

THE PROFILE OF FEMALE OFFENDERS SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA¹

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Abstract:

As we separate the gender during the analysis of the perpetrators of crimes, (as a particularly important characteristic for the offender who requires the need for an overall distinction in the analysis and forecast of criminality), for a comprehensive research, it is necessary to separate the other parameters that would linked to the primary one as well. Biological, psychological, social, socio-cultural determinants, and to a large extent economic ones, leave different implications on the person's mental development, and in relation to the gender, various external manifestations also emerge. Age, education, employment status, marital status, association ... are key parameters that require a detailed analysis of the offenders in order to distinguish a certain profiles of a perpetrator of criminal offenses, for whom they would set a behavior forecast and would help in reaching to the, long-desired, prevention.

The analysis we make in this paper is concerning woman from Republic of Macedonia, as a perpetrator of criminal offenses, from the aspect of the imprisonment sentence. The research is set in a way to respond on four basic fields of interest – general characteristics of a woman in prison, her earlier victimization, recidivism and the given prison treatment. By answering these questions, we can help to the profiling of a woman perpetrator that is in prison,

¹ This paper has already been presented under the same name at the international scientific conference held on Faculty of Law in Nish, R. Serbia, in may 2019.

and we can find out the reasons that put her there in a first place. That is a huge step forward for understanding and preventing the crime committed by woman.

Key words: *woman, perpetrator, imprisonment, prevention, gender, victimization, recidivism*

1. Introduction

We live in a society that is tailored according to the needs of the man and which is driven by competitiveness, performance, success and self-confidence. That is why for many years, criminality is seen only as a "male craft". Mostly because of the physical and psychological predispositions that distinct men from women. Well, having in mind the sensitivity in character and fragility in physiognomy, in criminology women are perceived as a secondary perpetrators of criminal acts.

By the 1970s and 1980s, the theoretical study of criminality was based mainly on male perpetrators of crimes, as primary offenders, taking the so-called female criminality as a subspecies of criminality and criminal activities, for which there is no need of separate study. The old theories about the criminality of women were based on the existence of a person's disorder and the emotional inadequacy of the individual. The overall explanation for the low degree of revealed criminal activity among women, at the time, was related only with their biophysical specifics², or, later on, with the socio-cultural³ role that woman has. Thus, the women that are registered as a perpetrators, were faced, and still are facing, with a double conviction. According to social views and trials, they crossed not only the social borders but also the sexes.

The more recent feminist movements and researches leave their own impact in this field in terms of criminology. They emphasizes the need for a separate study of the criminality of women, which is why it is often, and quite wrongly, referred to as "feminist criminology". However, gradually, but surely, the woman takes a bigger swing in engaging in criminal activities, so the overall world statistics show a trend of increase and greater presence of women in all criminal statistics, for all types of crime. This also raises certain issues, such as: are there some specificities in women's criminality, viewed from the aspect of gender differentiation? Is

² Like Lombroso, Mezger, Sauer, Ferrefo etc...

³ Like Schneider, Pollak, Merton, Sutherland etc...and later -Simon, Adler etc.

there a need for a separate and different treatment for women who committed a crime? If so, is there a need for distinct approach for the prevention? Referring specifically to this topic, the question arises: what are the main female motives that can cause this manifestation of great antisocial behavior that can lead to imprisonment and what are its specifics?

Having in mind the scientific influence from the outside and the development of the researches made in this field all around the world, a scientific basis and a need for detailed and deeper understanding is created, and for deeper study of the criminal behavior of the woman in our country as well.

Predictions for women's participation in the total crime are dissolving, and having in mind that the woman does not perform all crimes as the man and with the same intensity, and that her representation over the years has been concentrated mostly in certain categories of crimes, it is considered that the criminality of the woman will continue to increase for those crimes in which women have greater opportunities and which are most consistent with the traditional gender norms, and that a woman's participation would be reduced or would be low in the criminality that goes hand in hand with traditional norms and for which women have low opportunities to participate (Schwartz, Steffensmeier, 2008: 65)

However, we must say that men and women now days are increasingly moving in non-traditional roles, and accordingly, the prognosis and predicting of the movement of criminality becomes more and more difficult in general. Traditional stereotypes maybe limit women from engaging into crime, but many researchers are inclined to point out that the rate of female criminality in long runs will increase as a result of the atypical role of the female today and its approach to the male role. However, the preservation of the traditional role and living under the stereotypes did not prove to be so positive, in terms of engaging a woman in criminality. Wives who play such traditional roles in patriarchal families are also at risk, not just from victimization, but also from committing violent crime, which often results with death. As well, that emotionally subordinate women are much easier for criminogenic manipulation by men, that makes them accomplice in crime. So, given the parameters that make women's criminality and the prognosis far from dazzling, we consider that studying the crimes committed by women, as well as her predispositions to a woman-criminal, are essential for the further successful forecasting of the movement of crime in our country, but also in general, the manner of committing specific crimes, as well as for the most essential of all, its suppression and prevention.

2. ABOUT WOMAN PERPETRATOR IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The participation of women in the overall crime in the Republic of Macedonia is not very different from the low representation in global terms. The established 10-20% participation of women in the overall crime, globally, from today's point of view, can even be said to be far from the situation in the Republic of Macedonia. Namely, before the independence, the criminologists, entering into this issue, emphasized the significantly lower participation of women in the total committed crime, comparing it with the man, that, between other, also noted and a downward trend (Sulejmanov, 2009:55). As an example, it is stated that if in 1973 the share was 16.6%, the official statistics of the SRM since 1984 registered a 13.0% share of the woman's participation in total crime. However, even then the woman's criminality ranged within the determined limits of 10% - 20% participation.

Looking at the current situation, in order to capture the essence of the phenomenology of women's crime, it is necessary to make a statistical overview of the representation of women in the total crime committed in the period from 2005 to 2017 in our country, in order to determine the movement of the woman's criminality in the period.

