

**ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES IN THE PREVENTION OF JUVENILE
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Abstract: This article analyzes the organizational aspects of youth crime prevention. It explores the reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan, inter-agency cooperation among stakeholders, the legal framework, and practical mechanisms for preventing offenses among young people. Furthermore, it presents a comparative review of international experiences, theoretical perspectives of scholars, and scientifically grounded proposals for improving preventive measures.

Keywords: Youth, offenses, prevention, organization, cooperation, legal framework, international experience, social oversight.

Аннотация: Мазкур мақолада ёшлар ўртасида ҳуқуқбузарликларнинг олдини олиш бўйича профилактик тадбирларни самарали ташкил этиш масалалари таҳлил қилинади. Жумладан, Ўзбекистонда амалга оширилаётган ислохотлар, профилактикада иштирок этувчи субъектлар ўртасидаги ўзаро ҳамкорлик, ҳуқуқий асослар ва амалий механизмлар кўриб чиқилади. Шунингдек, миллий ва хорижий тажриба, олимларнинг назарий қарашлари асосида муаммолар таҳлили ҳамда уларни ҳал этиш бўйича илмий таклиф ва тавсиялар илгари сурилади.

Калит сўзлар: Ёшлар, ҳуқуқбузарлик, профилактика, ташкилотчилик, ҳамкорлик, ҳуқуқий асос, халқаро тажриба, ижтимоий назорат.

Аннотация: В статье рассматриваются организационные вопросы профилактики правонарушений среди молодежи. Особое внимание уделено проводимым в Узбекистане реформам, межведомственному взаимодействию субъектов профилактики, нормативно-правовой базе и практическим механизмам предупреждения правонарушений. Также проводится сравнительный анализ зарубежного опыта, научных взглядов ученых, предлагаются рекомендации по совершенствованию профилактической деятельности.

Ключевые слова: Молодежь, правонарушение, профилактика, организация, сотрудничество, правовая база, международный опыт, общественный контроль.

Young people are an important resource for future success, and juvenile delinquency poses a serious threat to society. Currently, 40% of Uzbekistan's population consists of minors,

highlighting the social urgency of addressing youth-related issues. At the state policy level, protecting the rights and interests of minors and nurturing a well-rounded younger generation have been identified as top priorities. All institutions—from neighborhoods and schools to government agencies—are tasked with safeguarding youth and raising their legal awareness, as young people are considered "the mirror of our future."

Thus, preventing juvenile delinquency is emphasized as a crucial national and international responsibility for society as a whole. International practices also recognize prevention as an integral part of crime deterrence, stressing the need to engage youth in socially beneficial activities to cultivate a respect for the law.

In Uzbekistan, state youth policies are being implemented on a broad scale, with systematic measures aimed at strengthening the rule of law among young people and fostering a positive environment in society. Comprehensive legal and organizational reforms are being carried out to prevent juvenile delinquency. Several laws and state programs have been adopted to address youth crime prevention. Notably, the 2010 **Law "On the Prevention of Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency"** outlined key objectives and established general legal foundations for prevention.

Additionally, the **general "Law on Crime Prevention"** and a series of presidential decrees (such as **PQ-2833 and PF-5005 in 2017**) have defined measures to improve the crime prevention and counteraction system.

Norms broadly protecting youth rights were reflected in the 2016 **"Law on State Youth Policy"**, which outlined measures to educate young people in the spirit of legality and enhance their social activity.

Through presidential and governmental resolutions, various concepts and programs on youth protection have been adopted. In 2021, additional measures were approved to support and increase youth engagement, and the **"Program for Implementing Youth Policy for 2022–2023"** was endorsed.

Organizationally, the **Youth Affairs Agency** was established in 2020, serving as the central body coordinating youth policy. At the local level, **Presidential Decree PQ-92 (January 2022)** introduced the position of **youth mentors (yosh hofizlari)** in every neighborhood.

These youth mentors work in collaboration with schools and cultural institutions to organize meaningful leisure activities, sports and cultural events, support talented youth, and foster patriotic values.

Additionally, systematic work is carried out with at-risk youth in communities, along with social rehabilitation measures for juveniles released from correctional facilities.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the **Youth Union**, civil society organizations, and government agencies, legal awareness campaigns, sports programs, and spiritual-educational projects are being funded, with practical measures implemented to steer young people away from criminal behavior.

Uzbek scholars and experts emphasize the importance of studying socio-economic factors as key contributors to juvenile delinquency. For example, according to **N.J. Barakayeva**, crimes committed by minors account for **25% of all offenses**, often driven by unemployment, lack of attention, and low legal awareness[6].

Thus, academic publications highlight the importance of preventive measures such as **strengthening individual mentoring** in enterprises, organizations, families, and schools, as well as **ensuring youth employment**. International best practices also emphasize the need for **comprehensive youth programs**. For instance:

- **Canada and the U.S.** have widespread centers and educational programs aimed at fostering a **safe and healthy environment** while increasing legal literacy.

