



Research Article

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Registration of child sexual abusers and paedophiles as a preventive measure – A comparative analysis

Vedije Ratkoceri, PhD

*Law Faculty – South East European University – Tetovo
Republic of North Macedonia*

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Abstract

Child sexual abuse represents a complex product of many factors, such as social, cultural, economic and biological amounting to long-term consequences for the victim due to the child's psychological immaturity during its developmental stage. One of the most important measures applied towards the prevention of such criminal offense is the registration of persons convicted of child sexual abuse and paedophilia in a special register. Despite being widespread, their implementation is not universal. The first part of this paper identifies the origin of such registers by analysing separate cases of the US and the UK. The second part manifests an international comparative approach toward the legislation and modality of selected countries which have successfully established and regulated sexual offender registries within their national legal systems. For that matter, five countries originating from different continents throughout the globe are analysed: the Balkan Peninsula (Macedonia and Albania), Europe (France), North America (Canada) and Africa (Kenya).

Keywords: child sexual abuse, special register, paedophilia, preventive measures, international legislation.

1. Introduction

Child sexual abuse as a serious crime, amounts to one of the most brutal and serious violations of the life and health of children, resulting in long-term consequences for both the victim and his/her family due to the child's psychological immaturity during its developmental stage. Considering that one of the fundamental rights for children is providing their protection from abuse, especially of a sexual nature, it is an expected duty for state institutions, families and society in general to protect and to provide children with a living environment that would care for and educate them. Given the characteristics of children on the one hand and the characteristics of child sexual abusers on the other, state institutions must take all measures necessary in

order to combat and particularly prevent such criminal offenses.

According to the diagnostic criteria of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth and Fifth Edition, a paedophile is defined as an individual who fantasizes, is sexually aroused or experiences sexual excitements towards adolescent children (generally younger than 13 years of age) for a period of at least 6 months (Ratkoceri & Ibish, 2021). According to this Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV; 1) (American Psychiatric Association, 2000) (DSM-V) (American Psychiatric Association, 2013), paedophilia is consequently classified as a mental disorder. Moreover, taking into account numerous researches which display a high level of recidivism, paedophilia could also be described as a crime of opportunity. It should be expected in such cases to consider that the imprisonment of these perpetrators will fulfil its function – rehabilitation and resocialization of the individual. One of the most important measures applied towards the prevention of child sexual abuse and paedophilia is the registration of persons convicted of child sexual abuse and paedophilia in a special register. This is, in fact, a widespread practice in many countries, initially introduced in the USA and later in many EU countries. The purpose of establishing such registries is to inform the general public about the data of previously convicted persons for child sexual abuse thus protecting children from such persons. Prior to the federal government requirement that each state established and published a sex offender registry in mid 1990s, sex offenders could remain relatively anonymous in public and somewhat insulated from social stigmatization (Evans & Cubellis, 2014). Registration and community notification have increased societal awareness and concern over sex crimes and sexual offenders and enhanced the stigmatization of this group of offenders (Evans & Cubellis, 2014). These laws have transformed abstract public anxiety about people who commit sex crimes into an identifiable fear depicted by profiles listed in online state sex offender registries (Evans & Cubellis, 2014). Sex offender registries and community notification are also designed to shame the offender and further deter future unlawful behaviour (Tewksbury & Lees, 2007). Deterrence through shaming, societal ostracism, and increased community awareness has theoretical and empirical support in many instances (Tewksbury & Lees, 2007). All states have enacted sex offender registration and notification laws; some observers find the system beneficial while others argue that the system is flawed. Proponents of sex offender registration argue that registration is efficacious, but that not enough resources are being given to law enforcement to monitor registration of sex offenders and to punish those who fail to register (Siskin & Teasley, 2002).

Offender registries are based on perceptions originating from lawmakers and the public which signify that those sexual offenders pose a particularly grave and enduring risk to the safety of the community, that there is a high probability of repeat offending against particularly vulnerable members of society, and that this risk can be effectively managed through the increased monitoring and supervision of known offenders (Sample & Kadleck, 2008). Moreover, registration is also intended to deter individuals from committing offenses, both in relation to general deterrence (where-

by individuals who have not yet committed or been detected for sex crimes will refrain from committing such crimes to avoid being placed on a registry) and specific deterrence (whereby those on the registry will be less likely to commit further sex crimes because they are under additional surveillance and may be more easily apprehended) (Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM), 2007).

