Support for Students in Difficult Situations

The Management of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, is aware that the extremely sensitive and potentially traumatizing experience with sexual harassment, duress, or direct violence requires a help system taking into consideration the options and wishes of the victims in handling the situation. The students in difficult situations, whose number increased during the pandemic crisis, show us confidence, which is a commitment for the faculty. This is why we believe that whenever there is a student in distress, under duress, or even a victim of a crime, they will find a way to some of our services, which CU FA is ready to offer. They are based on verified mechanisms of support, but they are backed up by living and empathetic people.

Being responsible for more than 6 thousand students, the Faculty of Arts operates two support centres: the Counselling Centre Hybernska at CU FA, and also the Psychological Counselling Centre at CU FA. Both counselling centres can immediately react to emergencies and recommend further steps in case of long-term problems.

In the Counselling Centre Hybernska, students and graduates of CU FA with relevant specializations – psychology and social work – are involved in the centre from the very beginning. The co-founder of the Counselling Centre Hybernska is PhDr. Hana Pazlarová, Ph.D., the Vice-Dean for Study Affairs and an expert in social work. The victim of sexual harassment or a student facing a personal tragedy can, therefore, consider with whom they want to consult the problem: whether with a student and a peer, or a teacher and a representative of the management. The Faculty of Arts is also prepared to offer legal support to the victims of sexual violence.
If the students wish to rather ask for help from somebody outside of the Faculty of Arts, below is a list of certified organizations, the services of which are of a high standard.

**Organizations dealing with sexual violence:**
Bílý kruh bezpečí and Victim Support Hotline 116 006
proFem, o.p.s.
Persefona

**Organizations helping the victims of domestic violence:**
Acorus
Rosa – Women’s Centre

It is also possible to find help in the network of intervention centres in all regions of the country.

Charles University strives to create a work, learning, and social environment, where the rights and dignity of all the members of the university’s community are respected. You may find more details and links on the university’s webpage about sexual harassment. If you are harassed by a student during your studies, you may contact the Dean, who can initiate disciplinary proceedings. If you are harassed by an employee, you may make a complaint to the CU FA Ethics Committee.

The Faculty of Arts is also in contact with the university’s Carolina Centre and counselling centres of other faculties. We offer services and help each other according to our capacities. We are also preparing to introduce a new office of Dean’s advisor on discrimination issues and sexual harassment.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please, contact the Vice-Dean for Study Affairs, Hana Pazlarová: hana.pazlarova@ff.cuni.cz