

## THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO DETERMINING THE FUNCTIONAL PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL POLICE IN THE CONTEXT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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### Abstract

The article provides a comprehensive theoretical and legal study of approaches to defining the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine in the context of ensuring human rights and freedoms, which necessitates a rethinking of the place and role of police bodies in the modern public legal system. It is argued that the current regulatory approaches to defining the functions of the police remain fragmented and insufficiently aligned with European human rights standards, leading to blurred boundaries of state intervention, uneven application of preventive and responsive measures, and systemic conflicts in the practice of ensuring human rights and freedoms. It is argued that one of the key factors behind these problems is the lack of a comprehensive doctrine of police activity that would integrate the legal, administrative, social and ethical components of law enforcement agencies' activities. Particular attention is paid to revealing theoretical approaches to defining the functional purpose of the police, in particular the concept of a human-centred model of police service, which focuses on the rule of law, the primacy of human rights and the responsibility of the state to the individual. The article analyses regulatory gaps that affect the implementation of the state's positive obligations to protect the life, liberty and dignity of citizens, and considers the issue of police interaction with the public, the media and other public authorities. The article emphasises that the insufficient structuring of the functional powers of the police negatively affects the effectiveness of management decisions, reduces the transparency and accountability of police activities, and causes public distrust of the institution. The results of the study justify the need to develop and legislate a coordinated concept of the functional purpose of the National Police, which would define clear limits of its powers, transparent accountability mechanisms, and adequate instruments for ensuring human rights and freedoms in accordance with ECHR standards. A set of scientifically based measures is proposed, aimed at improving the regulatory and legal framework, forming a new paradigm for the police service, and ensuring the sustainable development of approaches to police activities in a democratic state governed by the rule of law.

**Keywords:** constitution; police; civil society; state building; human rights protection; restrictions on rights.

### 1. Introduction

In the conditions of modern state-building, ensuring the rights and freedoms of man and citizen is a key task of police activity, which determines its effectiveness in society and the level of citizens' trust in the law enforcement system. This necessitates a thorough review of the role and functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine, as well as the development of a clear concept of its activities in the context of compliance

with international human rights standards. An analysis of scientific research on the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine shows that there is currently no comprehensive and conceptually coherent model that would meet the standards of a democratic state governed by the rule of law and ensure the priority of human rights and freedoms. Existing regulatory provisions on the powers of the police are often implemented in a fragmented manner, with unclear boundaries of interference in the private sphere and an ambiguous balance between preventive and reactive functions. Despite the regulatory establishment of a wide range of police powers, their practical implementation is often characterised by fragmentation, a lack of clear boundaries for intervention in the private sphere, and ambiguous interpretations regarding the relationship between preventive and responsive functions.

This creates systemic contradictions between the declared human-oriented model of police functioning and the practice of its implementation (Vityk, 2021). Such a model assumes that the police not only perform punitive functions, but also protect the rights and freedoms of citizens, actively interact with civil society institutions, local governments, and other state structures, contributing to the formation of trust and transparency in society. At the same time, it establishes clear limits on police powers, mechanisms for monitoring compliance, and standards for personnel selection and training. These contradictions are exacerbated by the insufficient compliance of the national legal framework with international standards, which calls into question the effectiveness of the state's implementation of its positive obligations to protect the life, safety and dignity of individuals.

Ukraine's international obligations, especially within the framework of European integration, require the national police to adapt to the standards of the Council of Europe and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). Meeting these requirements involves not only reforming the organisational structure of the police, but also rethinking its key functions with a priority on ensuring human rights and freedoms. The problem is complicated by the fact that Ukraine has not yet developed a comprehensive theoretical paradigm of the functional purpose of the police that would combine the legal, social, ethical and managerial aspects of law enforcement activities. The insufficient level of conceptualisation of police functions has a negative impact on the definition of the limits of discretionary powers, accountability mechanisms, and the system of interaction between the police and the public and other public authorities.

The police are no longer associated solely with the coercive mechanism of maintaining public order. Today, they are seen as an institution responsible for protecting human rights, strengthening public trust and maintaining a balance between state intervention and civil liberties (Kuchynska et al., 2013).

