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STATE POLICY ON SOCIAL PROTECTION OF YOUTH RIGHTS IN UKRAINE: REALITIES AND PROSPECTS

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State Policy of Social Protection of Youth Rights in Ukraine: Realities and Prospects

The article is devoted to defining the principles, justifying the goals and means of implementing the state policy on social protection of youth rights. The author assumes that the model of state policy on social protection of youth rights, which has recently emerged in Ukraine today, does not fully correspond to the scale of the challenges faced by the state and society. Therefore, the development of carefully researched and scientifically grounded new approaches to the formulation and implementation of such policies is of great importance. It is proved that the state policy of social protection of youth rights should be implemented in the legislative, executive and judicial spheres in order to create socio-economic, political, organizational, legal conditions and guarantees of vital self-realization, intellectual, moral, physical development of youth, to realize its creative potential. The importance of a balanced blend of state, public interests and human rights in the formulation and implementation of such policies is emphasized. The essence of the concept of "social protection", which is a system of economic, legal and organizational measures of the state to ensure social rights and guarantees of a young person, is revealed. Youth social security is considered as a state system of protection against social risks, conflicts of family, educational, etc. that arise as a result of youth insecurity. Therefore, the attention of public institutions should focus on the young person's habitat, its environmental elements, and the solution of social, economic and moral problems of the environment. The list of normative-legal documents regulating the activity of the state on social protection of youth rights is given.

Key words: youth rights, protection of youth rights, public policy, mechanisms of public administration.

The current social situation in Ukraine gives rise to a new socio-cultural reality, one of the priorities of which youth policy is. The nature of youth policy, in particular employment policy in Ukraine and social protection of youth rights,

requires special attention within the general social protection system of the categories of economically active population that are most likely to be pushed out of the labor market, where often the most vulnerable are youth. Therefore, improving the situation of young people, their social protection, which ensures the realization of creativity and work potential, as well as the proper well-being of young people, is one of the main areas of social policy in Ukraine. Strengthening the selective nature of employment policy requires that particular attention be paid within the general social protection system to those categories of economically active population most likely to be expelled from the labor market, in particular, young people. It is in the labor market that reforming the economy most affects its interests. Therefore, improving the position of young people in the labor market, which ensures the realization of creative and labor potential, as well as the proper well-being of workers, is one of the main areas of social protection of its socio-economic rights and interests.

The study of the problem of social protection of youth rights in Ukraine is relevant, since it is necessary to create conditions at the state level for self-realization of youth and their inclusion in the processes of sustainable development of the country. The implementation of market reforms requires some transformation not only of the economic consciousness of society, but also of its individual individuals, stereotypes of economic and political behavior of people. The problems of education, professional training of future specialists, motivation of young people to work, entrepreneurship, politics, etc. are of fundamental importance. After all, these actions will be the impetus for expanding the social base of transformation, will ensure the social, political, economic, cultural and moral reproduction and development of Ukrainian society.

The purpose of the article is to outline the principles, justify the tasks and determine the means of implementing state policy in the field of social protection of youth rights in Ukraine.

The problems of social protection of young people are devoted to the works of many scientists, among them: S. Alupko, V. Andrushchenko, M. Bahmet, V. Bekh, E. Borodin, V. Hasdutskyi, I. Hnibidenko, H. Koval, E. Labionova, E. Libanova,

O. Paliy, A. Silenko, A. Skurativskiy, M. Lukashevych, I. Mygovych, I. Pinchuk, S. Tolstoukhova and others.

In the context of our study, it should be noted that social protection, as an object of public administration, is a system of economic, legal and organizational measures of the state to ensure social rights and guarantees of a young person. Social security for young people, which is an important component of social protection, is a state system of protection against social risks, conflicts of family, educational, etc. that arise as a result of youth insecurity. Therefore, the attention of public institutions should focus on the young person's habitat, its environmental elements, and the solution of social, economic and moral problems of the environment.

According to the Law of Ukraine “On Promoting the Social Formation and Development of Youth in Ukraine” [3], young people should be considered to be citizens aged 14 to 35 years. In contrast, WHO, the World Health Organization, considers a young person to be 44 years of age or older [1].

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, as of 2018, there are 15 407 522 boys and girls aged 14 to 35 in Ukraine, representing approximately one third of the total population of the country [2].

In recent years, the country's economic woes have had a significant impact on the social status of young people and their standard of living, which is why it took place at the end of 2017 [5] (see Figure 1). All-Ukrainian sociological survey on determining the level of the so-called ‘happiness index’ showed that of the total sample of 2000 respondents aged 15 to 40 years, from different regions of Ukraine, the level of satisfaction of Ukrainian youth with life is lower than 58.0%. According to this indicator, we are between France (65.0% satisfied) and Hungary (54.0%).

