

**IMPROVING THE PREVENTION OF OFFENSES AGAINST MORALITY (USING THE EXAMPLE OF PROSTITUTION AND MAINTAINING A BROTHEL)**

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Certain measures have been implemented to prevent and combat crimes related to maintaining brothels or pimping. First and foremost, during this period, a normative-legal framework was established to eliminate these crimes. On September 22, 1994, Article 131 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, titled "Maintaining a Brothel or Pimping," established criminal liability to combat such acts. As a result of criminal-legal reforms, the norms of criminal legislation concerning liability for organizing or maintaining a brothel, or pimping with mercenary or other base motives, have been further improved.

Article 131 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides for criminal liability for maintaining a brothel or pimping, acts that lead to various negative consequences. Here, we will discuss the concepts of maintaining a brothel or pimping and their social harmfulness. The object of the crime is the social relations that ensure a normal moral environment in society, protecting the family, minors, and the life, health, honor, and dignity of citizens.

The objective aspect of the crime is expressed in pimping with mercenary or other base motives (Part 1) and opening or maintaining a brothel (Part 2). Pimping involves assisting interested parties, with mercenary or other base motives, in finding partners for sexual intercourse or satisfying their sexual needs in unnatural ways.

The crime is considered completed from the moment any actions aimed at opening or maintaining a brothel are committed, or from the moment services are provided to facilitate clients' lascivious acts with mercenary or other base motives.

A brothel is understood as any room or other place specifically intended for clients to engage in sexual intercourse or satisfy their sexual needs in unnatural ways. Brothels can take various forms: saunas, massage parlors, nightclubs, etc. Nowadays, for the purpose of concealment, brothels may be opened or maintained in private apartments, utility rooms, hotels, sanatoriums, or disguised massage parlors. Specially equipped places on long-distance trains, cars, minibuses, etc., can also serve as brothels. A necessary condition for a brothel is that people visit it for a fee to satisfy their sexual needs.

In cases where the owner of a brothel hires a person for lascivious or other base purposes, their actions must be qualified as a combination of crimes under Articles 131 and 135.

From the subjective perspective, the crime is committed with direct intent. The actions of the perpetrator can only be qualified under Article 131 of the Criminal Code as pimping if they are committed with mercenary or other base motives. Mercenary or other base motives are a necessary element of the subjective aspect of criminally punishable pimping.

The profound words of the renowned enlightener Abdulla Avloniy, “Education is for us a matter of life or death, salvation or destruction, happiness or calamity,” remain relevant today, emphasizing that the upbringing of the younger generation is an even more critical issue than ever before. The reality of life shows that parents who focus solely on the material provision of their children, neglecting their upbringing, contribute to undesirable situations and harmful consequences that continue to occur when upbringing is disregarded. The great Islamic scholar and philosopher Imam Ghazali said, “Children are a trust given to parents. A child’s heart is a precious gem, free from any patterns or images. It accepts whatever is imprinted on it and bends wherever it is directed. If taught goodness, it grows with it and achieves happiness in this world and the hereafter. Its reward is shared by parents and every teacher and mentor. If accustomed to evil or left to its own devices like an animal, it will ultimately perish, and the sin will fall on those responsible for its upbringing.”

It is well known that the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including “On Internal Affairs Bodies,” “On the Prevention of Offenses,” and “On the Prevention of Neglect and Offenses Among Minors,” assign the task of preventing offenses among minors to internal affairs bodies. The prevention of neglect and offenses among minors involves identifying and eliminating the causes and conditions that lead to neglect, abandonment, or the commission of offenses or other antisocial behaviors by minors. This is a system of social, legal, medical, and other measures implemented alongside individual preventive efforts.

To ensure the implementation of these legal requirements, internal affairs bodies have been carrying out offense prevention among minors in several directions. However, we believe that, despite these efforts, the effectiveness of the units responsible for this activity has not yielded sufficient results. For this reason, at the expanded meeting of the Ministry of Internal Affairs chaired by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on February 12, 2021, special attention was given to this issue. Certain shortcomings in working with minors were highlighted, and a new mechanism for this direction was proposed. To this end, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued Decree No. PQ-5050 on April 2, 2021, “On Additional Organizational Measures to Further Improve the Activities of Internal Affairs Bodies in Ensuring Public Safety and Combating Crime.”

The relevance of the master's thesis topic is, first, related to the absence of a legal concept of prostitution, which significantly hinders the development of measures to combat this phenomenon. Second, there is no consensus on the social nature of prostitution and its causal complex. Third, calls for the legalization of prostitution are intensifying. Proponents of legalizing vice attempt to find scientifically grounded evidence to support their position. Fourth, regardless of attitudes toward the legalization of prostitution, all researchers of this phenomenon agree on its extremely widespread nature and the need to develop measures to curb it. Various approaches to solving this problem have been proposed.

Prostitution is a negative social phenomenon with the following social consequences:

- Prostitution harms public morality and contributes to the degradation of national culture.
- Prostitution undermines the institution of the family and negatively affects the formation of the younger generation. According to available data, 75.6% of prostitutes are unmarried, and 14.6% are divorced.
- The rise in prostitution leads to an increase in suicides in the country.
- Prostitution facilitates the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and other infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS in modern conditions.
- Prostitution contributes to alcoholism, drug addiction, and substance abuse. A significant portion of prostitutes regularly consume strong alcoholic beverages, with many suffering from chronic alcoholism.
- Prostitution is one of the stages of moral degradation, often culminating in the commission of illegal acts.

Historically, the issue of prostitution has primarily been the focus of sociology, psychology, pedagogy, and medicine.

It is known that the reforms implemented in our country in recent years are directly aimed at ensuring human rights and freedoms, protecting them from various encroachments, and creating conditions for the realization of human rights and interests. Naturally, the future of any society and state is directly linked to improving the moral concepts and behaviors of the population, as well as enhancing their spiritual maturity.

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