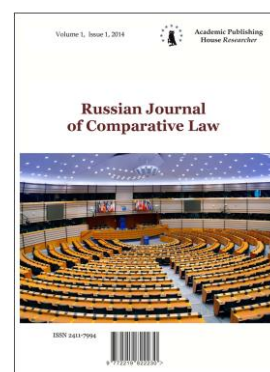


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## International Legal Cooperation in Combating Juvenile and Youth Crime

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### Abstract

The article is devoted to the study of international legal cooperation in combating juvenile and youth crime. It is noted that children and youth largely determine the future both of individual states and of the international community as a whole. However, with the growth of juvenile delinquency it is difficult to hope for better living conditions for future generations. Juvenile and youth delinquency can be considered one of the most serious problems of the modern world. The situation with regard to juvenile and youth delinquency has been constantly deteriorating over time.

Crimes committed by juveniles and youth are becoming more and more complex, while the number of victims is rapidly increasing and their age is constantly decreasing. Violence with and without weapons is becoming more and more common. In order to combat juvenile and youth crime effectively, its causes and consequences are investigated.

The consequences of juvenile and youth delinquency are the increasing number of child gangs, teenage suicides, child marriages and divorces. Globally, children and youth are receiving less and less care and support from their families. Instead, children spend more time in front of television, computers and the Internet, which is dangerous for them and a cause of deviant behaviour.

**Keywords:** international legal cooperation, juvenile and youth delinquency, deviant behavior, violence.

### 1. Introduction

In today's world, the scale of juvenile and youth delinquency is causing mixed responses from states. Calls for the protection of children's rights and support for juvenile delinquents exist alongside the need to bring juveniles to justice.

Meanwhile, careful scientific analysis has shed light on the complex and diverse needs of children in conflict with the law. Juvenile and youth delinquency is a term widely used in scientific literature to refer to a young person who has committed a criminal offence, although its exact definition may vary from one local jurisdiction to another. The specific reasons behind these differences are not clear, but they may be due to the lack of an agreed international standard.

### 2. Materials and methods

A comprehensive approach was taken to the problems under study. The author was guided by the general theory of law and state and the theory of international law. In preparation of the article the following methods were used: analysis and synthesis, abstraction, generalization, deduction, modeling, comparative legal method and many others.

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International legal cooperation in the fight against juvenile and youth crime is studied in historical development, taking into account the complex process of implementation, regularities of formation and evolution. Comparative method as one of the main methods of modern jurisprudence has been used in combination with other methods of scientific cognition and has made it possible to reveal similarities and differences in juvenile and youth delinquency in international and national law.

### 3. Discussion

In the aftermath of world wars and global disasters, transnational and national crime has become the main threat of our times. Crime in the traditional sense continues to grow relatively faster than the population, filling niches not controlled or poorly controlled by the right (Luneev, 2004: 6).

«Minor» means a person who is legally capable of committing a criminal offence because he or she is older than the minimum age of criminal responsibility, but has not reached the age of majority when the person is legally considered an adult. The minimum age of criminal responsibility varies in different States from 6 to 18 years, but the age of majority is usually 18 years.

Children largely determine the future of both individual states and the international community as a whole. However, with the rise in juvenile delinquency, it is difficult to hope for better living conditions for future generations. Juvenile delinquency can be considered one of the most serious problems of modern society. Over time, despite the public attention, the situation in the field of juvenile delinquency is constantly deteriorating.

Crimes committed by minors are becoming increasingly complex, while the number of victims is increasing rapidly and their age is constantly decreasing. Violence with and without weapons is becoming more common, and more young people are starting to drop out of school at a younger age. Social norms and peer pressure among young offenders have led to increased use of drugs and alcohol. To deal effectively with juvenile delinquency, it is necessary first and foremost to examine the factors that play a key role in how young people are affected by crime.

