

## **RESUME**

Not every child can enjoy a happy childhood in an environment that provides for delivering of his/her essentials of life, and thus allows for complex development of his/her personality. Not only in the Czech Republic, but in the whole world, there are still children that suffer from physical and psychic neglect and abuse, as well as sexual exploitation; very often, the abuser is a family member or someone known to the child. The most serious form of maltreatment caused to the child in today's world is the sexual abuse for financial or other economic reasons, i.e. the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). This involves trafficking, prostitution, sex tourism, pornography, incest, rape and sexual harassment.

The submitted thesis discusses commercial sexual exploitation of children within the framework of theological ethics. The phenomenon is described and examined here and related challenges and suggestions are defined with respect to the individual as well as social ethics. The problem is partly discussed also in context of the legal ethics, because the manifestations of CSEC are considered vice crimes or sexual assaults. The first, more general, chapter of the thesis is focused on the definition of the Child Abuse and Neglect Syndrome (CAN) and the process of recognizing the phenomenon in our society. With respect to the overall scope of the thesis, attention is given mainly to the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), its definitions and forms.

The second chapter outlines the subject matter of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in terms of its factors, causes and main actors. These information are supplemented by detailed depiction of various manifestations of CSEC, namely trafficking, child prostitution and pornography. The author also tries to outline the recognizable warning signs of CSEC and consequences for the life of the children. Another important aspect of the phenomenon are the offenders – their typology, motives, strategies and objectives. The second chapter also includes facts about strategies of international communities focused on combatting CSEC and about available projects and actions aimed at providing help to the victims of such crimes in Czech Republic as well as abroad. The fact that CSEC was classified by International Labour Organization (ILO) as one of the worst forms of child labour is mentioned and further compared with the Christian social-ethical concept of labour.

The third chapter of the thesis emphasizes the multidisciplinary nature of the problem – it focuses on the interrelation of ethics, law and psychology and on the children's rights in context of the social doctrine of the Church. Based upon this theoretical knowledge, the concepts of human dignity and human rights that serve as a basic measure for the ethical and

legal consideration of CSEC are concluded in the 4th and 5th chapter of the thesis. The fifth chapter outlines the spiritual roots of human dignity concept using the appropriate texts of the Scripture and the philosophical approach. It also discusses the topic of human dignity as a legal system paradigm.

The sixth chapter summarizes the elaborated topic of CSEC in theological and ethical reflection and the resulting challenges. CSEC is a gross violation of fundamental rights of a child as a human being – the child is treated as a commodity. A survey showed that in Czech Republic, there is a common lack of understanding and knowledge regarding concepts of moral, ethics, rights in the context of education and upbringing and human rights. The results of the survey also indicate the importance of understanding the essence of human beings – who we are, who we should be, what we can and how are we influenced by our own behaviour and by the behaviour of others. The sense of human dignity as the basis for self-concept is a crucial factor of prevention as well as therapy and recovery/re-socialization of victims. The very last section of the thesis contains thoughts about human dignity of the offenders and considers whether in such cases the words of Jesus „*love your enemies*“ still apply.

**Keywords:** Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, child prostitution, child pornography, trafficking in children, offenders, theological ethics, multidisciplinary nature, vice crimes, sexual assaults, human dignity, human rights, children’s rights, right, law and ethics, moral and morality, labour.