

Image of victims of (sexual) offences and the attitude towards violence - a problem of stigmatisation

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The authors analyse victimisation by sexual offences. They first provide an overview of findings on primary and secondary victimisation of victims of sexual offences, placing special emphasis on an analysis of the image of these victims. The central part of the paper presents the results of an empirical study conducted on German and Slovene samples of respondents. In the research on perception of victims of crime, it was established that respondents who were victims perceive victimisation differently from non-victims, which is especially true of victims of rape. The paper examines the results of the second part of the questionnaire, where the authors explored attitudes of respondents toward women, violence and rape. In making a comparison between Slovenia and Germany, significant differences were found, suggesting that respondents from the Slovene sample are more traditional in the perception of the role of women in society, much less disapproving of violence between spouses and less compassionate towards victims of rape than their German counterparts. It was also found that attitudes towards women, violence and rape have a significant impact on the perception of victims of sexual offences.

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