Juvenile delinquency is usually based on one specific factor, such as socio-economic status or poverty, peer pressure, lack of parental influence, negative influence of parents, etc. While this is possible in some cases, it is much more likely that the cause of juvenile delinquency may be related to several factors.

Juvenile offenders are generally young people from low-income families with various educational or mental disorders (Teplin et al., 2002: 1135). These young people also exhibit high rates of relapse. Therefore, one of the main problems associated with juvenile delinquency is recidivism or, in general, the repetition of criminal behaviour or re-arrests. Although the overall youth crime rate has declined slightly over the past decade, the recidivism rate among juvenile offenders remains high and stable and it is estimated that between 70 and 90 per cent of those young people will repeat the crime (Trulson et al., 2005: 357).

It should be noted that crime is the object of study of criminology (crimeer - crime, logos - teaching), which in translation means the science of crime. The author of the term «criminology» is an Italian scientist R. Garofalo. Criminology studies crime, its types, individual criminal behavior, causes of crime and delinquency, develops methods to combat crime. In this case, crimes are socially dangerous acts prohibited by the Criminal Code. The totality of all types of crime is delinquency (Savenkov, Zhukov, 2018: 116-117, 141).

The constant growth of juvenile delinquency indicators predetermines the need to seek new guarantees of protection of children from seduction and exploitation, to increase the educational impact and to save on state coercive measures in the imposition of penalties (Grishina, 2016: 8).

Globally, for example, children engaged in prostitution and sold for prostitution have a high incidence of HIV. Between 50 and 90 per cent of children rescued from brothels in South-East Asia are infected with HIV (Ovchinsky, 2008: 6).

Juvenile delinquency, as a legal concept, is an integral part of criminology. One of the reasons for crime and its continuation in adulthood is the ineffective control and treatment of juveniles. The concept of "crime" derives from the Latin word "delinquere", meaning "go" and "linquere", i.e. to leave in this way, meaning "go" or "quit". Originally, the word had an objective meaning because it referred to parents who neglected and abandoned their children.

Crimes constitute harm to victims and may result from harm caused to the perpetrator. Many criminals were victims of abuse as children. Many lack the skills and knowledge to make their work and life meaningful (Zer, 2002: 213).

Roman law stated that a child under the age of seven was incapable of committing a crime. Boys between the ages of seven and fourteen and girls between the ages of seven and twelve (before puberty) were considered partially delinquent, and the punishment was left to the praetor. In medieval Europe, German laws were much stricter, and even children under seven years of age were sometimes considered capable of criminal intent.

Under Article 1 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, children are human beings up to the age of 18, unless they reach the age of majority earlier under the law applicable to them.

In the United States of America, minors range in age from 16 to 21, but 18 is the most common age. In England, a child under the age of 10 cannot be subject to any criminal offence because of an irrefutable presumption of innocence.

Juvenile delinquency generally means that children do not fulfil certain obligations that society expects of them. Juvenile delinquency is the expression of a dissatisfied desire on the part of the adolescent. Whether a particular act or behaviour of a child will be deviant or not depends on different factors and varies from one State to another. A juvenile delinquent is defined as "a child trying to behave like an adult". A specific act of a child may be considered as a normal child prank, but in another specific context it may be disturbing and disturbing.

Juvenile delinquency is an expression of dissatisfied desires and motives. For juvenile offenders deviant behaviour is a normal response to their inner desires. A juvenile delinquent is a person who has been given such a decision in court, although he is no different from other children who are not delinquents. Crime is an unlawful act, behaviour or interaction which is socially undesirable.

In this regard, it should be noted that deviant behaviour by children is any behaviour contrary to the norms of society. There are many different theories about what causes deviant behaviour in children, including biological, psychological and sociological factors.

Biological theories of deviant behaviour in children regard crime as a form of disease caused by pathological factors characteristic of certain types of children. They suggest that some children are "natural criminals". The logic behind such theories is that these individuals are mentally and physically handicapped, resulting in a failure to learn and follow the rules. This, in turn, leads to criminal behaviour.

