INTERSEXES’ AND HUMANS WITH INTEGRATED IMPLANTS RIGHTS PROTECTION ISSUES AND PROSPECTS IN MODERN CONDITIONS

The paper investigates intersexes’ and humans with integrated implants rights protection issues and prospects in modern conditions. Author’s theoretical vision of intersexes and humans with integrated implants understanding and their rights protection was represented. Main issues concerning the mentioned categories of people effective rights protection have been defined. Prospective directions in relation to intersexes’ and humans with integrated implants legal possibilities regulation and defence in modern conditions have been outlined.

Key words: human rights protection, intersexes, humans with integrated implants, cyber-humans.

In the light of the world’s pandemic processes and increasing digitalization, the role of law began to be even more significant than before. It is explained by the need to regulate new types of relations and activities as well to protect the rights, freedoms, and legal interests of their participant. Regulative and protective functions of law are quite traditional. At the same time, they are under the constant transformation of their own internal nature and external expression due to getting out of the legal regulation shadow of some subjects of law and the appearance of others on the map of juridical reality. We mean intersex people, on the one hand, and people with integrated implants, on the other hand. These two categories of humans, being under the need of specific differently-directed nature of their status legal regulation, have the same issue of legislator’s unacceptable ignorance or even blindness concerning their juridical position. In our point of view, modern juridical science has to analyze the mentioned above to suggest an appropriate model of existing problematical

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questions legal ordering to remove gaps of such a nature and direction. Being generally accepted social regulator and protector, modern law has neither legal nor even moral right to stay speechless concerning the mentioned above. In many countries, a differently-structured modern society is mostly ready to participate in non-traditional debates and even accept their consequences. But in such a case, modern law, including Ukrainian, has to represent the most appropriate prospective models for the non-traditional issues regulation and protection to satisfy the needs of their participants and not to destroy classic fundamentals of society’s existence.


At the same time, domestic specialized scientific investigations on intersexes’ rights protection issues and prospects in modern conditions are rather rare, and concerning humans with integrated implants are absent. It is possible to testify that the mentioned subject of scientific interest is not completely revealed, which justifies the relevance of this paper. This research topicality is to solve a scientific task to enrich and deepen the scientific understanding of intersexes and humans with integrated implants rights protection issues, and prospects for these categories of people activities and relations appropriate regulation and protection on the modern stage of Ukraine’s development.

Purpose of the paper is to determine intersexes’ and humans with integrated implants rights protection issues and prospects in modern conditions. To achieve this aim the following tasks are needed to be performed: 1) to represent own theoretical vision of intersexes and humans with integrated implants understanding and their rights protection; 2) to define main issues concerning the mentioned categories of people effective rights protection; 3) to outline prospective directions in relation to intersexes’ and humans with integrated implants legal possibilities regulation and defence in modern conditions.

To represent the existing problem of non-appropriate legal regulation of significant issues, we have chosen the mentioned above categories of people not occasionally but intentionally due to the following reasons. On the one hand, both of them are out of the classical subject of scientific interests. On the other hand, both of them began to be part of modern reality, still being out of many countries’ legal reality. More else, talking about intersexes, who exist historically for many years, modern jurisprudence has recently represented
its reply on international and even national levels. At the same time, in relation to people with integrated implants, whose functioning generates cyber-humans’ legal status discussions, it is still in theoretical thoughts and debates of futurist nature. But modern increasingly digitalizing mankind no way may afford to take the same amount of time calculating in years to legally regulate the humans’ with integrated implants issues as it was taken for the intersexes. Even more, neither political-economic conditions of modern reality nor social-cultural, including morality and religion, are capable to hide the need to protect visibly existing people with elements of cyber-technologies in their biological bodies as it had been doing with intersexes for many years.

Up to 1.7 percent of babies are born with sex characteristics that do not fit typical definitions of male and female [1]. According to Ghattas D., intersex individuals are persons who cannot be classified according to the medical norms of so-called male and female bodies with regard to their chromosomal, gonadal or anatomical sex. The term inter is an umbrella term...As an emancipatory and identitarian one, it denotes the diversity of intersex realities and bodies [2, p. 10]. Taking an international approach, the issue opens up debates about the globalisation of traditionalist binaried legal and medical approaches to sex diversities, examining these in relation to increasingly globalised intersex rights claims [3, p. 435]. In accordance with Carpenter M., medicine constructs intersex bodies as either female or male, while law and society construct intersex as neither female nor male [4, p. 493]. This separation of intersex people is also due to the fact that their gender identity is primarily characterized not by social, psychological (although this is not excluded) or erotic-emotional sex, but by genetic (anatomical) [5, p. 62]. In response to this complex situation, an emerging advocacy and human rights consensus focuses on simple core demands, for self-determination and the right to bodily integrity, demanding an end to forced and coercive medical interventions, social prejudice, and stigma [4, p. 493].