Accused and convicted adult women in the Republic of Macedonia 2005-2017			
year		accused	convicted
2005	total	10639	8845
	female	789	574
2006	total	11317	9280
	female	837	560
2007	total	11648	9639
	female	922	622
2008	total	11310	9503
	female	945	635
2009	total	11905	9801
	female	1022	695
2010	total	11239	9169

	female	957	669
2011	total	12219	9810
	female	1037	661
2012	total	11311	9042
	female	949	624
2013	total	12297	9539
	female	1105	701
2014	total	13699	11683
	female	1372	1126
2015	total	11951	10312
	female	1182	865
2016	total	9320	8172
	female	868	723
2017	total	7423	6273
	female	677	550

Table no. 1

Source: State Statistical Office of Republic of Macedonia

It is notable that the initial 7% share of the adult woman in the total crime, compared to 93% of the male. However, we can not neglect the mild upward trend in the analyzed period. In other words, contrary to the data from the period prior to the independence of the Republic of Macedonia, in the period from 2005 to 2017, in relation to accused adult perpetrators, we have a trend of a slight increase in the participation of a adult woman in the total criminality. Although the participation is not greater than 10% in the last researched period, however, there is an increase (up to 9%).

Accused persons 2005-2017									
total	fema le	female							
		<i>Cri mes aga inst</i>	<i>Cri mes aga inst</i>	<i>Crimes against traffic safety</i>	<i>Crime s agains t legal</i>	<i>Crimes against official duty</i>	<i>Crimes against marria ge,</i>	<i>Crimes against public finances,</i>	<i>Crim es agai nst</i>

			<i>life and bod y</i>	<i>pro pert y</i>		<i>transa ctions</i>		<i>family and youht</i>	<i>payment operatio ns and economy</i>	<i>hono r and reput ation</i>
2005	10639	789	85	204	67	53	38	58	48	89
2006	11317	837	81	220	81	57	34	70	43	95
2007	11648	922	78	230	119	76	33	69	44	111
2008	11310	945	71	238	117	59	83	70	46	125
2009	11905	1022	96	318	124	65	76	55	28	109
2010	11239	957	99	289	103	72	48	65	34	121
2011	12219	1037	89	285	110	81	109	69	35	113
2012	11311	949	91	266	95	61	77	61	41	113
2013	12297	1105	102	368	110	45	68	69	58	144
2014	13699	1372	122	376	115	431	68	68	52	8
2015	11951	1182	91	440	82	162	59	67	41	3
2016	9320	868	80	398	80	34	43	62	39	/
2017	7423	677	80	285	70	16	37	58	26	/

Table no. 2

Source: State Statistical Office of Republic of Macedonia

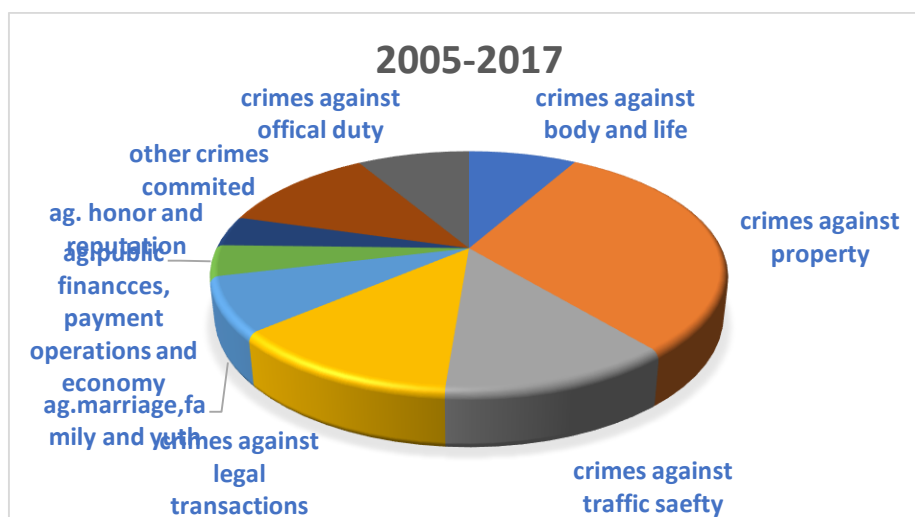
convicted 2005-2017										
total		female	female							
			<i>Cri mes aga inst life and bod y</i>	<i>Cri mes aga inst pro pert y</i>	<i>Crimes against traffic safety</i>	<i>Crime s agains t legal transa ctions</i>	<i>Crimes against official duty</i>	<i>Crimes against marria ge, family and youht</i>	<i>Crimes against public finances, payment operatio ns and economy</i>	<i>Crim es agai nst hono r and reput ation</i>
2005	8845	574	60	183	51	42	19	53	42	45
2006	9280	560	52	139	70	48	14	61	26	53
2007	9639	622	34	179	104	65	18	59	27	39
2008	9503	635	40	196	106	47	35	53	34	45
2009	9801	695	61	243	114	50	23	45	19	38
2010	9169	669	62	229	95	63	21	58	24	38
2011	9810	661	50	213	97	63	28	56	28	30
2012	9042	624	63	189	83	47	32	48	25	37
2013	9539	701	55	286	104	36	27	53	44	5
2014	11683	1126	63	289	105	414	46	56	38	/
2015	10312	865	61	352	71	142	43	64	34	/

2016	8172	723	59	353	78	23	19	58	32	/
2017	6273	550	42	258	63	15	21	53	19	/

Table no. 3

Source: State Statistical Office of Republic of Macedonia

Analyzing the participation of a women in total crime committed between 2005 and 2017, we can notice the greater presence of her in some groups of crime than others. So, up in the given tables, we are presenting some of the crime groups, where her share is notable and greater then in others. So, summarized from 2005 to 2017, the participation of women in certain groups of crimes, of its total participation in crime, looks approximately like this:



Referring to the types of crimes committed by women, in the tables and graph above, we stated that we singled out the most specific groups of crimes in our country where the woman takes her part. Even among adult and juvenile perpetrators of women, we can constantly observe the highest representation in the committing of crime against property, where also the increase among the years is evident.

