



STATE OF ORGANIZATION OF THE PREVENTION OF HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

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Abstract: This article analyzes the current state of harassment and violence against children, the opinions of scholars, and ways to prevent harassment and violence against children. It also discusses improving legislation to address the problem of harassment and violence against children, raising public awareness, and strengthening the mutual cooperation of entities carrying out activities to protect children from all forms of violence.

Keywords: children's rights, harassment and violence, prevention, legislation, society, protection, cooperation of entities, organization.

Pressure and violence against children in our country are increasing year by year. Studying and analyzing its current state is of great importance. The development and implementation of effective preventive measures aimed at preventing violence against children requires, first of all, scientific research of its current state.

The relevance of preventing harassment and violence against children can also be seen in the report of the Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Rights of the Child (Children's Ombudsman) to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis that in 2025, 1934 appeals were received by the Ombudsman, 19 criminal cases and 26 administrative cases of violence against children were opened, 2 warnings, 6 submissions, 25 conclusions and 3 petitions were filed to protest judicial acts on violations of children's [rights.\[1\]](#)

The study of child abuse cases emerged as an academic discipline in the early 1970s in the United States. Elisabeth Young-Bruehl notes that "despite the growing number of children's rights advocates and interest in protecting children, the division of children into 'abused' and 'non-abused' groups has created an artificial distinction that narrows the notion of children's rights and, to some extent, has hampered efforts to investigate how children are discriminated against in society. According to Young-Bruehl, another reason for studying cases of violence against children and indifference towards them was research into how children themselves perceive cruelty and how adults respond to them. According to Young-Bruehl, as long as there is a perception in society that children are "a step below" adults, all children suffer, regardless of whether cases of violence occur. Indeed, children appear one step lower in society than adults, and adults treat children with disdain and contempt, carrying out various forms of aggression towards them.

We need to understand the dictionary meaning of the word first to organize. In the explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language, the word tashkil is defined as follows. Structure, formation; component; institution; composition): to be formed (or found) 1) to be formed, to emerge. 2) to form a whole from its constituent parts. To organize (or to create) 1) means to organize, to set up, to [create\[3\]](#).

We can see how the prevention of harassment and violence against children is carried out in our country today and the state of its prevention.

As is known, Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Crime Prevention," adopted on May 14, 2014, clearly defines four types of crime prevention: general prevention, special prevention, individual prevention, and victimological prevention.

In scientific and theoretical literature, various opinions and approaches to the types of crime prevention have been put forward. In particular, Sh.A. Ganiev, in his research, divides the prevention of offenses against morality into general, special, and individual prevention.[4].

Doctor of Law S.B. Khodzhakulov, in his dissertation, proposes dividing crime prevention into criminological and victimological prevention based on the characteristics of the objects of preventive influence. In his opinion, the activity of implementing preventive measures is aimed at preventing the commission of offenses (criminological prevention) (where the object of preventive action is persons prone to committing offenses) or preventing victims of offenses (victimological prevention) (where the object of preventive action is persons with a high probability of becoming victims of offenses) [5].

K.I. Maslennikov considered preventive measures against sexual assault as general, special, and operational preventive measures[6].

S.B. Khodzhakulov, in another study, believes that "Each type of crime prevention has a system of preventive measures developed based on its goals, objectives, specific features, and [advantages](#)"[7].

As V.V. Luneev noted, the international community, starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which proclaimed the human right to life, personal inviolability, the prohibition of violence, torture, and ill-treatment, has continuously developed and defended these fundamental provisions in numerous subsequent legal documents, resolutions, and decisions. Various states have repeatedly recognized in international legal documents the need to take active measures to encourage more stringent measures to combat crime and violence, especially against women, children, and the elderly; to undertake the obligation to take measures to eradicate all forms of violence, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking against women and children.[8].

O.V. Khotin, who studied the criminological characteristics of violent crimes and the preventive activities of the internal affairs bodies of the central federal district, developed the author's version of a set of special criminological measures aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the activities of internal affairs bodies in the field of preventing violent crimes, taking into account the specifics of the region[9].

