

The Role of Females in Street Gangs



Anyone of you that just looked at the above photos and thought, “They’re just girls...they’re not real gang members. Who cares?” is wrong.

One of the most perpetuated myths about street gangs involves the female’s role. Most people believe that females cannot be members and are only associated with the gang in order to find a boyfriend. While this may have been true at one point a long time ago, and may still hold true for some gangs and individuals, this is no longer the case for the majority of gangs and gang members. Female gangsters are out there, and they have the potential to be just as violent as their male counterparts.

These females will often show all the same criteria to determine gang affiliation as males, yet rarely will the majority of officers note any of this in their FIs or reports. As you can see from the pictures above, they adopt the same clothing styles, use the same type of monikers, throw the same hand-signs, have the same tattoos, and have the same behaviors as their male counterparts. They also get jumped-in or walked-in the same as their male counterparts.

Our female gang members may not usually be the gang members that actually commit the crime such as the shootings or the beatings (this is not an absolute... We have numerous instances of female gang members assaulting rival female gang members and sometimes rival male gang members). However, they are oftentimes the drivers of the getaway cars, or are given the weapons to hold before and after the assault because the male gang members know that law enforcement will usually not perform a thorough search of the females or their cars.

Female gang members are also oftentimes the holders of the “gang guns” and narcotics, as gang members know that their homes may oftentimes become the subject of a probation search or a search warrant, and that their female counterparts will not.

More often than not, our female gangsters are actually more open about their gang affiliation than their male counterparts, and will tell you all about themselves. They will carry numerous photos and letters on their persons from all their female and male homies, and have them all over their car, schoolbooks, house, and even the Internet.

Anytime a female gang member is contacted with a male gang member, their contact should be treated the same as any other gang member. This includes when a female gang member is present when a male gang member has committed a gang crime and is arrested.

The identification of the female gang member's monikers is also just as important as it is for the males, because they also commit vandalisms using their tag names, and are oftentimes known to other people only by moniker. There have been countless instances where the knowledge of a gang member's moniker has led to an arrest and conviction of a violent crime, and this is no different for female gang members.

The most important thing to remember from all this is that a gang member is a gang member. It does not matter what sex they are; they all have the potential for violent crime, they all have access to the same weapons, and they all have the same disregard for life and law enforcement.

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