According to our country's statistics, from the group of crimes against property, the adult woman appears as a perpetrator mostly of *burglary and theft*⁴. Considering the weak economic situation on the global level in the state and the class division of high and low class,

⁴ Immediate notice from the author of the data of the State Statistical Office. Analysed publications: "Perpetrators of crimes" in the period from 2005 to 2015 and "Women and Men in Macedonia" in the period from 2005 to 2015.

without real existence of medium class, such data are not very surprising. So, we can agree with Sulemanov's thinking, that the largest percentage of the crimes committed in relation to poverty caused by capitalism, on the one hand as a means of survival, and on the other, as a result of the sense of injustice that demoralizes the person. As he states, the richest also are not immune from committing crimes, only the motives behind them arise from the power and social erosion of morale in bourgeois society and rarely when they come to court. The poor, on the other hand, perform the crimes through which is easiest to come to means of subsistence and, most often, they are the ones that enter into the official criminal statistics. The criminal flourishes in the remote, poor, suspicious districts, in the environments of overpopulation, poverty and economic endangerment, in which existence is threatened by lack of money and means of life, social schism, endemic discrimination in all relations and on different grounds (Arnaudovski, 2004/2005: 54). The same is reflected on the building of the mental structure of the woman in general, as well as the taking of actions towards the transformation into a perpetrator. From the point of the methods of execution that are used by women throughout the period, mostly, we are hearing about "pocket-thefts"⁵ that are done by women. As perpetrators, women usually go in pairs, and one of them creates a situation for "paging" and the other does the work. We often come across articles for women who cheat potential buyers of products they allegedly offer, they enter into the homes smoothly and thus carry out theft. Further, less but still present, they also appear as perpetrators of criminal fraud and theft of electricity, or heating gas.

Although woman is significantly less present in professional roles than a man, she still has and can show criminogenic acts into the work place. We must note that this kind of criminality, professional crime, in general is particularly difficult to reveal, regardless of whether on the leading position is a man or a woman. The absence of an active victim contributes to, objectively, a very rare activation of the mechanisms of persecution, whereby the dark figure is extremely high, as well as globally. Emancipation, however, did not go very far in this regard. When it comes to the professional crimes, almost always man is put as a first perpetrator, for the reason that he is most often the one in whose hands is entrusted with the power and who has finances. Despite the impressive lower representation of the woman in the Republic of Macedonia as a perpetrator in these groups of criminal offenses, the determined

⁵ According to Sulejmanov, the pocket theft implies fast, skillful and imperceptible taking of money from a foreign pocket or a women's bag and a quick disappearance from the scene. It is a "craft" that is perfected and modernized over the years

percentage of her participation among the total recorded is not different from what has been said so far. Namely, even here the woman exhibits from 10% to 20% participation over the years, with small non-constant oscillations from year to year. Their share is reduced mainly to falsifying money or documents and is not constantly present throughout the years, the more it is especially rare. Given the data that we have from the State Statistical Office, when it comes to the group of crimes against public finances, payment operations and the economy, women are most often convicted of committing the crime of *tax evasion*. They are also less represented among the perpetrators of *counterfeiting money or money laundering and other proceeds from a criminal offense*. From the group of criminal offenses against official duty, the most convicted are for *misuse of official position and authorization*, and a little less for *falsifying an official document*, as well as *receiving a bribe*.

Prior to the key amendments to the Criminal Code in our country, regarding the group of criminal offenses against honor and reputation and decriminalization of certain crimes, a large percentage of the total participation of women in criminality went to some of these acts, that is, *defamation* and *insult*. We should not neglect the group of criminal acts against the traffic safety, from which, women are mostly committing the *endangered of the traffic safety* and, also the crimes against life and body, where the highest percentage goes for *bodily injuries*. Murders, as the mostly serious crime from this group, do not constitute a crime in which a woman from the Republic of Macedonia constitutes a large percentage of the total recorded. Women in our country are twice as likely to be victims of the crime of murder, than as perpetrators, which is also a worldwide statement. However, is one of the crimes that leads them to imprisonment, so it is in our interest to keep their track through the years of researching, so that we could explain, predict and prevent this behavior.

Data for criminal act of "murder" , Article 123 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia, statistical review				
Year	<i>Accused adults</i>		<i>Convicted adults</i>	
	total	female	total	female
2005*	47	2	35	/
2006	51	5	36	3
2007	42	1	36	/
2008	40	2	32	1
2009**	52	1	49	1

2010	35	3	31	2
2011	44	2	35	1
2012	45	2	37	2
2013	38	4	30	2
2014	39	/	32	/
2015	43	3	32	3
2016	33	/	28	/
2017	25	1	20	1

*Source: official annual publications of the State Statistical Office,
processed, separated and summarized data*

* According to the State Statistical Office data, for 2005, one woman, an adult perpetrator is accused and convicted for the criminal act manslaughter (Article 125 of the CC of the Republic of Macedonia), and one for murder from negligence (Article 126 from the Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia).

** According to the data of the State Statistical Office, for 2009, three adult perpetrators for the criminal act manslaughter were registered (Article 125 of the CC of the Republic of Macedonia), two of which are women.

3. ABOUT THE SENTENCED IMPRISONMENT FOR WOMEN IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (research in the PCI Idrizovo)

3.1 General remarks and comparative view

Regarding the penitentiary situation in Macedonia, we can say that it is a true exemplar of the recommendations that are constantly issued by all world organizations. The risk towards a woman psychological and/or physical integrity begins at the most sensitive stage – detention, and may be especially drastic at this stage. So, we consider that everything that needs to be done to improve the life of a woman in jail, must start and be applied at the very beginning.

Macedonia has four detention units in which woman who may be detained may be referred. These departments are part of the Bitola's Prison⁶, Prilep's Prison⁷, Skopje's Prison⁸ (Shuto Orizari) and Tetovo's Prison⁹.

In the country, as a state that has a penitentiary capacity of eleven penitentiary institutions, the only penitentiary institution that has the conditions to enable female prisoners to serve their sentence is the Idrizovo Penitentiary. Female prisoners from all over the Republic of Macedonia who are sentenced with a final verdict of imprisonment or juvenile imprisonment irrespective of the amount of the sentence are serving their sentence here. The female section is physically separated from the section where men serve their prison terms. The female detainees are accommodated in separate rooms in the detention units in prisons that are semi-open facilities. Also, only Idrizovo Prison carries the sentence of life imprisonment for men and women, as well as imprisonment for men and women foreign nationals and stateless persons.

