

Abstract

The thesis deals with the assistance to victims of crime and aims to provide a comprehensive view of the issue. The purpose of this thesis is to assess the level of assistance provided in relation to its legal anchoring and subsequent application practice. The content of the thesis consists of an introduction, six chapters and a conclusion.

In the first chapter the thesis is devoted to the interpretation of basic concepts related to the issue of victims of crime. It defines the victim and describes its various categorisations, including the definition of a particularly vulnerable victim. The distinction between victim and an injured party is also clarified for better orientation in the following text.

The second chapter then briefly describes the development of the victim's position and role in criminal proceedings from a historical perspective, and briefly describes the basic international regulation of victims' rights with a focus on European legislation in this area.

To complete the explanation of the basic concepts and the historical and international context, the third chapter deals with the concept of the victim of crime from the perspective of criminology and victimology respectively. To introduce the reader to this area, a brief explanation of the concept of crime and crime prevention is also offered in the opening section of the chapter. The basic outcome here is a description of victimization as a process in which a potential victim becomes an actual victim, while at the same time some of its irregular progressions are presented.

The second part of the thesis then contains the main chapters, which are successively devoted to the description of the legal regulation, its subsequent application in practice and, finally, *de lege ferenda* proposals.

In the fourth chapter, the thesis focuses on the current legal regulation of the victim's status, i.e. the Victims of Crime Act, with an analysis of the partial rights arising from it for victims of crime. In addition to a description of the individual rights, a brief note is also made of any problematic passages in the legislation.

The fifth chapter then focuses on the position of victims of crime in practice, or rather on the quality of the implementation of the rights of victims declared by the legislation. In this crucial part of the thesis, the various types of assistance to victims are described, and the range of entities that provide this assistance is also defined. At the same time, the approach to victims by the Police of the Czech Republic is described as one of the most important subjects with whom the victim comes into contact if he or she decides to report a crime. A brief analysis of case practice in relation to domestic and sexualised violence, which are currently receiving

increasing attention in the public debate, is also offered as a basis for subsequent critical reflection. The chapter on application practice is rounded off with a review of both legislative gaps and imperfections in practice.

The thesis concludes with *de lege ferenda* proposals in providing assistance to victims of crime. Possible improvements are described with a brief reference to foreign legislation. As one of the aspects of possible improvement of the status of victims in the Czech Republic, the ratification of the Istanbul Convention is also briefly discussed.