In modern society, the police are expected not only to respond quickly and effectively to offences, but also to engage in active preventive work, establish communication with civil society, and adhere to the principles of transparency and accountability (Negodchenko, 2002). Scientific research shows that low public trust, lack of systematic cooperation with civil society organisations, and insufficient clarity in defining police powers have a negative impact on the performance of law enforcement agencies, which in turn undermines the legitimacy of state institutions. An important component of police work is cooperation with civil society institutions. Such interaction helps to strengthen trust in the police, ensures transparency in its activities and supports the legitimacy of decisions made. Cooperation with civil society institutions helps to reduce social tensions, enhance the effectiveness of preventive measures and instil a deeper respect for human rights in everyday law enforcement practice.

In conditions of martial law, the issue of relations between citizens and the police takes on particular significance. Military action, external aggression and threats to national security pose new challenges for law enforcement agencies. To effectively protect the rights and freedoms of citizens during this period, modern conceptual

approaches to reforming police activities are needed. The basis for such approaches should be the creation of a partnership between the police and society, based on the principles of respect for human rights (Kovbasa et al., 2022).

As O.P. Lytvyn rightly points out, an analysis of the regulatory framework governing the activities of the National Police in the context of the introduction of martial law reveals the need for its systematic updating and draws attention to the need to ensure the effective work of the police in conditions that are extremely difficult for the country. The purpose of updating the legislation is not only to adjust the forms and methods of police work, but also to optimise its powers in order to ensure an adequate level of protection of citizens' rights and freedoms during this period (Lytvyn, 2023). The research by A.O. Polishchuk focused on the problems of ensuring human rights during the application of administrative coercive measures by the police, in which the thesis is substantiated that during wartime, interaction between citizens and the police should be based on a balance between the protection and observance of rights. The police play a protective role, ensuring law and order during wartime, facilitating mobilisation measures and maintaining public peace. At the same time, it is important that respect for human rights and freedoms remains a priority in the performance of official duties (Polishchuk, 2017).

In modern domestic legal science, there are different approaches to defining the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine. This shows how complex and multifaceted this issue is. The lack of a unified approach to understanding this category creates certain difficulties in the practical application of the law, which negatively affects the effectiveness of the entire law enforcement system. As a result, there is an imbalance between public expectations of service-oriented, transparent and professional police activity and the actual functioning of the institution, which often inherits elements of the command-and-control models of the past. Thus, there is an objective need for scientific justification, clarification and systematisation of theoretical approaches to defining the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine, which should become the basis for further modernisation and harmonisation of its activities in accordance with international human rights standards.

The results of the study substantiate the need to develop and legislatively enshrine a coordinated concept of the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine, which would define clear boundaries of its powers, transparent accountability mechanisms and appropriate tools for ensuring human rights and freedoms in accordance with the standards of the ECHR. The implementation of such a concept will eliminate regulatory gaps, increase the effectiveness of management decisions, form a new paradigm of the police service and ensure sustainable development of the law enforcement system in a democratic state governed by the rule of law. The purpose of this study is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the theoretical and legal aspects of determining the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine and justify the need to develop a unified concept of its activities. Achieving this goal will contribute to the formation of scientifically sound recommendations for reforming the police, increasing the effectiveness of its cooperation with civil society, ensuring transparency, accountability and protection of human rights and freedoms, which, in turn, will strengthen democratic institutions in the state.

Ultimately, the study aims to form a scientifically sound basis for the normative consolidation of a comprehensive concept of the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine, which will allow for a clear definition of its powers, ensure effective mechanisms for the protection of human rights, increase the transparency and accountability of the police, and contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions in the state.

## 2. Materials and Methods

The methodological framework of this study is based on a comprehensive combination of general scientific and specialized research methods, carefully selected to align with the objectives and purpose of the research as well as the specific characteristics of the subject. The problem of determining the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine within the context of protecting human rights and freedoms is complex and multifaceted, which necessitated an integrative approach combining theoretical, legal, comparative, and interdisciplinary methods. This combination ensures that the study is not only analytically rigorous but also practically relevant in addressing contemporary challenges in the organization and functioning of law enforcement agencies.

