

Domestic violence is a vast and grave social problem which pervades the whole society. In my diploma thesis, I follow it up because of its complexity as well, since it comes not only under the field of law and criminology but also psychology and sociology. It was necessary to define domestic violence as a term in the first part of the thesis, and to describe its characteristics which are constancy of aggressor and victim roles, escalation, cyclicality, continuation and repeatability. I deal with impacts of domestic violence on the society as a whole, and present a brief perspective on coping with this issue abroad. Furthermore I look into myths floating around about domestic violence because they show the public's attitude to domestic violence, and in my opinion, that plays an important role for setting the prevention appropriately.

The second chapter of the diploma thesis relates to criminological aspects of domestic violence. Successively it concentrates on incidence of domestic violence, its typology, perpetrators and victims, emphasizing exactly the victimological part including the specifics of particular victim groups. The next chapter of the thesis contains an overview of previous development of the legislation in the field of protection against domestic violence. In the fourth part of the diploma thesis, I discuss in detail the individual instruments which are provided by the Czech law to protect against domestic violence. They are the temporary expulsion, the civil law restraining order and some protective Civil Code provisions, criminal law implements including the crime of cruelty to a person living in the joint dwelling, and crime victims protection.

In the last chapter, I focus on some activities helping domestic violence victims, with intervention centres playing a significant role. I pay attention to which prevention programmes and public awareness projects have lately occurred, and that there are also non-professional initiatives working more or less well in the field of prevention. Some cases of domestic violence have been strongly medialized which has had a great influence on the public. Although the incidence of domestic violence decreases slightly and there is help available to its victims, domestic violence is still a noticeable social pathological phenomenon. Not only a close cooperation among all institutions acting in the field of domestic violence but primarily ongoing public awareness raising and prevention activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations and the media can substantially contribute to its suppression.