In particular, criminology distinguishes two types of crime prevention: general social and special-criminological[10] and their measures can be implemented at several stages of crime prevention[11].

In particular, the first stage of preventive work includes such measures as solving major social, economic, and other problems of public life, strengthening educational and ideological work, and improving social relations; the second stage includes preventive measures to influence certain social strata in which conflict situations have arisen and negative phenomena are expected to occur; the third stage involves conducting individual educational and preventive work with persons prone to committing crimes, forming in them respect for the law and generally accepted norms of social behavior[12].



It should be noted that in most scientific and theoretical literature in the field of crime prevention and criminology, support for the classification given in the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Crime Prevention" is evident.[\[13\]](#).

Therefore, it is advisable to divide the types of prevention of harassment and violence against children into four types: general, special, individual, and victimological prevention.

In the content of current legislation and in the research of legal scholars, when describing three types of crime prevention - general, special, and individual - persons who have committed an offense, are prone to committing it, and have antisocial behavior are taken as objects of preventive influence, in victimological prevention, persons who may become victims of an offense and who have become victims are considered objects of preventive influence.

When it comes to the subjects carrying out the prevention of offenses among persons who have committed harassment and violence against children, the range of these subjects in our republic is very wide, and Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Protection of Children from All Forms of Violence," adopted on November 14, 2024, clearly defines the subjects carrying out activities to protect children from all forms of violence.

The subjects carrying out activities to protect children from all forms of violence include: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Rights of the Child (Children's Ombudsman);

National Commission on Children's Issues

National Agency for Social Protection under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

Prosecutor's Office;

Internal affairs bodies;

National Guard bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

Committee for Family and Women of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

Agency for Youth Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

State administration bodies and educational institutions in the field of education, non-state educational organizations;

State healthcare system management bodies and healthcare institutions;

Local executive authorities;

It covers bodies of citizen self-government, non-governmental non-profit organizations, and other civil society institutions.

As we can see, these entities fighting against all forms of violence against children carry out the prevention of violence against children within their competence.

Units of internal affairs bodies carrying out the prevention of harassment and violence against children, based on their legal status, the specifics of their activities, and analysis of practice, can be divided into two groups:

- a) units carrying out the prevention of harassment and violence directly against children;
- b) units involved in the prevention of harassment and violence against children.

The subdivisions of internal affairs bodies directly carrying out the prevention of harassment and violence against children include the relevant structural and territorial subdivisions of the Department of Public Security of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan for organizing the prevention of offenses among minors, as well as centers for social and legal assistance to minors. Prevention inspectors of support points for



the prevention of harassment and violence against children in mahallas, as well as inspectors for the prevention of juvenile delinquency in the city of Tashkent, have been assigned.

A number of sectoral services of the internal affairs bodies, including the investigative apparatus, the criminal investigation service, the counter-terrorism and extremism service, the patrol and guard service and public order protection units, the road safety service, the migration and citizenship registration service, and other subdivisions of the crime prevention service, participate in the prevention of harassment and violence against children in the process of carrying out their main tasks.

Prevention of harassment and violence against children is regulated by the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 22, 2019 No. PP-4296 "On Additional Measures to Further Strengthen Guarantees of the Rights of the Child," according to which: a) the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Guarantees of the Rights of the Child":

Types of harassment and violence against a child and measures for its prevention;

It is planned to introduce amendments and additions providing for additional guarantees aimed at protecting children who are participants in criminal proceedings before and during the trial.

We will try to cover in detail the activities of the crime prevention service and other sectoral services of internal affairs bodies in this area within the framework of the types of prevention of harassment and violence against children.

General prevention of offenses related to the protection of children from harassment and violence is an integral part of activities in this area, which, in essence, provides for the prevention of offenses related to harassment and violence against children, the identification and elimination of their causes and conditions contributing to their commission. The range of subjects carrying out this type of prevention of offenses related to harassment and violence against children is not limited to bodies and institutions directly carrying out the prevention of offenses, such as special, individual, and victimological prevention.