In the conditions of deep economic and demographic crisis, political-ideological and cultural crisis in which modern Ukraine is located, youth problems in different spheres acquire certain specific features, are marked by severe and long-lasting consequences, and therefore require in-depth analysis and regulation, development of realistic, balanced, a sound policy towards young generations.

Today, young people face many new problems that prevent the sustainable development of society, such as: economic and political problems in the country; the social consequences of demographic, organizational, and structural imbalances in the country that have historically developed and deepened in times of economic crisis; increasing social inequality, which has a particular impact on young people; unequal opportunities for quality education; lack of work and the problem of employment; material dependence; alcohol and drug addiction; prostitution; lack of opportunities for self-realization; the problem of mismatch between the needs of the labor market and the professional education system, which favors alienation from social norms and the spread of destructive influences among the masses.

The main normative legal documents that outline the strategic objectives of the development of youth policy of the state in independent Ukraine are [4, p. 161]: “Declaration on the General Principles of State Youth Policy in Ukraine” (1992); The Law of Ukraine “On Promoting the Social Formation and Development of Youth in Ukraine” (1993); The Law of Ukraine “On Youth and Children's NGOs” (1998); Law of Ukraine “On Education” (1991); The Law on Employment of the Population of Ukraine (1991); The Law of Ukraine “On Physical Culture and Sports” (1994); The Law of Ukraine “On Tourism” (1995); Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On additional measures for implementation of youth housing policy”, Law of Ukraine “On State Aid to Families with Children” (1997); Law of Ukraine “On Youth and Children's Organizations” (1998); The Law of Ukraine “On Social Work with Children and Youth” (2001); Presidential Decree “On additional measures to improve social work with children, youth and families” (2001); Presidential Decree “On the National Doctrine of Educational Development” (2002); Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On Approval of the Model Regulations on the Center for Resocialization of Drug Addicted Youth” (2009), Strategy for Higher Education Reform in Ukraine by 2020 (2014); The concept of development of education of Ukraine for the period 2015–2025 (2014); National program “Youth of Ukraine” (2016); Law of Ukraine “On Social Services” (2019), Law of Ukraine “On Local Self-Government in Ukraine” (2019). The fundamental rights and

responsibilities of young people, as well as other citizens of Ukraine, are enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine (Article 53).

Although the legislative framework of Ukraine on youth social protection has actually been formed, unfortunately in Ukraine the provisions of the legislative acts, decisions and orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on improving the social status of youth are not fully implemented. There is a lack of projects, targeted programs that would provide conditions for young people's social, life start-up in matters of work, creating and strengthening a family, and providing health care. Youth policy, especially at the regional level, has weak financial and financial support, lacks specialists, and needs to improve the training system for employees of different industries. Ensuring social harmony in the country is directly linked to the state's solution to the most pressing problems of society.

The main tasks of the youth state policy in Ukraine on social protection of youth rights are: creation of guaranteed socio-economic, political and other necessary conditions for socialization of youth; realization of problems, requests, interests of youth; coordination of efforts of state bodies, parties, organizations, associations, movements, social institutions to provide conditions for youth development and self-realization; social protection of different groups of young people who are unable to solve their own problems or at least make their lives easier [6].

Purpose [4, p. 161–162] of youth policy in the field of social protection of youth rights are: strengthening of the social status of youth in the structures of society, which are being renewed or radically changing, strengthening of legal, economic and social protection of the young generation; mitigating the negative effects of economic insecurity, reducing social inequality; improving the effectiveness of social protection and providing other forms of assistance to active youth; expanding the labor market and improving the quality of social services provided to ensure freedom of choice for young people. The following areas are most in need of attention: the economic development of young families; ensuring youth employment; development of education and upbringing; support for young people in crisis situations; realization of creative skills and abilities of young people;

prevention of destructive behavior, dangerous diseases; support for youth community organizations and organizations.

Therefore, the only way out of Ukraine on the trajectory of sustainable social development is to increase the well-being of young people, in particular, the planned systematic action plan aimed at transforming social protection and supporting young people, to solve the most important youth problems that are of concern to young Ukrainians today in the form of material assistance, social services and various benefits for employment of graduates of educational institutions in the first two years after graduation, development of lending to young people and young people on favorable terms, the organization (including in rural areas) of vocational guidance, retraining and employment services for youth, legal aid and counseling services, etc., a strategy for the development of the individual as a worthy citizen of the Ukrainian state, deprived of the inferiority complex.

Therefore, the state youth policy on social protection of youth rights, in view of the current level of development, requires systematic actions to improve it. It should be carried out systematically and in all strategic directions, defined by the legal acts of the previous stage of its implementation in Ukraine, in particular through the system of decentralization. In addition, it should be aimed at addressing current problems in the field of youth health and employment, not so much on the basis of compensation, but on providing social guarantees to relevant groups and creating conditions for the full realization of their interests and requests by young people.

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