

## **Abstract**

The topic of the presented thesis is the issue of the victim of crime in criminology and its aim is to present a certain summary of current knowledge from criminal victimology, current legal regulation of victims' rights and also practical possibilities of assistance to victims. The first chapter addresses the scientific field of victimology and clarification of its relationship with criminology. This is followed by a brief overview of the development of victimology from its origins to its modern conception and the changing view of the victim over time. The second chapter then looks in more detail at the victim as such – the definition of the term, its characteristics, or the debunking of the myth of the 'ideal victim', which still largely persists in society and can have an undesirable effect on how victims are treated. The third chapter focuses on victimisation, the process by which an individual becomes a victim. In particular, the focus is on the victim's own behaviour, victimological culpability, and the victim-offender relationship, which is a key factor in terms of victimisation. The fourth chapter focuses on the legal regulation of victim protection in the Czech Republic. The chapter first discusses the distinction between the concept of 'victim' and the 'aggrieved party', which is a strictly procedural concept and as such is not entitled to many of the rights that belong to the victim. Further, the international regulation of victim protection is presented, on which the Czech one is based in many respects and consequently introduces some institutes already known from abroad. Most emphasis is then placed on the Victims Protection Act – both the basic principles that should constitute the general basis for the approach to victims, and the individual rights it grants to victims. The fifth and final chapter is then devoted to a summary of the various forms of assistance that are available to victims, whether it is the principles of lay assistance, which comes from the victim's family and social circle, or professional assistance provided by specialised bodies. The final sub-chapter then maps the actual current state of victim assistance and, in the light of new studies, highlights its greatest shortcomings and possible ways of improving the current situation.