

Identity of The Victim and Their Personal, Social, And Psychological Characteristics in The Crime of Involving Minors in Sexual Intercourse

M.M. Bazarov

Employee of the Bukhara Regional Internal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Uzbekistan

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Abstract

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the victimological nature of the crime of involving minors in sexual intercourse (grooming), as well as the social, demographic, and psychological characteristics of the victim's identity. The research reveals basic criminogenic determinants such as the neurobiological vulnerability of adolescents aged 14–17, social orphanhood, the factor of internal migration, and security gaps in the digital environment (cyberspace). The author introduces new scientific concepts such as the "victim's mechanism of silence" and the "re-formation of victimhood" (acquired victimhood) and develops practical criminological recommendations for preventing secondary victimization during the investigative and judicial processes, as well as for cultivating "cognitive immunity" against digital threats among adolescents.

Keywords: Juvenile victimology, involvement in sexual exploitation, online grooming, victim's mechanism of silence, secondary victimization, digital cognitive gap, social orphanhood, acquired victimhood, cognitive immunity.

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1. Introduction

In criminological research aimed at combating and preventing crime, the study of the victim's personality – that is, the victimological characteristics of the crime – occupies one of the central places. The objective side of the crime of involving minors in sexual intercourse, in fundamental contrast to traditional violent crimes (e.g., rape or physical harassment), is carried out in most cases without overt physical coercion. Criminals often employ highly subtle and flexible methods such as gaining the victim's trust, psychological manipulation, deception, or financial incentives. It is precisely this legal and criminological feature that makes the victimological

analysis of this type of crime a much more complex, fundamental scientific task than simply registering the victim.

While in openly violent crimes, the psychological characteristics of the victim are often of secondary importance (since the aggressor achieves their goal by overcoming any resistance through physical force), in recruitment, the criminal "success" of the perpetrator directly depends on how skillfully they can exploit the psychological, social, and material vulnerability of the potential victim. Therefore, an in – depth study of the socio – psychological anatomy of the victim's personality is the only scientific way to fully understand the internal latent mechanism of the crime.

When addressing the theoretical foundations of victimology within the framework of scientific research, we see that it is advisable to rely on the classical concept put forward by L.V. Frank, one of the prominent representatives of the criminological school. According to the scholar's definition, "victimhood" is an individual's "objective and subjective tendency to become a victim of a crime" under certain social conditions. The methodological value of this scientific definition is manifested in the fact that it allows for the study of the victimhood process not as a simple, passive consequence of the perpetrator's actions, but as an independent socio-psychological phenomenon inextricably linked to the specific social, demographic, and psychological characteristics of the victim. Modern criminologist E.N.Kurilova further expands this theoretical foundation and scientifically substantiates that the victimhood factor manifests through a complex set of objective and subjective circumstances that spontaneously form in society and determine the processes of an individual becoming a victim.

Based on these theoretical approaches, it is important to analyze the demographic, age, and psychological characteristics of the minor victim. Criminological and psychological research indicates that while girls constitute the absolute majority of victims of the crime of sexual coercion, the victimization of boys has also been increasing in recent years, which means that the gender boundaries and directions of crime are expanding. If we look at the age categories, the crime of recruitment is considered to have its own strictly formed "age profile". While sexual assaults on young children are most often carried out by exploiting their purely physical vulnerability, the adolescent and pre-pubertal age group (mainly 14–17 years old) becomes the central target of acts based on confidence-building, psychological manipulation, and material deception.

It is necessary to explain this victimological feature not only through social but also through fundamental patterns in neurobiological and developmental psychology. It is precisely adolescence that is characterized by hormonal changes, emotional instability, and an overwhelming desire for independent life and financial freedom, freeing oneself from parental control. Renowned US developmental psychologist and neurobiologist Lawrence Steinberg, in his research, provides a neurobiological justification for this situation, noting that in adolescents aged 14–17, the limbic system of the brain, sensitive to social rewards (money, praise,

attention as an adult), develops very early and strongly, but the frontal part of the brain (prefrontal cortex), responsible for risk assessment and impulse control, continues to form until the age of 20–25.

It is precisely the neurobiological and cognitive weakness of adolescents aged 14–17 that is clearly reflected in our national statistics. If we turn to the figures, the absolute majority of the 229 victims registered in 2024 under Article 128 of the Criminal Code, that is, 157 of them, were teenagers aged 15–17 years, and 13–14 years old – 70 people. This trend has persisted steadily in recent years, reaching 123 out of 192 victims in 2025.