- **Norway** implements the **Olweus Bullying Prevention Program** in schools to combat youth violence.

The **UN Guidelines on Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines)** call for global solidarity in crime prevention, stressing the importance of **engaging youth in socially beneficial activities** and providing **holistic support**.

Uzbekistan's approach aligns with these **democratic and humanistic principles**, prioritizing **prevention over punishment** and actively promoting rehabilitation.

Legal Framework for Juvenile Delinquency Prevention

Uzbekistan and the international community have adopted several key legal documents related to juvenile delinquency prevention.

International Legal Instruments

- The **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)[7]**, ratified by Uzbekistan on **December 9, 1992**, obliges states to **raise children in a spirit of respect for the law** and create conditions for their healthy development.

- The **UN Riyadh Guidelines** promote **best practices in juvenile justice**, encouraging positive youth engagement and international cooperation.

National Legislation

Uzbekistan's legal framework includes:

- **Article 23 of the Criminal Code[8]**, which establishes **special limitations on criminal liability for minors**.
- **Family and education laws** regulating child welfare issues.
- The **2016 Law "On State Youth Policy"[3]**, aimed at **enhancing legal literacy** and raising a responsible younger generation.
- The **2010 Law "On the Prevention of Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency"[2]**, which regulates preventive measures in this field.

Additionally, the **2021 State Youth Policy Implementation Concept (until 2025)** outlines a **comprehensive strategy** to support youth **legally, socio-economically, and morally**.

Challenges and Current Statistics

Despite these efforts, challenges remain in **effectively preventing juvenile delinquency**. According to recent statistics, **crimes committed by minors in 2023 increased to 5.3% of total offenses**, up from previous years[9].

This highlights the need for **further systemic reforms**, including:

- **Strengthening youth employment programs**
- **Expanding psychological and legal support** in schools and communities
- **Enhancing cooperation** between law enforcement, educational institutions, and civil society

It has been noted in parliamentary discussions that **insufficient attention is being paid to youth-related issues**. Reports from internal affairs agencies highlight the **ineffectiveness of prevention inspectors** as one of the key reasons: *"Due to the weak performance of prevention inspectors, a significant portion of preventable crimes still occur."* Additionally, nearly **12,000 unemployed youth** have been involved in criminal activities, indicating a **lack of sufficient employment opportunities** in their communities. **Family problems** also contribute to rising juvenile delinquency—unresolved domestic conflicts and disputes, if not addressed in time by local communities, often escalate into serious crimes.

In this regard, **parents, schools, and neighborhoods must share responsibility** in ensuring effective youth upbringing. A major challenge remains the **lack of reliable cooperation** in implementing preventive measures and social programs, along with **limited financial resources**. All of this underscores the need to **improve the advisory system** in the country and **organize preventive measures more efficiently**.

Practical Proposals and Recommendations for Preventing Juvenile Delinquency

To address existing shortcomings, the following practical measures and recommendations can be implemented:

1. Strengthening Community-Level Crime Analysis and Engagement

- Conduct **in-depth studies of crime causes** in residential areas and **enhance regular communication** with youth and their families.

- As emphasized in Senate meetings, **analyzing youth and family-related crimes**, identifying root causes, and taking corrective measures are crucial.

2. Enhancing the Role of Prevention Inspectors and Youth Mentors

- **Improve the effectiveness** of prevention inspectors and youth mentors (*yosh hofizlari*) by introducing **new engagement strategies**.

- Encourage youth participation in **sports, cultural, intellectual, and vocational activities**.

- Expand exemplary projects like "*One Elder Mentors Ten Youth*" and organize **intergenerational dialogues** between youth and elders.

3. Raising Legal Awareness and Promoting Positive Engagement

- Collaborate with the **Youth Union, schools, and NGOs** to **increase legal literacy** among young people.

- Attract youth to **IT, entrepreneurship, and science** through specialized programs.

- Establish **legal clubs** ("*Young Legal Experts*") and training sessions in cities and regions to **strengthen legal awareness**.

4. Adopting International Best Practices

- Implement **proven international prevention programs** in schools and youth centers.

- Examples include:

- **Canada's youth clubs and U.S. legal education programs** (starting from age 9).

- **Norway's Olweus Bullying Prevention Program**, which reduces school violence.

5. Boosting Youth Employment and Economic Opportunities

- Expand **grant and support programs** like "*First Step to Business*" at the community level.

- Provide **vocational training incentives** to attract youth to skilled professions.

○ Media should promote **success stories of young entrepreneurs, innovators, and creators** through "*Youth Success*" exhibitions and programs.

Ultimately, these measures will help **build healthier youth communities** and **significantly reduce juvenile delinquency**.

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