Sh.A. Ganiev, in his research, speaking about the general prevention of offenses against morality, notes that it is the activity of the subjects of crime prevention to carry out legal propaganda among the population, to prevent and eliminate offenses against morality, to identify, study, and eliminate the causes of their commission and the conditions that create the opportunity for this^[14]. This definition does not reflect the specifics of general crime prevention and all the measures included in its structure, therefore, the scope of this activity is very broad in terms of its content and essence.

When developing and implementing state programs and other programs for the prevention of offenses, which are an important component of the general prevention of internal affairs bodies : they implement the requirements of state programs, territorial and other programs related to the prevention of offenses related to harassment and violence against children; they submit proposals for such territorial and other programs being developed, based on the specifics of the service area. They involve other bodies and institutions, representatives of civil society institutions, and citizens in this process. At the same time, the analysis of practice in this area shows the insufficiency of relevant state, regional, and other programs for the prevention of offenses related to harassment and violence against children and requires special attention to this issue.



One of the important measures of general prevention of offenses related to harassment and violence against children is legal advocacy among persons who have committed harassment and violence, and in practice, its various manifestations can be: explaining the essence of laws among family members of persons who have committed harassment and violence against children in mahallas; instilling in their consciousness the spirit of respect for laws, conducting awareness-raising work aimed at preventing offenses and promoting patriotism; providing legal advice to children who have applied to the internal affairs bodies on various issues, providing legal assistance through legal guidance. In general, the activities of internal affairs bodies in this area are manifested in the constant influence on the consciousness of persons who have committed harassment and violence in order to form certain positive ideas, views, and values that ensure compliance with, respect for, and effective application of legislation.

However, analysis of practice in this area shows that there are certain shortcomings in identifying and eliminating the causes and conditions for the commission of these offenses, in particular, on the ground, in cases of administrative offenses considered by prevention inspectors within their competence, representations are not submitted to the relevant bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and public structures to identify and eliminate the causes and conditions contributing to their commission.[\[15\]](#).

Based on the analysis of the practice of prevention of harassment and violence against children, the studied criminal cases, and the conducted research, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the current state of identifying and eliminating the causes and conditions that contributed to the commission of offenses among children:

1) work on combating harassment and violence against children is mainly aimed at combating the consequences of committed crimes (identifying the guilty party, exposing the act, imposing punishment, ensuring the execution of punishment, recovering the damage caused), and the identification and elimination of the real causes and conditions for the commission of crimes are still neglected, therefore work on the early prevention of crimes is not yielding the expected results;

2) A number of systemic shortcomings and problems remain in identifying and eliminating the real causes and conditions of violence against children:

a) In many cases, in cases of crimes committed as a result of violence against children, submissions on identifying and eliminating the causes and conditions of such crimes are not sent to the bodies of citizen self-government at the place of residence of the guilty party. Jointly, appropriate measures are not being taken for the execution of those sent;

b) Discussions on the ground regarding the submitted submissions are not going beyond formality. The investigator, the prevention inspector, and other responsible persons themselves do not participate in these discussions, and in some cases, false answers are given to the submissions without actually conducting the discussions. At the permanent addresses of citizens who committed crimes from other districts (cities), discussions are not being held;

c) although the submissions require the identification of the causes and conditions of crimes against children, the implementation of specific measures to eliminate them, these factors are not identified, and specific measures to eliminate them are not taken, but are limited to discussion and presentation of general opinions in the minutes of the meeting;

g) modern software has not been created that reflects the real state of work to identify and eliminate the real causes and conditions of crimes committed against children and excludes the human factor;

d) due to the fact that the current state of work on identifying the causes and conditions of crimes committed against children, their elimination, in most cases, consists of drawing up protocols in the form of "templates," consisting of empty words, without any practical work, concrete results (application of disciplinary measures to responsible persons who approach their official duties irresponsibly and indifferently, ensuring the employment of unemployed persons who have committed crimes, assigning mentors to unorganized youth with difficult upbringing, eliminating existing family and domestic disputes, etc.) are not being implemented.

