



## The Sun Center

Bringing safety, dignity and hope to children and women affected by violence.

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### Who we are

The non-profit organization Centrum Slniečko, n.o. (The Sun Center), was established with a clear mission – to help create a safer world, a world without violence against children, women and families. This is achieved primarily through accessible, comprehensive professional services and measures for children at risk of violence, victims of domestic and gender-based violence, and families in crisis.

Since its establishment in 2000, it has become an invaluable source of support for children, women and families who have faced violence, sexual abuse or other serious life crises. The Sun Center provides protection and support to those who are often in immediate danger due to violence.

In addition to immediate professional assistance, prevention-oriented programs are also an important part of our work. Our aim is to prevent violence through education, training and the creation of a safe environment free from violence. At The Sun Center, we ensure an individual approach to children and families and provide support based on the real needs and situation of each person. Our team of experts and specialists is dedicated to this issue with maximum commitment and professionalism.

We believe that every person has the right to live in safety. Our goal is not only to help overcome difficult times, but also to provide tools and opportunities for people who have experienced violence to regain stability and live a life free from fear and violence.

The Sun Center continuously works to improve the quality of its services and protective measures, as well as to expand its scope, especially in the areas of prevention and education. Our journey continues to be full of challenges, but also of hope for a better future for all those who have experienced or are still experiencing violence.

## Our services

### **Children's Crisis Center**

The Crisis Center, where social and legal protection measures are implemented in cases of maltreated, sexually abused and neglected children, children in crisis situations, and victims of domestic violence in accordance with Act No. 305/2005, is located in two separate family houses. Social and legal child protection and guardianship measures are provided by a professional team consisting of social workers, psychologists, a special needs pedagogue, educators and support staff in our Crisis Center.

We provide immediate protection and safe accommodation for children whose health or development is at risk.

Services include:

- emergency placement and safe housing
- psychological and therapeutic care
- social and educational support
- long-term stabilization and recovery

### **Intervention Center for Families**

The Intervention Center provides professional assistance to children in coping with crisis situations and supports parents in addressing educational, family, social and other challenges within the family and interpersonal relationships. It conducts social diagnostics, with a particular focus on socio-pathological phenomena affecting the child and their parents, including screening and assessment of the child's life situation.

The Center supports the development of financial literacy and works with children and their families who have been subject to educational measures under social and legal child protection and social curatorship. It cooperates with various institutions and provides specialized consultations to support decision-making regarding the selection and implementation of social and legal child protection and social curatorship measures aimed at addressing the social situation of the child and the family.

### **Counselling service for victims of domestic violence**

The Counselling Service for Victims of Domestic Violence has been providing professional assistance since 2018, including counselling and legal representation. Experience has shown that victims of domestic violence usually face more than just the violent relationship itself. A violent and often dependent relationship with the perpetrator creates additional problems that require simultaneous attention.

These most often include housing issues, inability to manage the family's financial situation, financial or physical dependency, debt and enforcement proceedings, isolation from family and friends, lack of alimony support from the perpetrator, restriction of contact with the victim's children, negative influence on the children, emotional blackmail, divorce proceedings, marital settlement agreements, and securing restraining or protection orders.

After receiving initial social support, victims most frequently seek adequate accommodation and legal services, which are often inaccessible due to their financial situation. A major advantage of this service is that it is provided free of charge, is easily accessible, ensures professional expertise, and in some cases allows for the provision of appropriate personal home-based protection.

We provide free and confidential assistance, including:

- crisis counselling
- psychological support
- legal information
- assistance with protective measures
- support during police and court proceedings

## **Women's Safe House**

The Sun Center helps abused, sexually abused and neglected children, as well as victims of domestic violence. Its work is based on a comprehensive system of support services.

The Women's Safe House creates a space for a life free from violence. It provides protection, safety and social support. It is intended for mothers with children and for women who are victims of all forms of domestic violence. The Safe House offers social services, including accommodation, crisis intervention and a comprehensive support system aimed at psychological stabilization and overcoming the consequences and barriers caused by domestic violence. This includes assistance in asserting rights and legally protected interests. It is a space where women can speak openly and safely about their experiences.

The Women's Safe House is a specialized facility and is intended for the period necessary to ensure crisis intervention.

It provides a safe environment for children together with their mothers. These children have experienced violent behaviour from close relatives (fathers, mothers, partners, etc.). At the Women's Safe House, a team of professionals ensures peace and safety for mothers and children - something they may not have experienced in their own homes.

Services include:

- secure accommodation
- trauma-informed support
- legal and social assistance
- help in rebuilding independent life

## **Prevention & Public Activities**

Violence prevention is a key part of our work. Through our education and prevention platform “**Bez modrín**”, we provide:

- educational programs for schools
- awareness campaigns
- training for professionals
- workshops and public discussions

We aim to reduce tolerance of violence and strengthen protective environments for children and women.

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## Projects & cooperation

We implement national and regional projects focused on:

- strengthening victim support systems
- prevention of domestic and family violence
- awareness raising
- inter-institutional cooperation

We cooperate with:

- municipalities
  - schools and educational institutions
  - healthcare providers
  - police and justice authorities
  - non-governmental organizations
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## Contact & partnership

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If you are interested in partnership, cooperation or supporting our work, please contact us.