

## **ABSTRACT**

The diploma thesis deals with psychotherapy of victims of violent relationships (primarily victims of sexual violence). The work aims to look at individual experiences with these clients through interviews with experts on the issue and to examine the influence of therapeutic effects on client's personality. The theoretical part is divided into two basic chapters: Sexual Violence and Psychotherapy, it provides readers with professional information on both topics and provides key literary resources on issues in academia. Due to research goals, a qualitative methodology was chosen in the form of semi-structured interviews. The research group consists of five respondents (psychologists, therapists, social workers with psychotherapeutic education) who specialize in the issue of sexual or domestic violence. The interview was primarily about capturing and understanding the uniqueness of each respondent's professional experience. Furthermore, an analysis of the therapeutic process was performed on individual respondents, when the positive effects of the therapeutic effect appeared in their client. Respondents were asked about cases where the therapist himself does not perceive a positive change in the personality of his client after the therapeutic intervention (provided that he has encountered such a case during his professional career). The key finding of the thesis is to identify functional methods that have proven themselves to the respondents in the psychotherapeutic process with victims of violent relationships. The following methods were identified: education, therapeutic relationship, work with guilt, accepting approach to the client, and working with defense mechanisms. From the research data, it is also possible to read certain features of therapeutic work, which are characteristic of the therapeutic process with victims of violence. The following specifics of this process were noted: longevity, volatility, increased risk of transfer to the therapist, and continuity of services.

## **KEYWORDS**

**Psychotherapy, Therapeutic relationship. Violence in relationships. Sexual violence. Qualitative research. Semi-structured interview.**