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## PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF ENSURING THE MINORS' SEXUAL INTEGRITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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**Abstract.** *The article discusses the psychological aspects of ensuring the sexual integrity of minors; the relevance of the research is confirmed by statistics from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus. The author clarified the terms “pedophilic disorder”, “pedophile”, “pedosexual”, analyzed the nature of pedophilism and pedosexuality from the point of view of system-vector psychology. The article notes the importance of the issue of preventing crimes against sexual integrity of the individual and organizing interdepartmental interaction between specialists in the fields of education, healthcare, and internal affairs to prevent this type of crime. The article presents the results of a research of junior schoolchildren’s ideas about a potential criminal and practical experience through the “Safe Childhood” project.*  
**Keywords:** *sexual integrity, minors, crime prevention, pedophile, pedosexual, pedophilism, pedosexuality, “Safe Childhood” project, Republic of Belarus*

The problem of crimes against the sexual integrity of minors remains very relevant for Belarus. According to official statistics from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus, the number of criminal cases increases every year.

In 2022, more than 840 children were recognized as victims of crimes against sexual integrity, more than half of them are children under the age of 14; in terms of biological sex, more than 80% of the victims are girls. If we compare the data with 2021, it should be noted that the number of minor victims increased by more than 20%, and the number of minor victims in crimes related to the commission of indecent acts increased by more than 60%. Moreover, more than 80% of these crimes were committed using the Internet [4].

Unfortunately, minors themselves are also involved in crimes against the sexual integrity of minors. According to judicial statistics, in 2022, 17 minors were convicted, of which: 4 minors were convicted of rape (Article 166 of the Criminal Code); 9 minors – for violent acts of a sexual nature (Article 167 of the Criminal Code); 4 minors – for organizing and (or) using prostitution or creating conditions for prostitution (Article 171 of the Criminal Code) [5].

According to ICD-11, Pedophilic disorder (6D32) is characterized by a persistent and pronounced pattern of sexual arousal, which is manifested by persistent sexual thoughts, fantasies, urges or actions, involving children before puberty. In addition, to be diagnosed with the disorder, the person must have specifically acted on or experienced significant distress in response to the thoughts, fantasies, or urges [2].

However, according to information obtained during psychological and psychiatric examinations of the accused over the past six years, only 88 persons out of more than 2,200 accused were diagnosed with a disorder of sexual preference in the form of pedophilia. In other words, only 4% of criminals have a mental disorder of some kind. At the same time, according to statistics, almost every fifth accused was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crime" [4].

Then a reasonable question arises: what term is more correct to apply to persons who commit such crimes, but who have not been given a medical diagnosis? In our opinion, it is worth using the term "pedosexual". Pedosexuals are individuals who have not lost the ability for interpersonal, emotional, sensual communication with a sexually mature partner, but at the same time choose as partners persons much younger than themselves. They are often prone to sadism. Most often, pedosexuals are middle-aged men with age-related androgynous deficits, teenagers without formed moral and ethical ideas, a sufficient level of emotionality, or the ability to empathize, who commit violence against a weaker (morally and/or physically) peer or a child younger than themselves; former prisoners who have lost the ability for heterosexual communication, implement subcultural stereotypes of sexual behavior, choosing as an object a child who is not capable of resisting, and often get rid of him after getting what they want, covering their tracks. Sometimes among them there may be demonstrative individuals striving for "fame and popularity" and "players with the law" [3].

Secondary pedophilia poses a great danger, when sexual attraction to children occurs against the background of traumatic brain injuries, brain tumors, schizophrenia, mental retardation, etc. Despite the importance of the issue raised, understanding the nature of these disorders is often difficult, and correction methods are not effective enough.

Attempts to explain the psychological nature of pedophilia and pedosexuality were made within the framework of the systems approach and system-vector psychology by V.A. Ganzen and V.K. Tolkachev [1; 6]. Owners of the anal vector are predisposed to homosexuality, crimes of a sexual nature, pedosexuality and pedophilia. Due to traumatic life events and long-term sexual frustrations, they enter a negative life scenario and destroy archetypal taboos on sexual relations with people of the same sex and with children [6].