In our opinion, to solve the indicated problems, it is advisable to:

a) establishing a centralized electronic database to identify and eliminate the root causes and conditions of crimes committed against children;

b) introduction of a procedure for critically discussing once a month at sessions of regional, district, and city councils of people's deputies the state of work on identifying and eliminating the real causes and conditions for crimes committed against children, as well as strictly considering the responsibility of guilty persons;

Special prevention of harassment and violence against children According to the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Crime Prevention," the increase in harassment and violence against children in certain regions is associated with an increase in their encroachment on public safety and public order, the interests of the individual, society, and the state.

In order to effectively organize and implement special crime prevention, the practice of developing and applying special and operational-preventive plans has been introduced in the system of internal affairs [bodies\[16\]](#), according to which internal affairs bodies operate on the basis of special, operational-preventive action plans for the prevention of neglect and delinquency among minors and youth, in particular, their unorganized categories - "Teenager," "Mirror," "Care." Also, when carrying out crime prevention, internal affairs bodies can carry out special prevention of offenses using special and operational-preventive action plans with the conditional name "Control," "Antiterror" - for the prevention of offenses related to religious extremism and terrorism among young people; "Arsenal" - for the prevention of offenses related to the illegal circulation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices; "Oriyat" - for the prevention of offenses against human trafficking, sexual freedom and morality; "Turmush" - for the prevention of offenses within the family-domestic sphere, "Passport-visa" - for the prevention of offenses related to violation of the rules of the passport system.

M.Z. Ziyodullayev, based on an analysis of the practice of special prevention of offenses, notes that not all plans of special and operational-preventive measures in this area have their own legal basis and a clear mechanism for their application, there is currently no regulatory legal act defining the basis, procedure, and principles for the development of special preventive measures in the activities of internal affairs bodies, and proposes to adopt a regulatory legal act defining the mechanisms for developing special and operational-preventive measures aimed at eliminating the causes and conditions contributing to their commission, identifying certain categories of persons, and exerting a preventive influence on them in the organization of special



prevention of offenses[17]. Fully agreeing with the scientist's opinion, it should be said that the development of such a normative act, clearly defining the grounds, subjects, timing, forces and means involved, material and technical support, the relevant procedures and rules for the development and implementation of special measures, will serve the systematic and effective organization of the activities of special prevention of offenses.

Individual prevention of harassment and violence against children In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Crime Prevention," it includes measures aimed at identifying, registering, and exerting educational influence on individuals who have committed violence against children with antisocial behavior, prone to committing offenses, and who have committed offenses.

I.Yu. Fozilov, speaking about individual prevention using the example of human trafficking, defines it as the activity of subjects directly involved in the prevention of offenses, aimed at identifying persons who have committed (prone to committing) human trafficking, providing them with assistance, instilling (correcting) accepted norms and rules of behavior in society, returning them to a normal lifestyle, as well as implementing a special set of measures to prevent the commission of these crimes[18]. However, since this definition, given by the researcher, is close in content not only to individual, but also to special prevention of offenses, it cannot be fully agreed with it.

Within the framework of individual crime prevention, internal affairs bodies carry out preventive conversations with persons who have committed harassment and violence against children, official warnings, notification of the causes and conditions contributing to the commission of offenses, measures for social rehabilitation and social adaptation, preventive registration, referral for compulsory treatment, and also carry out appropriate preventive work with those under administrative supervision. It should be noted that the effectiveness of these measures largely depends on their application in accordance with the requirements of the law, differentiated from each other, systematically, and with an individual approach to each of them. Individual prevention is carried out depending on the act committed and the social characteristics of the person who committed the violence.

According to A. Pavlovsky, when determining the place, time, and duration of the preventive conversation, the subject recommends that the conversation last approximately one hour and that the use of visual aids and video recordings be provided in this process[19]. The scientist emphasizes that it is more effective to use video images when conducting preventive conversations. Therefore, it is advisable to use video recording equipment when conducting preventive interviews with a person who has committed violence against children.