Ch. Lombroso has developed a theory of deviation, in which the physical constitution of man indicates whether a person is a "natural criminal" or not. These "natural criminals" are representatives of an earlier stage of human evolution with a physical constitution, mental abilities and instincts of the primitive man (Lombroso, 2005: 8).

There are various definitions of juvenile delinquency in the theoretical legal literature. For example, D.S. Gibbons defines juvenile delinquency in the United States as acts or offences that are prohibited under the laws of individual states. He notes that "juvenile delinquents" are young people who commit one or more such offences. The definition was restrictive in that it referred to offences prohibited by law and did not take into account acts and conduct that might become prohibited by law. Furthermore, the definition does not mention the maximum and minimum age of youth (Gibbons, 1981: 12).

Y.W.C. Reckless has identified a problem with the definition of wrongdoing. He came to the conclusion that "criminal behaviour was defined in society as a social problem". It was also found in behaviour that implied an answer to the question of what types of behaviour became crimes (Reckless, 1967: 17).

Y.W.K. Reckless analyzed this local problem in three different stages, namely: legal definition of crime and offence, conduct of the offender as a social problem, and cause-and-effect behaviour in relation to normative behaviour.

In the legal literature, there are many theories that explain juvenile crime. The main difference between them relates to the academic discipline in which the theorist studied. Different disciplines, such as economics, psychology and sociology, have different ideas about people and human behaviour, and this leads to different ideas about what causes juvenile delinquency.

In childhood and adolescence, the complexity of social development is one of the main objectives, which is to enable people to regulate their behaviour in an unfavourable environment.

In some European countries, such as Scotland and Portugal, crimes committed by persons from the age of 16 may be dealt with under the adult criminal justice system. In addition, in other countries juvenile offenders can be transferred from a juvenile court to an adult court, where so-called waive or transfer laws apply adult criminal law to certain offences.

Juvenile delinquency is one of the most important problems to be solved in the modern world. The definition of juvenile delinquency covers a wide range of situations where offences are committed by persons under the age of 18.

Economic problems in the world are leading to an increase in juvenile crime. This is due to political inconsistency, the deteriorating economic situation and important social institutions such as education, public assistance and facilities and, most importantly, the family. These changes lead to unemployment, low incomes, and an inefficient economy leading to a vicious circle. The low incomes of young people lead to an increase in illegal activities aimed at self-sufficiency.

Children's criminal activities are often provoked by easy access to illicit opportunities. Many minors resort to using drugs for psychological purposes or to escape the problems that surround them. Another perspective is peer pressure drug addiction, which stimulates offender behavior to support this lifestyle.

In this regard, it should be noted that Article 33 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes the right of the child to protection from drug use and participation in drug trafficking. Thus, states shall take all necessary measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant inter-state treaties, as well as to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trade of such substances.

This provision is reinforced by Article 1 of International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 concerning the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 which requires states parties "to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency". Article 3 provides that the worst forms of child labour include, *inter alia*, "the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular the production and trafficking of drugs, as defined in the relevant international instruments".

In areas with a higher population, juvenile delinquency is high. The reason for this conclusion is social control and social cohesion. From a cultural perspective, rural areas and society attach great importance to family relations and community participation, resulting in a reduction in crime rates. In cities, however, we see a more impersonal approach, judicial and legal measures that are associated with higher crime rates. Children from disadvantaged and broken families have fewer employment opportunities and are more vulnerable to social exclusion.

The consequences of juvenile delinquency include an increase in the number of teenage gangs, escapes, teenage suicides, teenage parenthood, and a number of unhappy marriages and divorces. In the world, children are receiving less and less care and support from their families. Instead, children spend more time in front of TVs, computers and watching the Internet.

In today's world, rapid population growth, lack of housing and support services, poverty, youth unemployment and underemployment, declining credibility of local communities, overcrowding in poor urban areas, disintegration of families and ineffective education systems are some of the causes of juvenile delinquency.

