

**SUMMARY**

**Kozeletskaya N.I. Criminal law and its efficiency in human trafficking combatting: retrospective aspect.** Forms of “modern slavery” arose in Belarus in 1990s after the USSR collapse. The legislation of that period had little effect on the current situation, did not meet international standards, and law enforcement agencies could not stop the cases of human trafficking that became known to them, using the tools provided to them by criminal law.

The patterns of formation and development of criminal legal norms on liability for human trafficking and other crimes related to the exploitation of a person have been shown in the Republic of Belarus. A legal analysis of the changes and amendments made to the relevant articles in 2005, 2008 and 2015 has been carried out. Based on the study of law enforcement practice, logical-grammatical and systematic analysis of the criminal law provisions, the author presents her own view on the established system of criminal legal measures and its effectiveness in countering modern threats to the security of personal freedom. The attention has been paid to some of the shortcomings of the criminal law description of the criminal characteristics of the acts of the group in question, and proposals have been made for optimizing their legislative definition.

The evolution of the institution of responsibility for human trafficking and other forms of human exploitation in the legislation of the Republic of Belarus has been characterized by four stages.

The domestic legislation was ahead of the laws of many foreign countries and criminalized not only human trafficking, but also related acts, which cover all types and forms of modern slavery. The created system of criminal legal measures allows taking into account both modern threats to the security of personal freedom of a person and international obligations undertaken by the Republic of Belarus.

**Keywords:** *human trafficking, exploitation of human beings, slave labour, surrogacy, efficiency of legislation, enforcement potential.*