

PrAVri

Pravni fakultet u Rijeci



Life in the time of COVID-19 - Social Implications on the Security and Well-Being of Vulnerable Groups in the European Context

Doc. dr. sc. Dalida Rittossa

Online conference ICT-20 @ COVID-19

**What have we learned and done so far:
social, medical and educational aspect of the
COVID-19 pandemic**



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The COVID-19 pandemic as a social stressor

never seen
before
social crisis

social
tsunami

social
nuclear
bomb

Unknown...

unchartered
territory

etc.

Detrimental
consequences...

UN Secretary-General António Guterres: "Pandemic is causing untold human suffering and economic devastation worldwide."

The COVID-19 pandemic as a social stressor

reduction of previously attained level of social security rights and services

+

mandatory lockdown measures

- the official criminal justice statistics in France
 - the rapid growth of criminal offences in-home settings
 - family violence increased by 36%
- the Italian Ministry of Interior statistics
 - crime in general dropped by 64,2%
 - offences associated with family violence decreased by 43,6%.
- Vesna Bedeković, Croatian Minister for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy
 - “It would be illusory not to expect the rise of family violence.”

The vulnerability issue in the time of pandemic

These who were vulnerable are now more vulnerable than ever.

Who are the vulnerable one?



- A • personal characteristics
- B • external circumstances
- A + B } particularly vulnerable

vulnerable

criminal law
& constitutional
law standards

Child
victims

Family
violence
victims

People with
mental
difficulties

The vulnerability issue in the time of pandemic

- The greater degree of vulnerability → the greater state's obligation to protect the vulnerable
 - right to life, personal integrity and dignity and right to respect for private and family life

May the state bear the COVID-19 social burden and fulfil positive obligations?



- standards of normative legal protection were not created for the time of pandemic
- movement restrictions as obstacles to report violence
- the functioning of criminal justice system is slowed down

The vulnerability issue in the time of pandemic

- How to improve the vulnerable groups' access to justice in time of pandemic?
- The use of ICT in judicial settings?
 - court work in remote mode + online hearings
 - family violence cases
 - cases involving criminal offences against children
 - compulsory detention of psychiatric patients
 - disputes involving family matters
 - placement of children in social institutions or in foster care
 - juvenile crime
 - investigative detention etc.

the list of urgent cases discussed in front of the court

special courtrooms equipped with technology

Microsoft Teams

WhatsApp groups

electronic submission via court's portal

Classical telephone contact

The vulnerability issue in the time of pandemic

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE



YourCase app

Arc app



Daisy app



- operational
- upgraded

ICT solutions + classical one

- ✓ use emergency warning systems
- ✓ service provider's websites
- ✓ mental health professionals' online and telephone consultations
- ✓ campaign "Behind doors"
- ✓ dissemination of fliers

dissemination of information

access to already established services

prevention of vulnerable group rights violation

The (mis)use of ICTs in the time of pandemic

- in relationships between individuals
 - online bullying
 - cyber partner abuse
 - other forms of cyber crime

↓
quick dissemination of offensive content via Internet = additional victimological factor
- the infringement of citizens' rights by state actions
 - legal nature of lockdown measures
 - recent legislative proposals on electronic tracking of citizens etc.

Constitutional principles and tests / shields from unauthorised extension of state power in extraordinary circumstances!

In the time of pandemic our constitutional rights do not cease to exist!

The project proposal "Life in the time of COVID-19 - Social implications on the security and well-being of vulnerable groups in the European context"



Assoc. Prof. Marissabell Škorić
Department of Criminal Law,
University of Rijeka,
Faculty of Law



Full Prof. Sanja Barić
Department of Constitutional Law,
University of Rijeka,
Faculty of Law



Assist. Prof. Dalida Rittossa
Department of Criminal Law,
University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law



Dejana Golenko, Ph.D.
Head of the Library,
University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law



Prof. Francesco Trapella
'Gabriele d'Annunzio'
University, Pescara,
Italy



Assist. Prof. Mojca Plesničar
Institute of Criminology at the
Faculty of Law, University of
Ljubljana, Slovenia



Assoc. Prof. Maria Forsman
Department of Law, Umeå
University, Sweden



Assist. Prof. Goran Arbanas
University Psychiatric
Hospital Vrapče



Fill Prof. Irma Kovčič
Department of
Criminology, Faculty of
Education and
Rehabilitation Sciences,
University of Zagreb

