

Abstract

The purpose of my thesis is to analyze different forms of international protection of children before forced child marriages. This text focuses on introduction into the issue which represents one of the most alarming and the most quickly spreading problems in the field of human rights of children. In spite of the fact, that every few seconds is a child deliberately married to become a sexual and domestic slave, this topic remains rather on the edge of public interest.

The thesis can be divided into two main parts. We could call them theoretical descriptive part which is covered by first four chapters and analytic part which works mainly with case studies and UN documents and aims at pointing out some problems of application of law in practice. This part is covered by chapter five and six.

As it was said, this thesis is composed of seven chapters. The aim of first two of them is to explain nature and risks of child marriages as well as reasons why they are occurring. Third chapter sums up current international legal documents dealing with the topic of child protection in general and in its subchapters are treated regional legislations (American, Asian, and European). Special space is given to the Covenant on the Rights of the Child. Chapter four is focused on more detailed sources of prohibition and protection against child marriages.

In the chapter five, representing the analytical part, are given examples of states which from different reasons deal with high number of child marriage cases. In particular is spoken about Niger, India, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and South Africa. Finally sixth chapter sums up most painful problems of current state of implementation both international and national law and brings some ideas which might lead to improvement of the situation.

In the final conclusion of the text in the chapter seven are given recommendations on work of UN bodies and NGO's and it again brings to mind the main theme of the thesis which is that dealing with child marriages cannot be marginalized or overlooked by international community as a private matter of state or family.