The existence of only one facility where women can serve prison sentences is not in accordance with Bangkok rules¹⁰. Namely, according to Article 4 of these rules the prison should be located near the home of the convict or rehabilitation center, which would enable regular social contact with the family, which is particularly important for reintegration and social inclusion after exiting the institution. In this way, and with this arrangement, women in the Republic of Macedonia are prevented from regular contact with the family, which makes it difficult to serve their prison sentence and has a destructive effect on the treatment itself, thereby reducing the success rate of reintegration treatment from the very beginning. This is also a problem among all the countries in former Yugoslavia. In Republic of Serbia there is only one penitentiary institution for female prisoners that is located in Pozarevac. Victimology Society in Serbia emphasizes that prisons are built as men's and that the specific needs of women are totally neglected (Copic, Shaciri, 2012:26). Here too, as in our country, it is impossible for the prisoners to maintain regular contact with the family due to physical distance, which is considered unacceptable and negative for the treatment and overall resocialization of the convict. The overall picture of the penitentiary establishment has been evaluated for many years as far from satisfactory, which is recognized as a problem by the authorities, and so are

⁶ <http://www.pravda.gov.mk/tekstoviuis.asp?lang=mak&id=uis03>

⁷ <http://www.pravda.gov.mk/tekstoviuis.asp?lang=mak&id=uis04>

⁸ <http://www.pravda.gov.mk/tekstoviuis.asp?lang=mak&id=uis07>

⁹ <http://www.pravda.gov.mk/tekstoviuis.asp?lang=mak&id=uis10>

¹⁰ United Nation Rules for Treatment of Women Prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders (Bangkok Rules), Resolution 2010/13, United Nation

the announced renovations. Although in the Republic of Serbia, the growth of women prisoners has been evident over the years, they still constitute a very small percentage of the total prison population, which has not led to the development of more detention centers across the country. According to data from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, between 2005 and 2013, women make up only 3% of the total prison population in the country¹¹

The Republic of Croatia also faces with the same problem detected in our country and in the Republic of Serbia, which also means non-compliance with Article 4 of the Bangkok Rules. Namely, this country also has only one penitentiary institution in Pozega, where female prisoners can serve their sentences. But conditions in the female penitentiary in Croatia, are slightly better than the ones found in the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Macedonia. Architectural conditions are not ideal, but are far better, as are the methods of treatment, which are particularly diverse and accepted by women there. The closed section is said to be suitable for reconstruction, but it is therefore considered to be a solid architectural arrangement (Babič, Josipović, Tomašević, 2006).

As a significantly smaller country, with just over half a million people, Montenegro is expected to have only one facility where female convicts can serve their prison sentences. Female prison in Montenegro is completely physically separated from all other pavilions in the penitentiary in Spuzh, which fulfills the legal presumptions¹² for a separate prison sentence based on gender. An observations¹³ made on penitentiary facilities in Montenegro in 2016, provides data that female prisoners have satisfactory living conditions.

The Tuzla Penitentiary Correctional Facility's Women Unit is the only women prison in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to Tuzla, within the Kula Correctional Facility in East Sarajevo, there is also the only female prison in the Republika Srpska area with a capacity of 22 beds¹⁴. Although both prisons reported an increase in the total number of female prisoners, which is 3-10% of the total female prison population, by 2015 it had not reached the number of facilities available, so no overcrowding was reported in the prison institutions¹⁵.

¹¹ Annual reports on work of the Sanctions Administration for the years 2005-2013

<http://www.uiks.mpravde.gov.rs/cr/articles/izvestaji-i-statistika>;

¹² law on enforcement of criminal sanctions of Montenegro, Official Gazette no. 25/94, 29/94, 69/2003 and 65/2004 and "Official Gazette", no. 32/2011;

¹³ Rights of prisoners in penitenciar system of Montenegro and other closed institutions, Building free of torture and impunity societies in Western Balkans, an EU-funded project, Yought initiative for human rights of Motenegro, 2016, pg.18, <http://www.yihr.me/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Prava-lica-lisenih-slobode-u-zatvorskom-sistemu-cg-i-drugim-zatvorenim-institucijama.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.prisonstudies.org/country/bosnia-and-herzegovina-federation>

¹⁵ <https://www.vecernji.ba/vijesti/u-zatvorima-62-osudene-zene-iz-bih-1093404>

As in other countries of the Balkans, the trend of increasing the number of the total female population in penitentiary facilities, is growing up in Slovenia as well. Republic of Slovenia too has only one institution where woman deprived of the liberty can be located – in Ig, Ljubljana. Slovenia although is one step forward than other countries in the region, when it comes to implementing the right treatment towards the female prisoners. It was conducted an experiment based on rehabilitative ideas on the treatment of prisoners and sociotherapy suitable for female prisoners, which was based on the principles of humanistic psychology and penology, which gained significantly more political, media and public interest and support. The project aims to improve the emotional and social climate in the institution, which despite all the prejudices and overall skepticism about the success of the group work by therapists, but also present among inmates, has shown considerable success and progress (Petrovec, Meško, 2006: 365-376)¹⁶

By analyzing the laws and regulation of all the mentioned countries above, we could see that initial gender sensitization is felt in terms of pregnancy, motherhood, breastfeeding and health care. But the treatment is provided equal to that of men and all rights and obligations provided for them are also for women prisoners, with minimal gender bias. No separate methods have been developed in any country. Although countries have adequate and well – established legislation and by – laws, the spatial distance from the family and the close ones, which we have noticed everywhere, is incompatible with successful treatment and resocialization.

What we can deduce from this brief comparative view is that in the 21st century, all countries of the former Yugoslavia, with the exception of Bosnia and Herzegovina, have only one single institution in which women are sentenced to prison. In all countries there is no deviation from the overall 3 - 10 percent representation of women in the total prison population, and except in Serbia, other countries do not face overcrowding in female units / prisons. Croatia is leading the way in innovative project solutions for inmates - parents, there is also Slovenia, which improves rehabilitation ideas for inmate treatment and includes sociotherapy for female inmates. These two countries are at the top of the scale in terms of penitentiary solutions over others. In Montenegro, new facilities have provided better living standards for women inmates. However, there are still deep problems such as the distance from the environment in which they live, and as much as the causes of financial powerlessness can be directed, however, the

¹⁶ Petrovec, D., Meško, G., Back to the Future: Slovenia's Penological Heritage. *Journal of Criminal Justice and Security (Varstvoslovje)*, 2006, 365-376;

motivation of the institution and respect for certain standards is a bigger problem. The problem will continue, as long as the emphasis is on isolation, rather than crime deterrence and retraining.

3.2 About the survey

A survey that took place by the end of 2017 in the only female correctional facility in the Republic of Macedonia, confirmed that the number of sentenced prison sentences has been increasing over the years. However, we also need to take these figures with a certain dose of cuts, because they do not give us an exact figure as to how many new inmates there are every year, but only a summary display of women who currently serve (or served at the time) the sentence of imprisonment, regardless of when they started. At the time the research was conducted, the Institution numbered 69 active female prisoners.

