

## **Abstract**

The topic of this thesis is the changes in the legal status of women during the 19th and 20th centuries. The aim of this work is to bring the reader closer to the development of the legal status of women from the beginning of the 19th to the middle of the 20th century in the Czech lands in the public and business spheres. Against the background of historical and social events and changes of this period, the work tries to map the development of legal norms, which had the most significant impact on the change in the status of women and their gradual equalization.

This thesis is divided into three parts, while the first part deals with the development of the position of women in a general perspective. The text of this part will touch on both the development of the concept of human rights in Europe and the specific norms and provisions of family or electoral law that characterized the status of women. In the second part, the issue of women's access to education, the first efforts of the personalities of the emancipation movement in our territory, association activity, as well as the development of legal regulations governing the school system are discussed. The employment status of women and their first opportunities for self-employment are the subject of the third and last part of the work. It discusses the first female occupations, as well as the problems and obstacles that were associated with the employment of women in the labor market, as well as legal regulations governing labor relations and business activities.

Access to education and self-employment are key factors for an individual's employment in public life. Without education, an individual cannot perform a qualified gainful activity, for which he would be appropriately evaluated, and without the possibility of employment on the labor market, there is no need for education. This was the case with women in the early 19th century, and society has come a long way to equalize them in both of these areas so that women can participate not only in the private sphere entrusted to them as caregivers, but also in the public sphere so that could fully influence public events. The work does not aim to criticize the current or past situation, but aims to report on the historical and legal development that led to the equal participation of women in the public sphere.