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## **IS THIS ALREADY VIOLENCE? DEFINING VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ITS IMPACT ON AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM**

## ABSTRACT

Violence, including domestic violence, is ubiquitous phenomena and it is present in every country, cultural circle, and geographical location. Their commonness and scale put them in the center of interest of researchers from various scientific disciplines, politics, and media, and they also become the subject of everyday conversations and reflections. This article attempts to unify the existing definitions of violence and domestic violence, as well as it is an attempt to answer the question whether defining violence in a specific way by a particular person, family, group of people, followers of a specific religion or by particular country can affect the protection of victims of violence and domestic violence, and above all, whether it may make such protection more difficult.

**KEYWORDS:** *violence, domestic violence, forms of domestic violence, cyberviolence, violence against woman, violence against children*

## INTRODUCTION

The dynamic changes in the global world make many thinkers believe that traditional society is beginning to live in disorder. History teaches that conflicts, changes and civilization processes occur in every society. The period of these changes may be quick, for example because of a revolution, or slow done in the evolution form. These changes may have more or less severe consequences for society and for the individual. Many of the problems currently visible in Poland reflect processes taking place in many parts of the world. These problems also include negative phenomena, such as abuse of women and children, as well as other forms of crime. In recent years, Poland, Europe, and the world have been shaken by political, economic, and financial crises, wars, and pandemics, which directly or indirectly changed the reality of our everyday life and also it had a negative impact on existing interpersonal relationships. The COVID-19 pandemic, directly associated primarily with the coronavirus as a disease which kills millions of people, has indirectly caused positive changes such as remote work facilities for employees, increased technical skills among professionally active people, and greater people's awareness of hygiene and the principles of transmitting infectious

diseases. The same pandemic caused a sharp increase in domestic violence and, above all, violence against women (Dzwonnik, Sowulewski, Dettlaff-Dunowski et al. 2022). The World Health Organization estimates that one of four women over the age of fifteen has been a victim of domestic violence done by a husband or a partner at least once in their life, and 10% of women of this age experienced it during the first year of the pandemic. The scale of the phenomenon of domestic violence requires constant exploration of its causes and the search for new forms of help for its victims. It also causes the definition of this phenomenon to be multidimensional. Each definition approaches the phenomenon of violence and domestic violence from a unique perspective. Some of them overlap the meaning and others approach it from a completely new perspective or in terms of the latest trends. The aim of this article is to answer the question: how the process of defining the phenomenon of violence and domestic violence affects the protection of its victims. Can a narrow definition result in excessive penalization of aggressive behavior and lead to abuse by appropriate institutions, and whether understanding domestic violence from one specific perspective may deprive victims of protection and stigmatize them in the eyes of other members of a particular group or society.

Nowadays, there is an increase in the intensity of violence, and its forms are taking on newer and surprising forms. We observe violence wherever there are interactions between people: at home, in schools, at stadiums, in workplaces, on the streets, in clubs, and in cyberspace. The mass media and social media are deeply saturated with it. In many countries, we can observe phenomena of violence such as: honor killings, bloody wars, football fanaticism, looting, extortion, murder, rape, robbery, negative influence through economic and financial pressure and well as through negative impact of digital channels and the use of the Internet. Due to the intensification of these phenomena, the violence is increasingly an element of public debate or discussions held at various levels and by various entities. In the modern world, aggression, violence, or crime are subjects dealt with, among others, by law, biology, psychology, psychiatry, and sociology. The fact that violence or aggression is analyzed separately by each of these scientific disciplines shows that their use is multidimensional and complex. Each of these disciplines analyzes the phenomenon of violence from different perspectives.

## DEFINING VIOLENCE

It must be admitted that it is difficult to present one correct and universally accepted definition of the phenomenon of violence and to precisely describe the behaviors which may be defined as violence. Difficulties in defining the word violence result from the fact that this concept does not qualify for clinical, scientific, or political concepts. The very understanding of the phenomenon is subject to changes along with the changing social situation (Pospiszył 1999, p.14). Violence is evolving and it is taking on new forms. There are new examples of abuses and acts against individual freedom which have not been known or defined before, and as they arise, the definition of violence should be updated. As an example, it is worth mentioning the crime of stalking, the legal definition of which appeared in the Polish Penal Code only in 2011. This does not mean, however, that there was no problem of persistently harassed people before. Forms of stalking, such as harassment through text messages which make the victim feel threatened, or via social networking sites, have not necessarily been previously treated as a crime or even an act of violence in the public consciousness. At this point, it is worth emphasizing the role of sociology of law in shaping legislation. It is the sociology of law that studies how a particular social phenomenon affects the law, and it also supports the creation of new regulations which will respond to socio-cultural changes.