Total number of female prisoners between 2005 -2017													
year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
number	33	42	45	51	55	52	51	52	75	93	105	97	69

Source: Primary unit of Correctional institution Idrizovo

The survey is based on obtaining data from four categories of interest:

1. Obtaining general data on the profile of woman's prisoner in the Republic of Macedonia (age, ethics, education, working status and income, marital status, committed crime, etc.)
2. Recidivism among women prisoners,
3. Pre-victimization (representation and connection with the commission of crimes) and
4. institutional treatment while serving the sentence.

a. Data received from Administration for Execution of Sanctions and the Office of the Institution

Firstly, we tried to find some information from the administration of the institution. And then, with the received data in mind, we reached for the same answers with the survey

made between the inmates. Not much has been obtained from the data requested from the Administration for Execution of Sanctions and the Office of the Institution:

1. With regard to the prisoners' profiles, in regard to age, there are no steroid types and the total prison population is versatile. The youngest is at the age of 25, while the oldest is 80 years old. On the basis of ethnicity, mostly the prisoners are Macedonians, the Roma and the Albanians. The Office informs that both women and men appear as perpetrators of all types of crimes in the period from 2005 to now, with the exception of pedophilia, and that there is no woman serving a life sentence. The sharpest punishment and the highest prison sentence were sentenced to 20 years in prison for committing a crime of murder.

2. Regarding the recidivism, for the female prison population in the Republic of Macedonia, we received information that compared to the recidivism of men, here the recurrence is significantly less present. Women who are returning to prisons are usually sentenced for neglecting and mistreating a juvenile (often women from Roma population), property crime or acts related to the abuse of narcotics. We did not receive more precise data.

3. Pre-victimization of female convicted population exists, but we do not have specific data on the number of women who have been subjected to violence, and which led to the commission of a criminal act. We were informed that there are such prisoners and that they are mostly convicted of murder, and that they have always suffered from lasting domestic violence.

4. Regarding the treatment that is carried out toward the inmates, we got the information that specific treatments for female convicts which are provided in the Administration's Annual Reports, have not yet begun, but the gender sensitization is present. Most of the prisoners are engaged in work within the institution, as hygienists, they work in the kitchen, etc. None of them at the moment is not trying to finish her education or is starting one within the institution. They maintain constant contact with the family. Their benefits include visits, shipment, special marital visits, etc., which is considered to be positive for their re-socialization and overall treatment, but also for serving the sentence itself. For victimized women, besides the basic treatment, psychiatric help is provided, if they ask for it, and at the disposal, as well as for others, is a tutor with whom they can talk at any time.

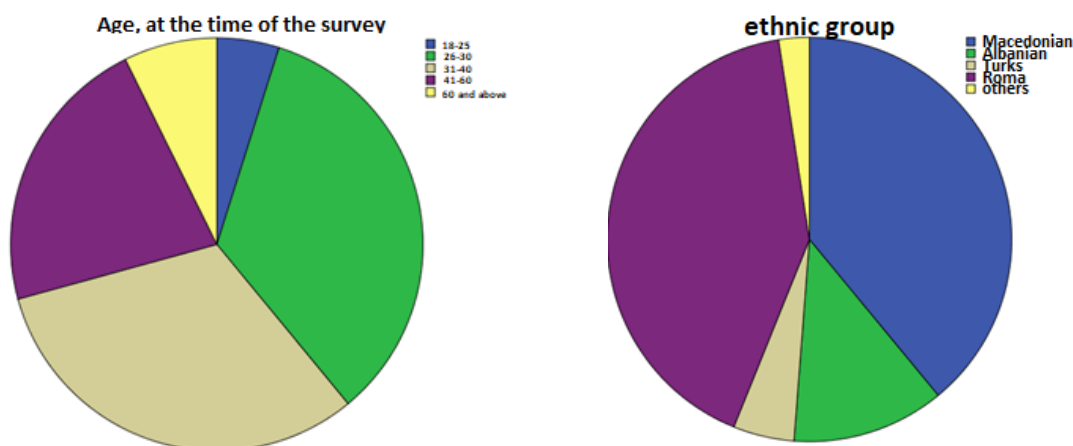
3.2 Data received from the survey questionnaire

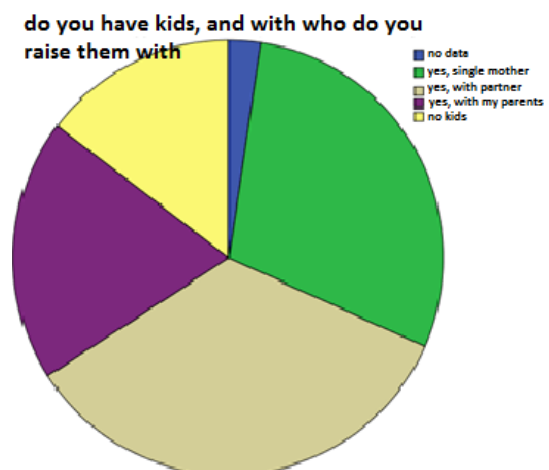
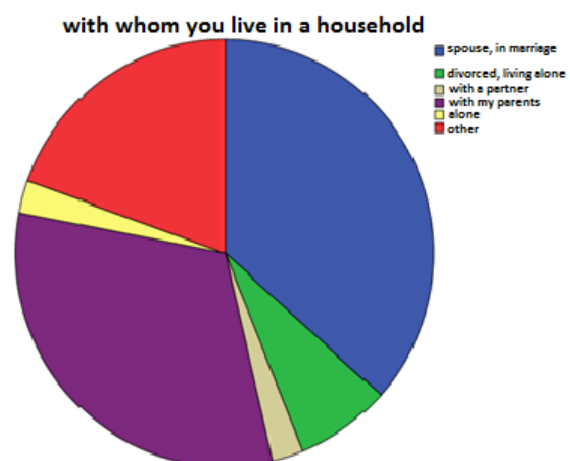
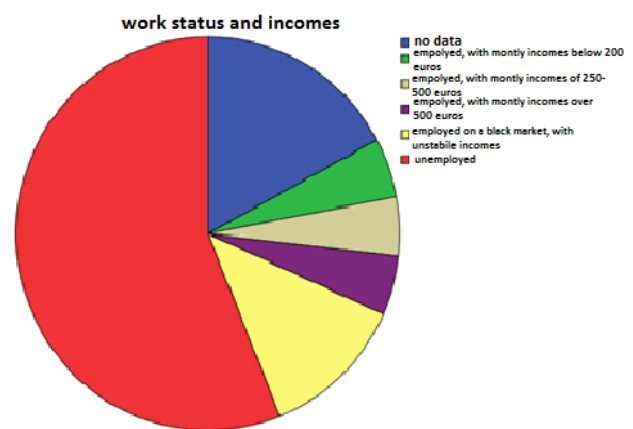
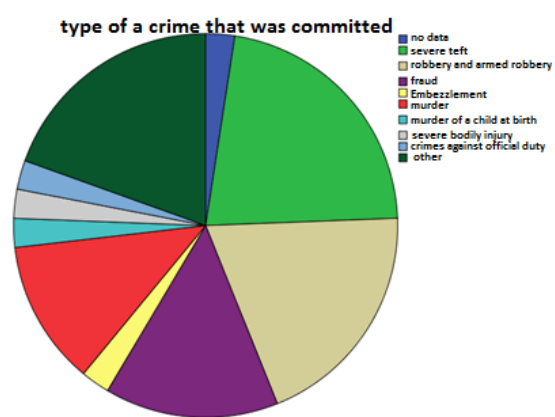
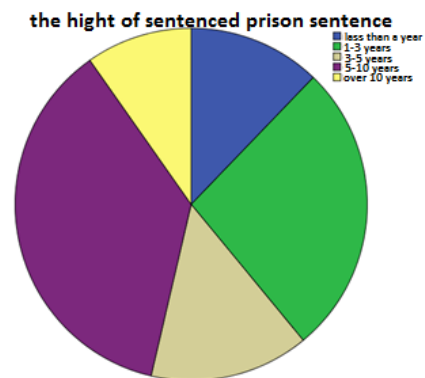
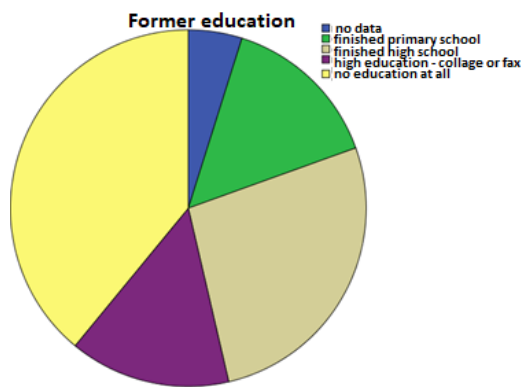
3.2.1. Profile of the woman in prison

