

## FAMOUS CZECH PEOPLE – FAMOUS CZECH WOMEN

Unlike (na rozdíl od) Václav Havel who fought for his ideas, criticized the communist regime and got „only“ imprisoned, there were people who died for their democratic thoughts, for criticising the system and the situation in the country.



### MILADA HORÁKOVÁ (1901 - 1950)

**Fought for freedom during both 1st and 2nd world wars and at the times of the communist regime as well.**

At the age of 17, in the last year of the First World War, Milada Horáková was expelled from school (had to leave school) for **participating in an anti-war demonstration**. She nevertheless completed her secondary education in the newly formed Czechoslovakia and went on to study law at Charles University.

After the German occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939, at the beginning of the WW2, Horáková became active in the underground resistance movement. She **was sent to concentration camp in Terezin** by the Gestapo and to **several prisons in Germany**.

After the WW2 (second world war) she was also **accused (obviněna) of contact with Czechoslovak political figures in exile in the West**. In a show trial (soudní proces), where she was together with 12 of her colleagues, Milada Horáková was sentenced to death (dostala trest smrti) and executed (popravena) by the communists, by hanging. She **fought for freedom and democracy. She was executed for political reasons**, fought for justice and equal rights. Her last words were very touching, they were (in translation): "I have lost this fight but I leave with honour. I love this country, I love this nation, strive (usiluji o) for their wellbeing. I depart without rancour (odcházím bez hořkosti) towards you. I wish you, I wish you..."<sup>1</sup>



### VENDULA SVOBODOVÁ PIZINGEROVÁ

Is a founder of a charity organization Kapka naděje/ Drop of hope. Kapka naděje **helps children with cancer and leukemia**. Vendula Svobodová comes to the hospitals in person, brings toys to the children, the

organisation buys equipment for hospitals. Her 2 year old daughter Klarka died of leukemia, her husband Karel Svoboda, famous musician, composer and songwriter committed a suicide. She got married again, now she is pregnant at the age of 48, some people criticize it.

Other famous women who **founded charities and help abused children, elderly people, ill people etc.** are e.g. Czech first ladies, winners of Miss competitions, popular actresses, sportswomen or singers.



### OLGA HAVLOVÁ (1933-1996)

**Olga Havel Foundation – Committee of Good Will Výbor dobré vůle (Václav Havel's 1st wife) – at those times it was the only project like this in the country. It first helped disabled people.**



### DAGMAR HAVLOVÁ (1953- )

**Vize - Nadace Dagmar a Václava Havlových - Vision**  
The organisation buys equipment for hospitals, senior houses, machines necessary to cure tumors, seriously ill people etc.

**Nadace Terexy Maxové – a model living and working mostly abroad, Nadace Petry Němcové Happy Hearts. Nadace Lucie Bílá** where you can buy jewelry made by Lucie Bílá and the money goes to charity, **Nadace Lucie Borhyové LuckyBe etc.**



### BLANKA MATRAGI

**Is a fashion designer, who married Mr Matragi, left for Lisabon and makes dresses for royal families, princesses of the whole Eastern Asia, rich wives and the police. She loves coming back to Prague where she makes exhibitions. She, her fashion and thanks to her also the Czech Republic, are famous all over the world.**

She **all her materials are handmade, she paints them in person, sews flitters, glass and beads on them, her dresses are unique.**





**ESTER LEDECKÁ (1995 - )**

Is a winner of two gold medals, first woman to win gold in two different disciplines – in snowboarding parallel giant slalom and super-G in Alpin skiing, first to win 2 gold medals at the same olympic games. Her victory was unexpected. The other skiers were already celebrating their victory before she was to go. Her father is Janek Ledecký, a famous Czech singer.



**EVA SAMKOVÁ (1993 - )** is a snowboardcross snowboardist, an Olympic gold winner. She believes a moustache on her face brings her luck.



**MARTINA SÁBLÍKOVÁ (1987- )** is a Czech speed skater, an Olympic gold winner.



**PETRA KVITOVÁ (1990 - )**

is a tennis player who has won Wimbledon twice (2011, 2014). In 2011 she was No2 in ATP world chart. She was stabbed with knife by a man who wanted to rob her in her flat. She had to stop playing and then she returned again.