To explore the theoretical and legal aspects of the National Police's functional purpose, the study employed general scientific methods such as analysis, synthesis, induction, and deduction. The method of analysis allowed for a systematic examination of existing scientific literature, normative acts, and regulatory frameworks concerning police activity and human rights protection. By applying synthesis, the research integrated fragmented findings from different legal and social science sources into a coherent conceptual framework, highlighting key trends and principles that define the functional role of law enforcement agencies in a democratic state governed by the rule of law. Induction was used to generalize specific observations from legal texts and case law into broader theoretical propositions, while deduction enabled the derivation of logical conclusions from established legal norms and recognized principles of human rights. The method of generalization was crucial in formulating theoretical insights, as it helped to identify overarching patterns and to construct a conceptual model of the National Police's functional purpose in the contemporary public legal system.

The formal-legal method constituted a central component of the research, allowing for a detailed examination of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine on the National Police, other relevant legislative acts, and subordinate regulatory instruments. This method facilitated a precise identification of the scope and limits of police powers in the protection of human rights and freedoms. It also made it possible to evaluate how existing legislation defines the responsibilities of law enforcement authorities and whether these provisions align with the principles of legality, proportionality, and accountability. In addition, this method enabled the identification of legislative gaps, ambiguities, and inconsistencies that hinder the effective and rights-compliant functioning of the police.

The comparative-legal method was employed to juxtapose Ukrainian legislation with international standards, particularly those derived from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), and recommendations of Council of Europe bodies. By applying this method, the study assessed the degree of conformity of the National Police's legal framework and practical activities with European human rights norms. The comparative perspective also helped to highlight best practices in law enforcement governance, accountability mechanisms, and public engagement strategies from other democratic states, providing a foundation for recommendations aimed at improving compliance with international standards.

The systemic-structural method was used to conceptualize the National Police as an integral element of the public law system. This approach enabled an understanding of the police not as an isolated institution but as part of a broader network of state authorities, local self-government bodies, and civil society institutions. By analyzing the National Police systemically, the study examined how its functional purpose interacts with the duties of other public authorities, the mechanisms of public oversight, and the broader socio-legal environment. This perspective emphasizes the interdependence of police functions and societal expectations, particularly regarding the protection of

human rights and the prevention of abuse of power.

In addition, the socio-legal method was applied to assess the role of public trust, civic oversight, and communication with the population in enhancing the effectiveness and legitimacy of police activities. This method allowed for an exploration of how societal attitudes, expectations, and perceptions of law enforcement influence the practical implementation of legal norms and the observance of human rights. The analysis of these socio-legal factors provided insights into the broader impact of police practices on public confidence, social cohesion, and the rule of law.

The use of this combination of methods ensured comprehensiveness, objectivity, and scientific validity in the research process. By integrating theoretical, legal, comparative, systemic, and socio-legal approaches, the study achieved a holistic understanding of the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine. This methodological approach enabled the formulation of evidence-based conclusions and practical recommendations aimed at improving the organization, regulation, and accountability of law enforcement activities. In particular, it provided a basis for proposing a coherent doctrine of police activity that integrates legal, administrative, social, and ethical components, aligns with European human rights standards, and promotes transparency, accountability, and public trust.

Overall, the methodological design of this study allowed for a rigorous examination of both theoretical and practical aspects of police functions, ensuring that the findings are scientifically robust, legally grounded, and applicable in the context of policy and law enforcement reforms in Ukraine. The combination of methods not only facilitated a detailed analysis of the current legal and institutional framework but also provided a platform for proposing a new paradigm of police service that is human-centered, rights-oriented, and fully integrated into the democratic legal order.

### **3. Result and Discussion**

The theoretical understanding of the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine is increasingly viewed through the prism of the priority of human rights and freedoms as the basic guidelines for the activities of modern law enforcement institutions. The doctrine of administrative and police law is dominated by the approach that the police are not only an instrument for ensuring public safety, but also a key actor in the state's fulfilment of its positive obligations in the field of human rights protection. This concept necessitates a thorough theoretical rethinking of the essence of police functions, tasks and strategic directions for their practical implementation.

