the country, which is celebrated annually on October 14. Mothers are congratulated all over the country on this day. The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Awards of the Republic of Belarus" dated 18.05.2004 No. 288-Z approved the Order of the mother, which is awarded to women who have given birth and (or) raised five or more children - citizens of the Republic of Belarus.

International experience is also widely used. Our country has joined a number of international conventions, for example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989, Belarus also celebrates the International Family Day - March 15, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993. The older generation is honored on the Day of the Elderly - October 1, introduced by the UN General Assembly on 14.12.1990. In recent years, a special role in the upbringing of children has been assigned to fathers who, together with their mother, have the right to take advantage of parental leave to help her in the first days of a child's life by receiving social leave. International Father's Day, which is celebrated on the third Sunday of June, is becoming increasingly popular in our country.

**Conclusion.** All of the above measures taken by the state and society are aimed at strengthening family values, and therefore at strengthening the Belarusian society as a whole.

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AS A SOCIAL PROBLEM

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Juvenile delinquency is a result of a combination of factors that can be called "diseases" of society. Specifically, the crisis of family, and the marginalization of population, alcoholism and drug addiction, and the destruction of the traditional way of life and traditional values. It should be borne in mind that youth criminality largely has its roots in juvenile delinquency, stems from it, so to speak. Therefore, the problems of preventing juvenile delinquency and its socially significant consequences always remain relevant.

The purpose of the study is to highlight the main directions and tools of preventive influence on the behavior of minors.

**Material and methods.** The study of the problems of prevention of juvenile delinquency is based on an analysis of the current legislation and statistical materials of judicial practice. Analysis of the preventive influence on the behavior of minors required the use of such methods of scientific knowledge as historical, statistical, systemic, analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction.

**Findings and their discussion.** Throughout the history of mankind, the state has applied a wide variety of punishments to offenders. But, one way or another, despite all their severity, crimes had been and still are committed. In this regard, after a while, many politicians came to the realization that punishments, even the most cruel ones, are not able to deter people from committing crimes. The idea came up to prevent a crime before it is committed. "It is better to prevent crimes than to punish them," wrote the Italian thinker Cesare Beccaria [1, p. 230].

And one cannot but agree with this thesis. It is impossible to put a guardian of the law next to every potential or real offender. Ideally, such a person would appear in the subconscious of a possible offender, thereby preventing a potential crime. In addition, long-term incarceration often does not make people better. When released, the overwhelming majority of former criminals cannot get a job, since for the employer, having a criminal record is a sufficient reason for refusing to consider potential employee's candidacy. In this regard, such people are prone to relapse, renew ties with the criminal world and, over time, return to prison again.

Juvenile offenders are of particular concern. Their number rises sharply at critical moments in history. This concerns, first of all, revolutions, wars, protracted financial and economic crises. Against the background of such social upheavals, the stratification of the population is increasing, as well as the number of the poor. Hunger and poverty force people to seek survival opportunities, often resorting to breaking the law. But under such conditions it is adolescents who find themselves in the most difficult situation, who, due to their age, insufficient life experience, are forced to take a criminal life path for the sake of survival.

The illegal behavior of adolescents is often the result of negative processes occurring in families. Unfortunately, some parents are often not only unable, but also unwilling to provide the minor the necessary assistance, are not interested in his life. Under such circumstances, there is a risk that the child will fall into unfavorable company, realizing that adults do not care about him. An important factor in juvenile delinquency is also rapprochement with persons characterized by immoral or criminal behavior. Such individuals, against the background of family problems for adolescents, often turn out to be more authoritative than their parents.

What directions and tools of prevention can be identified? Of course, any activity of great public importance begins with legal regulation. Our country has adopted two basic laws governing preventive work. These are the Law "On the Basics of Activities for the Prevention of Offenses" and the Law "On the Basics of the System for the Prevention of Child Neglect and Delinquency". Both laws are aimed at preventing and eliminating the causes and conditions of illegal behavior. With regard to minors, special attention is paid to such negative social phenomena as neglect and homelessness. To prevent them, families in a socially dangerous situation are taken under special control by the authorized bodies. In

extreme cases, if there is a threat to the child, children can be removed from such dysfunctional families.

In general, the existing legal framework gives the subjects of prevention the necessary tools and powers for general and private preventive work with minors. At the same time, it is important to prevent abuse of the right by the subjects of prevention, especially when addressing issues with the selection of children in a socially dangerous situation. It is necessary to carefully examine all the circumstances, because the family for the child is the most desirable place for growing up as well as for socialization.

It can be said that the socially oriented work of the legislator, law enforcement agencies and other subjects of the prevention of juvenile delinquency contributed to a decrease in the level of juvenile delinquency. According to court statistics, 605 juveniles were convicted of various crimes in 2020 (727 in 2019, a 16.8% decrease in juvenile criminal records). Importantly, 157 of them committed crimes while under the influence of alcohol (135 in 2019), 11 committed crimes while under the influence of drugs (16 in 2019. ) A custodial sentence was imposed on 11.9% of those convicted [2].

Institutions that exercise social control play an important role in preventive work. These institutions include family, church, educational and labor collectives, government agencies, political parties, etc. The role of each of these institutions can increase and decrease depending on historical, political and sociocultural factors. For example, the role of the church in educating people can be diametrically different in secular and religious societies.

Social control itself should not be identified only with suppression and coercion. Social control should, on the one hand, prevent the spread of various forms of deviant behavior, and on the other, create conditions for the development of the personality. Therefore, the prevention of juvenile delinquency should be based on an effective work of the social control system and its institutions. The institutions themselves should receive support from society and the state. For example, support for the institution of the family should be a priority in the formation of the state's social policy.

In general, our country has developed a system for prevention of juvenile delinquency. However, it has a significant drawback. The fact is that the main burden of this work falls on state institutions, which are already overloaded, carrying out numerous tasks of protecting law and order, protecting and realizing the legitimate rights and interests of citizens. At the same time, civil society institutions (public organizations, parental committees, political parties, the church) are not sufficiently involved in this work. But it is them who could offer the society a variety of early prevention programs.

In the United States, for example, early intervention programs target juvenile delinquency. Early intervention programs focus on risk factors and therefore actually reduce crime rates. The value of early intervention programs is that

no child, even the most difficult, is left behind. In fact, the more risk factors a child has, the more additional support they will receive.

The best of these programs is built on the strengths of the family and children. Adults who are offered practical and social support can be better and more effective parents than parents who are stressed and excluded. Early intervention programs offer a system of support for parental involvement and learning that works to improve family functioning and therefore child functioning.

**Conclusion.** An analysis of the problems of combating juvenile delinquency shows that main directions of preventive work are the improvement of special legislation and the development of a system of social control and its institutions. The legislator should also examine the Western European experience of functioning of juvenile justice in the context of possibilities of its use in the administration of juvenile justice.

1. Beccaria, Ch. On crimes and punishments / Ch. Beccaria. – M.: STELS, 1995.– 303 p.
2. Data from court statistics for 2020 on convicted juveniles [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: html. – Date of access: 12.10.2021.