The rationale behind sex offender registration and notification is simple and two-fold. First, by creating a continually updated database of information regarding convicted sex offenders, a registration system improves the ability of law enforcement to supervise such offenders and investigate new offenses (McPherson, 2016). Second, community notification enables members of the public to specifically protect themselves and their families from risks in their communities (McPherson, 2016).

The following countries have laws governing sex offender registration and notification systems at the national and/or provincial level: Argentina, Australia, Bermuda, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Maldives, Malta, Pitcairn Islands, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, the United States, Republic of North Macedonia and Albania. Furthermore, the following countries have considered or are considering sex offender registration and notification laws, but such laws have not yet passed: Austria, Bahamas, Fiji, Finland, Hong Kong, Israel, Malaysia, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe (Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking, 2022). There are, however, some important differences in how the registries have been established. For example, only the USA and South Korea currently allow public access to sex offender information via community notification laws. Six countries, including the UK, Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, and Japan, have sex offender registries but prohibit the public from accessing the information they contain (Vess, Day, Powell, & Graffam, 2011). This is despite pressure in some countries from victim advocacy groups to change legislation to give the public access to the registries (Long, 2009).

Among all countries within the Balkan Peninsula, North Macedonia is considered as the first country to have adopted a special law which provides for the registration of child sexual abusers in a special register that is open to the public. In the intervening period of time, Albania also managed to adopt the law on registration of sexual abusers as of 2022.

In this research paper, the history of child abuse registries in two countries with different registration and notification systems – those being the US and the UK – will be addressed, respectively. Moreover, this research paper conducts an international comparative analysis of sex offender registries regarding the legislation and modality of registering child sexual abusers and pedophiles. Consequently, five countries originating from different continents around the globe are analysed, those being the following: North Macedonia, Albania, France, Canada and Kenya.

2. The History of Sex Offender Registration and Notification Systems in the United States of America (USA) and United Kingdom (UK)

Registration for adults convicted of a sexual offence originated in the United States (U.S.) in the 1930s and initially was a tool available only to law enforcement agencies (Brandt, et al., 2020). California became the first state to implement sex offender registration of adults in 1947, while Washington became the first state to implement public community notification for adults who had committed sexual offenses in 1990. The original purpose for registering adults convicted of a sexual offense was to provide information to law enforcement for future sex crime investigations. However, based on interest by members of the public to know about registrants in their community, community notification was added to registration laws to allow the public to take protective and preventive actions regarding those required to register (Brandt, et al., 2020).

In the late 1990s, more than 25 states in the US began implementing laws to register sexual abusers (Tullio, 2010). It all started in 1994 with the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (abbreviated The Wetterling Act), which was approved in response to the abduction of eleven-year-old Jacob Wetterling by a stranger (Kielsingard, 2014). This Law obliged states to collect data and keep records of child sexual abusers, even to keep them in a special register, but access to this data was available only to state bodies and not to the general public. In the same year that this law was approved, seven-year-old Megan Kanka was raped and murdered in the state of New Jersey. The perpetrator in the Megan Kanka slaying, Jesse Timmendequas, admitted to killing and raping Megan (Kielsingard, 2014). Timmendequas told the police he feared Megan would convey to her mother he had touched and attempted to kiss her and that he had offered to allow her to pet his novel puppy to entice her into his house. He had raped Megan, beat her, and used a belt to strangle her. Timmendequas had two prior convictions for sexual assault in 1979 and 1981 and was sentenced to death in the Kanka rape/murder. Timmendequas's death sentence was later commuted to life when the State of New Jersey banned the death penalty (Kielsingard, 2014). Megan was raped and killed by her neighbour, a registered paedophile, but due to lack of access to the register, her family did not have this information and therefore failed to protect her. With the persistence of the family and the general public, New Jersey became the first state to enact a special law (Megan's Act) that gave the general public access to data on registered paedophiles. Over the next few years, each US state, along with the District of Columbia, passed certain versions of Megan's Law (Smith, 2012). Moreover, the US Supreme Court ruled that laws requiring the registration of sexual abusers and the notification of the community with the data of these persons are in accordance with the Constitution of the USA (Tullio, 2010).