Etymologically, the word violence means *a force that outweighs someone's strength, a physical advantage used for unlawful acts committed against someone; unlawfully imposed power, domination; unlawful acts committed using physical coercion* (Szymczak M. (ed.), 1979, p.986).

The World Health Organization (WHO) works to counteract violence on many levels, in particular through the VPA (Violence Prevention Alliance), a non-profit organization which brings together, apart from WHO member states, other global organizations and associations working to counteract violence. The organization defines violence as the intentional, threatened, or actual use of physical force against oneself, another person, a group, or a community, resulting in or likely to result in injury, death, mental wounds, developmental disorders, or deprivation (Health Organization Violence Prevention Unit).

According to Irena Pospiszyl, the general problem with defining the phenomenon of violence by including all possible behaviors which may be considered an act of violence is that this definition becomes too general and therefore not useful in practice. At the same time, clarifying the definition of violence means that it covers only extreme cases. I. Pospiszyl defines violence as *all non-accidental acts which violate the personal freedom of an individual or contribute to physical or mental harm to a person, going beyond the social rules of mutual relations* (Pospiszyl, op.cit. p. 16).

In turn, Jadwiga Mazur defines violence as a set of *behaviors of an intentional and instrumental nature, the aim of which is to enslave the victim, eliminate his or her independent thoughts and actions, and subordinate him or her to the demands and needs of the perpetrator* (Mazur 2002, p. 38). In the authors' opinion, this definition seems to be too narrow because it does not take into account the use of physical force against another person, aimed solely at causing physical harm to that person. It is important to remember about the mental conditions of perpetrators of crimes mentioned above. Not all violence has the intention of forcing the victim to comply with the perpetrator's demands. There is also violence which serves only to satisfy the pathological mental needs of the perpetrator, as well as violence used solely as a form of entertainment.

From a criminological point of view, Janina Błachut, Andrzej Gaberle and Krzysztof Krajewski define violence as intentional aggression which violates the goods and rights of another person, resulting in physical and mental damage. The authors also state that violence is based on the advantage of the perpetrator over the victim (Błachut, Gaberle, Krajewski 2001, pp. 259-266). This is not an individual position. In the literature on the subject, there is a distinction between aggression and violence, and the mentioned advantage of the victim over the perpetrator is, according to some authors, the main element distinguishing these two phenomena. When the preponderance of power between the victim and the perpetrator is balanced, we talk about aggression, and when there is a preponderance of force in favor of the perpetrator, we are dealing with violence (Helios, Jedlecka 2017, p.15).

Violence is constantly changing, and the definition of this phenomenon requires constant updating due to the ongoing changes. The modern development of information and information technologies, the anonymous nature

of internet users, and the rapid flow of information and images favor the development of illegal activity, including violence in cyberspace. Cyberbullying in this context is defined as the use of psychological violence through stalking, harassment, intimidation, ridicule, creating fake websites using electronic communication tools (trolling, flaming, spoofing) or exclusion from friends (Pączkowski 2017, pp.26-27). It is also worth noting that the youngest people, primary and secondary school students, are increasingly becoming victims of violence. In this context, a particularly important phenomenon is cyberbullying, defined as aggressive actions undertaken using electronic forms of contact, distinguished from other negative behaviors manifested online and defined as cyber rudeness or cyber incivility (Siemieniecka, Skibińska, Majewska 2020, pp. 21-22). Cyberbullying is talked about primarily in the context of children and adolescents, although the problem also affects adults, through acts of aggressive behavior when competing for a job, prospects for career advancement, the desire to stand out in a group or compete for the title of leader.

Another crucial element which has a global impact on the phenomenon of violence and domestic violence is the fact that the Internet is nowadays a source of anonymous purchase of narcotic drugs, especially psychoactive substances, as well as a way of its distribution – dealing or use (Siuda 2020, pp. 219 – 222). Using these mechanisms, the moral norms and customs change, leading to the disintegration of behavior and the blurring of ethical values. These, in turn, directly or indirectly influence the manifestation of aggressive behavior and violence (Gulla 2020, pp. 32-35).