With favorable development and full implementation, anal men become golden fathers, caring mentors, respected teachers. Their main value in life is honor and respect from others. Their phenomenal memory allows them to accumulate the experience of generations, and the desire to pass on knowledge and skills to children makes them Teachers with a capital T. Such people love children and know how to take care of them. But sometimes a breakdown occurs in the psyche,

and anal people begin to experience sexual attraction to children, and in general they show a tendency towards sadism and revenge [6].

True pedophiles [3] are characterized by an anal-visual combination of vectors. A pedophile with anal-visual ligament vectors does not like novelty, pedophile needs to get used to the victim. Pedophile either looks closely from the side for a long time, or is generally in the child's immediate environment [6].

Not only children, but also adults, imagining a pedosexual and a pedophile, paint the image of an inhuman monster. A survey of 94 primary schoolchildren aged 6 to 10 years showed that only 9.6% of children ( $\varphi^*_{\text{tab}}=2.31 \leq \varphi^*_{\text{emp}}=9.132$  at  $p \leq 0.01$ ) see a realistic figure as a person potentially dangerous to them, another 9.6% of children the criminal is seen as an alcoholic, a thief and a prisoner, while others imagine them as bloodthirsty, fantastic, with many horns, claws, spikes, fangs, with cold and explosive weapons, which does not correspond to reality. However, in life everything is not at all like that or not quite like that. Outwardly, this may be a completely pleasant person to talk to, arousing sympathy and even trust. An anal-visual pedophile can easily gain the trust of a child. This is a subtle tempter, capable of luring and seducing. Often this is a person from the child's environment - a neighbor, one of the relatives, or even a teacher. Thanks to the presence of a visual vector, it creates an emotional connection with its future victim.

When describing a pedophile and a pedosexual, it can be noted that they do not show the same interest in adults as they show in children, perceive children as adults, "look after" them, may have a profession that allows them to be surrounded by children of a certain age group, or choose other ways to spend time alone with children (coach, nanny or neighbor) use bribery, gifts, flattery, play on the love of secrets, on the child's affection and love. The majority of pedophiles and pedosexuals are men aged 30-60 years and the ratio of their victims by gender is 50x50, while women more often choose boys (in 2022, 4 women were convicted in the Republic of Belarus [4]). They often say that they love all the children in the world or that they themselves still feel like children, their personal lives are not organized, many of them have been subjected to physical or sexual abuse in the past, so there is a replication mechanism in their behavior, while they believe that violence has helped them develop their sexuality and that they bring joy, pleasure and benefit to the child for his further development. Pedophiles and pedosexuals are also dangerous for children because they are characterized by infantilism and helplessness in many areas of their own lives, they easily devalue what they themselves are not able to achieve, deny desires and needs in building an adult life and realizing meanings, and are prone to various addictions.

To protect children from the traumatic experience of violation of sexual integrity, it is necessary to operate a system for the prevention of crimes against sexual integrity of the individual and clearly established interdepartmental interaction between specialists in the fields of education, healthcare, internal affairs and work with different age groups of children, parents, teachers and psychologists. Adults should clearly know the signs of violation of sexual integrity, children should develop the concept of "dangerous stranger" (a person who approaches a child, talks to him or asks the child to help with something, while he can ask for help from other adults' people) and "relatively safe stranger" (a person on duty - a policeman, a cashier, a store clerk, a military man, a person who does not come into first contact with a child).

Such knowledge can be obtained as part of the implementation of the social project "Safe Childhood" of the Department of Social and Educational Psychology of the F. Skorina State University. We also teach children to say "NO!", form and reinforce a model of behavior through the game "What if you..., and someone else...", discuss the terms of personal space and its boundaries, intimate and inviolable parts of the body, and analyze the types of touches: "good touches", "bad touches", "secret touches".

**Conclusions.** Thus, the causes of pedophilia and pedosexuality are genetic mutations, traumatic brain injuries, and psychological trauma experienced at an early age, which leads to a violation of basic instincts: instead of protective parental instincts, sexual instincts are activated.

To protect children, it is necessary to have parental control of the Internet, a critical choice of environment (most pedophiles/pedosexuals are familiar with the children they are attacking), as well as adequate parental behavior (some parents themselves attract rapists to their children, posting, for example, eroticized photos of their children on social media networks). You should also pay attention to the adequate behavior of adolescents, awareness of the risks of unsafe behavior, including sexual behavior (the same photos, walking in busy places late at night, hitchhiking, modeling). Thus, joint and coordinated actions of various services and specialists can help prevent crimes against the sexual integrity of minors.

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