The practice of child-rearing is often associated, albeit to varying degrees, with juvenile delinquency, which is associated with negative experience gained during childhood and is aggravated by erroneous child-rearing practices. Some of the latter may be interpreted as evils causing asocial behaviour among children and adolescents. However, the relationship between educational practice and juvenile delinquency and its scope have not yet been studied in detail.

In the theoretical legal literature, the main features of parental style and practice, which may serve as possible causes of juvenile crime (Hoeve et al., 2009: 751). These international features need to be studied in the light of the various national, cultural and socio-economic characteristics of juvenile delinquency. A comparative analysis of the various practices of child-rearing used in countries against the background of juvenile delinquency shows that factors capable of predicting the outcome of types of social behaviour of children are universal. However, they may operate differently in family and broader social environments and demonstrate their correlation with the social, economic and cultural conditions of a given society, community or family.

The tradition of child-rearing is an important focus for the study of some of the most important factors for the social development of children in international law. The crucial question is whether a child or young person will become a socially adequate member of society or, conversely, will follow a path that leads to juvenile delinquency. The practice and conditions of child-rearing should be understood as a set of different factors that put young people on the rails of antisocial behaviour and juvenile delinquency. Without such an integrated approach, it is too easy to exaggerate the group of factors considered and to present a biased or even distorted view of the area under consideration, regardless of whether the factors under analysis may or may not be relevant.

International law establishes judicial procedures that are appropriate for children who have shown antisocial behaviour or committed crimes. Measures taken in such cases should not only aim at creating a safer social environment by isolating child offenders, but also at correcting the behaviour of children, which is particularly important for juvenile offenders.

The problem of juvenile delinquency has been at the centre of scientists' attention for quite a long time, and some relevant approaches to research have been identified decades before. In these studies, the role of parenting and its significance for juvenile delinquency have been assessed and interpreted in different ways. For example, C.M. Bridges noted that "the factors that influence the change of children's behaviour may be very unclear, many of them are still out of sight of social scientists, psychologists and other scientists" (Bridges, 1927: 520). This statement remains true today, while the various reasons underlying juvenile delinquency remain controversial.

One theory that underlines the importance of the influence of the family environment and early childhood education strategies for the development or prevention of juvenile delinquency is that of crime control. It was developed by M. Gottfredson and T. Hirshi during their research aimed at tracing "the contours of sound public policy on crime" (Gottfredson, Hirschi, 1990: xiv).

Studies on the origin and development of child delinquency point to a lack of consistent association with peer pressure, deprivation or other reasons usually placed on adolescents and young people who start to commit crimes. Empirical studies of available data on crime have shown that they are not linked, as many researchers believe, to any inherited proclivities, defective genes or other causes. These findings highlight the impact of educational and parental practices on children's development of criminal behaviour patterns, anti-social behaviour and juvenile delinquency.

In the theoretical legal literature, attempts have been made to find an answer to the question of the impact of parental education on child crime (Cauffman et al., 2008: 701). Scientists have identified and described the main types of unsatisfactory child-rearing practices that may contribute to the growth of juvenile crime. The first type is the practice of child-rearing without parental involvement. Parents make few demands on their children. As a result, children in such families receive little emotional support. They are likely to suffer from poor and limited emotional ties and often enjoy freedom when they come home or leave home. Parents may be unaware of their children's needs and problems or simply not respond to them.

In this regard, it should be noted that crime is a problem not only for young offenders, but also for teenagers who are victims of poor parenting. These children may have serious negative consequences for their socialization process and have difficulty adapting to the norms of the wider community or society. Adolescents "compensate" for the lack of parental care and participation in society through their own retaliatory measures.

