

Legal aspects of prostitution and its psycho-social consequences

SUMMARY

Under the Polish criminal law, i.e. art. 203 of the Criminal Code, prostitution is forbidden. Prostitution is a widely existing phenomenon – a social fact. There are many reasons, factors on the basis of which girls opt for one and not another way to earn money. Currently its new form has also appeared, namely a sponsorship. Prostitution itself is not socially harmful. The problem appears when the phenomenon intensifies, and more precisely – the causes of this state of affairs. The disappearance of strong social bonds, deep emotions, loss of sense of identity can also lead to many undesirable consequences. Sex certainly is a sphere of human life. The manner of satisfying impulsive sexual tensions, as well as the level of achieved satisfaction do not depend on the functions of sexual organs, but on the whole personality. Sex fulfills various functions, i.e. psychological, social and biological.

The attitude of the society to prostitution varies. Some just accept it socially, while others strictly repress it. Under the criminal law, prostitution means indecent behavior aiming at obtaining profit. Procurement, pimping and facilitating prostitution are punished in relation to prostitution.

The consequences of prostitution may be psychological and psychiatric. The first are related with the fact that a young woman is not aware of the consequences which may arise after deciding on such a line of work and is not aware of the mental burden. Women deal with violence and brutality in this profession; they are humiliated and derided by their clients. While the second are connected with losing respect to herself, and then even starting to hate herself. Even if a woman gives up prostitution, a horrendous feeling of guilt and trauma of embarrassing past remain. There are international legal regulations related with the issue of prostitution. One of them is the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the second is the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

Prostitution is a form of a suicide: it kills the body and mind because if you become indifferent and do not feel anything wrong, you will not feel anything good either. Each sexual act requires love since each woman desires to be respected and loved, and not only used.

KEYWORDS: prostitution, physical violence, brothel