

## SUMMARY

Domestic violence as a negative social phenomenon of our society has started to be considered as a serious topic in the Czech Republic in the last few years. It has started to be discussed in public in the 90's. Before, it was considered as a private matter not supposed to be governed by the law or any other state regulations.

The aim of this thesis is to describe domestic violence in the light of criminological aspects of this topic. It is focused on concept and definitions of domestic violence, its phenomenology and etiology. Attention is paid to the victim of domestic violence, influence of domestic violence on her psyche and behavior, consequences of domestic violence and relationship between the victim and the aggressor. At least but not last there is mentioned a prevention of domestic violence and efficient help offered to victims.

There are many definitions of domestic violence and we cannot say that only one is correct. Domestic violence is very comprehensive and a complicated phenomenon so it is not possible to assign only one definition as generally valid. However, it has some typical features: domestic violence differs from other violent acts in the existence of intimate relationship between aggressor and his victim, it happens in privacy and mostly without witnesses, it happens repeatedly and the intensity of a violence graduates, finally, the roles of aggressor and victim are fixed. Domestic violence is a constantly developing and escalating process which has a very similar cyclic progress. That is why particular violent acts of domestic violence cannot be understood separately.

There were attempts to set out typical characteristics of the aggressor and the victim of domestic violence. It is a very difficult task because aggressors as well as victims come from all socio-economical society ranks. There are so many different influences effecting evolution of the violent relationship. Most aggressors suffer from very low self-confidence or have an experience with violence from their primary family. There is no attribute that would predetermine a person to be a victim of domestic violence. The only risk factor is abuse or violence in childhood.

Domestic violence affects victim's physical health and disturbs her mental balance. Tyrannized victim suffers from post traumatic stress disorder and many other mental

84

defects. Due to this fact it is mostly impossible for a victim to overcome such serious problems without professional medical help.

There has not been any special and complete legal regulation in the Czech Republic that would fully protect victims of domestic violence. Significant improvement in this area has been made by law no. 135/2006 which changes some other laws in the area of protection against domestic violence. This new law is valid from the 1. January 2007 and it has brought changes of for example Code of Civil Procedure, Criminal Code and any others.

Unfortunately, there is no universal way how to solve a problem of domestic violence in modern society. The prevention should be done not only by repressive means through the criminal law but there should be complex system of preliminary precautions that would prevent commitment of domestic violence. High-quality and well aimed information are the beginning of the successful campaign against the domestic violence. On the other hand, effective system of support provided to victims of domestic violence through various specialized advisory centres, centres offering subsequent therapeutic care and shelters plays a very important role in the fight against domestic violence and in help to victims. I am sorry to say that there is an absolute lack of these centres that would provide complex care and services to victims and at the same time there is insufficient capacity of these facilities in the Czech Republic.