When talking about violence, it should be noted that the instruments of aggression manifested on the Internet and with the use of modern technologies include, among others: registration and distribution of sensitive materials (photos, videos, letters, text messages or e-mails); public insults, threats, account hacking, harassment, or sending ridiculing and humiliating materials. For this purpose, diverse types of social networking sites, chats, e-mail, and discussion forums are used. In the context of such activities, the apparent anonymity of network users is used, speed of action, irreversible effects of action, antagonizing behavior, problem with removing content, it means – its durability and the lack of social control. It is worth adding that contemporary instruments related to the so-called fake news or deep fake,

using artificial intelligence – the image, voice, gestures of people known for their public activities (actors, politicians, musicians, athletes, influencers). The effects of such behavior are diverse types of mental and physical disorders, which in extreme cases may indirectly lead to acts of suicide.

When analyzing the definitions listed above, three basic components should be noted, repeated in the studies of various authors, which are: type of behavior, intentions, and effects of violence (Kmiecik-Baran 1998, pp. 364-365). The common elements are therefore: the use of force to injure, kill, damage property, the use of physical force contrary to the law, the use of violence or the threat of violence to achieve an unlawful goal, an act of physical extermination, unnecessary breaking and destruction, contrary to generally accepted regulations and codes of ethics. It is also an act of coercion that exceeds the limits of acceptability in social relations.

Psychologists perceive aggression leading to violence as one of the basic human characteristics. According to Sigmund Freud, human being has two basic instincts: one is Eros – the instinct of life, and the other is Thanatos – the instinct of death. The life instinct directs human actions towards achieving pleasure and satisfying desires. The death instinct leads a human being to self-destruction. The nature and method of using these basic instincts by people depends on their upbringing and the ability to control the internal energy which accumulates in a person as a result of the action of self-destructive energy. Aggressive behavior occurs in animals, children, and adolescents when they cannot satisfy their desires or needs. Freud's theory is therefore called the hydraulic theory because it compares the aggressive behavior which accumulates in a person to water which, under high pressure, affects the inside of a person, similar to how it affects a tank. If a person is unable to stop the accumulating negative, self-destructive energy inside him or herself, he or she releases it outside in the form of aggressive behavior (Przybysz-Zaremba 2012, p.109). Sigmund Freud's theory has not been publicly accepted, especially because no evidence has been found to support the occurrence of self-destructive behavior in humans, except in rare cases. Freud also allowed for the possibility of releasing negative energy in the form of a joke or sport, but he considered the effect of such sublimation of Thanatos to be temporary (Dankiewicz 2012, p.109).

According to the authors, Freud's theory may explain why men usually exhibit aggressive behavior. A woman is more willing to verbalize her feelings and thoughts. She can easily express her feeling while she has a problem. In this way, a woman releases the self-destructive, aggression-generating force accumulated within her. A man who is naturally unable to verbalize his thoughts and emotions is more prone to accumulating anger within himself, which he then takes out in the form of aggression and violence on his loved ones – his partner, wife, and children.

## **DEFINITIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Domestic violence is a special category of violence. In families which have not created cultural and economic balance and harmony within themselves, there are exceptionally favorable conditions for violence to occur. In such families, the problems are more comparable to a long-term medical condition. This emotional environment, which hinders healthy coexistence and interactions, ultimately causes family members to fail in social relationships and stop controlling their emotions. People who are immature, especially emotionally, most often acquire these dysfunctions through being brought up in such families.

First of all, it should be pointed out that domestic violence, like any other category of violence, is an intentional act. The family should be a haven for its members, a place where everyone can feel safe and surrounded by the love and care of loved ones. An intentional action by a loved one which causes any kind of injury disturbs the sense of stability and security and undermines the fundamental values which underlie the family. Hence, it should be recognized that the intentionality of domestic violence can be considered the cause of the most destructive psychological changes for victims of violence. Psychic wounds are much more difficult to heal than scratches and bruises, and the effects of domestic violence may change the future lives of victims of violence and make their future functioning in society or family more difficult.