Nowadays the mentioned issue has to be developed in accordance with the Recommendations of UN Treaty Bodies and other UN bodies; Recommendations of Council of Europe Bodies; the Recommendations of European Union Bodies; the Recommendations of Non-Governmental bodies; National Legislation and Demands of the European Intersex Community [6]. In contradiction to intersexes’ issues regulation, concerning people with integrated implants neither international, nor national legislators have already suggested and completed an appropriate regulatory-protective juridical fundament for such a category of people’s differently-directed conduct ordering and their rights and interests defence. We have to admit that despite its mostly economy-reasoned vulnerabilities, there is a quite strong international, regional and national mechanism to protect invalids. Thus, if we understand people with integrated implants inside their bodies as only invalid ones, we have to confess that jurisprudence is not speechless in this question. At the same time, in conditions of current reality modern legal science and legislative practice do not have
their reply concerning healthy people modifying their fully healthy bodies and mind. More else, a human’s right to his/her own techno-modification to improve natural possibilities and abilities is a rare subject of scientific investigations and legislators’ attention so far. As Gillett G. correctly admitted, the fact that we have ways of supplementing our own abilities by using artificial devices is a common feature of human life [7, p. 79]. And we may only agree with Barfield W. and Williams A. that near-future cyborg technologies will surely create great challenges for established legal doctrine [8, p. 15]. Neuroscience and technological medicine in general increasingly faces us with the imminent reality of cyborgs – part human and part machine complexes which function as a whole [7, p. 79]. Currently, it is inevitable that research is developed that is framed in human enhancement technologies [9, p. 916]. As Rudall B. admitted, the cyber-human appears to be not just another concept that is discussed in cybernetics research but a recognisable reality [10]. According to Puig Hernandez M., cyborgs open a debate about the use of technological devices incorporated into human body [11, p. 213]. Barfield W. and Williams A. recommend that much more has to be done in the area of law and policy for cyborg technology while we still have time to chart our future in the coming cyborg age [8, p. 15].

To remove the mentioned gap on the national level, it is possible to begin from the theoretical constructing of terminological apparatus. With this regard and within our author’s vision of “a human right on own body techno-modification” as a possibility to change own physical body, intellectual possibilities, acquire new functional peculiarities and abilities through the integration of created with the involvement of modern technological achievements implants into own body [12, p. 186], we suggest our understanding of people with integrated implants as those who implemented the mentioned right in their life-reality.

We would like to admit that specific humans’ with integrated implants legal status, juridical guarantees of their rights, and further related issues, as well as procedural questions of connected processes, require specialized legislation. It has to be based on previous scientific investigations, own and foreign regulatory as well as law-enforcement experience. In the future, all this will form a strong international legal mechanism concerning so-called cyber-humans as types of people with integrated implants. Of course, in modern reality, Ukraine should not stay behind due to the need to make the right scientific steps in this area and be prepared to accept and reflect the international requirements and standards in its national legislation concerning people with integrated implants. It is possible to say that in the era of theoretical investigations and separate researchers’ suggestions concerning cyber-humans legal issue, national jurisprudence in this regard has the same right to its own vision and proposal for the domestic use and further improvement under general human rights standards as other countries till the generally-accepted appearance of more or less imperative understanding of the mentioned question from the side of the international community.
At the same time, the mentioned may not be said concerning intersexes. Because for Ukraine the implementation of the mentioned above regulators is the present task that has to be gradually performed taking into account particularities of the national legal system, socio-cultural and moral-spiritual standards with their further possible transformations under the needs of intersex reality. And even the determination of related categories is already in some way limited by the given existing normative constructions to be reflected in domestic legislation. Taking them into account, we may suggest our theoretical vision of intersex people as humans of fully or partially both gender characteristics (male and female) originated naturally in the process of their life development. We also have to confess that for our country scientific discussions about this are already not enough but there is a need for constructive legislative decisions due to the existing problems in this sphere. As Garland F. and Travis M. correctly stated, ...recognising intersex formally must not be seen as the end point in these discussions [13, p. 606].

According to Ghattas D. research, in Ukraine medical practices in relation to intersexes still include: genital surgery is for babies and infants [2, p. 19]; removal of the gonads is for children and adolescents [2, p. 20]; hormone replacement therapy adolescents [2, p. 21]; absence of aftercare (an appropriate post-operative treatment) [2, p. 22]; and in general medical care is problematically-unknown [2, p. 23]. More else, it is unclear whether it is difficult for intersex individuals to receive medical care that is not indicated, from a medical perspective, for the registered sex/gender (e.g. preventive medical checkups for cancer of the gonads, if the individual has a female civil status or if the person is considered to be female) [2, p. 40]. There are no protests in Ukraine against medical interventions...without their personal, free, and prior and informed consent. The legal situation Ukraine only allows for a sex/gender entry as «male» or «female»...Intersex is subject to a strong taboo. As a result, NGOs have difficulties obtaining information...It is known that intersex individuals are contemptuously called «abnormal men» or «abnormal women» [2, p. 41]. Thus, the social situation is embodied in their discrimination (verbal and/or structural), bodily harm and life-threatening situations [2, p. 27].

