

The impact of additions and legal amendments in the prevention of domestic violence criminal offenses in Albania

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Abstract

This paper aims at making a fair assessment of the domestic violence offenses in the Albanian reality within the international context, and analyzing the efforts of the state and society in combating and preventing this phenomenon by examining them chiefly but not solely from a legal point of view.

Legal amendments have positive effects both in preventing criminality in general, and offenses against the family in particular, since they have an impact not only on the protection of the rights of children and women but also on raising the domestic violence victims' awareness to report these cases, for based on the 2016 Albanian prosecution statistics, it turns out that this type of offense has yet experienced an increasing trend. According to the studies conducted and the information administered, it is noted with concerns that some of the perpetrators of these criminal offenses have managed to escape imprisonment, not to mention the cases when they have not been denounced or even worse; investigations have started but the perpetrators have not been punished by the law enforcement authorities. It is therefore imperative for the institutions to identify such cases and to take appropriate measures in order not to have them occur in the future, as such phenomenon brings about the repetition of the domestic violence cycle or the creation of the wrong perception "of victims "failure to react and keeping their mouth shut" because this type of crime remains unpunished.

This paper is not just the theoretical assessment of the terms of domestic violence and penal policy regarding the additions and amendments on domestic violence legislation, but it is also an elaboration on the criminal policy effects of these legal amendments as well as the issues that emerged in the process of investigating concrete cases related to domestic violence. It will also analyze the advantages of criminal policy, the problems that necessitate resolution, the legal measures to be taken, and some recommendations in order to increase effectiveness in combating domestic violence.

Keywords: Criminal policy, violence, family, convention, prevention, reintegration.

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