

# Radka`s Story

Radka, with her partner, has twins aged 2.5 years. She contacted the crisis line 800 60 50 80 of the ROSA organization and wanted advice on how to proceed if she wanted to end the relationship. She said that she was afraid of her partner, she had been attacked by him and it was not the first time. We discussed a basic safety plan with her and arranged a time for a consultation. When Radka came to the consultation, she still had visible signs of the assault by her partner, who had beaten her after she refused to give him the last of her parenting allowance money for that month. Radka had been determined to end the relationship from the beginning of our work together, but was afraid of the reaction of her partner, who had long intimidated her by saying that he would take her children away from her if she did anything he did not like. She knew that her partner was vindictive and capable of carrying out his threats.

The situation escalated with another attack by her partner, when he attacked her again, this time in the presence of the children, who saw their dad holding their mum by the throat, shouting at her that she was a "fucking cow" and that "he doesn't care, he'll kill her and then he'll go and do his time". Radka took advantage of her partner's momentary inattention and called 158. By the time the Czech Police arrived, the partner had fled the apartment. Radka called our crisis line again. Radka was very afraid of what would happen when her partner found out that she had called the police and she could not imagine that she should stay in the apartment at that moment. We offered her the option of a crisis stay and Radka accepted. She was admitted to the crisis flat that day. The workers of the ROSALIN Crisis Centre helped Radka with everything that needed to be done: medical treatment, informing the OSPOD about the situation in the family, escorting her to the Police of the Czech Republic. Of course, it was necessary to provide not only for the needs of the client, but also for the children who had experienced a highly traumatic situation.

Radka received messages from her ex-partner where he accused her of kidnapping the children, threatened her with physical destruction, was rude and vulgar towards her. Moreover, he still had the keys to Radka's apartment. During the crisis stay, Radka had already discussed with the workers where she would go with the children if her apartment was not safe. She decided to accept the offer of accommodation in the ROSA shelter, which has a secret address. On the basis of the workers' recommendations, Radka regularly informed the OSPOD worker who was in charge of their children's case. The social worker was of the opinion that what was happening between the parents was only their business, they should sort it out together and if they were not able to do so, a professional must help them. She therefore suggested family therapy for Radka and her ex-partner. There were five sessions scheduled, and Radka's ex-partner waited for her outside the building before the first session and before they reached the right door, he was hurling abuse

AUTHOR: © Collected from ROSA <https://www.rosacentrum.cz/about-us/>

DISCLAIMER: Violence against women\* is the focus of StoP's work - this includes anyone identifying or being perceived as a woman. This material (including the illustrations) can only be used and reproduced in the context of StoP work. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission (granting authority). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



and threats at her in a semi-loud voice. For example, he told her that if she made him look violent, he would make a fool of her and arrange for the children to be in an orphanage instead. For Radka, every meeting with her ex-partner is stressful because she recalls various traumatic situations she experienced with him in his presence. Radka came to the next meeting accompanied by her friend and after the session was over she asked the therapist to let her leave first and he stayed there with her ex-partner for a few more minutes so that she could leave safely without the risk of her ex-partner following her.

© Collected from ROSA <https://www.rosacentrum.cz/about-us/>

AUTHOR : © Collected from ROSA <https://www.rosacentrum.cz/about-us/>

DISCLAIMER : Violence against women\* is the focus of StoP's work - this includes anyone identifying or being perceived as a woman. This material (including the illustrations) can only be used and reproduced in the context of StoP work. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission (granting authority). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.