Although fundamental human rights are generally considered universal, irrespective of race, gender, nationality, religion or other factors, the interpretation of those rights is shaped by the cultural and socioeconomic context, contributing to even greater complexity in ethical and legal frameworks regarding care [14, p. 177]. As Griffiths D. correctly admitted, the current DSD classification system is insufficiently attentive to the social and ethical needs of the present.. [15, p. 143]. With this regard Carpenter M. states that examples of good practice include implementation of protections from violence, harmful practices, and discrimination on grounds of sex characteristics and of universally available non-binary sex markers [4, p. 493]. Inter individuals are still pathologised and classified as «sick» or «abnormal». As early as in infancy, by means of surgical interventions, they are frequently assigned to
the male or female sex/gender... However, there is no medical necessity to do so, since intersex individuals are, for the most part, absolutely healthy... Frequently, they seriously suffer from the psychic and physical effects of medical interventions. They are, for the most part, denied the development of a gender identity of their own... [2, p. 7]. Structural change is needed to end the pathologisation and stigmatisation of healthy intersex bodies [16, p. 79]. They are not only exposed to verbal and structural discrimination, but also experience physical violence and life threatening situations [2, p. 7]. Volunteer work is the fragile pillar of all intersex organisations’ activities so far...leads key activists to burn out, requires them to accept financial insecurity and does not provide for enough human resources [6, p. 43].

There is a similar situation with humans with integration implants rights protection because the manipulations with their bodies in most of the cases are quite experimental and may not fully guarantee the absence of negative effects on their health. Scientific discussions on this issue are quite rare that generate no legislative reflection and protection of these people’s rights so far. Traditionally humans who lost parts of their natural bodies as a result of trauma or illness, and as well those who were born not completely formed from a natural point of view are recognized invalids. Thus, implants for them are to replays absent natural parts of their bodies or natural abilities. At the same time, fully or relatively fully healthy people who integrate technological implants into or inside their bodies without an appropriate juridical regulation began to be subjects of unpredictable experiments for their own selves and quite dangerous threats for other people and even for the cyber-security of their countries.

In relation to the mentioned above, we may formulate the protection of the rights of those two categories of people as specific measures to order their existence and activities as well as to defend their rights and interests. Among the main issues concerning the intersexes and humans with integrated implants on the national level, we may define the following: current and appropriate juridical scientific investigations are lack or absent (1) that generate the second problem that is the absence of their results reflection in modern Ukrainian law (2); with its inner connection with previous two reasons, the third one generates the constant support of the legal environment, in which there is neither specialized for intersexes and persons with integrated implants right protection nor even their ordinary humans’ legal possibilities defence (3). The mention above, being under legislative ignoring, social unreadiness to accept nontraditional forms of humans, their stigmatization and prejudice concerning them, create favorable conditions for social blindness and deafness in solving their problems and suppress public discussions on this theme. In such a society, the existing problems remain to be unsolved and stay on the shoulders of the mentioned humans under the full or partial ignoring from the side of their own state and law that has to protect their rights and interests as well.
In accordance with right Carpenter’s M. position, harmful practices in medical settings must be eliminated; the right of intersex people not to undergo medical intervention for social and cultural reasons must be recognised, ensuring the right to make autonomous informed choices about irreversible treatments... Diagnoses in the International Classification of Diseases must change to ensure that treatments meet human rights norms. Rhetorics of inclusion and a focus on performativity need to be challenged by human rights bodies and funders [16, p. 80]. The disciplines of ethics and law are dynamic, and a continuing evolution... [14, p. 177]. Talking about intersex citizenship, Monro S., Crocetti D., Yeadon-Lee T. admit that a robust assertion of the key areas of intersex citizenship including legal, intimate, children’s, reproductive and health citizenships, would help to bridge the current gap between activist assertions of human rights and the failure of the state and the medical establishment to protect, support, and include people with VSC as citizens [17, p. 794]. We agree with Garland F. and Travis M. that state responsibility for its subjects’ bodily integrity trumps pathologising accounts of intersex embodiment... [13, p. 606]. It is difficult not to support Hutson J., Grover S., Delany C. and Carpenter M. concerning the call for the criminalisation of deferrable irreversible interventions without personal consent due to their human rights implications [18]. In relation to this Briffa T. stated that the day will soon come when doctors will be sued for performing these nontherapeutic operations... [19, p. 695]. With the mentioned regard, international human rights institutions have begun to address intersex human rights issues, acting on testimonies from a growing and decentralized global movement [16, p. 79]. The Intersex Society of North America [20], Intersex Human Rights Australia [21], Intersex Awareness New Zealand [22] and so on represent real help for intersexes. At the same time, people with integrated implants are mostly not supported in a similar way at all. In our point of the second has to be removed, and Ukraine has to participate in this and accept the good experience of intersex NGOs. The lack of education about intersex people among health workers, educators, the judiciary, and law enforcement encourages a wide range of educational work among the general public, which will help intersex people and society to build a democratic civil society [23, p. 48–49].