Parenting patterns that are seen as wrong in developed countries are fairly common in developing countries. For example, parents in African countries are often unaware of the impact that their child-rearing practices have on cognitive and social behaviour. Deprived from early childhood due to a lack of parental care, children in Africa are further disadvantaged by the usual constraints imposed by parents on their children. This approach to child-rearing is further exacerbated by punitive discipline and an emphasis on unconditional respect for elders and respect for religious rules. At the same time, mothers of children in Africa are more condescending of what they see in the sexual relations of their adolescent children than women in other cultures (Ensminger, 1990: 2033).

Data on parental practices commonly used in Brazil show that mothers are more involved in childrearing than fathers. Mothers who indicated that they had more difficult situations with their children also showed significantly higher levels of physical punishment and coercion of their children.

The behavioural expectations of parents towards their children show great similarities in different cultures and can be interpreted as universal. The most widely accepted of these expectations are respect and courtesy of elders and others, honesty, sharing of family values and good schooling.

It is therefore imperative to persuade individuals and institutions to commit the time, money, expertise and other resources needed to address this global challenge. A number of United Nations documents reflect a preference for a social rather than a judicial approach to combating juvenile delinquency. The 1990 Riyadh Guidelines argue that the prevention of juvenile delinquency is an important part of the overall prevention of crime in society and the 1985 United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules). The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) of 1985 recommend positive measures to improve the general welfare of juveniles and reduce the need for government intervention.

There is a widespread belief that early intervention is the best approach to preventing juvenile delinquency. Prevention requires individual, group and untries use different methods to prevent crime and criminal behavior. In some countries, the focus is on punitive prevention aimed at intimidating potential offenders by making sure they understand the possibility of severe punishment or measures can be taken to prevent the recurrence of crime, which include educating the offender about the negative aspects of the crime and trying to reconcile offenders and their victims.

Children's rights in the fight against crime were developed in the twentieth century, with millions of children killed in the First World War and nearly 13 million killed in the Second World War. For that reason, the importance of children's rights was recognized (Bassiouni, 1999: 60). The Second World War was the occasion for the international regulation of human rights, and after the war the League of Nations was formed. Its goal was to try to protect the basic standards of children's rights in the fight against crime. The organization responded to violations of children's rights.

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, international efforts to promote the concept of children's rights have gone through various times of international law. The understanding of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child as the current meaning as well as the prospects for its future development, requires an understanding of this historical evolution. It has also been an era in which the international community has begun to make effective use of legal instruments to strengthen its broader efforts to eradicate abuse and encourage states to take concrete measures to improve the situation of children (Alston, Tobin, 2005: 3). Although in most cases, the development of these instruments did not meet the standard set by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is one of the main international human rights treaties. The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights applies to adults, children and minors, but it does not define these terms. It is the first international human rights treaty to provide special treatment and procedures for children in criminal matters. The United Nations Human Rights Committee is the monitoring body for States' implementation of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The United Nations Human Rights Committee has considered and criticized provisions on the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Article 14 of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that criminal proceedings should take into account age and the desirability of promoting rehabilitation when punishing minors for criminal acts (Cipriani, 2009: 41-42).

Article 10 of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that juvenile offenders shall be detained separately from adults and shall be provided with "treatment appropriate to their age and legal status". The imposition of the death penalty on juvenile offenders is prohibited in Article 6 (5) of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obliges States to guarantee the full range of economic, social and cultural rights, including children's right to education, housing, health, food, work and social security. The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provides for the right to free primary education. The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights monitors whether States that have ratified the treaty meet their obligations. The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights does not explicitly address juvenile justice issues.

The provisions of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights amount to binding international law. The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urges States to recognize the need to adopt special measures for children to protect them from economic and social exploitation.

Article 77 of Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 provides that children shall be the object of special respect and protection against all forms of indecent assault. Parties to a conflict must provide them with the necessary care and assistance, both because of their age and for any other reason. Parties to conflict should take all possible measures to ensure that children under the age of 15 do not take direct part in hostilities and, in particular, refrain from recruiting them into their armed forces. When recruiting persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but have not attained the age of eighteen years, parties to a conflict should endeavour to give preference to the eldest of them.

