

the development of a more diverse and inclusive society that values the contributions of all its members, regardless of their background or origin. The process of integration and adjustment can be challenging, and it is essential for the host country to provide support and resources to ensure that refugees can thrive and contribute to society. Finally, the issue of refugee immigration should be approached with sensitivity and empathy, recognizing the difficult circumstances that forced many Ukrainian refugees to flee their home country.

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## QUALITY OF SEX EDUCATION AS A PROBLEM OF UKRAINIAN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

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Nowadays, adherence to principles of gender equality is an integral part of democratic transformations and sustainable development of society. Ukraine integrates into the European society and at the current stage of the formation of Ukrainian modern democratic society, there is an aggravation of moral and universal human values, gender relations etc. The future of our nation and state depends on those values that should be embedded in the people's outlook since childhood. Sex education is one of the most important parts of formation of a tolerant member of gender equal society. That's why the problem of its quality should be noticed and solved.

In most European countries sex education and sexual socialization is an important part of educational system [1]. What about Ukraine? Sexual education in Ukraine is only in its infancy. Ukrainian schools do not yet have a single subject on sex education, the elements of general sex education are distributed among several academic disciplines and electives. And, frankly speaking, it is a pittance. Regarding existing attempts to introduce sex education, they seem wretched and

have nothing in common with the beliefs of modern democratic society. For example, the textbook on the subject "Fundamentals of health" for the 8th grade, recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, contains the paragraph "Victim behavior". Theses of this paragraph assert that the crime, including sexual assault, is often the fault of the victim [2, p. 93 — 97]. In my opinion, such lessons are inadmissible for modern schools. Victim blaming is one of the biggest problems of sex education in Ukraine. The lack of comprehensive sex education in schools and communities has led to a lack of understanding and awareness of sexual health, reproductive rights and gender equality among people.

Ukraine reported the second-highest newly diagnosed HIV infections rates in 2020 in the WHO Europe region, reaching 38 per 100,000 of the population [3]. Spread of sexually transmitted infections is one of the consequences of lack of knowledge about safe sex. Besides the teenage pregnancy rate in Ukraine is five times higher than the rate in developed countries. In the Netherlands, Germany, Norway and Sweden, the adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 is five. In Ukraine it's 27 [4].

In my view, the post-Soviet mentality could be one of the key reasons why parents and teachers in Ukraine don't talk to children about sex at an appropriate age, or in some cases avoid discussing the topic entirely. This mentality is shaped by the lingering stereotypes and attitudes towards sex, sexuality, and gender roles that developed in the Soviet era, and which still influence people's behavior and beliefs today.

As a result, there has been a notable lack of comprehensive sex education in Ukraine, particularly in comparison to other developed countries. However, the younger generation is now seeking to bridge this gap and provide themselves with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their sexual health and relationships.

It is important to recognize that addressing this issue is not just a matter of providing better sex education, but of challenging the deeply ingrained cultural norms and beliefs that have been passed down through generations. This means working to break down stigmas and misconceptions around sex and sexuality, and creating a more open and accepting society where people feel comfortable discussing these issues.

Educating young people about sex and relationships is a vital step towards promoting healthy behaviors and preventing negative outcomes such as unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. By empowering young people with accurate information and the skills to make informed choices, we can help to create a safer and more equitable society for all.

For example, there is a project "Teenergizer" in which a youth group promotes the rights of teenagers. They created a platform to help teenagers with their sex education and other issues [5].

Sex education is essential for promoting healthy sexual behavior, reducing the spread of STIs, and promoting gender equality and acceptance of diversity in

society. In order to become a full-fledged member of the European democratic society, Ukrainians must get rid of the post-Soviet stereotypes and the Ministry of Education must make sex education of high quality.

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### **RAPE (ARTICLE 152 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE OF UKRAINE): CRIMINAL-LEGAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CORPUS DELICTI**

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**Introduction.** The Special Part of the Criminal Code of Ukraine contains offenses against sexual freedom and sexual integrity of a person. One of them is the criminal offense provided for in Article 152 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - rape. The necessity to research this topic is due to some changes in national legislation, which require research to optimize their application in practice. These changes need a balanced scientific understanding, particularly, in order to understand how successfully our country fulfills international legal obligations and recommendations. It is important to have deep understanding of the corpus delicti of this criminal offence, since the number of rapes has not only decreased, but it is increasing.

**Objectives.** The main task is to research whether the changes in the article, which provides criminal liability for rape fall within the scope of the law of Ukraine dated December 6, 2017, correspond to the provisions of the Istanbul Convention, and to analyze the qualification of corpus delicti in current Criminal Code of Ukraine.

**Methods.** We used the scientific and analytical methods for analysing the legislation of Ukraine and international legal agreements.

As a result of signing the Istanbul Convention in 2011 Ukraine has become the eleventh country in Europe (following Great Britain, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, Cyprus, Iceland and others) where sexual acts committed without the