

Domestic violence, a widespread phenomenon in Albania - Strengthening measures and severity of impunity for this criminal offense

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Abstract

The focus of this paper is oriented to the amendments concerning punishment, stricter measures, facilitation of procedures, the possibility that the law gives victims of domestic violence to be protected immediately by the abuser, and how legal changes have influenced the reduction of this widespread phenomenon in Albania. The continuous increase of domestic violence victims led to the necessity of legal changes. In the amendments of law no. 9669, dated 18.2006 is provided the increase of punishments, strengthening of measures and facilitation of the procedures in order to provide the victims greater opportunities to be protected against the domestic violence. This is the legal system that operates to eliminate domestic violence that occurs in all its forms, as physical and psychological violence. The legal framework that supports victims of domestic violence is wide and complete, but the implementation process is very slow and difficult to apply. This deficiency on the implementation of laws for domestic violence is similar to the lack of a legal framework, thus there are little opportunities provided for the rehabilitation or treatment of victims and punishment of abusers. The phenomenon of domestic violence is difficult to eradicate from the Albanian society in, but is not considered as an impossible mission. This mission must not be seen as a duty of the Justice system only, but in order to be completed, it must necessarily involve the civil society. This study's aim is to offer feasible and realistic solutions that can significantly minimize the number of domestic violence cases. A detailed analysis is made on causes and different aspects that impact this phenomenon, in order to conclude a general opinion that serves to the legal framework and institutions responsible for domestic violence.

Keywords: protection order, immediate protection order, measures, violence, victims of violence, court, law, family, the Constitution, the Criminal Code.

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