In December 2017, a survey was conducted on all women who were currently serving a prison sentence. Of the total number of 69 convicted persons, the questionnaires were filled by 41 prisoners. The questionnaire was left to fill in according to the will of the prisoner, while maximally respecting her identity. Taking into account that the data from 2017 speaks about 29 of the total number of prisoners that they are illiterate, we believe that the data we have obtained reflect the appropriate prisoner's reality from the aspect of the woman inside.

The questionnaire has been designed in order to provide the answers to the above-mentioned areas of interest, that is, to create a database of general data and a picture of the prisoner's profile in the Republic of Macedonia, the recidivism in the prison, the prior victimization of indoor and treatment inside. Data are processed using the "SPSS" program, i.e. a program for analyzing qualitative data, so that any previously used question in the exam is appropriately encoded. Crossing the responses that have been made enable the response to the objectives set.

From the asked questions we wanted to analyze some phenomenological characteristics of the female prison population and to present the most frequent age of women who are in penitentiary institution, degree of education, working status, type of committed criminal act, marital / illegitimate status and motherhood as a necessary integral part from the nature of the woman.





The significance of the age in the process of serving a sentence is inextricably linked to its criminal and criminological significance. At the core of this is the realization that man is

a creature convenient for changing, therefore it is not the same if the ones who have violated the social values are minors, young adults, adults or the elderly (Sulejmanov, 2009: 55).

In our country, the most common adult categories from which women commit crimes that end up with prison sentence, are from 26 to 30 years, or 34.1% and 31-40 years, or 31.7%. On the third place is the age category of 41-60 years (22%). So, we can conclude that, our state follows the trend, that the peak of the criminal career (when it comes to more serious criminal acts that resulted in the conviction of the most severe punishment) women reach at the age of 25-30 years or only 30 years (Lombrozo, 1911: 182). Women between 18 and 25 years old make up 4.9% from the total, and women who are more than 60 years of age make up 7.3% of the total female prison population, which confirms the known about old-age criminality.

Regarding the ethnicity, it has been shown that the highest percentage of women who are serving prison sentences in the said period, are from Roma ethnicity or 41.9%. In second place are women of Macedonian ethnicity, and with no significantly lower representation of 39%. Women from Albanian ethnicity are third with representation with 12.2% of the respondents. Turks cost 4.9% and 2.4 % are members of another ethnic community.

Women who are sentenced to imprisonment and who have committed serious crimes are usually not educated and have not completed formal education. As many as 39% of them reported that they did not have any education, which is a serious alarm about the degree of criminality and its movement is. 26.8% stated that they have completed secondary education (or at least they have started), and 14.6% have primary education and higher education. Two of the respondents did not respond to the education for the acquired education.

Regarding their working status outside the institution, and the monthly incomes, seven of the respondents did not respond. Out of the remaining - 56.1% (or 23 of the total) are unemployed and with or without social benefits. 12.2% work on the black market with unstable incomes. The remaining 6 are employed, two of them with monthly income up to 10.000 denars (less than 200 euros), two from them have incomes from 15-30000 denars (250-500 euros) and two with income over 30.000 denars (500 euros).

36.6% of the respondents stated that they are in a marriage, and 31.7 % that they are not married and still live with their parents outside the institution. 7.3% are divorced, one prisoner lives alone outside the institution, and one with a partner in an extramarital community. Eight of the respondents live in a different way, which does not correspond with the offered answers. 34 of the total respondents are mothers, basically the half of them. 34.1% are mothers of children who are raised together with their partners or husbands. 29.3% are single mothers. This category of mothers prisoners is the most risky category in terms of adequate care for children

and their overall future, and in our country, as well as around the world, it occupies a serious percentage. 19.5% of the respondents have children who breed with their parents. 6 prisoners do not have children, and for one of them there are no data.