In 1996, Congress acknowledged the importance of community notification by enacting a federal version of Megan's Law, which amended the Wetterling Act. The Law permits public dissemination of sex offenders' registration information (Griffin

& Blacker, 2010). In other words, the main crux of Megan's Law is community notification, where current law requires convicted sex offenders to register with their local police departments (Griffin & Blacker, 2010). Washington was the first state to adopt such a law requiring sex offenders to register under the 1990 Community Protection Act. Using these registration lists, local police departments can track sex offenders and notify communities when there is a perceived potential for danger. As of 1997, 47 states had passed some version of Megan's Law whereas three states—Kentucky, Nebraska, and New Mexico—did not allow access to registration lists and did not have community notification legislation. In contrast, some states' registries such as in California are open to the public (Redlich, 2001).

In 2005, the Department of Justice developed a national sex offender database on the Internet. The website was created in an effort to provide easier access to all fifty states' individual sex offender databases. The following year, the website was renamed the Dru Sjojin National Sex Offender Public Registry; the website's namesake was yet another victim of a convicted sex offender who was not listed on any sex offender registry (Griffin & Blacker, 2010). Meanwhile, on July 27, 2006, the US Congress passed the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SONRA), a comprehensive national registration system to protect the public from sexual abusers. The law was passed in response to a number of sexual assaults on children that gained much publicity. SONRA requires sexual abusers to be registered throughout the territory and imposes criminal penalties in cases where convicted abusers fail to register.

The United Kingdom developed a sex offender register and Sarah's Law' in an effort to keep communities safe from sex offenders (Griffin & Blacker, 2010). However, Sarah's Law is quite different from Megan's Law, particularly because there is no direct public access to the United Kingdom's Sex Offender Register. The Sex Offenders' Register was created by the Sex Offenders Act 1997 as a way for police to keep track of known sex offenders (Griffin & Blacker, 2010). Although the Sex Offenders Act 1997 was subsequently repealed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 it also mandated sex offender registration (Griffin & Blacker, 2010). The Sexual Offences Act 2003 was created to make new provisions about sexual offences, their prevention and the protection of children. The notification requirement in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 mandates convicted sex offenders register with their local police department (Griffin & Blacker, 2010). Offenders must notify the police within three days of sentencing, which is similar to the United States notification requirement. Offenders must stay on the register for varying lengths of time depending upon the severity of their sentence. Offenders are required to be on the Register for a minimum of seven years. The most severe offenders must remain on the Register for an indefinite length of time. The information offenders must give to police includes their name, date of birth, national insurance number, address, and any other information prescribed by the Secretary of State. Additionally, an offender must allow the police to take fingerprints and photographs (Griffin & Blacker, 2010).

In 2000, tensions rose again when a paedophile murdered a young child named Sarah Payne in England. The incident led to a public outcry, encouraged by the media, for

registration and notification laws similar to those in the United States. Despite the outcry, the United Kingdom refused to craft legislation modelled after U.S. notification laws (Long, 2009).

Although open access to this data was not possible despite public demand, in 2007, the Home Office introduced a procedure through which members of the public could request information about suspected child sex offenders. If citizens harboured suspicions about someone with whom they had a personal relationship (like a single mother and her new boyfriend) or someone who had regular, unsupervised contact with their children, they would be able to contact the police and “register an interest” in that person (Griffin & Blacker, 2010). The police would first determine whether the person of interest had any child sex offense convictions. If the person of interest was a convicted child sex offender, the police would next evaluate whether he posed a serious risk of harm to the children of the person who registered the interest. If the offender posed a serious risk of harm, the police would subsequently disclose the offender’s information to the requesting person (Griffin & Blacker, 2010).

3. An International Comparative Analysis of Sex Offender Registrations

3.1. North Macedonia

In continuation of the activities for prevention and combating sexual abuse of children and paedophilia, among others, the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia (hereinafter “RNM”) in 2012 passed a Law on the Special Register of Persons Convicted by a Final Judgment for Criminal Offenses of child sexual abuse and paedophilia” (Official Gazette of Republic of North Macedonia, No.112/14, 2014). Based on this law, an online register was created, that contains personal data of all persons who were convicted for crimes as described in Chapter XIX of the Criminal Code “Criminal offenses against freedom and gender morality” (Official Gazette of Republic of North Macedonia, No.14/14, 2014). The register is fully accessible to anyone interested to see the persons convicted of paedophilia in North Macedonia.