(15–17 years old), and in the 9 months of 2026, 91 out of 121 were adolescents in this dangerous transition period. At the same time, the statistics of Article 129 (immoral acts) show an even more horrific victimological picture: the largest number of attacks were directed at children under the age of 12, who were completely defenseless, with 57 cases in 2024, 78 in 2025, and 93 in just 9 months of 2026. These figures empirically prove that perpetrators do not choose a potential victim randomly, but specifically purposefully exploit a psychological gap in the transition period (15–17 years old) or pure physical/mental disability (up to 12 years old).

It follows that there is a sharp cognitive and biological discrepancy between an adolescent's desire to act like an adult and their critical perception of real-life situations, a condition that creates an extremely strong victim vulnerability. Criminals (groomers and pimps) sense this psychological gap very well. Under the guise of family affection, peer-like communication, or financial support, they gain the adolescent's trust, exploit this neurobiological instability for their own purposes, and turn the adolescent into the most convenient "psychological prey" for themselves. Consequently, the age-related psychological characteristics of the victim serve as a fundamental criminogenic factor that determines the criminal's actions and shapes their criminal methods (deception and manipulation).

One of the most pressing and complex issues in victimology is studying the nature of the social interaction between the victim and the criminal. In scientific circles and public consciousness, a sex offender is often stereotyped as a "stranger in a dark alley." However, according to modern criminological analyses and empirical observations, in the absolute majority of crimes involving the grooming of minors for sexual

intercourse, there are pre-formed, firmly established social connections of a certain degree between the criminal and the victim. In most cases, the criminal is not a random aggressor, but rather the victim's adoptive parent (or guardian), a close relative, a close family acquaintance, a teacher – educator, or a "trusted" friend the adolescent found themselves on virtual networks.

Such a theoretical conclusion is the most vivid practical confirmation at the victimological level of the phenomenon of "social orphanhood," which is widely discussed in national criminology and sociology. As scientists emphasize, social orphanhood is a situation where, despite the physiological survival of the parents, the child is completely deprived of moral, emotional, and physical supervision. This implies that the criminal acts as a person who has already entered the victim's circle of trust and possesses moral, familial, or administrative dominance over them. The fact that the environment of the family, educational institution, or close relatives – which is expected to be the safest for a child – turns into their greatest source of victim risk constitutes the terrifying criminogenic anatomy of this type of crime. The weakening of the family environment, emotional coldness, and the psychological distancing of the victim from their own family pave a broad path for the criminal to manipulate, deceive the child, and take possession of their psyche.

In addition to the demographic and age characteristics of the victim, their social status and daily living environment are the main determinants that define the speed and scope of the victimization process. In modern victimology, children deprived of parental love and care, orphaned children, as well as those raised in orphanages and special boarding institutions, are recognized as the highest risk group. As David Finkelhor, a representative of global criminology and the founder of the concept of developmental victimology, emphasizes, the artificially formed lack of affection and attention in children within institutional facilities makes them highly gullible and dependent on any external "care" and warmth. Such psychological openness serves as the most convenient key for sexual predators (pedophiles and pimps) to enter the victim's inner world, bring them under their sphere of influence, and subsequently exploit them for commercial purposes.

CIS scholars, particularly O. N. Guseva, have also deeply analyzed this problem in their research, scientifically substantiating that the majority of neglected and unsupervised children in the large megalopolises of the

post – Soviet space, especially those who have run away from boarding institutions, are sexually abused by individuals prone to pedophilia. The scholar notes that following the initial assault, these children experience a severe psychological breakdown, and they are subsequently drawn on a large scale into prostitution networks and the pornographic content production industry for commercial purposes. This confirms the risk of institutional victimization turning into permanent criminal exploitation.

Another fundamental factor shaping victimogenic vulnerability is the crisis of family control and the consequent resulting deviant behavior. As the prominent American criminologist Travis Hirschi substantiated in his famous "Social Control Theory," the weaker a child's social bonds with their parents, school, and society, the more sharply the probability of them engaging in criminal behavior or facing victimization increases. According to researcher E.N.Kurilova, who detailed the victimological mechanism of this process, a lack of attention from parents and educators pushes adolescents to systematically skip classes, run away from home, join unknown street groups, engage in early sexual activity, and consume psychotropic substances. Adolescents in such a process of degradation lose the ability to correctly perceive real danger and often quickly fall for the false promises of "sex industry" representatives in the hope of escaping simple daily problems or finding easy money.

