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## **LEGAL EDUCATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND LEGAL NIHILISM IN UKRAINE**

The purpose of this article is to examine legal nihilism in the context of the value of the legal institution and its development in Ukraine. We will try to understand the characteristic features of legal nihilism as a mass phenomenon, given the Constitution, which defines Ukraine as a democratic, social and legal state [1]. However, the reality demonstrates crisis phenomena in the political, social and economic spheres, as well as a high level of crime and offenses in the country. Overcoming various deformations of the legal consciousness and culture of Ukrainian society, particularly legal nihilism, is an essential task of legal education.

In general, nihilism denies established social norms, ideals, principles, laws, authorities, traditions, etc. [2, p. 425]. Considering nihilism in each sphere - moral, aesthetic, religious, political, legal, etc. - it can be noted that its nature, causes, and consequences can differ significantly. In each of these spheres, nihilism manifests itself in its form, and by analyzing it, one can better understand its impact on society and the individual.

Speaking of legal nihilism, it should be distinguished from criticism of law and legal negativism. The criticism is aimed at denying "defective" norms, conservative legal habits, negative legal stereotypes, and imperfect legal institutions, while legal nihilism is a disagreement with progressive ideas, ideals, and values in the legal sphere [3, p. 17].

Legal nihilism in Ukraine can be caused by various factors. The following are examples:

- 1.** High levels of corruption in the justice system and the inability of courts to deliver fair decisions undermine public confidence in the legal system. It can lead to the spread of legal nihilism when people lose faith in the effectiveness of the law.
- 2.** Political instability: Political crises, uncontrolled changes in power, and the lack of a stable legal environment can increase citizens' uncertainty about the legitimacy and stability of the legal order.
- 3.** Economic factors: Social inequality, high unemployment, and lack of opportunities for economic relief can contribute to negative attitudes toward law and order.

The development of legal nihilism is a complex phenomenon, and it can arise from different reasons and in various contexts. Overcoming this phenomenon requires a comprehensive approach, including legal system reform, improved justice, political and economic stability, as well as education and awareness-raising on the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Special means to minimize legal nihilism should be mentioned:

- quality of laws and other legal acts. Ensuring the proper role of the law in the system of legal acts. Stability and uniformity in the regulation of social relations;

- the authority of the state power and the efficiency of its mechanism. The existence of the developed state structure capable of ensuring the enforcement of the law. Improvement of the law enforcement agencies system and legal enforcement activities. Strengthening the rule of law. Enhancing the role of the court;

- a high legal awareness that would allow the law to work. Preservation of the identity of legal culture. Improving the legal information system, professional training and education of lawyers and other officials [4].

If legal nihilism is present and widespread in a society, no country can lead in ensuring the life safety of its population, reach the top of rankings for high living standards and prosperity, and risks losing credibility in the international arena on many issues (such as tourism and education) in the future. A state with unaware citizens has a great chance of becoming a center of unpunished crime, stimulating criminal elements through its inaction [5, p. 48].

The main way to overcome legal nihilism is to build a state governed by the rule of law, to realize its absolute value, and to establish and consolidate the legal nature of relations between citizens, authorities and the state. It can only be achieved through a careful approach to educating the population on the principles of proper behavior, legal thinking, general awareness of the law, conducting preventive work with the population, strengthening anti-corruption measures and reaching a new level of legislative quality.

## REFERENCES

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