The second essential element is the use of physical advantage. It can be related to the advantage of a parent over a child, the advantage of a man over a woman, or the advantage of a younger person over an elderly person.



It is equally important to point out that an advantage in strength does not always have to be, but most often means, a physical advantage. Just as in many families, we find women who are physically stronger than their husbands, men are increasingly victims of mental and physical violence in the family. It is important to emphasize that violence takes advantage of power, so it has its absolute psychological basis. The perpetrator of violence, realizing his or her advantage, uses it to the detriment of someone close to him or her. In the context of violence against women, Joanna Helios and Wioletta Jedlecka point to the terms *real woman* and *real man* functioning in society, which in a situation of violence puts a woman in the role of a weaker individual, unable to go beyond the pattern that reinforces the existing domination of a man over a woman. As a result, this results in the woman adopting a defensive position or, which is even worse, withdrawing with the hope that the situation in the family will somehow sort itself out. It is in this belief of victims of domestic violence that the authors see the reasons for the long-term enduring of domestic violence (Helios, Jedlecka, op.cit, p.47), which brings us to another extremely crucial element of domestic violence – the perpetrator's sense of impunity.

Perpetrators of domestic violence often live with a sense of impunity. This does not always mean that there are no actual measures created by the state to punish such a perpetrator, although, as it will be shown later in this article, in some countries the protection of victims of violence has a symbolic dimension. Victims of domestic violence do not report cases of domestic abuse due to stigmatization. Statistics on domestic violence in most cases do not reflect the true scale of this phenomenon due to the small number of this type of crimes.

Danuta Rode rightly claims that in order to assess whether a particular behavior is an act of domestic violence, it seems appropriate to adopt the so-called criterion – it means socio-moral assessment, because it takes into account several most important elements of violence, such as: form, intensity, intentionality, previous experience, the amount of harm a particular behavior has caused or may cause in the future, the role and status of the victim and the perpetrator. According to D. Rode, despite the wide scope of this criterion, it cannot be accepted as possible to implement without encountering difficulties, because its application is conditioned by the situational context of people and the environments in which they live (Rode 2010, p.30). To obtain real

protection provided by state institutions, legal acts regulating this issue, and even, as it will be shown, defining this concept, are important. It should be emphasized that we rarely find a legal definition of violence in national legislation. Most often, regulations contain a legal definition of domestic violence.

There is no general definition of violence in Polish law. This definition appears in the Act of 29th July 2005 in the context of domestic violence. This type of violence is defined as: *a single or repeated intentional act or omission violating rights or personal rights (...), in particular exposing these persons to the risk of loss of life or health, violating their dignity, bodily inviolability, freedom, including sexual freedom, causing damage to their physical or mental health, causing suffering and moral harm to persons affected by violence, limiting or depriving that person of access to financial resources or the possibility of taking up work or gaining financial independence, as well as significantly violating the person's privacy or making him or her feel threatened, humiliation or torment, including those undertaken via electronic means of communication* (Ustawa z dnia 29 lipca 2005 r. o przeciwdziałaniu przemocy w rodzinie). It should, of course, be assumed that domestic violence is one of the types of violence, and the legislator has clearly defined the catalog of victims of domestic violence in this definition, indicating that it refers to acts directed against family members or other persons living or managing together, as well as against a person currently or in the past in a lasting emotional or physical relationship, regardless of living and managing together. However, taking into account the above, it seems that the very definition of the phenomenon of domestic violence seems to fulfill the objective definition of violence in general. We see here some elements repeated also by the doctrine which qualify an action as a phenomenon of violence: the intentionality of the action or omission, the effect of the action in the form of, among others, danger of loss of life and health, as well as violation of dignity, bodily integrity, freedom, including sexual freedom, etc.

The United States of America can be cited as an example of a country with a legal definition of violence. In the USA, which represents a common law legal culture, the definition of violence can be found in the United States Code (US Code), which is a set of federal law provisions applicable to all states and the entire country. The paragraph 16 defines the crime of violence as an offense that has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of

physical force against the person or property of another, or any other offense that is a felony and that, by its nature, involves a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may be used in the course of committing the offense (United States Code).

In the United Kingdom, a country also characterized by a common law legal culture, domestic violence is defined as physical violence, threats or intimidation and any other form of abuse which, directly or indirectly, could cause or risk causing harm to another party or a child (own translation), as well as the category of violence or threat of violence from a person related to the victim (Family Division Practice Direction 2009; Housing Act 1996).