If, in exceptional cases, children under the age of fifteen take a direct part in hostilities and fall into the power of an adverse party, they should receive special protection, whether or not they are prisoners of war. In cases of arrest, detention or internment for reasons related to armed conflict, children should be kept separate from adults. The death penalty for crimes related to armed conflict may not be carried out on persons under the age of 18 at the time of commission of the crimes.

Juveniles aged 16 years could be convicted of criminal offences and detained. Juveniles are not detained separately from adults. States should consider raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility in terrorism cases so that it complies with generally accepted international standards in this field.

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), 1985, are the main international instruments detailing acceptable methods of juvenile justice.

In 1955, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. However, they do not provide rules for the treatment of child offenders. The Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, convened in 1980, called for the development of the Beijing Rules, which were adopted by the United Nations in 1985. They were the first international legal instruments to provide detailed guidelines for the protection of children's rights and respect for their needs in the administration of juvenile justice.

Preliminary observation 4 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), adopted by a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 December 2015, provides that all young prisoners who are subject to juvenile courts should be categorized as juveniles. As a rule, such young people should not be sentenced to imprisonment.

Among international human rights instruments, the 1985 Beijing Rules represent the first and most in-depth approach to juvenile justice. Rule 4 and its commentary call on States to raise their legislation to an internationally recognized level. The text of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child even mentions that the comments on the Beijing Rules should apply to children in all States, even if the Beijing Rules themselves are not binding.

Rule 4 of the Beijing Rules sets out the age of criminal responsibility. In particular, in legal systems that recognize the concept of an age of criminal responsibility for minors, the commencement of that age should not be set too low, taking into account emotional, mental and intellectual maturity.

The minimum age of criminal responsibility varies greatly due to the history and culture of different states. The modern approach is to consider whether a child, because of her or his individual insight and understanding, can be held substantively responsible for anti-social behaviour. If the age of criminal responsibility was too low, or if there was no lower age at all, the concept of responsibility would lose its meaning. In general, there is a close relationship between the notion of responsibility for criminal behaviour and other social rights and responsibilities (such as marital status, civil majority, etc.). Efforts should therefore be made to agree on a reasonable minimum age that would be applicable at the international level.

The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child seeks to ensure that its provisions relating to children and criminal law, particularly with regard to the minimum age of criminal responsibility, are duly reflected in the domestic legislation of States. States should endeavour to facilitate the enactment of laws and the setting of a minimum age below which children are not expected to be in violation of criminal law. States should ensure that no child is subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including the prohibition of life imprisonment and the death penalty for persons below the age of 18 years.

In order to determine the minimum age of criminal responsibility, states, by virtue of paragraph 3 of Article 40 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, should endeavour to promote the adoption of laws and the establishment of a minimum age below which children are presumed not to be in violation of criminal law. Article 37(a) of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges States to ensure that no child is subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including the prohibition of life imprisonment and the death penalty for persons under 18 years of age. r any other institution. Regulation 11 (a) states that: "Every person under the age of 18 years shall be considered a juvenile. The age limit below which no child may be deprived of his or her liberty shall be determined by law". As stated by J.E. Doek 2008. The Riyadh Guidelines and the Beijing Rules are unique international instruments, and the Havana Rules can be seen as specifically elaborating at least part of these general rules and principles (Doek, 2008: 230).

There is interest in exploring some aspects of youth crime. In particular, it should be borne in mind that, throughout history, young people have been a major resource for progress in societies and states. Youth is a period of life in which individuals already have some experience as well as enough energy to make plans. During this period, young people are vulnerable and can be involved in crime. That is why the international community needs to implement active youth policies to prevent crime among young people.

Of all population groups, young people are most vulnerable to economic development challenges, which often weaken traditional forms of social protection needed for the healthy development of the younger generation (Smirnykh, 2020: 12-13).