The online register,¹ being operational since 2012, is coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and managed by the Office for Social Work - Skopje. In this register it is possible to find information for convicted persons throughout the state, in specific city and even in specific neighbourhood based on their personal info: name and surname, address, photograph, type of criminal offense, sentence imposed etc. (Selmani-Bakiu & Ratkoceri, 2021). Besides the personal data displayed, it is also emphasized whether the person in question is currently serving a sentence or had been released, as well as a range of educational information related to paedophilia and its prevention. In addition, this register offers the possibility of searching persons by their name and surname, in case we want to verify whether or not a certain person has been convicted for these criminal offenses (Selmani-Bakiu & Ratkoceri, 2021). It represents a policy for the podophiles’ data in this register to remain available for a period of 10 years after their release from prison. And under the condition of not repeating the crime during this time period, the podophiles’ data will proceed to

be deleted from the register. Correspondingly, the register contains data on persons convicted by a final judgment for 11 criminal offenses against gender freedom and gender morality for minors which according to Article 3 of the Law on the Special Register of Persons Convicted of Crimes of Child Sexual Abuse and Paedophilia, are the following (Selmani-Bakiu & Ratkoceri, 2021):

- Rape (Article 186 paragraph 2);
- Abuse of a disabled person (Article 187 paragraph 2);
- Sexual assault on a child under 14 years of age (Article 188);
- Abuse of position (Article 189 paragraph 2);
- Satisfaction of sexual desires in front of the others (Article 190 paragraph 2 and 3);
- Child prostitution (Article 191-a);
- Showing child pornography (Article 193);
- Production and distribution of child pornography (Article 193-a);
- Fraud for abuse or other sexual act against a child under 14 years of age (Article 193-b);
- Incest (Article 194 paragraph 2);
- Trafficking in children (Article 418-g);

It has been recorded that up until the conduct of this research, the portal (Register) contained data for a total of 298 persons convicted by final judgment, as well as those 100 individuals have been released after serving prison sentences as of today. The majority of the perpetrators of child sexual abuse registered is male, while only 12 of the total number are female, often acting as accomplices to male perpetrators instead of being (the) perpetrators themselves. The largest number of criminal offenses committed in (from) a total of 189 cases is related to the criminal offense "Sexual assault on a child under 14 years of age" under Article 188 of the Criminal Code of the RNM. The criminal offense from article 418-g "Child trafficking" follows, where there is a total of 51 cases of which 7 perpetrators are females. Cases of incest from Article 194 consist of a total of 10 cases, all male. For the criminal offense from article 189 "Sexual abuse with abuse of position" there are 3 cases, male persons. For the criminal offense under Article 186 "Rape" which paragraph 2 means rape of children less than 14 years of age there are 7 cases. Male persons have also committed the criminal offense of Article 191-a "Child Prostitution", a total of 3 cases. A total of 6 persons, 5 males and 1 female, were convicted for the criminal offense under Article 193 b "Exposure of child pornographic material". As a criminal offense where it is mostly committed by women, we have 4 cases where in all 4 perpetrators are women is Article 192 "Incitement and facilitation of sexual acts". With the amendments of 2014, this criminal offense has been deleted from the Criminal Code of the RNM. Regarding the ethnicity of the perpetrators, such data is not defined in the profiles of the perpetrators (it consists only of the name, surname, date of birth, place of origin and the type of criminal offense, without mentioning their nationality).

