

## **Abstract**

This Master's Thesis deals with the issue of crime victim in criminology. The aim of this work is to create an integrated document that presents a current victimological knowledge and to evaluate current law in this area in the (relatively new) Statute about crime victims and eventually to propose changes where convenient.

Besides the introduction and the conclusion, the thesis consists of eight chapters, which are then further divided into relevant subsections. The first presents historical insight into the role of a victim in criminal proceedings. The second introduces victimology, a science about victims, which is usually perceived as a part of criminology. Further chapters of the thesis deals with main areas of victimology. It is biological and psychological characteristics of a victim in the third chapter and victimization process in chapter four, including the role of a victim in her victimization and a relationship between her and an offender. It also deals with the role of victims in criminal proceedings. The sixth chapter consider means of help provided to victims by both, lay persons and professionals, especially by a range of nongovernmental organisations, eg. Bílý kruh bezpečí. Another important issue is informing of the society and education of the public in order to prevent crimes in the eight chapter. I also stressed out the role of therapists and police officers and other professionals in in terms of secondary and tertiary prevention.

The thesis especially focuses on the issue of secondary victimization and revictimization and also on the restorative justice movements in the seventh chapter, which is a topical trend in criminal justice systems. There are many forms of restorative approaches but all of them should be guided by restorative values like a meeting of an offender and his victim, effective communication, voluntariness of the process, genuine remorse and efforts to compensate the victim for her losses while also reintegrating the offender back into the society or into his community.

The fifth chapter of the thesis follows the current national legislation. The main principles are newly included embedded in the statute and a range of rights available to victims is now wider. The new legislation should contribute to the improvement of status of victims and influence an attitude of police officers and other professionals towards victims.