Educated and comprehensively developed youth is the key to the development of any state. There are currently 1.8 billion young men and women among the world's population, which is the highest number of young people in human history. This demographic situation offers unprecedented opportunities for socio-economic progress. At the same time, many young people's potential cannot be fully realized due to violations of their fundamental rights.

The period of youth is defined in different ways and there is no generally accepted concept of youth, and not all societies have a concept of youth as the life stage between childhood and adulthood. The period of youth may coincide with a phase of adolescence that occurs during the second decade of life and is associated both with physical changes in sexual maturity and with the transformation of young people's social roles and responsibilities as they move towards adulthood. While some Governments, United Nations organizations and inter-State development organizations rely on and differentiate between young people and children and adults, the criteria vary from country to country and from region to region.

The United Nations defines young people as those aged 15-24 years, but this is mainly for statistical purposes, as the meaning of the term "youth" in various societies around the world is constantly changing in response to changing political, economic and socio-cultural conditions". Other age categories used by international aid and development organizations working with children and young people include children (0-18 years), adolescents (10-19 years) and young people (10-24 years).

According to article 2 of the draft federal act on youth policy in the Russian Federation, submitted to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly on 22 July 2020, young people (young citizens) are a socio-demographic group comprising persons aged 14 to 35 years who have Russian citizenship and a permanent place of residence in the Russian Federation or live abroad.

Many countries also draw attention to youth in relation to the age at which a person is legally treated equally, often referred to as the "age of majority". In many countries, this age is usually 18 years, so once a person reaches that age, he or she is considered an adult.

Young people can be a positive force for development if they are provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive. In particular, to prevent youth crime, young people need to be educated and equipped to contribute to a productive economy. They need access to the labour market, which will enable them to realize their potential.

The United Nations has long recognized that young people's imagination, ideals and energy are vital to the further development of the societies in which they live. The Member States of the United Nations recognized this in 1965. When they endorsed the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding among Peoples.

The United Nations General Assembly celebrated 1985 as the International Year of Youth. The work of the United Nations on youth 15-24 years of age permeates the international legal order of children and adults, affecting the rights of young people in different age groups. Although in

some situations young people aged 15-17 may have attained the social status of youth or adults, under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child all those under the age of 18 are considered children.

One type of juvenile and youth crime is violence that is "the intentional use of physical force or force, threatening or actual, against another person or against a group or community that either results in or is highly violent".

Violence among young people is defined as violence that occurs among people aged 10-29 who are not connected and who may or may not know each other and usually takes place outside the home. Examples of youth violence include bullying, physical violence with or without a weapon, and gang violence. However, high rates of perpetration and victimization often reach the age group 30-35 years, and this group of older young people should be taken into account when trying to understand and prevent youth violence (Mercy et al., 2002: 24).

Youth violence is closely linked to other forms of violence, including child abuse, intimate partner violence and self-management: these types of violence share common risk factors and one may be a risk factor for the other. For example, child abuse is a risk factor for subsequent involvement in youth violence. It is therefore useful to consider youth violence within a broader category of violence. Violence can be divided into different categories depending on the context in which it occurs.

Self-directed violence is divided into suicidal behavior and self-abuse. The first includes suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts and completed suicides. Self-directed violence, on the other hand, includes acts such as self-harming.

Interpersonal violence is understood as violence between people. This category is divided into family and intimate partner violence as well as community violence. The first category includes child abuse, intimate partner violence and elder abuse. Community violence is subdivided into acquaintance and stranger violence.

It covers youth violence, attacks by strangers, violence related to property crimes and violence in the workplace and other institutions. Collective violence means violence perpetrated by wider groups of people and can be divided into social, political and economic violence.

The transversal element in each of these categories is the nature of the acts of violence. The nature of the acts can be physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, and can also be negligible.