Scientific literature has developed an approach according to which the functional purpose of the police should be linked not only to the protection of public order, but above all to ensuring a safe environment in which individuals can exercise their constitutional rights without unjustified restrictions. The Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" contains principles that determine the activities of the police. Among the basic principles is the principle of respect for human rights and freedoms, according to which the police contribute to the implementation of constitutional rights and freedoms. In this context, Marushchuk N.V. notes that it is necessary to consider the issue of amending the current legislation regarding such concepts as "police-community interaction based on partnership" and "assessment of the level of trust." This, in turn, will strengthen the implementation of the aforementioned principle (Marushchuk, 2024).

Among the main principles is the principle of respect for human rights and freedoms, according to which the police contribute to the implementation of constitutional rights and freedoms. This interpretation is consistent with European standards of police activity, which are based on the principles of proportionality, legality, necessity and minimal interference in the private lives of citizens. Thus, the functions of the police take the form of a preventive service aimed at protecting human dignity and

safety.

The scientific work of Kuchynska O.P., Fuley T.I. and Barannik R.V. (2013) substantiates the thesis that ensuring human rights and freedoms is not only a legal obligation but also a fundamental function of the police as a public institution of a democratic state. In particular, it is emphasised that police activity should be viewed through the prism of ensuring human rights and freedoms, which implies prioritising respect for the dignity of each person, minimising coercion and focusing on the prevention of human rights violations. It is emphasised that the function of ensuring human rights is not limited to the traditional security or punitive aspect, but includes a broader set of preventive, service and human rights mechanisms aimed at maintaining public safety in conditions of the rule of law. The emphasis is on the fact that police activity should be based on international standards that define the limits of permissible state interference in the sphere of human rights, since the modern understanding of the functions of the police should envisage its transformation into a service and human rights protection institution, designed not only to respond to offences, but also to actively create conditions for the realisation and protection of inalienable human rights and freedoms.

An important theoretical component is the understanding of the police as a public service institution that performs powers delegated by the state while remaining accountable to society. This approach, which is characteristic of the concept of a "democratic police force," implies that any police measures should be aimed at maintaining a balance between security and freedom, rather than the dominance of force or repressive instruments. Thus, the functional purpose of the police is transformed into a system of comprehensive human rights protection in the context of maintaining public order.

According to Krugly V.V. (2015), the fundamental prerequisite for building relations between citizens and internal affairs bodies in the process of operational-investigative activities is unconditional respect for the rights and freedoms of citizens, since it is precisely the enforcement of legality, respect for personal dignity and legal protection of participants in the interaction that creates the necessary conditions for trust, effective cooperation and legitimacy of police measures, as well as minimises the risks of abuse, human rights violations and conflict situations in the process of carrying out operational and investigative tasks.

Scientists also emphasize that the effectiveness of tasks aimed at ensuring human rights and freedoms directly depends on the proper legislative framework, professional training of personnel and the level of trust of citizens. To improve the activities of the National Police, a comprehensive approach is needed, which should include both legislative initiatives and structural and organizational reforms. These measures should be aimed at increasing the efficiency, transparency and accountability of police agencies to society (Prykhodkov, 2025).

The provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as the extensive practice of the European Court of Human Rights, have had a significant impact on the understanding of the functional essence of the police. The ECHR has repeatedly emphasised that the state is obliged to create conditions under which the work of the police complies with standards of respect for human dignity. In this context, the functional purpose of the police encompasses not only the obligation to refrain from violating rights, but also actively ensuring their implementation, which is part of the positive obligations of the state.

According to Skomorovsky V.B. (2024), democratic procedures, which must be strictly adhered to, limit the possibilities of applying practically arbitrary command and administrative methods. Attempts to build a civilised democratic society using such methods prove ineffective and incompatible with the principles of democracy. The realisation of the constitutional aspiration to form an open civil society in Ukraine and to develop and strengthen a democratic, social and legal state is impossible without taking

into account and establishing in the minds of both officials and ordinary citizens the fundamental observance of clearly defined rules of social and political life. A key aspect of this process is the protection of the inalienable and imprescriptible natural rights and freedoms of the individual, which is a fundamental prerequisite for the stability of democratic institutions and the legitimacy of state power in contemporary Ukrainian society.

Scientific approaches emphasise that police activity should focus on individuals, their needs and their right to safety. This anthropocentric approach contrasts with the traditional "state-oriented" view of the police, where the main emphasis is on maintaining public order. Contemporary theoretical concepts argue that an effective police force must ensure a state of social trust, which can only be achieved if citizens feel protected and confident that their rights are being upheld.

