Tragedy at the Faculty of Arts, CU, on December 21, 2023

“We are hurt, but not broken. The academic community enters the new year with its head held high,” Charles University Rector Milena Králičková said on January 4, 2024 - two weeks after the unprecedented tragedy unfolded at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University.

Important contacts
? UK Point Information Line | +420 800 100 790
• The crisis line of the Central Crisis Staff will be replaced by the UK Point Information Line from January 5, 2024. The +420 800 100 790 number will be available to support callers on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside these hours, messages can be left. This line can also be used for queries about the personal effects drop-off, which will take place at UK Point from January 4, 2024. More information can be found on this page.

? Information e-mail of FA, CU | info@ff.cuni.cz
• As of January 5 2024 FA is launching an information e-mail address info@ff.cuni.cz for questions and suggestions from students and employees.

? CU Security Department's hotline | + 420 771 275 564 is available on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

? Czech Police Crisis Line | +420 974 823 158

News | Information of CU and FA CU management for employees and students
Information from the management of Charles University and the Faculty of Arts of Charles University about the current situation following the tragic events of December 21 2023 can be found on this page.

Where to seek help or support
? We are aware that this extreme situation has severely affected not only the entire academic community of Charles University but the broader public and also shocked many people abroad. Therefore, Charles University is now offering all of its students and staff an extended spectrum of support in the form of psychological assistance at its counseling centres and outside of Charles University.

• Recommendations for supporting mental health after a tragic event (pdf)

Statements of Charles University on the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University
The original, continuously updated and more recent statements of the university management on the tragic events at the Faculty of Arts on December 21 2023 can be found on this page.

The memorial sites
? Memorial fire | On January 4 2024, a memorial fire was lit on Jan Palach Square, which will burn there for a whole month.
Artistic processing of memorial objects | On the morning of January 5, the removal of candles and objects left behind from the existing memorial sites begins. The material will be stored at CU and the plan is to use it to create a memorial object. This plan will be consulted by CU with the academic community and the concept will be developed as part of the Month for Faculty activities.

Memorial events

MONTH FOR FACULTY | As the main building of the Faculty of Arts will be closed for at least the whole of January, a meeting place for the whole university community and the public is being created. The return of academic life and the reestablishment of Jan Palach Square as a safe space is a necessary part of the process of coming to terms with a tragic event that changed the life of the entire community in a brief moment. The Month for Faculty will include various events that are now in the process. The first event was a memorial procession and embrace of the main FA building on January 4, 2024.

What has already taken place...

• The symbolic move of light | Month for the Faculty began on January 4 2024 as a spontaneous activity of students and student associations, not only from the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. The initiative was launched on January 4 with a memorial procession from the Karolina memorial towards Jan Palach Square, where participants symbolically embraced the building.

• The Ecumenical Council of Churches dedicated a New Year's ecumenical service to the memory of the victims of the attack at the Faculty of Arts at Charles University and their loved ones. The service was held on Monday evening, January 1, 2024, at the Huss Church of the Czechoslovak Church in Vinohrady.

• A memorial service for the victims of the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University was held on Monday morning, December 22, at Charles University, in front of the main entrance to the Karolina building. The university administration, headed by Rector Milena Králičková, was joined by representatives of the Czech Rectors’ Conference.

• Friday, December 22, 2023, at 7.30 p.m., saw an ecumenical service led by Msgr. prof. Tomáš Halík for the victims of the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University take place in the Church of the Holy Salvator (Křížovnická 4) in Prague.

• On Saturday, December 23, 2023, at 11 a.m., many people attended a requiem for the victims of the shooting at St. Vitus cathedral at Prague Castle. The event was organised by the Prague Archbishopric and Prague Castle.

• On Saturday, December 23, 2023, at 3 p.m., an ecumenical prayer took place in the church of St. Martin in the Wall (Martinská 8, Prague) and a moment of silence was held for the victims of the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University.

Support victims of the tragedy at Faculty of Arts

The Charles University Endowment Fund has launched a collection to support the families of the victims and also faculty, staff, and students affected by the shooting at the Faculty of Arts. Charles University greatly appreciates the support that victims receive from Czech and foreign institutions, companies, and individuals through the Endowment Fund.
I want to contribute