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Výzkum prvovězněných žen. Sonda do problematiky žen v ČR v posledních cca 10 letech poprvé trestně stíhaných a poprvé vězněných

The Probe into Problems of First Time Prosecuted and Imprisoned Women in the CR in the last 10 years

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Summary

The study „The Probe into Problems of First Time Prosecuted and Imprisoned Women in the CR in the last 10 years“ is a result of research investigations conducted by researchers of ICSP (A. Marešová, P. Kotulan, M. Martinková) during the years 2005 – 2007 in two Czech prisons, Světlá nad Sázavou and Ruzyně. Respondents of these investigations were women – crime offenders for their crimes prosecuted and imprisoned. In selection of women – offenders were preferentially those who committed crime for the first time. 159 imprisoned women were investigated, the court decisions of 109 of them were also investigated.

The findings acquired by conducted investigations in the study, were complemented by a wider review of female crime problems and by information gained on women imprisoned in recent years in the CR. Where it was possible the results of imprisoned women were compared with the results gained from a similar investigation into imprisoned men during 2002-2005.

The probe into imprisoned women problems itself is focused on three basic areas :

- 1) The analysis of court decisions of the investigated women, with special emphasis on the data of women of forty years or over who committed a crime,
- 2) Data analysis of the same women acquired by special case history questionnaire,
- 3) Acquired findings on respondents by the use of other, mostly psychological (non-standard) methods. These methods were searching reasons why a person doesn't commit a crime and a test of the meaning of life.

The probe includes references to findings acquired by other researches of imprisoned women conducted at roughly the same time as the research investigation of ICSP.

Investigation results of selected imprisoned women are complemented by questionnaire results concerning the first time imprisoned women problems filled in by the staff of the prison in Světlá nad Sázavou. They include questions concerning repeatedly imprisoned women and their differences from the first time imprisoned women.

The acquired information is possible to shorten in a following way :

The number of women charged annually in the CR is very low (convicted women are about 10% and imprisoned women about 5%). The majority among imprisoned women is created by first time imprisoned and first time punished women. In our selection there were 42% of first time punished women and the rest 58% was represented by women with a previous conviction not resulting in a prison sentence. Criminal activity of respondents included especially four areas of antisocial behaviour: crimes against property (frauds and thefts), violent crimes – mostly robberies committed with an accomplice, further murders and illegal manipulation with narcotics and psychotropic substances. According to the findings murders were committed in a brutal or sadistic way. Robberies were not considered as street crime - about half of them were premeditated. There were a significant number (225 cases) of serious assaults by investigated women, half of the assaults were committed on women. Victims included even young children, old people, helpless sick people and foreign nationals.

Unconditional punishments were imposed on one fifth of investigated women for committing very serious crimes. The length of imposed unconditional punishments varied between 4 months and 15 years. Quite often courts used their authority to reduce the length of imprisonment for convinced women and almost 40% of the courts sent women to prison with lighter regime.

Not quite 50% of women confessed their criminal activity entirely or partly – it was less than men. Our other finding showed that women who had committed crime were much more than men dependent on attitudes of their near relations and were afraid that their relationships could be harmed by their crime. For that reason they do not confess their criminal activity and ask for mitigating circumstances to be taken into consideration.

Concerning respondents older than 40 years of age they were not very much different in our findings from the rest of first time imprisoned women – courts were even more lenient towards them than younger women, even though their criminal activity was, with respect to consequences, (murders and attempts to murder and serious damage caused by frauds and embezzlements) more serious.

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