



COMPLICITY AMONG FEMALE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMES, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CASES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

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"When a woman commits a crime and does it with a man, we focus our attention on the man because we think he was the instigator."

Female as a perpetrator

In a pair/group

Alone

serious intrusion into crime

never have committed a certain crime if there was no person or group

fragile character - greater dependence on social approvals and opinions

Mostly in affect / IP murder

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Role while working together



co-perpetrator

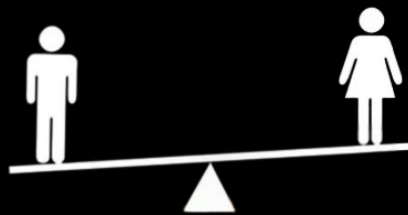
by participating in the act of execution or with another special jointly commit a criminal offense. joint performance of a certain criminal act by direct participation



Complicity

encouragement or *helping* to commit a crime → intentional creation or solidification of a decision in another to commit a crime, intentional contribution to execution of the crime, after the perpetrator already decided to commit it. Her role as an accomplice is more characteristic than as a co-perpetrator.

Phenomenological characteristics

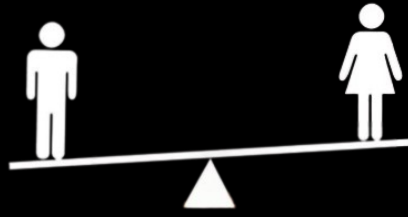


Leading
position



Secondary,
assisting
position

Phenomenological characteristics



Leading
position

Physically stronger women, masculinist characteristics, do not like the subordinate role

- do not submit to the male members of the gangs and with all their efforts prove themselves to them until they get the equal position.
- to be liked by the group

Italian mafia – late '90s

- women began to take leadership roles in gangs when men were prevented as well as within prisons and wherever men failed to meet the needs of the role they had within the mafia. Women in such situations have shown self-confidence, power, entrepreneurial skills and awareness of the violent culture.
- Elder women - has all the information, high reputation, a mother who must have the respect and obedience of the male members, financially powerful, influential in raising children, their education and lifestyle



Situational crimes – in affect

Abstinence crises – committing crime in order to get to substance rarely alone

thefts (mostly street robberies), if ***victim is a woman***, the woman as executor works alone.

Phenomenological characteristics

The most common roles they get as members of a criminal group are to

- perform *espionage* actions for the group
- perceived as *sex-objects*
- "vivandiera" (supplier, provider), "postina" (postman), or "messenger" (messenger) - Italian mafia at first



Secondary,
assisting
position

thefts (mostly street robberies), if *victim is a man*, works in pair (mostly with men)

observing woman - armed and at the first threatening situation in which her partner would find herself, she activates

mediating prostitution

→ see themselves mostly as executors of the directions given by the mediator, who is usually a man - "Stockholm syndrome"

United States involved in gangs

- know all the details of committing a crime, but out of fear of being caught, they would never do it on their own
- believe that they have never done anything wrong, nor that they have had any confrontations with the law - only "held the gun",
- consider their involvement to be part of their intimate relationship with their partner - starts a criminal career only under the influence and in cooperation with the partner
- subordination is especially prevalent among the white women

Phenomenological characteristics - *specific types of crime*



Property crimes



Violent crimes



Professional crimes

Involving in burglary because received a threat by their partners - a blackmail 'if you love me, you'll do it'

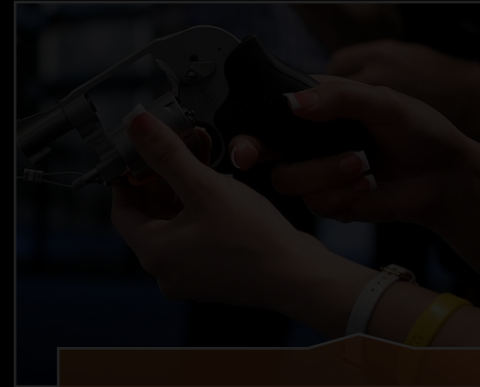
when man is the victim, they almost always work in a pair with a man as a co-offenders,

if she commits a robbery, then she chooses to be part of a group made up of men as well