In India, domestic violence is defined as any act or omission which:

- harms, injures, or threatens the health, safety, life, body part or mental or physical well-being of the injured party or tends to cause such harm,
- involves sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse,
- harasses, harms, injures, or threatens the aggrieved person in order to compel him or any other person associated with him to satisfy an unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security,
- results in threatening the injured party or any person associated with him or her with any of the conduct listed above or otherwise injures or causes harm, physical or mental, to the injured party (Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005).

An extremely interesting subtype of domestic violence can be seen in the context of domestic violence in India, which is *social violence* used by husbands and other family members against women. This violence involves constant and strict control of all meetings and conversations of the woman with both her family and friends, as well as limiting the time the woman spends outside the home. As technology develops, it takes on new faces. Today, according to researchers, reading text messages, controlling social media, or installing spyware on Internet activity, messages and telephone calls should also be considered domestic violence (Narasimha 2015, p. 139).

In some countries there is a definition of violence, but the laws to prevent it are very ineffective. On 27th December 2015, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopted the Law on Combating Domestic

Violence. It was defined in the article 2 as beating, tying, mutilating, and incapacitating, violating physical freedom, as well as mental abuse and intimidation committed between family members. It should be noted here that the definition is enumerative, which may result in excluding from its application many acts of domestic violence which are already widely known and certainly also occur in China. These types of definitions, on the one hand, suggest what types of acts are included in a particular phenomenon, on the other hand, they do not define the full boundaries around it and hence they can be considered the weakest possible approach to defining the phenomenon of violence. The ineffectiveness of the Chinese provisions of the Anti-Violence Act results primarily from those specified in the article 1 purposes of the act. This provision states that the Act has been enacted for the purpose of preventing and stopping domestic violence, protecting the legitimate interests of family members, maintaining equality, and promoting harmonious and civilized family relations as well as family harmony and social stability. Family harmony in China is based on the Chinese belief that family unity prevails over family separation, which means that victims of domestic violence must endure acts of violence in the name of family unity. This means that creating strong legal support for victims of domestic violence may lead to the destabilization of the family institution (Han 2017, p.5). The mentioned social stability is based on the Confucian belief in the superiority of men over women. According to the hierarchical order of the family, the husband is the head of the family, being, as he is like a ruler or a superior, and the woman is subordinate to him. This approach makes Chinese women, feeling responsible for maintaining harmony in the family, endure and tolerate violence from the hands of their husband, thus expressing their obedience (Kartas 2017, pp. 5 – 6). It can also be assumed that the regulations introduced in 2015 (Domestic Violence Law 2015), aimed at greater penalization of domestic violence, should be treated as a symbolic act in response to alleviating feminist concerns. However, it has no chance in the fight against the deep entrenched patriarchal system based on Confucianism. The definition of violence in the case of the People's Republic of China seems too narrow and may lead to a situation in which non-obvious forms of violence will not be perceived as real by the bodies intended to protect the rights of victims of violence (McLaren 2016, p.3).

The lack of a definition of legal domestic violence in the legislation of a particular country makes it difficult to classify a certain act and thus weakens the possibilities of protecting the rights of victims of domestic violence. It is worth returning here to Russia, mentioned earlier. There is no specific law in the Russian Federation which addresses domestic violence. The Russian Criminal Code recognizes bodily injury in the article 115 such an intentional act of causing damage to someone's health, which results in a short-term health disorder or a slight permanent loss of general disability (Criminal Code of the Russian Federation of June 13, 1996). A threat for a crime under the article 116, point 1 is a fine of up to forty thousand rubles or the amount of the convict's remuneration or other income for a period of up to three months or forced labor for a period of up to four hundred and eighty hours, corrective work for a period of up to one year or arrest for a period of up to four months. In turn, the article 116, point 2 provides for qualified forms of bodily injury, such as: bodily injury with the use of a weapon, for hooligan reasons, in relation to a person performing official duties, or due to political, racial, and national hostility. For qualified forms of bodily injury, the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation provides for the punishment of forced labor for a period of up to three hundred and sixty hours, corrective labor for a period of up to one year, restriction of liberty for a period of up to two years, forced labor for a period of up to two years, and arrest for a period of up to six months. or imprisonment for up to two years. However, criminal liability is also provided for violations of bodily integrity that do not cause permanent bodily harm. Minor assaults using weapons for hooligan, political or religious reasons are penalized in accordance with the article 115 of this Code. It states that beatings or other acts of violence which caused physical pain but did not result in the consequences referred to in the article 115 are punishable only if they are made in a qualified form. All other forms of light beating are the subject only to administrative punishment.