It should be noted that currently, in cases where signs of violence against children are detected in families, pre-investigation checks are carried out by prevention inspectors, and when signs of a crime are detected, primary documents are transferred to investigative bodies, but in the absence of a crime, administrative liability is provided, and in the case of an administrative offense, documents are drawn up and sent to the district Criminal Court for a legal decision.

In order to prevent child abuse, in each case of detection of child abuse, children are issued protection orders with the participation of parents, persons replacing parents, or guardianship and trusteeship bodies, and prevention inspectors monitor compliance with the restrictions established in the protection order.



It is advisable to amend and supplement Articles 29 and 41-1 of the Law on the Prevention of Offenses in a new edition.

"Article 29. Measures of individual crime prevention"

Individual crime prevention measures include:

preventive conversation;

official warning;

informing about the causes of offenses and the conditions contributing to them;

social rehabilitation and social adaptation;

preventive accounting;

referral for compulsory treatment;

administrative supervision

Issuance of a protection order.

Individual prevention of offenses may include other measures in accordance with the legislation.

"Article 41-1. Issuance of a protection order."

A "protective order" is an official document issued by the internal affairs bodies to protect a person from violence.

An official document issued by a prevention inspector to victims of harassment and violence (women, children, the elderly) is considered an official document issued to prevent them from experiencing other harassment and violence. The protection order consists of 3 parts. Part 1 belongs to the victim. Part 2 remains with the offender and part 3 with the prevention inspector. There will be restrictions on the protective armor. Violation of these restrictions entails liability established by law for the offender.

A protection order is issued to a victim of harassment and violence. A copy of the protection order is issued to a person who has committed harassment and (or) violence or is prone to committing them.

The official of the internal affairs body who issued the protection order informs the person who committed the harassment and violence about the terms of the protection order and the consequences of its non-fulfillment and the need to undergo corrective programs to change violent behavior.

Victimological prevention of offenses among children who have suffered from harassment and violence is the activity of bodies or institutions directly carrying out the prevention of offenses, in particular, internal affairs bodies, on the application of preventive measures aimed at reducing the risk of children who have suffered from harassment and violence becoming victims of offenses.

Researcher S.B. Khodzhakulov tries to give a broader definition of the concept of victimological prevention as "activity aimed at maintaining and strengthening law and order, social adaptation and social, medical, psychological rehabilitation of victims of offenses, as well as reducing the risk of their becoming victims by informing potential victims of offenses about the social danger of offenses, the time, place, methods and means of committing offenses, categories of victims of certain offenses and cases of victimization, informing about the methods and means of protection from offenses" [20] and indicates it as a separate direction of crime prevention by its content, emphasizing that it can be carried out both generally, specifically, and individually [21].

Within the framework of victimological prevention of offenses among children who have suffered from harassment and violence, internal affairs bodies are required to: take measures to identify and protect children who may be victims of offenses in the territory of their service; carry out appropriate measures, taking into account their individual and socio-psychological characteristics; train young people who have become victims of offenses in methods of resolving interpersonal conflicts; inform them about methods and means of self-defense; develop and implement special measures aimed at ensuring their physical and psychological safety; systematically monitor areas (territories) where antisocial behavior is relatively common or offenses occur frequently; carry out such measures as legal education and training of the population by widely disseminating information about necessary defense and extreme necessity in the event of an attack. At the same time, prevention inspectors, with the involvement of relevant specialists, may organize departments at support points to provide victims of offenses with legal, social, psychological, pedagogical, and other types of assistance.[22].

By analyzing the norms of the law and the opinions of specialists, it can be concluded that the activities of victimological prevention of offenses among children who have suffered from harassment and violence are aimed at reducing the risk of children becoming victims of offenses and include a number of legal, social, psychological, pedagogical, and other measures.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the effectiveness of crime prevention among children who have suffered from harassment and violence depends on: *firstly*, systematic and targeted implementation of measures for the general, special, individual, and victimological prevention of offenses; *secondly*, continuous interaction of internal affairs bodies with other state bodies and institutions, public organizations in this area; *thirdly*, depends on the widespread implementation of advanced working methods and experience in the field, through the constant study of modern technologies and software. Through the use of modern technologies, the effectiveness of victimological prevention is achieved by reducing the risk of children becoming victims of harassment and violence.