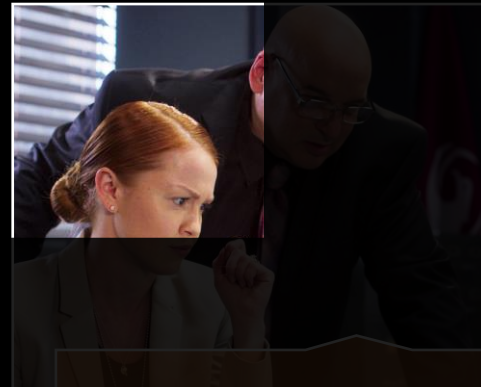
Always secondary, assisting position



Property crimes



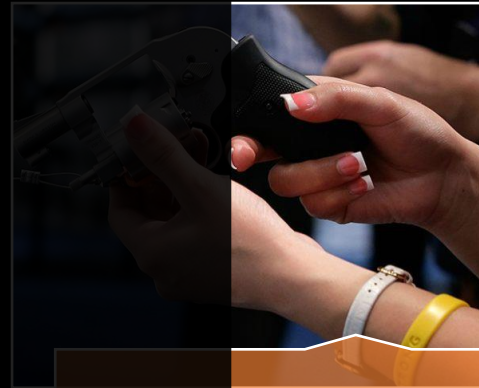
Violent crimes



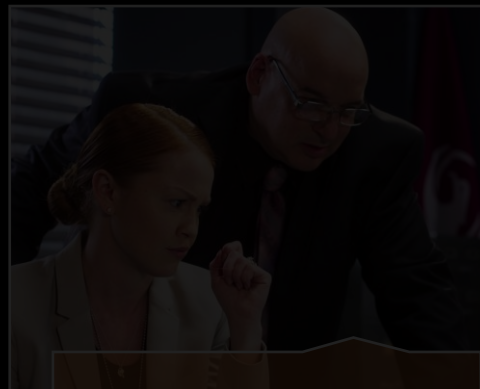
Professional crimes



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Professional crimes

represented as the perpetrator of this crime against life and body, although on a significantly smaller scale than men.

Murders/violence based on their emotional attachment to the victim

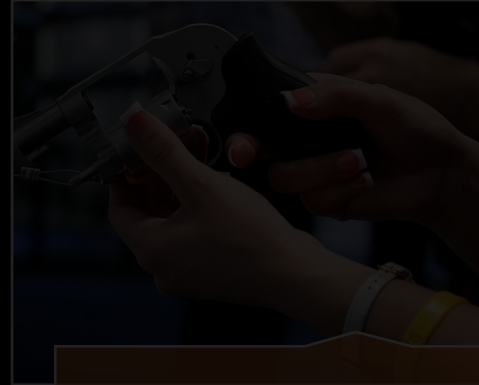
Murder involved with a man less likely to participate in the violence itself

have reported being unaware of offences involving

admitted planning an initial crime, or being implicated in a more serious offence the partner unexpectedly produced a weapon abusive, controlling and/or obsessive relationships with a male partner may influence



Property crimes



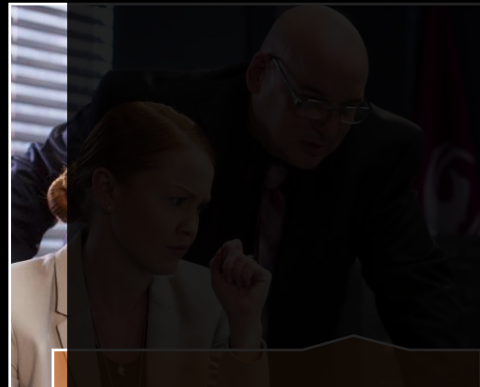
Violent crimes

white-collar crime – accessory position

carried out from significantly lower working positions →

"pink-collar" crime as a counterpart to "white-collar" crime →

she usually does it alone, unlike a man who is prone to association. And in those few cases when women work in a group, their leading or subordinate role depends on the type of crime being committed



Professional crimes

Ethological view – *why women accomplice?*

“I felt trapped”

**“You gotta have
somebody there...”**

**‘Other’ motivating
factors**

‘Significant life events’

Psychological view – *why women accomplice?*

“I felt trapped”

**intimate partner
influence**

→ to please their partner or because they are afraid of him. The coercive and controlling behaviour, manipulation, physical violence, abuse

→ gambling addiction of an intimate partner

→ aggressive toward her and pressures her to commit a crime

“You gotta have somebody there...”

‘Other’ motivating factors

‘Significant life events’

women accomplice?

“You gotta have somebody there...”

influence of friendship

→ co-offend with male ex partner, or male and female friends

→ the co-offending relationship with friends - not a pathway into crime, but rather a motivation to continue offending

→ female “best friends”, is a motivating factor to continue offending

they feel close-bond, trust and have positive narrative towards the relationship.

“I felt trapped”

‘Other’ motivating factors

‘Significant life events’

‘Other’ motivating factors

Influence of drugs addiction, economic circumstances or traumatic life event

(plenty of internal factors)

→ the intimate partner was her dealer previously, or someone who introduces her with drugs.

→ co-offending and drug use were fundamentally intertwined as offending motivations albeit to differing extents and in different ways.

→ economic reasons, appear on women’s side as well as on intimate partner’s side.

“I felt trapped”

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‘Significant life events’

Ethological view – *why women accomplice?*

‘Significant life events’

Influence from previous event

impacted or affected the women’s life, decisions, and subsequent actions

→ illness, hers or to someone else close to her,

→ previous victimisation (for example, sexual assault/abuse).

“I felt trapped”

“You gotta have somebody there...”

‘Other’ motivating factors

Ethological view – *why women accomplice?*

- love
- fear
- substance misuse
- financial issues
- significant life events overlapped.....

co-offending with an intimate partner - a key pathway into crime for many women, it was not their sole ongoing motivation for continued offending.