3.2 Albania

The Republic of North Macedonia was the first and only country in the Balkan region to have a special register for child sexual abusers until 2022 when such a register was incorporated in Albania as well. The Criminal Code of Albania consists of some criminal offenses that focus on the protection of children mainly under the age of 14 from sexual abuse but also of those aged 14-18 (Selmani-Bakiu & Ratkoceri, 2021). In particular, child sexual abuse is regulated in Article 100 - Sexual or homosexual relations with minors and Article 101 - Violent sexual or homosexual intercourse with a minor who is 14-18 years old. There are also some other criminal offenses of sexual nature which in cases when committed against minors are punished more severely. These criminal offenses are regulated in the following Articles: 107-A - Sexual violence, Article 108 - Immoral acts, Article 108/a - Sexual harassment, Article 117 - Pornography, Article 121/a/3 – Stalking (Criminal Code of Albania, 2014). Considering such circumstances, we note the significant commitment of some non-governmental organizations in Albania which specifically emphasize on the protection of children from sexual abuse. Thus, after an intensive work of several months, the experts of the Office of Free Legal Protection for Children of CRCA/ECPAT Albania, have prepared the draft law “National register on Sexual crimes against children” for consultation, which aims to monitor and control the movements of convicted or self-registered persons as paedophiles in order to prevent crimes and sexual violence against children in Albania (CRCA, 2020). This law was adopted by the Parliament of Albania on 21.07.2022 and enters in force 6 months after its publication in the Official Gazette of Albania (The National Sex Offender Registry Law of Albania , 2022).

The law is based in the legislative experience and best practices of several countries, such as France, UK, Canada, Ireland, the US and North Macedonia (CRCA, 2020). According to this law, all persons convicted with a final judgment for sexual crimes, will be automatically registered in the Register. The register will function as a database of records of persons who are resident in Albania and who are sentenced by a national or international court decision for sexual crimes against children; it will include persons who are sentenced by a final court decision for criminal sexual crimes with children and will establish a database on persons who have committed criminal offenses of sexual nature with children (CRCA, 2020). This Register will be in an electronic form (Article 10) (The National Sex Offender Registry Law of Albania , 2022). The main purpose of the register is to prevent sexual crimes against children until the age of 18, provide identification from the responsible authorities of individuals with high risk towards children, control of the movement of paedophiles and obtain notification according to the specific dispositions of the individuals involved in this issue (CRCA, 2020).

The Register will be managed and supported by the Ministry of Interior and the General Police Directorate, and will constantly update data declared by the offenders themselves regarding their residence and his/her own movements in or outside the country.

In terms of access, unlike North Macedonia for example and some other countries that have open access, in Albania, the Register will be accessible only by public and private institutions working with/for children, that have a duty to protect children by law (CRCA, 2020). In this regard, institutions such as schools, NGO's or penitentiaries, will address the Register with a request to be informed if the person is registered or not. All personal data of all the offenders registered will be protected by law for the protection of personal data (Article 11 of the National Sex Offender Registry Law of Albania 2022) (CRCA, 2020). The data and information recorded in the registry according to the requirements of the law are kept until the day of the death or declaration of death of the person convicted of sexual crimes (Article 16) (The National Sex Offender Registry Law of Albania , 2022).

3.3 France

The French sex offender register was implemented on 30 June 2005 and is known as the 'National Automated Sexual Offenders' Database, or, in French, the Fichier Judiciaire national automatisé des Auteurs d'Infractions Sexuelles (FIJAIS). The FIJAIS was formally inaugurated in Nantes on 8 July 2005 by the minister for justice, Pascal Clément (Thomas, 2010).

The law governing the FIJAIS had been passed in March 2004 (Law no.2004-2204) and is now part of the French Penal Code Articles 706.53.1-12. The French Department of Justice is responsible for the FIJAIS (Article 706-53-1) and those committing sexual offences have to report changes of address within fifteen days and verify their circumstances annually in person at a police station or by recorded postal delivery (Article 706-53-5). Registration lasts for thirty years in the case of a felony or a misdemeanour punished by ten years' imprisonment, and for twenty years in all other cases (Article 706-53-4). The French sex offender register is not open to the public and is only accessible by the judicial authorities, the police and the gendarmerie, and the prefects and officers of state administration concerned with the screening and managing of workers having access to children (Article 706-53-7); unauthorised access is an offence in itself (Article 706-53-11) (Thomas, 2010). The French register² has been challenged on a number of fronts in the European Court of Human Rights in the cases brought by Bernard Bouchacourt, Fabrice Gardel and a person known only as MB. The Court ruled that the register pursued a purely preventive and dissuasive aim and could not be regarded as punitive in nature or as the penalty of a criminal court (Council of Europe, 2013).

The fact of having to prove one's address every year and to declare changes of address within a fortnight, albeit for a period of thirty years, was not serious or onerous enough for it to be treated as a penalty (Thomas, 2010).

3.4 Canada

² Website of the French Register: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F34836?lang=en>.