In terms of the type of crimes, women are often convicted of property delicts. 22% of inmates are convicted of severe theft, 19.5% for robbery or robbery theft. 14.6% for fraud, and one prisoner of the respondents was imprisoned for evasion. From the group of violent crimes, 12.2% were imprisoned for committing the murder, and another for murdering a child at birth. An inmate is imprisoned for serious bodily injury. One of them was sentenced to prison for a crime committed during the service, and eight of them stated that they were sentenced for a criminal offense different from the offered answers. The most convicted persons are prison sentences of 5-10 years, or 36.6%, and imprisonment of 1-3 years, or 26.8%. From 3-5 years in prison lie 14.6% of the respondents, less than one year 12.2, and over 10 years in prison 9.8%

Women that are in jail from the age categories 18-25 years, 26-30 years, 31-40 years and the category of women aged 41-60 years, mostly perform crimes against property.

In the age category over 60 years, violent crimes is most common. Women of Roma ethnicity are mostly condemned for committed crime against property, especially robbery and armed robbery, which accounts for as much as 75% of the total participation of female prisoners in this crime. The majority of Macedonians commit fraud and murder, as many as 66% of the total convicted of fraud are Macedonian ethnicity, and 60% of them are convicted for murder. Albanians, besides the crime against property, are also represented in other types of crimes as much as the convicts of Roma ethnicity.

Regarding the link between the education and the type of committed crime, women who have not completed any education have indicated that they are leading among the total convicts, and these women mostly commit property delicts, and also violent crimes. Property criminality is most present between women with completed higher education. But these women are convicted not only for robbery (only one of them), but also for fraud, crime committed during the service of the service, and one for criminal act murder. Unemployed prisoners also perform property crime. Of the total of 23, 6 have committed severe theft, 6 robbery / armed robbery and 2 - fraud. Of the total of 5 employees on the black market, two have committed a property crime

3.2.2 Recidivism among women in prison

Repetition as a serious indicator of the existence of a serious social anomaly and improper functioning in the system of re-socialization in a person who was once wrong before the law, is something that had to be considered at all. In addition, the data obtained after analyzing the survey questionnaires:



Of the total number of prisoners who responded to the questionnaire, only two did not want to indicate whether they were previously convicted. 26 of them, or 63.4%, are the first offenders. A total of 13, i.e. 31.7%, declared themselves as repeaters. Of these, 7 are between the ages of 26-30, 5 between the ages of 31-40 and one aged over 60 years. In the categories of 18-25 years and 41-60 years, there is no recidivism among the inmates. 31.2%, 5 of the total registered recidivists are of Macedonian origin. 7 are Roma women (41.2%) and one Turk. 4 of them are without education, 2 with primary education, 4 with secondary education and 2 with higher education. For one of them there is no data for completed education.

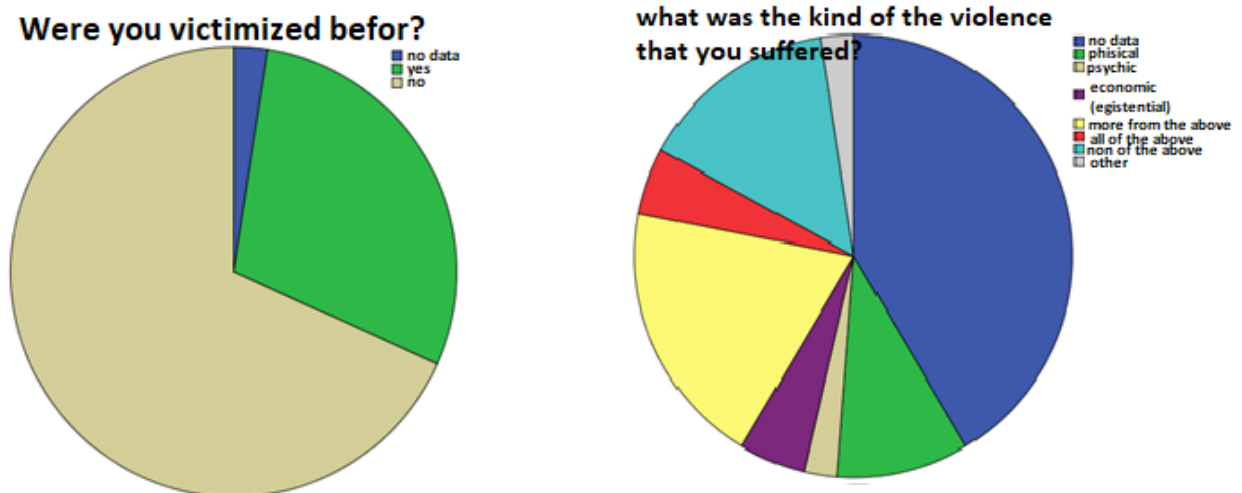
3.2.3 Previous victimization of the inmate

One of the most important questions raised, is whether there is a prior victimization of women who have committed a crime and what is the connection with what they have done. That is, whether a woman who was a victim of some of the types of violence committed the crime for which she received a prison sentence or she committed in self-defense of such an attack or due to the accumulation of long-term frustration caused by victimization.

One respondent did not answer the question whether they had been victimized before. 28, or 68.3% of the total were not, while 12 of them, or 29.3% were previously victims. This fact, we must note that it does not correspond with the answers processed in the next question

regarding the types of violence that are endured. From there, given the given answers, we conclude that the number of women who suffered violence is higher, ie it is 24. So, we take this informations with dose of reserve because we think that some of the prisoners do not have adequate knowledge about specific types of violence.

From the group of victimized inmates, the majority of them suffered the violence in the marital community (a total of 6). In the period of adolescence, 4 were molested and then in maintaining an intimate relationship with the partner (2). One respondent stated that she was victimized in childhood, and one for several periods of her life. Most often they are victimized by a husband (8 cases). The answers provided that most of them reported their rapists, and that they requested assistance from the police regional units, but that they did not receive any appropriate assistance.



Four of the women accused of murder, out of a total of 6, said they had been victimized prior. Of the others who reported being in a victim's position, 3 were convicted of a serious theft, and 3 for a robbery/ armed robbery.

Women who have declared themselves as victims of psychological violence alone are recorded in the exercise of property crime, just like those that only appear as victims of physical violence or only economic violence. Women who have suffered several types of violence cumulatively, or all known types of violence, appear as perpetrators of a murder or robbery.

The women who had committed the robbery earlier turned to help and reported the abuser. Of those who reported that they had committed a severe theft, and had previously been victimized, one woman asked for help. All the women who committed the crime of murder, but were victimized, had previously sought help.

