

DÍTĚ JAKO ZBOŽÍ V PROSTITUCI. PERSPEKTIVY TEOLOGICKO-ETICKÉ REFLEXE

Summary

The submitted thesis discusses child prostitution as a form of commercial sexual exploitation of children within the framework of theological ethics. It uses the method of three stages – seeing, judging and acting. The author examines the meaning and manifestations of the highest ethical principle and the paradigm of human dignity as a legal system in this bitter, serious and socially dangerous domain. He explains the perception of a child and its sexuality in context of these socially undesirable, obscene and criminal practices.

The multidisciplinary nature of the problem is considered in relation to various aspects and actors, utilizing the knowledge and experience from relevant domains and their representatives. The main actors are children as victims on one side and the offenders on the other. While outlining the relevant criminal provisions as well as the concept of vice crimes, the author reflects how terms like moral, decency and ethics are defined and used.

In the second part of the thesis, the author provides the perspectives of theological-ethical reflection. He compares his own perception of moral, decency and ethics with the concept of these terms from the point of criminal law. He also discusses the relation between law and moral. As such, the thesis is a profiled contribution to legal ethics in a specific domain. The whole complex and multidisciplinary issue is anthropologically anchored and integrated in the ethical principle of human dignity. The author respects the spiritual roots and impulses of human dignity and he elaborates the notion of man within its essential relations: the creation, the relationship to people of the opposite sex and the spiritual-physical unity of man (the inward relationship), responsible relationship to the world. Based upon these findings, the author points out to the need for unconditional protection and fundamental standards for relationships between the sexes and for the role of sexuality within these relationships. The thesis also demonstrates the fact that the offenders instrumentalize and de-humanize the child, and thus violate the dignity of his/her body and hurt the soul. The non-religious concept of human dignity is presented within the framework of the relevant tradition of moral philosophy. The author points out to the need of transforming the concept of human dignity from the purely ethical perspective to legal sphere and specifies the individual elements of this concept. From the ethically normative fundamentals of human dignity, the human rights can be derived, which further specify the human dignity as a concept. The issue is thus discussed within the framework of obligatory rights of a child as specific fundamental human rights that appertain to an especially vulnerable social group. The thesis also presents the principle of personality and solidarity as the fundamental principle related to human dignity and human rights. Based upon these principles, the author considers the mystery of personal as well as social guilt and sin. The poverty is seen as one of the main factors that leads to the exploitation of children in prostitution, and also a specific example of social guilt. In relation to the poverty, the author thinks of classifying child prostitution as one of the worst forms of child labour. The guilt and sin is followed by the effect of necessary punishment, conversion, reconciliation and forgiveness.

In the third part of the thesis, the author draws consequences that may arise from the fight against such maltreatment of children and he reviews the findings and conclusions from the previous two parts. The need for an interdisciplinary approach and cooperation is emphasized and their common base is defined. The author points out to the right of children to education

in the field of human rights and the phenomenon of prostitution, the necessity of respecting the personality principle across all different levels of tackling the problem, promotion of a holistic approach to humans, supporting the culture of equality between women and men, responsible sex education and absolute prohibition of the abovementioned crimes. He also suggests a couple of changes in criminal law provisions as well as in the perception of moral and decency concepts from the point of vice crime investigation and prosecution. The moral and legal principle of solidarity imposes different requirements on different actors: concretized charity, necessity to liberate these humiliated and exploited children, options for those children as well as children that are socially disadvantaged, fight against global poverty, the need for appropriate action on part of political representatives, the need to create a world as a fair place for children, respect and protection of children's rights and best interests also during the whole criminal procedure. Furthermore, the thesis outlines the rules for social assistance programs aimed at boys and girls involved in prostitution and shows specific examples of such effective help and practice of solidarity in Czech Republic as well as abroad. Probably the most demanding requirement of solidarity is the solidary behaviour towards the offenders, which can be seen as the imperative to love one's enemies. Not only the punishment of the offender, but also his resocialization is necessary. The Church is being called to its important role to serve the children as well as the offenders, and thus the whole society.

The dissertation documents the fusion between adherence to a proprium of theological ethics and one of the most grievous signs of our times.

Keywords:

commercial sexual exploitation of children; exploitation of children in prostitution; human dignity; freedom; rights of a child; relations between the sexes; sexuality; personality principle; solidarity principle; guilt and sin; poverty; labour; punishment; conversion; reconciliation; resocialization; interdisciplinary cooperation; ethics; moral; decency; law; vice crimes; education and upbringing; political morality; best practices; social assistance