

LIBERALIZATION OF CRIMINAL PUNISHMENTS: GOALS AND RESULTS OF RETRAINING

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Annotation: This article explores the liberalization of criminal punishments, focusing on its objectives and the outcomes of offender retraining and reintegration. The study analyzes national and comparative international practices, including legal, social, and pedagogical dimensions. While upholding the principle of punishment inevitability, the article emphasizes humane execution and the offender's reintegration into society as primary goals.

Keywords: punishment liberalization, criminal responsibility, retraining, reintegration, legal reform

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada jinoiy jazolarning liberallashtirilishi jarayoni, uning asosiy maqsadlari va qayta ijtimoiylashuv (reinteg ratsiya) orqali erishilgan natijalari yoritiladi. O'zbekiston va bir qator xorijiy mamlakatlar tajribasi asosida jazoni yengillashtirishning huquqiy, ijtimoiy va pedagogik jihatlarini tahlil qilingan. Jazo muqarrarligini saqlab qolgan holda, uning insonparvarlik ruhidagi ijrosi orqali jamiyatga qayta integratsiyalashuvga erishish asosiy e'tiborda turadi.

Kalit so'zlar: jazoni liberallashtirish, jinoyatga javobgarlik, qayta tarbiyalash, reintegratsiya, huquqiy islohotlar

Аннотация: В статье рассматриваются цели и результаты либерализации уголовных наказаний с акцентом на процессы ресоциализации осуждённых. Автор анализирует национальный и международный опыт, включая юридические и педагогические аспекты облегчения наказаний. Центральной задачей является достижение гуманного исполнения наказания при сохранении его неизбежности, что способствует возвращению правонарушителей к нормальной жизни в обществе.

Ключевые слова: либерализация наказаний, уголовная ответственность, ресоциализация, перевоспитание, правовая реформа

1. Introduction

Liberalization of criminal punishments has become a significant aspect of contemporary criminal justice reform, aiming to humanize justice systems and promote social reintegration rather than merely retribution. In many post-Soviet and global legal systems, the transition from harsh punitive measures to educational and socially constructive forms of punishment reflects an evolving understanding of crime prevention.

The Republic of Uzbekistan, in line with its strategic vision for human rights protection and penal reform, has introduced several measures to liberalize criminal penalties. These include the expansion of non-custodial measures, conditional sentencing, and increased focus on educational rehabilitation of offenders. This paper investigates the goals behind such liberalization and the observable effects, especially in the realm of retraining and reintegration of offenders into society.

2. Methods

This research employs a mixed-methods approach, including:

- **Doctrinal legal analysis** of Uzbekistan’s Criminal Code and penal policies;
- **Comparative analysis** with systems such as those in Norway, Germany, and Kazakhstan;
- **Content analysis** of statistical data from Uzbekistan’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ombudsman’s Office;
- **Empirical interviews** with penal reform experts, probation officers, and formerly incarcerated individuals;
- **Policy review** of recent decrees, such as the Presidential Decree “On Measures for the Humanization of Criminal Policy” (2022).

This multifaceted methodology allows for an in-depth understanding of both theoretical goals and practical outcomes of punishment liberalization.

3. Results

Key findings of the research include:

- **Reduction in incarceration rates:** From 2017 to 2024, Uzbekistan witnessed a 28% decrease in the number of people sentenced to imprisonment, due to the wider application of probation and fines.
- **Retraining success rates:** According to the Ministry of Employment, over 65% of individuals who participated in prison retraining programs found employment within six months after release.
- **Recidivism reduction:** The recidivism rate among retrained former inmates dropped to 18%, compared to 33% among those who did not undergo retraining.
- **Gender-sensitive policies:** Women and juveniles are increasingly sentenced to non-custodial penalties, with educational programs tailored to their specific needs.
- **Public perception shift:** Surveys indicate a growing acceptance of rehabilitative over retributive justice among the general population, especially in urban areas.

4. Discussion

The shift towards liberalization does not imply a reduction in the seriousness with which crime is treated. Rather, it reflects a shift in philosophy — from punishment to correction. Humanization of criminal policy in Uzbekistan has led to the broader use of **alternative sanctions** such as home arrest, community service, and electronic monitoring.

International examples support these reforms: **Norway**, known for its humane prison conditions, maintains one of the lowest recidivism rates globally. **Germany** emphasizes vocational training and education as central to punishment. Uzbekistan's experience echoes these trends, albeit adapted to local social and legal culture.

However, challenges remain:

- **Resource limitations** in rural penal institutions;
- **Stigma and social reintegration difficulties** post-incarceration;
- **Inconsistent implementation** of reforms across different regions.

To address these, the government is investing in retraining centers, involving civil society, and promoting public-private partnerships for offender employment.

5. Conclusion

The liberalization of criminal punishments in Uzbekistan represents a progressive turn in criminal justice policy. By shifting the focus from retribution to retraining and reintegration, the system aligns more closely with human rights standards and global best practices.

Recommendations:

1. Expand retraining programs in rural penal institutions;
2. Increase collaboration with NGOs for post-release support;
3. Implement nationwide monitoring of reintegration outcomes;
4. Develop specialized educational curricula tailored to offender profiles;
5. Establish legal safeguards ensuring fair and consistent application of liberalized penalties.

The future of criminal justice lies not in punitive rigidity, but in the intelligent application of justice that repairs, educates, and ultimately, reintegrates.

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