Three of the women who have been victims of several types of violence are single mothers, and four of them have children and breed with a partner / husband. One of the

prisoners who stated that she was the victim of all kinds of violence is a single mother, and one is the mother whose children grow up with a partner / husband

3.2.4 About the treatment within the institution and maintained contacts with outside world

Regarding the treatment received by the prisoners, we have to mention the foreseen programs that provide a special approach for women from male prisoners, as well as the envisaged cognitive-behavioral programs, specialized for female prisoners, which should be implemented in the future.

From the information obtained from the Idrizovo's Prison Administration, we were told that education, as a right and as one of the possible treatment of prisoners, is not used, but that they attend courses. They stated that work is the one method of treatment that fulfills the day of the prisoners the most and is in favor of their adaptation to the institution.

Of the total of 41 female prisoners surveyed, 30 or 73.2 % do not follow any classes or continue their education. 7 or 17.1% answered affirmatively, for two there are no data, and two do not know at all that they have this right. 26 of the respondents, or 63.4% are not engaged in work, which is mostly due to the disrupted state of health. 11 or 26.8 % are working in the institution (for two there are no data, and two answered that they do not know).

33 of the prisoners maintain contact with their loved ones. Only 7 of them, or 17.1% do not maintain contact with anyone. Most of them maintain regular contacts with more members of the family, with children, parents, relatives, etc., which is of crucial importance for the mental health of the prisoner.

By intersection of the responses about the length of the sentence and the working engagement of the woman in the institution, we wanted to determine whether the sentence awarded affects its motivation or demotivation. In all the groups, the lack of participation in employment is noticeable, which can be deduced as a conclusion that the length of the sentence imposed does not affect the woman prisoner and is not crucial in whether she will work within the institution or not. The length of the sentence does not have any special influence in stimulating the prisoners to continue their education either. There is only slight deviation among those sentenced to 5 to 10 years of imprisonment, which category leads in relation to others by engaging in work, education and taking courses.

The influence of maintaining contacts with the outside world, and the closest ones are also seen in terms of the dose of remorse they feel about the done, which expects more successful facial rehabilitation and reduced repetition. Namely, women who are in contact with

more members of the family are the most numerous in terms of regret for what they have done. Contacts with children and with their parents have the same effect. From the group of women who do not maintain contact with anyone, only one woman did not express remorse for the committed

4. Conclusion

What is presented above confirms that the Republic of Macedonia, as well as all the Balkan countries, follows the world trends, when it comes to the woman's crime, and its representation in the total prison population. Women often commit property crimes, but they almost never do it guided by anger or selfishness, but in order to feed themselves or those who depend on them. Unfortunately, the same is done due to the presence of dependence on a particular substance and because of the arrival of funds for its supply, but even then there is a tendency for women to commit a criminal act in a state of reduced computability through the use of such substances (*action libera in causa*).

When it comes to the hardest crime, murder, in most cases, woman does it to protect the family, and itself, from the aggressor in it, after years of torture and suffering of abuse. The women who committed a violent crime, and with whom we talked after the survey, have never been convicted before, which means that they are the primary offenders who committed the most severe crime. All are sentenced to long prison sentences, over five years in prison, and all have pre-victimization. Four of the women charged with murder, out of a total of 6 that we talked with, stated that they had previously been victimized and that some violence was committed on them, which is a worrying percentage of the motive behind which the crime was committed and alarmed for its non-prevention.

However, the violence committed against a woman does not result only in its aggressiveness towards the abuser and its killing. She often is pulled into a certain crime. Such women are often addicted to narcotics, who in turn were some kind of trigger for committing the crime, so the violence itself is defocused by prosecution organs, and the focus is put on her addictions

Therefore, besides the particular care of a woman while e the determination of the sanction, there must be high level of attention when sent to prison and that the appropriate treatment for resocialization is given. The return of these women in the environment that provoke them to commit crimes is particularly risky, so the treatment itself must be susceptible to dose sensitization with respect to its previous victimization. Some of these women are not

just perpetrators of crimes, but above all victims, who need adequate treatment in order to be able to continue their life outside the institution, and most importantly, they can renew their role of a mother.

The institutional conditions for a woman sentenced to imprisonment in the Republic of Macedonia are far from ideal, far and far from basic also. The distance from the family is incompatible with successful treatment and resocialization, and is compelled because of the existence of a single such institution for serving a prison sentence for women. The basic health services they receive is also contrary to the international acts and minimum standards and are scanty. Prisoners complain that they do not take them seriously when they have health problems.

The irregular examinations, inadequate therapy are only part of the problems they face on a daily basis. The Bangkok rules for now are uttered, in relation to what was encountered. But the worst of all is that an adequate relationship and mechanism for developing and determining the appropriate treatment of prisoners is not established, and it is crucial for their re-socialization.

The essence of the punishment is not only the isolation in order to avenge the offender, but the determination of the way in which he/she would be re-integrated into society as its full member. However, at least it is a matter of motivating prisoners to take advantage of the time they have for something productive and useful to them. From what we have encountered, they experience the prison as a place where criminals and criminogenic habits are created, rather than re-socializing habits. Problems are depth, and as much as the reasons for the financial incapacity are being channeled, however, the motivation of the institution and the respect of certain standards is a bigger problem. The problem will exist, as long as the emphasis is placed on isolation, rather than deterring from crime and re-education, and as long as we approach to female prisoners with the same treatment that male prisoners receive.

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Type of work	References	In-text citation
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Summary

For many years, women are being the “second gender” when it comes to committing a crime and manifested criminal behaviour. Even now, world statistic show us a number not bigger from the already known 10-20% female participation in total crime. However, we can not negligate that women and little girls, teenagers...are starting to show more violence in their everyday activities, that results with delicvent behavior. It is crutiel that we find out what are the reasons and consequences of woman’s criminal behavior so that we could prevent their criminal escalation in future.

We are starting with the domestic female perpetrators, and we are making analysis concerning woman from Republic of Macedonia, as a perpetrator of criminal offenses, but only from the aspect of the imprisonment sentence. The research is responding on four basic fields of interest that we find as most important for profilation of woman perpetrator– general characteristics of a woman in prison, her earlier victimization, recidivism and the given prison treatment. By answering these questions, not only we can set the profile of a woman perpetrator that is in prison, but also we can find out the reasons that put her there in a first place. This separate view in criminology is a huge step forward for understanding and preventing the crime committed by woman, for our country at first, and also for the countries in our surroundings.

We hope that this research can be useful for any criminologist that will study woman as a perpetrator in future, and will be helpful in preventing and predicting crime in general.