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COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE UK

The issue of domestic violence is very relevant in the UK. According to official data in 2019, about 1.2 million women have been affected by domestic violence.

The police response to domestic violence is related to the operation of the «999» and «101» Special Lines. Combating domestic violence is one of the leading tasks of the CPS Special Service in the United Kingdom, which is part of the criminal justice system.

The task of this service is to coordinate in order to protect the rights of victims of domestic violence. In the UK, a lot of attention is paid to the factors of proof and protection of victims. In each instance, the circumstances of the case are reviewed, the CPS representative pays attention to the issues when the victim seized the statement of violence.

Such cases must be additionally analyzed to check whether the refusal of the statement was made under pressure. For the safety of witnesses and their protection in court, the use of testimonies of witnesses and victims through a telephone network is practiced and that is the absence of direct contact in court. It should be noted that this practice goes against the American experience, in which the personal questioning by a judge is more important.

In our view, it is permissible to use communication channels for the survey. However, it is important, if possible, to have visual contact with the case participants. To our mind, domestic violence is an important issue that deserves special attention from public authorities. The value of a high-quality foreign experience in countering domestic violence lies in its consistency. The main activities include: legal reform on this issue, improvement of law enforcement activities, development of social services; educational programs, rehabilitation programs.

Increasing the preventive component of combating domestic violence is of the high importance. At the stage of the lack of public perception of the importance of combating domestic violence, it is advisable to draw on the English experience of visits by authorized bodies to families in the service area, to clarify legislation and to disseminate information on the wrongfulness of these crimes.

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