

TO
THE SCIENTIFIC JURY FOR
THE DEFENCE OF THE DISSERTATION OF
TANYA KOSTADINOVA
APPOINTED BY ORDER
OF THE RECTOR OF PLOVDIV
UNIVERSITY № RD 21- 2053 of
15.11.2024

STATEMENT

of Corresponding Member Prof. Boris Vladimirov Velchev Doctor of Juridical Science, Lecturer at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski” on the dissertation titled „International Legal Aspects of Child Trafficking” prepared by Tanya Nikolaeva Kostadinova, PhD student in the PhD programme „International Law and International Relations” /for the awarding of educational and scientific degree „Doctor” in the major „International Law and International Relations”, professional area: 3.6. „Law”/

The topic chosen by the PhD student is undoubtedly topical and its very focus on this issue already contains prerequisites for scientific contributions. In essence, this is the first monographic work on the issue of child trafficking that I am aware of.

Assistant Professor Kostadinova's professional qualifications are impressive. She holds a Master's degree in Law and International Relations and a Bachelor's degree in Bulgarian Language and History. She also has some practical experience on the subject of trafficking in human beings as chair of the local commission in Plovdiv. All this has redefined the depth of the research and the clear and accessible language of the dissertation.

The dissertator has published three scholarly essays on the topic, on the historical development of international legal instruments to combat child trafficking, on the definitions of slavery, trafficking and sale of children, and on particular aspects of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. All of them have a clear connection to the thesis and have been published in the publications of the University of Plovdiv.

All scientometric requirements are met. All internal procedures necessary for the conduct of the public defence have also been fulfilled.

The abstract has been prepared as required and objectively reflects the content of the thesis.

The dissertation is developed in a volume of more than 200 pages. Structurally, it consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion.

The language of the thesis is comprehensible without compromising academic expression. The exposition is well organized, and the chosen structure of the dissertation has enabled the dissertator to formulate sound legal conclusions.

The first chapter is devoted to the legal regulation of child trafficking in international law. The development of international legal instruments on the issue under consideration, the issues related to the distinction between slavery, sale of children, and human trafficking, as well as the definition of the concept of a child are examined. In the second chapter, the treaties governing trafficking in children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child are analysed and their relationship is sought. The third chapter focuses on institutional instruments for the protection of children from trafficking at the universal, regional and national levels.

The conclusion covers the main conclusions of the author, which summarize at an abstract level the contributions of the dissertation.

The series of well-founded legal conclusions of the doctoral candidate have quite naturally led to the contribution points of the dissertation.

I share the majority of the statement of contributions prepared by the dissertator. She has rightly highlighted a number of her scientific achievements.

Of course, by no means all of them can be treated as convincing scientific contributions, but in their totality, they have led to a comprehensive elucidation of the problems related to child trafficking, which is in its essence a significant scientific contribution.

The very focus of the dissertator on such an important issue of international law and the conclusions drawn about the content of the regulation of child trafficking, the proposed terminological clarifications, including in the translation of international treaties, also contribute to my high evaluation of the dissertation.

Of course, specific contributions can also be mentioned. Among them, I would particularly like to highlight the analysis of the issue of slavery, the issue of embryo smuggling, the proposed unification of the concept of child, and surrogacy as a new form of exploitation.

I have a number of comments on the work, but none of them can affect my categorical positive assessment of Tanya Kostadinova's work.

The submitted dissertation of Tanya Nikolaeva Kostadinova fully satisfies all the requirements of the law for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, therefore I make an unconditional proposal to the scientific jury to grant her this degree.

Corresponding Member Prof. Boris Velchev, Doctor of Juridical Science

24.01.2025