In the context of developing countries, including the Republic of Uzbekistan, the internal labor migration of minors and youth must be specifically highlighted as a unique macro – social and economic factor that sharply increases victimhood. As a result of the rapid urbanization processes of recent years, the influx of young people, including adolescents, coming from rural areas to the capital and major regional centers in search of work has sharply increased. This demographic group feels completely unprotected in the new, unfamiliar urban environment.

Their victimological vulnerability is primarily explained by the lack of "social capital" – that is, the absence of a network of relatives, acquaintances, and the mahalla that could provide assistance in difficult situations. Furthermore, the desire to achieve financial independence as quickly as possible and the obligation to support their family in the village force them to agree to any situation, even highly dangerous ones and suspicious job offers. Due to a lack of necessary life experience, an understanding of criminal risks in the urban

environment, and strong moral immunity, they become a "convenient target" for pimps and human traffickers. These young people often realize too late that they have fallen into an exploitative "closed circle" for commercial purposes—only after they have been completely physically, mentally, and financially abused. The factor of internal migration undoubtedly remains one of the strongest socio-victimological determinants of the crime of involving minors in sexual intercourse in the context of Uzbekistan.

The socio-psychological vulnerability of the victim is not limited to their personal, demographic, or family characteristics but also finds its real expression through the spatial and temporal dimensions (criminological chronotope) of the situation in which the crime is committed. In traditional public consciousness and established stereotypes, sex crimes are often perceived as random, aggressive assaults committed on unsupervised streets, in dark alleys, or in abandoned buildings. However, the criminological anatomy of crimes involving the sexual grooming of minors differs completely from these stereotypes. Global victimological observations confirm that the absolute majority of crimes in this category are committed specifically in closed spaces – in residential houses, apartments, rented dwellings, or summer cottages.

To scientifically substantiate this phenomenon and reveal its victimological essence, it is expedient to refer to the "Routine Activity Theory" developed by the prominent American criminologist Marcus Felson. According to this theory, for any crime to occur, three elements must intersect at the same time and in the same space: 1) a motivated offender, 2) a suitable (vulnerable) target, and 3) the absence of a capable guardian. In crimes of involvement, criminals, exploiting the gullibility of the victim, lead them specifically into closed spaces hidden from external eyes – unique "havens of trust" – that are free from the supervision of parents, relatives, or the public, i.e., the gaze of "guardians." Consequently, the criminal does not use the "random place" model typical of violent crimes, but rather a "systematic and safe space" model based on pre-planning and relations of trust. This is one of the main factors that artificially increases the latency (hiddenness) level of this crime and completely isolates the victim from external assistance.

The temporal analysis of the crime also reveals a similar criminological pattern. Empirical studies show that the majority of cases involving the grooming of minors for sexual exploitation are not carried out during daytime

active social control, but precisely during the evening and night hours – the period when family and social control mechanisms naturally weaken, and the victim's psychological defense reflexes decrease due to fatigue. Such strict concentration in time proves that the crime is not a product of a state of passion or random opportunity, but of long – term, cold – blooded "preparation." The criminal meticulously studies the victim's daily routine, the parents' work schedule, and the points of weakened supervision in advance, and consciously selects the "safest" time interval for the crime.

Another of the most important and dangerous criminological features of this crime is its degree of repetitiveness and its nature of systemic exploitation. While most sex crimes (for example, forcible rape) manifest as a one – time, episodic event, the crime of involvement is a long – lasting, regularly repeating process of systematically crushing the victim's body and psyche. Once the victim falls into the trap of deception or material incentive, they are repeatedly exploited by the criminal through blackmail, intimidation, or artificially created psychological dependence. Cases observed in the judicial practice of Uzbekistan (for example, the victim receiving separate payment for each intercourse, or several adolescents being systematically delivered to "clients" at the same time) confirm that this crime is not merely a sexual assault, but has turned into a unique criminal business, a permanent source of income. It is precisely this feature of repetitiveness that serves as a fundamental indicator distinguishing the crime of involvement from ordinary sex crimes, necessitating the introduction of operational-search methods used against organized crime to combat it.