Based on the foregoing, we consider it expedient to make the following proposals and recommendations:

Firstly, the prevention of offenses among children - the activities of the subjects of the prevention of offenses aimed at forming respect for the law and an intolerant attitude towards any manifestation of violation of the law among persons who have committed harassment and violence against children, early prevention of offenses among persons who have committed harassment and violence against children, identification, study, elimination (neutralization) of the causes of these offenses and the conditions contributing to them, upbringing of persons who have committed harassment and violence against children prone to committing offenses, implementation of preventive measures aimed at reducing the risk of children becoming victims of offenses.

Secondly The prevention of offenses among persons who have committed harassment and violence against children, by its essence, is aimed at: a) forming respect for the law and an intolerant attitude towards any manifestation of law violation among persons who have committed harassment and violence, and early prevention of offenses among them; b) identifying, studying, eliminating (neutralizing) the causes of offenses among persons who have committed harassment and violence against children and the conditions contributing to them; c) educating persons who



have committed harassment and violence against children prone to committing offenses; d) reducing the risk of children becoming victims of offenses.

Thirdly It is advisable to divide the measures serving the prevention of offenses among persons who have committed harassment and violence against children into the following priority areas: *legal measures* aimed at forming and improving the legal framework for working with children; *social measures* aimed at identifying, studying, and eliminating the formation of a stratum of persons who have committed harassment and violence against children and social factors leading to their commission of offenses - *social measures*; *organizational measures* aimed at working with children, effective organization and coordination of crime prevention among them - ; *spiritual and moral measures* aimed at fostering respect for the law, spiritual and moral values among persons who have committed harassment and violence against children, popularizing physical culture and sports, and raising their sense of patriotism by conducting educational and enlightening events with them - *spiritual and moral measures*.

Fourthly The legal basis for the prevention of offenses among persons who have committed harassment and violence against children is divided into two groups by content:

- 1) guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of children, establishing prohibitions on the performance of certain actions by them, and providing for liability for their violation;
- 2) normative legal acts regulating the activities of the subjects of crime prevention in the implementation of crime prevention among children.

Fifthly In the study of the prevention of harassment and violence against children, dividing it into general, special, individual, and victimological prevention, it was substantiated that the main criterion is the "characteristic of the objects of preventive influence" in them.

Sixthly To solve the problems of identifying and eliminating the real causes and conditions for the commission of harassment and violence against children, the following is proposed:

- a) establishing a centralized electronic database to identify and eliminate the root causes and conditions for the commission of harassment and violence against children;
- b) introduction of a procedure for critically discussing once a month the state of work to identify and eliminate the real causes and conditions for the commission of harassment and violence against children at sessions of regional, district, and city councils of people's deputies and strict consideration of the responsibility of guilty persons;

Seventhly When working with persons who have committed harassment and violence against children under the supervision of probation units of internal affairs bodies, it is advisable to organize preventive work by dividing them into categories "at high risk of committing crimes," "prone to committing crimes," and "those who have embarked on the path of correction," assigning them representatives of civil society institutions as mentors. If a representative appointed by civil society institutions as a mentor regularly converses with a supervised person, it serves to prevent repeated crimes.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the current state of harassment and violence against children, the opinions of scientists and ways of prevention were analyzed. Despite the fact that this problem is growing in Uzbekistan, it is possible to create an effective prevention system by improving legislation, raising public awareness, and strengthening cooperation between the subjects of protection. If such proposals as eliminating shortcomings in the activities of internal affairs bodies, introducing an electronic database, and extending the period of protection

orders are implemented using general, special, individual, and victimological types of prevention, then the protection of children's rights will be strengthened and cases of violence will be reduced. This ensures a safe environment for children in society and contributes to their healthy development.

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