

The issue of the crime victim in criminology

Abstract

This thesis deals with the issue of the crime victim in criminology. It aims to introduce the reader to this issue not only through describing the development of the view of the victim throughout history, but also by taking the reader through the process of victimization and introducing them to, among other things, the role that the victim's behaviour or the relationship between victim and offender may play in this process. I also outline what factors can influence anyone to become a victim and the impact a crime can have on a victim. Finally, I describe the current state of victim protection in selected legislation and the types of assistance provided to victims. I also pay attention to victimological prevention, its types and forms. In the text of the thesis, I also mention several *de lege ferenda* proposals. The method I have used in my thesis is mainly descriptive and analytical.

This thesis is divided into an introduction, five additional parts, which are then divided into chapters and some into sections, and a conclusion.

The first part is devoted to the definition of criminology and then victimology, its subject, a brief history of its development and the changing view of the victim. It also looks at the concept of the victim in criminology and the different typologies of victims – both general types of victims and special types of victims such as elderly victims, victims of domestic violence and victims of stalking.

The second part focuses on the victimisation process, the impact of the victim's behaviour in it and the relationship between the victim and the offender. It also mentions the victimisation index, the harm caused to the victim and the factors affecting the impact of the crime on the victim, along with the stages of experiencing harm. It also deals with post-traumatic stress disorder, its forms and highlights who it affects. In addition, it also discusses revictimization and describes Stockholm syndrome. This section concludes with pretend victimization, victimhood, and introduces the factors that can influence whether we become a victim.

The third part focuses on the legal regulation of the protection of the victim, the rights and status of the victim in selected legal regulations — in the Act on Victims of Crime, the Criminal Procedure Code and the protection arising from the institute of expulsion under the Act on the Police of the Czech Republic. The concept of victim in criminal law is also analysed here, in terms of the definition of a victim under the Act on Victims of Crime and an injured party under the Criminal Procedure Code and their comparison is drawn.

In the fourth part, the assistance to victims is described and the types of assistance, its methods and some of the entities that provide it are presented.

The fifth part focuses on victimology prevention, its importance, the means used and a few rules of safe behaviour.

Keywords: victim of crime, victimization, legal protection of the victim