

## CURRENT PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL PROTECTION OF NEGLECTED AND HOMELESS CHILDREN: OUTLINING SPECIFICS

**Problem setting** The phenomenon of child neglect and homelessness is complex and ambiguous phenomenon. It should be noted that despite the fact that every year the problem becomes more urgent in Ukraine there is no state statistics on homeless and street children. However, some idea of the number of children in this category can be got from the statistics on the number of children removed from streets, including those who are homeless and begging, and the number of children placed in shelters for children. One form of removing children from the street is carrying out preventive raids "Street Children", "Railway Station", visiting families. In particular, during the year 2013 15988 children were found during raids, 7 298 children were in shelters for children. During the raids children were found not only outside, but also in computer clubs and entertainment establishments where they were during training sessions or at night and also in families during social inspections (detecting threats to life and health of a child, violence and ill-treatment children were removed from their families).

**Recent research and publications analysis** The problem of social and legal protection of children was studied in many aspects by a number of scientists: M. Batenchuk, A. Bezpalko, I. Horobets, H. Husak, I. Zvierieva, O. Kabanets, A. Kapska, O. Karpenko, S. Kyianytsia, O. Lisovets, N. Maksymova, M. Melnyk, Zh. Petrochko, A. Potopakhina, T. Pritchenko, I. Piesha, N. Romanova, Yu. Saienko, T. Semyhina, S. Tolstoukhova, I. Tsybulina. Domestic and foreign experience of overcoming child neglect and homelessness examine in their works A. Bezpalko, A. Bykov, V. Vakulenko, I. Horobets, L. Hurkovska, I. Dolia, T. Zhuravel, I. Zvierieva, A. Zinchenko, A. Kapska, L. Oliferenko, Zh. Petrochko, I. Piesha. However, public-administrative aspect of the problem is unexplored.

**Paper objective** The article is to study the actual problems of distribution of child neglect and homelessness in modern Ukraine and outlining the specifics of this phenomenon.

**Paper main body** In today's complex political environment the number of neglected and homeless children has increased significantly due to the problem of resettlement of a significant number of families with children from Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Thus, the problem of implementation of social and legal protection of children in this category at the state level is extremely important.

**Conclusions and prospects for further research** The specifics of the phenomenon of child neglect and homelessness is outlined. The level of social and physical development, psychological state, behavioral manifestations of neglected and homeless children must be considered in the formulation and implementation of state policy in the field of childhood protection in Ukraine during the public-

administrative activities aimed at the prevention of child neglect and homelessness and by providing social services to homeless and street children.