Until 2017, the Russian Criminal Code provided for the liability of close relatives (spouses, parents, children, grandparents, adoptive parents, and children) for violating bodily integrity, including those which do not result in serious bodily injury (a qualified form of violating bodily integrity). However, as a result of the activities of factions in the Russian Duma supported by the

Orthodox Church, violence on behalf of the closest person was removed from the article 116 of the Criminal Code on the grounds that there was a tradition in the family. This means that currently no provision of Russian law directly refers to domestic violence. The perpetrators of such violence are subject only to administrative punishment, unless it is a second or subsequent case of using violence or if, as a result of the violence used, the victim suffers at least a short-term health disorder or a slight permanent loss of general disability.

It should be remembered that the determinant of treating a certain behavior as violence or domestic violence cannot be only the law of a particular country or the written rules, but the principles of social coexistence adopted in a certain community. It should be borne in mind that in some legal cultures, and even in the light of the above-mentioned provisions of religious law, the use of violence, for example – by a husband against his wife, may be considered legal, which, however, does not exclude the possibility of qualifying such an action as violence. Above all, it should be considered whether a certain action is intentional and causes any damage to the victim's psyche or health or forces him or her to act against his or her will.

## CONCLUSIONS

According to the authors, the most essential element for qualifying a particular action as an act of domestic violence is the intentionality of the perpetrator's action, which should take into account the personal circumstances of the perpetrator of domestic violence, such as previous experiences with domestic violence. The perpetrator's intentionality should be defined through the prism of *behavior perceived as having such intention*, it means – both the motive resulting from the act conducted by the perpetrator and the intentions assigned by people observing the violence or its effects. The second most crucial element of the definition of domestic violence is the goal of causing physical suffering. In this context, it is necessary to distinguish violence from aggression and recognize that the use of corporal punishment, even when, in the perpetrator's opinion, it serves the upbringing of a family member and is not necessarily motivated by harm, is an act of domestic violence.

The phenomenon of violence, regardless of the place and form of occurrence, is conditioned by a negative impact and always brings consequences for the victim of violence. There are mental, physical, image or economic consequences. The example of Russia shows that the lack of a definition of legal domestic violence in the legislation of a certain country causes difficulties in qualifying a particular act, and thus weakens the possibilities of protecting the rights of victims of domestic violence. In this context, any change in the law aimed at narrowing or limiting the definition of violence becomes a tool in the hands of perpetrators, as it allows them to take advantage of a loophole in the law and apply unpunished acts, while the effects of violence and domestic violence, not its specific forms should be punished. The effects of violence often do not leave measurable traces, they do not leave bruises or scratches, but they wreak havoc on the victim's psyche, regardless of whether it is cyberbullying, or an act of economic violence done by the husband against his wife. Regardless of the existence or lack of a legal definition of violence or domestic violence in a particular country, the most important goal of the legislator and government or local government administration is to counteract violence. It should be implemented through various forms of education: at home, school, workplace, university, as well as using programs, sessions, or educational meetings, but it seems that updating the definition of violence and domestic violence may facilitate the protection of victims of violence and bringing to the responsibility of the perpetrator. Each update of the law is also a reason for public debate, which may increase citizens' awareness of acts which are treated as acts of violence, even though they were not such in the tradition or history of a certain country or cultural circle. In the context of the validity of applicable regulations which could facilitate combating violence and domestic violence, according to the authors, special attention should be paid to new faces of violence, such as economic violence, violence on the Internet, and violence using artificial intelligence. Legal protection in this context must include active protection on the Internet and aim to identify its users in order to quickly identify those responsible for placing and manipulating content and images on the Internet. Counteracting threats must be implemented not only by law enforcement authorities, but also by social institutions, non-governmental organizations and associations which will support the process of threat mitigation, prevention, and social rehabilitation.

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## **LEGAL ACTS**

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