

Proposal

Title – Gang Formation: Female Juveniles

Program of Study – B.S., Criminal Justice

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Mentor – Professor Larry Presley (lapresley@liberty.edu)

Student name– Madison Koppold (mnkoppold@liberty.edu)

Abstract

This research paper examines influential factors of female juvenile gang formation and proposes possible intervention strategies. Females who join gangs are significantly understudied compared to their male counterparts. Although the term “gang” is stereotypically associated with a masculine connotation, it is important to note that females have increased in gang involvement. Without a clear understanding of why females choose to join gangs, intervention strategies and programs cannot be properly addressed and integrated. From prior research on the topic, content analysis, and participant surveys, it has been determined that several factors influence a juvenile female’s decision to join a gang. The contributing factors to female gang formation include: family relations, peer groups, identity formation, school performance, and economic conditions. From research, it is evident that females join gangs to fill a void in their life. This paper emphasizes that resources contribute immensely to an individual’s development and life course. For adolescents, incentives and support systems of encouragement make success appear more attainable. Therefore, this paper emphasizes that rehabilitation and intervention are still relevant solutions to juvenile gang involvement. This paper suggests strategies such as community relational policing, government assistance, and positive role models or organizations as a start to gang intervention. Content analysis has proven that girls in gangs can commit violent acts and

strike fear in the communities. Additionally, survey results have shown the popular opinion to agree on motivating factors inciting juvenile gang affiliation. With this in mind, it is imperative to address the gang involvement of female adolescents.

Christian Worldview Integration

Through a biblical worldview, this research paper incorporates concepts of redemption and rehabilitation pertaining to juveniles. It asserts that adolescents in gangs are not beyond God's forgiveness and should be offered a second chance. As children of God, female gang members are created in His image and likeness; therefore, they are still His people. I strongly believe that these juveniles need to be shown the love and mercy of God. The research I have conducted stems from a passion inside me for influencing and mentoring these adolescents. In my eyes, these juveniles have an immense amount of potential to contribute to society but have invested it in the wrong direction. I believe that rehabilitation is considerably still relevant for juveniles and that hope is not lost. As followers of Christ, I believe that we have a duty to reach the lost and show them the grace of Jesus. Helping these adolescents not only contributes to God's kingdom, but it can forever change the life of the child. I can only hope that my research might educate others and ignite a desire to produce change in their community; These females need mentors and peers who provide encouragement to succeed in life. I believe that it is important to address this problem since these adolescents are the next generation. Influencing juveniles in a positive way can produce a great impact on the future through the economy, the family unit, and the world itself. With God, I believe that Christians have the ability and power to make a difference in these female adolescents.