According to the mentioned above, it is possible to outline prospective directions concerning intersexes’ and humans with integrated implants legal possibilities regulation and defence in modern conditions. For Ukraine, in our point of view, it is needed to: 1) provide scientific research on a constant basis regarding these people specifics, peculiarities of their legal status, juridical guarantees and procedures of their rights and interests satisfaction within the framework of law and the international human rights standards; 2) develop and adopt an appropriate and adequate normative regulation of the mentioned people relations and types of juridical, medical, social, educative, informative etc. activities in relation to them; 3) via country-supported programs
of enlightenment concerning the mentioned categories of humans existence, their rights protection on the educative-educational, political, public, cultural and even moral-spiritual, law enforcement and judicial levels to remove social stigma and prejudice, and gradually but constantly create and approve a respective regulatory-protective attitude to the rights and interests of the mentioned categories of humans as a generally accepted norm.

In the changeable current world, modern jurisprudence has to be ready to regulate and protect not only traditionally known and socially accepted subjects of law. Law as an efficient social regulator may not be stiffened and unchanged. Unexpected challenges of social transformations dictate new requirements for their ordering and their participants’ protection. To be effective, law has to be flexible and responsive to social needs and legislators have to be wise enough to represent legislative formulas for social integrity and its gradual changeability. Nowadays, despite the existing economic-social crisis, the core problem of Ukrainian society is still in the crisis of spirituality and morality that has its reflection in every related issue. Thus, to outline the trunk prospective direction in relation to intersexes’ and humans with integrated implants rights regulation and protection in modern conditions, we have to confess the need for internal transformation of the Ukrainian society where the value of any human life has to become more important than the value of socially recognized and acceptable human life. Only such a changed direction may move the society internally and externally with the involvement of different social institutes, and create a conscious fundament for its further development and improvement in modern conditions. The mentioned above requires further research in this area to deepen the achieved results and represent new findings concerning the mentioned categories of people’s legal status, its guarantees, and regulatory-protective models for their rights and interests ordering and defence.

1. United Nations for Intersex Awareness. URL: https://www.unfe.org/intersex-awareness
Проблеми і перспективи охорони прав інтерсексів та осіб з інтеґрованими імплантатами (імплантами) в сучасних умовах

Висвітлено охорону інтерсексів – людей з повністю або частково обома характеристиками статі (чоловічої та жіночої), що виникли природним чином у процесі їхнього життєвого розвитку, а також людей з інтеґрованими імплантатами, тобто тих, хто скористався своїм «правом на техномодифікацію власного тіла», визначена автором як конкретні заходи щодо впорядкування їхнього існування й діяльності, а також захисту їхніх прав та інтересів. Зазначено, що на ефективність захисту прав згаданих категорій людей впливають такі чинники: 1) недостатність або брак сучасних юридичних наукових досліджень; 2) невідображеність їх результатів у сучасному українському законодавстві; 3) правове середовище, у якому немає ні спеціалізованого, ні навіть звичайного захисту таких людей.

Окреслено такі перспективні напрями щодо регулювання й охорони їхніх правових можливостей за умов сучасної України: 1) на постійній основі провадити наукові дослідження особливостей цих людей, їхнього правового статусу, юридичних гарантій і процедур задоволення їхніх прав та інтересів у межах права й міжнародних стандартів у галузі прав людини; 2) розробити і прийняти нормативне регулювання відносин зазначених категорій людей і видів правової, медичної, соціальної, виховної, інформаційної тощо діяльності щодо них; 3) за допомогою програм просвітництва, що підтримуються державою, на освітньому, політичному, громадському, культурному і навіть морально-духовному, правово-охоронному та судовому рівнях поступово, але безперервно створювати й утверджувати регулятивно-охоронне ставлення до прав та інтересів згаданих категорій людей як загальнодержавну норму.

Ключові слова: захист прав людини, інтерсекси, люди з інтеґрованими імплантатами (імплантами), кібер-люди.

Стаття надійшла до редакції 24.06.2021
Прийнята до друку 12.07.2021