

## **Child as a victim of sexual crimes**

### **Abstract**

Child sexual abuse is a very serious issue on a global scale. Although child abuse is gradually being de-tabooed and has more space, there is still a significant amount of people in our society who believe that this problem should be looked at as a personal matter of each family to be resolved on their own. Precisely this opinion is the factor that does not allow children to reach the support they so desperately require and reduces the likelihood of detecting the criminal activity and punishing the perpetrator. It is therefore essential for appropriate education to be offered to our population containing enlightenment on the issue of sexual abuse of children and the specific features that are typical for this type of criminality.

Children are much more vulnerable as victims than adults. It emerges from their physical and psychological prerequisites. They are smaller and weaker. Their psyche is not yet fully developed, so they are more impressionable, trusting, submissive and open. At the same time, they do not yet possess fully developed complex thinking to enable them to thoughtfully gauge. And their weakest point is their utter dependence on adults. The child is fully reliant on his adult environment, not only in the aspect of material security such as shelter, nutriment and other basic needs, but simultaneously in the aspect of emotional dependence where the child requires the love and care of an adult. The summary of all these signs makes them an easy victim who will not defend themselves and will almost never confide in anyone.

For those reasons this work aims to introduce the issue of children as victims of sexually motivated crime. Within its framework, the individual specific features that are typical for this criminal activity are analysed and simultaneously the author focused on shortcomings that worsen the position of victims and increase the risk of their secondary victimization not only within the judiciary system, but as well among society. The basis for the elaboration was professional literature and articles, international organizations, recommendations and even genuine files of one of the Prague district courts.

The work is structured into five sections. The beginning focuses on national and international regulation of victim's rights, including historical development. The subsequent part is devoted to specific crimes against human dignity in the sexual area. The content of the third part is theoretical information on the problematics of children as victims of sexual criminality. It is

knowledge regarding commercial sexual abuse of children, CAN syndrome, primary and secondary victimization. The next part is devoted to procedural law where criminal procedure is analysed step by step, including its shortcomings. And the final part of this elaboration is practical research based on knowledge from court criminal files. Its output is an analysis of how criminal proceedings are actually conducted and what the victim is exposed to.