One of the important areas of theoretical rethinking of the functional purpose of the police is determining the optimal balance between preventive and reactive activities. Traditionally, the police have been associated with responding to offences, but modern European paradigms emphasise the preventive dimension of their activities, aimed at preventing violations of human rights and minimising risks to public safety. This shift in emphasis reflects a gradual transition to a model of community policing, i.e. police working in close cooperation with the community.

Scientists also pay considerable attention to the humanisation of police activities, which involves the introduction of approaches aimed at taking into account the individual needs and characteristics of citizens. It is particularly important to ensure the rights of vulnerable groups, i.e. children, women, persons with disabilities, and representatives of national minorities. This function goes beyond purely security tasks and requires a high level of professional and ethical competence from the police.

Minchenko S.I. (2012) believes that measures taken by state bodies to bring national legislation into line with international standards and ensure the rights of citizens in various areas of law enforcement can only yield real results if an effective mechanism and appropriate conditions for their practical implementation are created. The paper emphasises that in order to ensure the proper functioning of operational-investigative activities, high-quality regulatory and legal regulation is necessary, which takes into account the specifics of legal relations arising in the course of law enforcement activities, as well as compliance with the constitutional principle of the rule of law. In addition, the author notes the increasing use of operational-investigative measures that temporarily restrict the rights and freedoms of citizens, while emphasising that the practice of such measures is often accompanied by violations of individual rights and freedoms.

Another theoretical aspect is the institutional support for the functional purpose of the police. This includes the existence of a system of regulatory control that defines the limits and procedures for interference with the rights and freedoms of citizens. Legal certainty, predictability of police actions and accessibility of information to citizens are key conditions for the functional effectiveness of the police in the context of human rights protection. Uncertainty or inconsistency in legal norms can lead to risks of abuse of power.

In this context, institutional control over police activities is of particular importance. Theoretical approaches emphasise the need for both internal and external accountability mechanisms, including independent monitoring bodies. Ensuring transparency and a clear system of control is a fundamental condition for the preservation of human rights in the performance of police functions.

Stepanenko O.V. and Metoshop O.V. (2025) emphasise that it is particularly important to involve international organisations in monitoring human rights compliance and establishing communication with partners regarding Ukraine's reporting on the implementation of relevant measures under martial law. In this context, the protection of human rights should be based on a systematic approach that integrates legislative,

administrative, human rights and information tools. The implementation of such initiatives requires coordinated efforts on the part of the state, civil society institutions and international partners, which is the basis for effectively overcoming challenges and ensuring the reliable protection of the rights and freedoms of every citizen.

The functional purpose of the modern police also involves the development of a communicative function, which consists in creating models of effective dialogue between the police and society. According to theoretical concepts, the police should not only ensure law and order, but also be an active participant in social interaction, which contributes to the formation of trust and shared responsibility for security. The communicative function is becoming increasingly important in democratic societies.

According to O.V. Negodchenko, ensuring human rights and freedoms in the sphere of law enforcement by internal affairs bodies requires the introduction of conceptually new approaches that entail fundamental changes in the organisational and legal foundations of their functioning. This, in particular, involves humanising the activities of the police, enhancing its authority, forming relations between law enforcement agencies and the public on the basis of partnership, as well as improving the forms, methods and means of realising human rights and freedoms. A significant increase in the effectiveness of internal affairs bodies in this area is impossible without a thorough and consistent scientific analysis of their organisational and legal foundations, which allows for the identification of optimal mechanisms for the protection of human rights and increases the legitimacy of police activities (Negodchenko, 2002).

An important component of the theoretical understanding of the functional purpose of the police is the issue of professional development of personnel. Contemporary approaches emphasise that effective protection of human rights is only possible if police officers possess the appropriate level of competence, particularly in legal, psychological and communication skills. Accordingly, the functional purpose of the police also includes an educational function, such as the formation of high standards of professional ethics and culture.

A separate place in theoretical discussions is occupied by the issue of police interaction with other public authorities. The functional nature of the police means that it cannot act in isolation. Ensuring human rights requires inter-agency coordination with social protection, health, education, justice and local government bodies. This approach reflects the concept of "systemic security", which goes beyond purely criminal law responses.

