

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to introduce the topic of domestic violence in same-sex relationships with a focus on victims' help-seeking. First, it defines domestic violence, describes its cycle, forms and consequences for the victim. Second, it expands on this topic in the context of same-sex relationships, its prevalence, correlates, theories and myths. Third, it deals with the phenomenon of help-seeking of domestic violence victims and the specifics of this process regarding victims of same-sex domestic violence. Eventually, it briefly describes the situation in the Czech Republic and introduces selected examples of good practice.

The empirical part of this thesis presents a qualitative research project in the form of interviews aiming to explore factors affecting the help-seeking process of victims of same-sex domestic violence in the Czech Republic. The data were analysed using the method of thematic analysis. Several factors emerged from the analysis, some of which are common in domestic violence victims in general and others are characteristic for victims in same-sex relationships. These are specific barriers in the help-seeking process related to victims' non-heterosexual orientation and to the fact that they experienced domestic violence in a same-sex relationship.

Keywords

domestic violence, victim, same-sex relationship, help-seeking