

THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN MODERN UKRAINIAN SOCIETY

ALINA MARULOVA, student

LIUDMYLA M. KOVALOVA, Senior Teacher, English Language Adviser

Melitopol Medical Professional College

Democracy is a form of government in which the people have the authority to choose their governing legislation. Who people are and how authority is shared among them are core issues for democratic theory, development and constitution. Some corner stones of these issues are freedom of assembly and speech, inclusiveness and equality, membership, consent, voting, right to life and minority rights. Democracy is a responsibility all people to preserve social values.

Today, unfortunately, in many countries, authorities violate the rules of democracy, creating and spreading global problems around the world. Unemployment, poverty, the lack of rights of women and children, the exploitation of human labor are just a few examples of the global violation of the democratic principles. To my mind, nowadays the most important problem is human trafficking. It's a trade of humans for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. It can be trafficking of children, forced marriage labour or sex trafficking, trafficking for organ trade, etc. There are more than 4 million victims of sex trafficking globally. A study from the United Nations' International Labour Organization estimated 3.8 million adults and 1 million children were victims of forced sexual exploitation in 2016 over the whole planet. The vast majority of sex trafficking victims are women and girls, though men, boys, trans, intersex and nonbinary individuals can be victims as well. [1]

Today, Ukraine is one of the main countries of origin of victims of modern slavery in Europe. And if in the early 2000s trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation predominated, now labor exploitation is in the lead. The International Organization for Migration estimates that more than 230,000 Ukrainians have been trafficked since 1991.

The proportion of victims of trafficking by sex has also changed – if previously almost 85% of victims were women, now more than 60% are men. People from Ukraine have found themselves in a situation of modern slavery in more than 50 countries.

It should not be assumed that the victims of modern slave traders are people with low levels of education. According to statistics, anyone can fall into servitude, in particular, among the victims are many people with technical and even higher education. The same applies to age: among the registered victims, the youngest was only three years old and the oldest was eighty-three. [2]

It is worth recalling that in September 2010 Ukraine ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. In September 2011, the Supreme Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. In the same year, the Ukrainian parliament ratified another document – the Council of Europe Convention № 201 on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

The government prohibits all forms of trafficking through Article 149 of its Criminal Code, which prescribes penalties that are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other grave crimes, such as rape. The government completed 82 criminal investigations and arrested 56 people on trafficking charges. The Interior Ministry reported that the number of prosecutions for labor trafficking increased. Overall, the government prosecuted 95 cases resulting in 83 convictions of trafficking offenders under Article 149. Of the total number of persons convicted, 59 were placed on probation and not subjected to imprisonment.[2]

Also, a plenty of non-governmental organizations try to help our citizenships not to be a victim of human trafficking. According to Maryna Pasechnyk, deputy head of the NGO "Renaissance of the Nation", you need to be careful when traveling, studying and earning money abroad. On the website www.msp.gov.ua you can check the license of the employment agency. [3]

You see that the fight against trafficking in human beings continues to develop in many countries and associations, despite this, attacks and acts of violence continue to increase. Therefore, in our time, it is so important to make efforts to help the government in solving this problem. Do not be indifferent! Collect donations, join volunteer companies, learn more and keep your close friends and acquaintances informed.

References:

1. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2019/07/29/12-trafficking-statistics-enormity-global-sex-trade/1755192001/>
2. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-society/2801268-sogodni-evropejskij-den-borotbi-z-torgivleu-ludmi.html>
3. <https://te.20minut.ua/Podii/torgivlya-lyudmi-yak-ne-stati-zhertvoyu-ta-kudizvertatisya-za-dopomog-10909202.html>