Violence among young people often occurs alongside other types of violence. For example, abused children themselves at a later age are at increased risk of either committing or being subjected to multiple forms of violence, including suicide, sexual violence, youth violence and intimate partner violence. Various types of violence are based on the same set of factors, such as alcohol use, family and social isolation, high unemployment and economic disparities. Thus, strategies that prevent one type of violence and address common underlying factors have the potential to prevent a range of different types of violence (Mercy et al., 2008: 198).

Death by violence is the most visible result of the violent behaviour of young people recorded in official statistics, but represents only the tip of the pyramid. This is followed by victims of youth violence who are brought to the attention of health authorities and receive some form of emergency medical, legal or other assistance. A third, much broader layer at the base of the pyramid includes acts of violence against young people (such as bullying) that may never be reported to the public authorities. Demographic research is therefore essential to document the overall prevalence and consequences of violence among young people. However, with the exception of self-reported school surveys on youth participation in physical fights and bullying, such surveys are absent in most countries and regions.

There are many reasons for juvenile and youth crime. The most important of these seem to need to be addressed. For example, alcohol and drug use by minors and young people has a direct impact on cognitive and physical functions, and can lead to reduced self-control and ability to process information and assess risks. It can increase momentum and make minors and young people more likely to engage in violent behaviors. Young people who start drinking and drinking early are often prone to violence. At the community and societal levels, crowded and poorly managed drinking areas contribute to increased aggression among drinkers. Several studies confirm that violence often occurs in situations of alcohol intoxication (Mattila et al., 2005: 307).

The involvement of minors and youth in drug trafficking aged 14-16 has tripled the risk of involvement in violence. Access to drugs may also reflect neighbouring circumstances that provide

opportunities for and reinforce deviant behavior. The frequent use of alcohol, marijuana and other illicit drugs is closely linked to involvement in violence.

Increasing poverty among minors and young people increases the likelihood of involvement in violence, and it has been shown that poverty, both at the community and household levels, can predict violence. Young people from families with lower socio-economic status are twice as likely to be involved in violent crime as young people from middle and high-income families. Adolescents growing up in families where one or both parents are unemployed are at higher risk of violence against young people (Farrington, 1994: 215). Poverty and economic inequality are linked to national homicide rates and that the link is particularly strong for men aged 20-24 years.

The deviant behaviour of minors and young people usually starts within the family. Parents who demonstrate antisocial behaviour are more likely to have children who do the same. In a study conducted among the Swedish population, the family relations of persons convicted of violent crimes were studied. The study found that persons with a sibling convicted of a violent crime were four times more likely to be convicted of a violent crime and twice as likely to have a cousin convicted of a violent crime. A number of studies in other geographical regions found similar results, for example, a study in Cambridge, United Kingdom, which found that 63 per cent of boys with convicted fathers had themselves been convicted of crimes (including violent crimes), compared with 30 per cent of boys whose relatives had not been convicted.

It should be noted that aggression and aggressive behaviour tend to develop at an early age, and many adolescents involved in youth violence have a history of juvenile delinquency and patterns of destructive behaviour in early childhood. Children engaging in destructive or aggressive behaviour and children diagnosed with behavioural disorders are also at increased risk of violence in young people. The emergence of aggressive behaviour before the age of 13 years invariably precedes later violence among men. Many researchers confirm continuity in antisocial behaviour from early aggression to violent crime.

Child abuse includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect of children. Child victims of abuse are more likely to exhibit antisocial and aggressive behaviours in childhood and adolescence than young people who have not been abused (Olds, 2008: 4).

#### 4. Results

A study of international legal cooperation in combating juvenile delinquency has identified the need for a deeper and more detailed analysis of juvenile delinquency.

#### 5. Conclusion

In order to improve the legal situation of children and enhance the effectiveness of international legal cooperation in combating juvenile delinquency, it seems necessary to adopt the United Nations Convention on "International Cooperation in Combating Juvenile and Youth Delinquency", which could include the following provisions: the concept of juvenile delinquency; areas of international legal cooperation in combating juvenile delinquency; prevention of juvenile delinquency and peculiarities of juvenile justice administration.

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