“I felt trapped”

“You gotta have somebody there...”

‘Other’ motivating factors

‘Significant life events’



Few facts about Republic of North Macedonia

Involvement of woman in overall crime committed in period 2017-2022 in Republic of North Macedonia

Source: State Statistical Office
<https://makstat.stat.gov.mk/>

Year	Total crime	Crime committed by women	Percentage
2017	6273	550	8.77%
2018	5857	419	7.16%
2019	4712	410	8.71%
2020	6351	558	8.79%
2021	7634	664	8.7%
2022	7769	758	9.76%



Few facts about Republic of North Macedonia

Complicity among female perpetrators in period 2017-2022 in Republic of North Macedonia

Source: State Statistical Office

<https://makstat.stat.gov.mk/>

Year	Total crime committed by woman	Working alone	Co-offending	Percentage
2017	550	502	46	8.3%
2018	419	328	89	21.2%
2019	410	336	72	17.5%
2020	558	424	133	23.8%
2021	664	463	197	29.6%
2022	758	521	236	31.1%



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No official statistics on which groups of crimes, or which crimes the complicity refers to, so we will do a case study to one specific case, known to the public, where the woman appears as a co-perpetrator.

Case #1

- 2014 -monstrous murder of a young girl - committed by unmarried couple with kids.
- autopsy - showed that she was beaten with fists, kicked, pressed with a foot, signs of strangulation on the neck.
- man was suspected of committing murder, female initially suspected of helping
- child witnesses, a child of the convicts, admitted to the psychiatrists that the girl was beaten
- The mother found her child wrapped in a blanket and smeared with toothpaste
- statements of the defendants supported during the trial - prison sentence of 20 years for both
- December 2017 we had an interview in the Idrizovo prison with Jasmina -
- *mentally unstable person*, also a *victim of physical violence* by her previous husband. She said that when IP returned the girl from shower, she showed no signs of life. He *threatened her* that in front of the police and in front of the girl's mother she must claim that the girl fell down the stairs and lost her life, which she did. Regrets.
- co-offenders case - because of the relationship influence over the woman as perpetrator, has not committed any crime before, Fear of the male partner

Violence - murder

*Few cases in
Republic of North Macedonia*

Case #2

- Victim Croatian handball player Tot
- three co-accused, including a woman (19 years old)
- event -fully covered by the media, video recordings
- undoubtedly many flaws in the procedure.
- they were all in a night club, left the club, got into a taxi, started argument.
- One of the defendants got out, pulled the victim out, punched him, causing the victim to fall to the ground.
- The two defendants and the girl kicked him in the head
- The girl and one of the defendants sentenced to 18 years in prison,
- the third defendant to 16 years

Violence - murder

Few cases in

Republic of North Macedonia

- girl (22 years old) appears as a co-perpetrator, is the murder of a boy called Pino, who went missing
- girl, together with a male accomplice, killed Pino and buried him
- On December 11, 2018, the suspect, she called the victim to meet them
- she knew that the first suspect would join them with the intention of depriving the victim of his life
- the first suspect arrived and threatened the victim with a firearm - a rifle
- verbal argument with the victim, after which the first suspect shot the victim and killed him.
- The girl was sentenced to 19 years in prison. Male co-defendant is on the run and unavailable

Violence - murder

Few cases in

Republic of North Macedonia

- Six co-offenders, one women (notary)
- accused of helping committed the crime - making telephone contact with the injured party, introducing herself as the girlfriend, lured him to meet
- other offenders with the use of force and serious threats, forced the victim to prescribe his own Maserati car to them, without being paid
- woman was accused of acting negligently in the exercise of her powers and duties, opens notary's office outside of working hours, drew up the contract for the purchase and sale of the vehicle, stating lower and unrealistic price of 2,950 euros, to avoid the ban on cash payments
- no payment of the specified price was made - in Article 3 of the Agreement she stated that the sum of 2,950 euros was paid before the notary, on the day of certification of the signatures, thus enabling the illegal transfer of ownership of the car in favour of the first defendant.
- She was accused of malpractice in the service.

Property crime

Few cases in

Republic of North Macedonia

Conclusion

- ❑ Analysed cases from the Republic of N. Macedonia → dare to say that none of them would have happened, or had that outcome, if the woman had not been associated with men during the execution of the crime. Violent crimes, or crimes that include threats of violence, and in which the woman also appears as the perpetrator, inevitably include the existence of accomplice of a woman with a man.
- ❑ No matter how number of such cases over the years is small, we are still talking about a tragic outcome that should be prevented with adequate prior knowledge of criminological parameters.
- ❑ Woman appears more often in the role of a victim, but accumulates serious psychological disorders due to her being brought and maintained in a victimized state which can often be done by a criminal who acts alone or in association with other persons, especially the aggressor
- ❑ lack of data on this topic - considering these theoretical comparative findings, empirical research must be carried out in the future, which, hopefully, will lead to conclusions about the association of women in committing criminal acts on the territory of the Republic North Macedonia, and also in the Balkans.

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Thank you for your
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