The most complex yet fundamentally scientifically significant aspect of studying the victimological characteristics of the victim's identity is their post – crime behavior, particularly the phenomenon of keeping the occurred even a secret. Global and national victimological studies confirm that the absolute majority of underage victims do not report the committed crime to their parents or to law enforcement agencies. In order to scientifically systematize this complex socio – psychological phenomenon, we propose introducing the concept of the "Victim's mechanism of silence" into the science of criminology from the author's perspective.

The "Victim's mechanism of silence" is a stable psychological barrier and behavioral model formed in the mind of the underage crime victim under the mutual synthesis of fear of stigmatization (being shamed and

isolated by society), a guilt complex, legal ignorance, and most importantly, distrust towards the adult world, which forces them to refrain from seeking help.

The emergence of this mechanism is not accidental. As the representative of criminal victimology D. V. Rivman emphasizes, in sex crimes, the aggressor always attempts to artificially instill a "sense of guilt" into the victim's mind. In the crime of grooming, the criminal places the adolescent in a psychological cage through manipulative threats such as "you agreed to this yourself," "you took the money yourself," and "if anyone finds out about this, you will be the one they blame first." Furthermore, the extreme sensitivity of the issue of honor in Eastern mentalities and traditional societies, along with the widespread prevalence of the vice of victim – blaming (blaming the victim and making them appear guilty) in society, forces the adolescent to remain completely alone with their pain. The fear of society's judgment becomes a stronger psychological barrier than the criminal's threat.

In our opinion, it is precisely this "mechanism of silence" at the micro level (in the individual's psyche) that serves as the main generator causing extremely high latency at the macro level (on a societal scale). If the victim remains silent, the criminal's sense of impunity increases; they believe in their own invulnerability and, with absolute calmness, continue to lure new victims into their trap. Therefore, the primary task of victimological prevention is to break this exact chain of silence by any means necessary and to create a safe and anonymous reporting environment for the victim.

The process of studying the victimological characteristics of the victim's identity is not limited solely to examining the mechanism of the committed crime and the conditions preceding it. In the science of victimology, the fate of the victim does not end with the exposure of the crime; rather, exactly from this point, they face a new ordeal – often no less severe and complex than the initial crime—the investigative and judicial process. At this stage, an extremely serious procedural–psychological phenomenon emerges, known in criminology and legal psychology as "secondary victimization." This phenomenon means that after the initial crime, the victim suffers psychological and moral trauma again as a result of their encounter with the official state institutions (inquiry, investigation, court, medical expertise, and social service agencies) that are supposed to protect them and establish justice.

The theoretical and psychological basis of the concept of secondary victimization is clearly and impressively articulated by CIS scholar O.A.Kravtsova. According to her scientific conclusions, sexual violence and exploitation fundamentally change the victim's view of the world and the people around them, destructively affecting their basic belief system and negating their fundamental psychological needs to control their own lives and find meaning in the world. Unlike victims of other types of extreme stressors (for example, robbery or traffic accidents), victims of sex crimes fall into an extremely complex tangle of procedural, medical, social, and cultural problems. This often serves as the main cause of secondary victimization and significantly delays the underage victim's return to a normal, healthy life, and in some cases, makes it completely impossible.

In global victimology, the concept of the "second injury" put forward by Martin Symonds also complements this idea. According to him, the bureaucratic, cold, and formalistic attitude of the law enforcement system causes a deeper and longer – lasting depression in the victim than the actions of the criminal. In particular, treating the victim's testimonies with suspicion, repeatedly interrogating them, and the uncomfortable environment in interrogation rooms crush the child's psyche. For children who are victims of the crime of involvement through deception based on trust and psychological vulnerability, encountering suspicious or harsh treatment from the adult world once again – this time in the form of official state bodies and uniformed officers – has a particularly severe victimogenic impact.

An important piece of evidence confirming the real relevance of these theoretical conclusions in the conditions of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a public statement made by the Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis for Child Rights (Children's Ombudsman) in July 2026. The Ombudsman, openly acknowledging the procedural problems in our national practice, firmly stated: "The investigation and court process should not cause a second injury to the child". Pointing directly to the existing gaps in investigative practice, she noted that interrogation procedures conducted without a specialist educator and psychologist can cause deep, incurable trauma to the child's psyche. This official statement is the recognition at the highest level of state policy that the phenomenon of secondary victimization described in theoretical literature exists as an acute problem in our national investigative and judicial practice as well.

