Females in Street Gang Culture

The Critical Element of Female Involvement in Street-level Gang Culture.

The role of females in street gangs has traditionally been a fascinating issue.

Law enforcement officers generally approach the issue of their involvement as insignificant.

However, the capacity of females in gangs is substantial.
Generally, females in gangs are driven to involvement for the same reasons males are.

Looking deep into their reasoning, one will find the rationale likely leads right back home.

Sibling rivalry, lack of family cohesiveness, lack of an adult role model, abuse (sexual or otherwise), excitement, power, protection and any number of others.

Not all girls that hang out with gang members are gang members themselves.

Many young girls are attracted to the “Macho” or “Bad Boy” image often portrayed by gang members.

Some are attracted to the excitement of confrontation and violence.

Females play an integral part of street-level gang culture.

Quite often, they are the ‘reason’ for confrontations between gangs.

In gang culture, one can honestly say that “Women are the root of all evil.”

Females incite the “Machismo” that drives gang violence; they provide creature comforts for arrogant males drawn to gang involvement.

They domesticate the vicious minds of the male members of street gangs.
Females involved in street gangs are often the sisters, girlfriends or wives of gang members.

Many are used and abused by the gang; there for the sex, the socializing and the party.

Typically, females involved in gangs are not as strictly bound by turf boundaries as the male traditionally are.

Gang members often use the girls’ homes as hangouts, hideouts and to generally stash their contraband.

Gang members use the girls’ lack of criminal history and get them to purchase firearms or conceal contraband.

Females employed in critical jobs may provide intelligence and other resources for the gang (IE: DMV, banks, schools, hospitals and law enforcement records or clerical)

Females might “set-up” a rival for assault.

Females carry intelligence on rivals back to their gang.

Females might be used as a “ruse” to commit residential burglaries, robberies or other types of criminal activity.

Females often provide “Alibis” for gang members involved in violence.

Females are used to distract officers while males flee, conceal contraband or conceal criminal activities.

If you’re ever looking for a gang member involved in a shooting, stabbing, probation violation, parole violation or other crime, you should start looking at what female is involved in his life.
REMEMBER:
There is no greater enemy than a Woman scorned.

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Especially so within Street-level Gang culture.

Awesome Informants/Sources

A female involved in gang culture makes an awesome resource.

Remember that she risks her life if she decides to work with you.

NEVER ask for information while she is in the company of other gang members. You will get her killed.

Imagine the intelligence a female garners as she becomes involved within the world of these various gang sets. She learns:

- Influential membership in each gang
- Nicknames, monikers, hand signs, graffiti
- Hangouts and hideouts
- Vehicles, weapons
- Rivalries and/or allied gangs
- Weaknesses and/or strong points
- Shootings, stabbings and other violent confrontations these gangs are involved in.

The gang member puts it this way:

“Trust No Bitch.”

But the gang member still talks.

Call it loose lips
Call it Pillow Talk

A woman will sit back and absorb everything that occurs; everything that is said...

If we can tap into this Critical resource of data, We become more effective in combating violent gang crime.
At Crime Scenes

When you have an uncooperative or unconscious male victim, remember to embrace his mother, sisters, wife or girlfriend...

Impress upon them that you “care” about the victim and his injuries and only wish to identify the culprit. You might be surprised at the cooperation you get.
It's not unusual for the female in gangs to disappear from active street-level involvement by the age of 18. Many mature and outgrow street-level involvement by this period.

Many actually distance themselves from involvement with college, a family, a decent job or just simply pursue another endeavor away from gang culture.

REMEMBER

Females are as much a part of gang culture as gang rivalries.

...and though many will participate in the savagery that figures into gangs, most are not that committed.

Females are customarily used as a practical resource by the gang.

*Know they play a pivotal role,* and never underestimate their ability or willingness to assault an officer on behalf of their male counterparts.

I can not emphasize enough... For all law enforcement officers, the critical and pivotal role females play in gang culture.

...THEREFORE...

Identify and know the females involved in gangs you monitor.

You’ll be much more effective in your efforts to combat Gang activity.