Theoretical approaches to the functional role of the police are particularly important in crisis or emergency situations, including martial law. In such conditions, the police play an enhanced role in ensuring the functioning of society, while remaining committed to human rights standards. This requires a rethinking of the functional content of police powers and their flexible but legally justified application.

As noted by S.S. Chernyavsky, raising the scientific level and practical focus of research carried out by departmental higher education and research institutions, as well as the creation of favourable conditions for optimising the training system of the National Police, are priority measures capable of transforming departmental science into an effective factor directly influencing the quality, innovation and creativity of law enforcement activities. The implementation of these measures creates the necessary preconditions for further work on the development and implementation of an innovative mechanism for the development of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, which will contribute to increasing the effectiveness and adaptability of police structures in modern conditions with the aim of ensuring human rights and freedoms in particular (Chernyavsky, 2016).

Summarising various theoretical approaches, it can be argued that the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine is multidimensional and includes regulatory, social, ethical, security and service components. All these components are interrelated

and form a comprehensive system for ensuring human rights. The central element of this system is the human dimension of police activity, which is becoming a defining trend in modern concepts of public administration.

Thus, the theoretical foundations for defining the functional purpose of the National Police in the context of human rights reflect pan-European trends in the transformation of law enforcement agencies into service-oriented structures whose activities are based on the principles of democratic accountability and the primacy of human rights. The development of these approaches is fundamental to the modernisation of the Ukrainian police and increasing its legitimacy in the eyes of society.

The results of the study confirm the need to develop and legislate a coordinated concept of the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine. Such a concept should define clear boundaries of the powers of police bodies, transparent mechanisms of accountability to society, as well as appropriate tools for the effective protection of human rights and freedoms in accordance with the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights. An important aspect of the development of this concept is the integration of legal, administrative, social and ethical components of police activities, which will eliminate the existing fragmentation of regulation and ensure a unified logic of the functioning of police bodies in a democratic society. Legislative consolidation of such approaches creates the prerequisites for increasing the efficiency of management decisions, strengthening the transparency and accountability of the police, as well as the formation of sustainable trust of citizens in law enforcement institutions.

In addition, the study proposes a set of scientifically based measures aimed at improving the regulatory framework, forming a new paradigm of the police service, which is focused on human rights, and ensuring sustainable development of approaches to police activities in a democratic state governed by the rule of law. The proposed measures include systemic optimization of the organizational structure, increasing the professional competence of personnel, developing the communicative functions of the police and strengthening interdepartmental interaction, which will contribute to the implementation of the positive obligations of the state to protect the life, freedom and dignity of citizens.

The inclusion of these provisions in the theoretical and practical discourse allows us to formulate a holistic view of the functional purpose of the National Police, which combines its law enforcement, social, ethical and service functions, and serves as a scientific basis for the modernization of police activities and increasing its legitimacy in the eyes of society.

## **Conclusions**

Considering the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine as a legal category is of fundamental importance for the formation of an effective model of law enforcement that meets today's challenges. In the current conditions, taking into account the state of war, threats to national security and the vector of European integration, there is a need to review and update approaches to the functional purpose of the police.

A comprehensive approach makes it possible to identify new guidelines for the development of the police institution based on the principles of legality, openness, orientation towards the needs of society and compliance with international standards. An analysis of the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine indicates its key role in ensuring human rights and freedoms, as well as protecting the interests of society and the state, which is the basis of its activities.

Systematisation and generalisation of the above gives grounds to assert that overcoming the identified conceptual and practical contradictions in defining the functional purpose of the National Police of Ukraine requires updating the theoretical and legal foundations of its activities and forming a comprehensive human-centred

model of the police function.

The optimal way to solve this problem is to develop and legislate a coordinated doctrine of police activity based on international standards, the principles of the rule of law and modern approaches to public administration. Such a concept should include a clear distinction between preventive and reactive powers, the establishment of transparent control and accountability mechanisms, the definition of the limits of state intervention in the sphere of individual rights, and the introduction of effective procedures for police interaction with the public. Its implementation will contribute to the establishment of a qualitatively new model of police service capable of ensuring real, rather than declarative, priority for human rights in the activities of law enforcement agencies.

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