Another fundamental issue that must be considered when

studying the criminological and victimological characteristics of the victim's identity is the long – term psychological trace that the committed crime leaves in the minor's life, and what criminogenic risks this situation might pose for society in the future. A prominent figure in child psychology and sexology, I.S.Kon, puts forward a critically important scientific observation on this issue. The scientist notes that individuals who have suffered sexual trauma and exploitation during childhood or adolescence, upon entering adulthood, are characterized by low self – esteem, an intensified guilt and shame complex, self – isolation from society, a strong tendency towards alcoholism and drug addiction, and – most dangerously – a permanent propensity for victimhood.

The last item on the list noted by I. S. Kon—the "retention of the propensity for victimhood"—holds unparalleled theoretical significance for the science of criminology. This thesis proves that the crime of sexual involvement does not merely exploit the victim's existing vulnerability a single time, but completely shatters their psyche, creating a new, deeper, and chronic level of vulnerability that increases the likelihood of repeated victimization in the future.

In order to connect this phenomenon with the national doctrine of victimology, we rely on the scientific conclusions of Professor Q. R. Abdurasulova, a representative of the national school of criminology. Focusing on the dynamic nature of an individual's victimhood, the scholar emphasizes that the victim's behavior is shaped not only by their temperament or family upbringing but also by their previous socio–legal and criminal experiences. Synthesizing these views, the dissertation author interprets this phenomenon as the concept of the "Re–formation of victimhood" (or acquired victimhood). While traditional theories view victimhood simply as a predisposition to becoming a victim of a crime, the new concept posits that this predisposition is not a static state, but a dynamic, self–generating process that intensifies after a crime has been committed.

The absolute truth of this scientific concept is clearly confirmed by the empirical research of CIS scholars A. G. Gurbanov and N. P. Naboishchikov. The authors discovered a terrifying pattern through a survey and psychological tests conducted among 80 male convicts serving sentences for committing sexual crimes against minors. It was revealed that while more than 50 percent of the criminals grew up in an environment of family

conflict and violence during childhood, 15 percent had personally experienced sexual assault and exploitation during their childhood or adolescence. This scientific evidence fully proves, both theoretically and practically, the phenomenon known in psychology as the "chain of violence" –that is, the transmission of aggressive behavior models from generation to generation and the victim eventually turning into a ruthless criminal.

These empirical and theoretical facts indicate that providing timely and high – quality psychological rehabilitation assistance to underage victims is not merely a humanitarian or medical obligation, but the most powerful, long – term criminological preventive tool aimed at ensuring state and public security. An unrehabilitated victim, left alone with their psychological trauma, acts as a kind of "ticking time bomb" for society.

When studying the modern transformation of victimization factors at the personal – psychological level, deep scientific attention must be directed towards the most global determinant facing today's criminology and victimology – the digital environment (cyberspace) and the issue of minors' illiteracy in the field of information security. While traditional victimology noted that assaults committed by a "previously unknown person" (a stranger) occurred primarily in the physical space (on the street, in a park, or in public places), today, the initial criminal communication between the criminal and the victim takes place in the absolute majority of cases in the virtual space – through social networks, messengers, and online gaming platforms. Modern groomers – predators who lure minors into their traps via the internet – can hide behind anonymous or fake profiles and, from a distance, over months or even years, gain the child's trust and study their most sensitive psychological vulnerabilities.

Scientifically substantiating this phenomenon, Professor Sonia Livingstone, a leading global expert on children's digital rights and risks, notes that a false "illusion of absolute safety" forms in the mind of an adolescent sitting in their own home, in front of a computer or smartphone. A child who, in physical life, would not get into a stranger's car on the street or would suspiciously run away from them, shares their most intimate secrets, photographs, and home address without any hesitation with an unknown "peer" (actually an adult criminal) in the virtual space. The digital environment artificially disables the adolescent's basic defense reflexes and drastically increases their level of victimhood.

As real empirical confirmation of these theoretical conclusions in the conditions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it is necessary to subject to scientific analysis the results of a comprehensive national survey conducted in early 2026 by the Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis for Child Rights among more than 245,000 schoolchildren aged 10–17. According to official data, 94 percent of the students who participated in the survey actively use the internet (of which 47 percent are constantly online). They reported using the internet for studying and language learning (66 percent), communicating with friends (26 percent), and online gaming (8 percent).

However, from a criminological perspective, the most alarming indicator is that 16 percent of the surveyed students openly admitted to not knowing the basic rules of network security at all, and another 9 percent confessed to having no understanding whatsoever of online violence (cyberbullying, grooming).

