

PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Abstract: This article argues the psychological features of victims of human trafficking, particularly the psychological types as well as psycho-emotional state of the victims. Also, special attention is directed to the focus on the main provisions of the Model Law No. 30-12 "On Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings".

Keywords: human trafficking, victims of human trafficking, illegal migration, trauma, rehabilitation, reintegration, compulsive action, revictimisation.

In contemporary society, the problem of illegal migration is very acute. This kind of category is also very often subjective to victimization, since, being in an illegal position in a foreign country people are unable to resist the influence of criminal communities involved in human trafficking. Documents are taken away from migrants, they are forced to work for nothing, for food, they are beaten, raped, as well as killed. The use of slave labour is one of the most common forms of human trafficking in a myriad of developed countries.

A special category of victims of human trafficking are women and children (about 80%). Often they become victims of sexual exploitation, or they are used as beggars, home workers. Most often, when recruiting, they are misled by offering a high-paying job or prestigious training abroad, hiding the ultimate goal - sexual exploitation. If a woman is already involved in the sphere of sex services, then the type of activity may be opened for her, but in the end, after being taken abroad, by seizing documents, threats, blackmail, violence, they can persuade the victim into sexual slavery. Russian scientists

G.K.Smirnov, T.V.Varchuk, L.S.Dubovaya, the moral and psychological properties and characteristics of a potential victim of human trafficking include:

- *depressive kind of victims of human trafficking, i.e. people with a suppressed instinct for self-preservation and completely devoid of such an instinct are easily subjected to violence as well as deceit;*
- *greedy kind of victim. He is an easy prey for human traffickers, as the excessive desire for profit overshadows the mind, life experience, inner voice;*
- *alone as well as "heartbroken" victims, as loneliness leads to a weakening of the mental abilities of a person, making him an easy prey for traffickers;*
- *victims with "Stockholm syndrome" - the defensive reactions of such a victim become impossible due to a long and constant contact and relationship with the trafficker.*

In accordance with the Art 3 of the Model Law No. 30-12 “On Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking”, adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States on April 03, 2008, a victim of human trafficking is an individual who has suffered from human trafficking, involving those included in human trafficking or held in a state of servitude, regardless of his procedural status, as well as the presence or absence of his consent to the offer, recruitment, transportation, transfer, sale, exploitation or other actions related to human trafficking.

Victims of human trafficking receive enormous psychological and physical trauma, living in slave conditions breaks their lives, causing personal and social deviations. Such people need high-quality timely assistance in order to reduce stress manifestations and the negative consequences of being in captivity, return them to a normal life, and also reduce the possibility of revictimization.

For this crucial reason, Model Law No. 30-12 “On Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking” states that assistance to victims of human trafficking is a state-guaranteed set of measures to protect victims of human trafficking, their social

adaptation as well as social rehabilitation, involving the provision of psychological, legal, social, medical and other types of assistance.

The psychological characteristics of victims of human trafficking include such features as: personality disorders of varying intensity and direction, high excitability, anxiety, depressive states, sleep disturbances, etc. Additionally, compulsive behaviour can be observed, i.e. behaviour that does not have rational goals, yet carried out against the will, on the basis of obsessive internal urges, by the desire to perform unconscious senseless actions that become ritual and stereotyped, and an attempt to get rid of them causes a state of anxiety.

It should be noted that women who have been subjected to violence experience extreme stress. O.I. Brodchenko notes that they have some features related to psychological features: fragmentation of memory, difficulties in arbitrarily recreating the picture of events, ideas about the sequence of actions of criminals; loss of real sense of time; apathy, up to indifference to one's fate; the ability to make decisions that are inadequate to the current situation; some mental disorders (can manifest itself in a constant feeling of fear, grief, despair, tearfulness or isolation, unwillingness to communicate, sometimes in aggressive behaviour, anger, etc.). Moreover, the consequence of psychological trauma does not allow the victims to adequately assess what happened, take optimal actions and correctly build their behaviour.

Often, women who have been sexually exploited simply do not seek help from law enforcement agencies, fearing publicity, condemnation and ridicule from society, as well as the revenge of traffickers. In other words, men who have become victims of human trafficking and are exploited in conditions of hard physical labour often shift the entire responsibility for what happened to themselves, they are withdrawn, anxious, led, they have impaired concentration and sleep. Sometimes people do not even realize that they have become victims of criminal acts that their rights have been violated, and they are in a forced position.

Like women, men are also in no hurry to report what happened to the police, they are afraid of a condemnation and a misunderstanding. On the part of society, such people, due to their low social status or the presence of citizenship in other, poorer countries, find little adequate support. All this is simply ignored.

Sometimes the victims themselves may be involved in criminal activities (distribution of drugs, aiding human trafficking, illegal migration, etc.) or refuse to try to free themselves, seeing in their slavery is the only way to exist. After liberation, such people can fall into slavery again.

To provide psychological support, it is important to improve special forms of work that can reduce the negative consequences of being in slavery. Despite the underestimation of the problem and the negative attitude of society towards the victims of forced exploitation, it should be understood that human trafficking is a serious crime that belongs to the category of international crimes, which grossly violates human rights and undermines the foundations of the rule of law. Therefore, first of all, it is the state bodies that should fight against this phenomenon. Finally, it should be noted that a clear program of action is needed to change public consciousness towards victims of human trafficking. Only the interaction of law enforcement agencies and society can reduce the intensity of the phenomenon.

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