Canada initially approached sex offender registers on a localized provincial basis when Ontario introduced a register in 2001. Other provinces followed and a federal register was created in 2004, to be administered by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Thomas, 2011). Canada has a nation-wide Sexual Offender Register (SOR), National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR, 2004) that all of the Canadian police services utilize (Jung, Allison, & Martin, 2018). Within the province of Ontario which has its own police service (i.e., Ontario Provincial Police), there was a separate Ontario Sex Offender Registry (OSOR, 2000) that was created and used by services in that particular province (Jung, Allison, & Martin, 2018). Registrants remain on the Canadian national register for ten years, twenty years or life dependent on the seriousness of the sentence, and appeals to be de-registered may be heard after five years, ten years or twenty years respectively. The Act is clear on the importance of keeping information in conditions of confidentiality and unauthorized disclosure is an offence (Thomas, 2011).

Canada takes on a more cautious approach to legislative reform, and is more sensitive to the limits posed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Neither of these registries provides information publicly, and both were implemented to assist law enforcement agencies in their investigations of sexual violence cases (Jung, Allison, & Martin, 2018). Community notifications in Canada are not generated through the NSOR or OSOR but rather they are associated with release of high-risk offenders from a penal institution and often decided by law enforcement (Jung, Allison, & Martin, 2018). Hence, there is no public access to sex offender registers in Canada, but the so-called 'Manitoba model' developed in that province does allow limited access to information on the most serious and high-risk sex offenders (Thomas, 2011).

3.5 Kenya

Applicable laws which regulate Kenya's sex offender register are the Sexual Offences Act (2006) and the Sexual Offences Regulation (2008). Kenya passed its Sexual Offenders Act in 2006 and section 39(13) of the Act required the construction of a sex offender register. The Act was promoted as a Private Members' Bill by the women's rights activist and MP Hon Njoki Ndung'u, and covered the substantive law on sexual offending as well as the introduction of the register (Thomas, 2011). The Regulations required the register to be maintained by the registrar of the High Court and to be known formally as the Register of Convicted Sexual Offenders. When concerning the sexual offenders' duration of registration, the 2008 Kenya Sexual Offences Regulation states that "the registration period for a sex offender shall lapse upon the sex offender's death (Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking, 2022). "The registrant must notify the registrar of any change of address, change of employment, or school (Regulation 7(4)) and changes have to be notified in writing and in advance (if feasible) or at least within twenty-one days of the change (7(5)). On the other hand, the access to registry is regulated by both applicable laws. Namely, the Kenyan Sexual Offences Act states that "any person who has reasonable cause to examine it may examine the Register", while the

2008 Kenya Sexual Offences Regulations states “any person who uses or allows to be used in a prejudicial manner information kept in the Register commits an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding six thousand shillings or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both” (Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking, 2022). Furthermore, the Regulations stipulates that “The Registrar shall not allow access to the Register where he has reason to believe that the information is intended to be used in a prejudicial manner. Information held on the register may be disclosed to police, probation officers, etc., and to ‘any person who demonstrates to the Registrar that he has a reasonable interest whether a person’s name has been entered in the Register’ but not to anyone who is thought to be going to use the information ‘in a prejudicial manner’ (Thomas, 2011).

4. Conclusions

From the above-conducted international comparative analysis of sex offender registries which concerns the legislation and modality of registering child sexual abusers and paedophiles, we observe the particular manners of how selected countries originating from different continents throughout the globe offer various solutions to such alarming issue. And if taking into account the factuality of sexual offender registries not being universally manifested as a preventive measure against the heinous crime of child sexual abuse, we are expectedly met by a collision of for-and-against arguments concerning the registration and publication of the perpetrators’ personal information. Numerous academic studies have resulted in the alleged high recidivism present among sexual abusers that have amounted to existing provisions being proven inadequate for practical implementation. Such findings unequivocally contribute toward the formation of arguments serving in favour of registration and providing public protection within communities in general. Moreover, it must be emphasized that child rights and needs of protection from sexual abuse are principles which are highly values and supported by international law, as Articles 3 and 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (November 20th 1989) represent significantly appropriate legislative measures. On the other hand, arguments serving against the establishment and regulation of public registers of paedophiles take into account the protection of sexual offenders regarding social stigma.

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