We evaluate this empirical indicator not simply as an ordinary statistical figure, but as an extremely dangerous "Digital cognitive gap" in the minds of adolescents. This 16 percent segment, which is ignorant of network security rules, translates to hundreds of thousands of completely unprotected children on a nationwide scale. It is they who become the primary, guaranteed prey for transnational sexual exploitation networks, pornography producers, and groomers. The lack of critical thinking and the inability to foresee virtual danger is considered the strongest subjective–psychological determinant that predisposes one to victimization.

The extreme acuteness of this problem is clearly reflected in the political and institutional discourses within our society. In particular, the proposal put forward in the national political arena in January 2026 by the leadership of the "Milliy Tiklanish" Democratic Party to legally enforce a total ban on social media use for children under 16 sparked heated scientific and practical debates. In response to this initiative, the Children's Ombudsman, acknowledging the devastating impact of social networks and online bullying on a child's psyche, emphasized that it is appropriate to restrict minors' internet use to a certain extent. At the same time, the National Agency for Social Protection evaluated a total ban as a "drastic and inappropriate measure," while the Ministry of Preschool and School Education adopted a position of "normative and conscious restriction." As a representative of the international expert community, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) officially

announced that it absolutely does not support a total ban policy.

Analyzing this national debate from the perspective of criminological polemics, one can see that two opposing models of combating cyber–victimhood have formed in society: the first is the radical – prohibitive approach (closing off the internet, as proposed by the party), and the second is the educational – immunizing approach (forming an internal defense reflex in the child by increasing digital literacy).

French criminologist and cyber – violence researcher Catherine Blaya has empirically proven that prohibitive models are absolutely ineffective. According to scientific conclusions, strict bans imposed by the state or parents do not distance adolescents from the internet; rather, they force them to migrate to even more hidden, unsupervised, and dangerous networks (VPNs, Darknet, anonymous forums). As a result, communication with criminals goes completely into the "shadows," and the possibility of their rapid exposure approaches zero.

Therefore, the position of UNICEF and education specialists is the most well–founded from a criminological standpoint: the victimogenic problem must be solved not by isolating minors from the digital world, but by cultivating "cognitive immunity" within them. This, in turn, requires the development of preventive solutions regarding actions in the digital space within the state's criminal law policy (for example, criminalizing digital grooming as an independent offense and incorporating cyber – hygiene into school curricula).

Based on the studies, psycho – neurobiological evidence, and scientific discussions presented above, we formulate the following final conclusions regarding the criminological and victimological characteristics of the victim's identity:

First, the victimhood of underage victims (especially adolescents aged 14–17) is not simply inexperience, but is rooted in the natural neurobiological discrepancy between the early development of the limbic system (passions and the drive for reward) and the delayed formation of the prefrontal cortex (the logical assessment of risk). It is precisely this cognitive gap that serves as the primary weapon for psychological manipulation by criminals.

Second, crimes of involvement in sexual exploitation are, in the majority of cases, committed not by random strangers, but by individuals who are part of the victim's

circle of trust. "Social orphanhood" in society, "institutional victimhood" in closed facilities (orphanages), and the existence of a demographic of unsupervised youth resulting from internal labor migration create the most convenient, unprotected "prey base" for criminals.

Third, this crime is not committed on random streets, but rather, in accordance with the "Routine Activity Theory," in "havens of trust" (closed apartments) free from social control, predominantly and systematically during the evening hours. It has been scientifically substantiated that the "Victim's mechanism of silence," which forms in the victim's mind under the fear of stigmatization (being shamed) and victim-blaming, is the main psychological barrier that guarantees the continuity and extremely high latency of the crime.

Fourth, the majority of modern grooming crimes have migrated to the virtual space. The "illusion of safety" in the minds of minors and low internet literacy provide guaranteed targets for transnational cybercriminals. It was confirmed that this problem must be resolved not through radical bans, but by cultivating digital immunity.

Fifth, the victim's fate does not end with the exposure of the crime. Conservative approaches in the investigative and judicial system (confrontations, repeated interrogations) cause severe secondary victimization (procedural trauma) in the victim. It has been criminologically proven that the phenomenon of the "Re-formation of victimhood" is observed in victims who are not clinically rehabilitated in a timely manner, putting them at risk of being re-exploited or becoming criminals themselves in the future.

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