

PINK COLLAR CRIME

Ebru Ibish, M.Sc, email: ebru.ibis@eurm.edu.mk

European University Republic of Macedonia, Kliment Ohridski 68, North Macedonia, Skopje

Abstract: The development of technology on the one hand contributed positive benefits of rapid availability of large number of data but on the other hand it made a major contribution to the rise in professional crime such as: organized crime, human trafficking, money laundering, corruption, narco-criminality, white collar crime and pink collar crime. In the new century, there is a tendency towards committing economic crime which covers financial crimes committed by banks, tax evasion, illicit capital heavens, money laundering, crimes committed by public officials (bribery, embezzlement, traffic of influences, etc.). Regarding our area of research we will specifically pay attention to corporate crime which overlaps with white collar crime, pink collar crime, organized crime and state corporate crime. Corporate crime can be defined as a type of white-collar crime committed by individuals within their legitimate occupations, for the benefit of their employing organization and pink collar crime which was popularized during the 1980s and describes embezzlement type crimes that typically were committed by females based on limited opportunity.

Key words: corporate security, economic crime, pink collar crime, white collar crime, corporate crime

Introduction

The globalization, development of technology brought modern life standards but on the other hand, all this things had a negative effects for crime. Here we are talking about abuse of technology for criminal purposes. In numerous studies in criminology, crime is defined as a male phenomenon, but in last decade participation of female offenders in crime is alarming. The role of women in society has changed, in a modern society now women are in a business sector, educational institutions, public administration, health sector etc. In the new century there is a growing potential of professional crimes such as: organized crime, economic crime, corporate crime, white collar crime, pink collar crime, human trafficking, etc. Enormous increase of the number of women's participation in professional crime which were listed above from criminological aspect is certainly connected with different criminogenic factors such as: social-economic criminogenic factors (poverty, unemployment, wealth); political and ideological criminogenic factors and micro group criminogenic factors.

In this article we want to emphasize the participation of women in crime, especially the main characteristics of pink collar crime as well as the main differences with white collar crime. Pink collar crime can be defined as professional type of crime, who have a rising potential especially committed by women who are part of mid level business sectors in positions as: office managers and directors, cashiers and secretaries. It is so important to mention that pink collar crime is not synonym for female offenders, it's not about gender it's about job positions and the most committed crime in this pink positions are check kitting and bookkeeping fraud.

Pink collar crime and many other types of crime who are related to corporate crime started to become a serious risk for illegal earnings, in this context we must mention that unlike

traditional crimes, modern types of crime are much complicated to prevent. It is also important to show the main differences between white collar crime and pink collar crime, in this paper we made a comparative analyze and we showed the main characteristics of both professional types of crime. Unfortunately, not only in pink collar crime but in general criminological researches still cannot define the reason of lower participation of women in crime, thus in this context there are theories that explain the differences that contribute for lower participation of woman in crime.

1. Woman's participation in crime in Republic of North Macedonia

In recent decades changes in social life, fast development of technology, development of society and the women's participation in the labor market directly reflected to the role of women in society. All the things that we mentioned are characteristic for the new century, but especially the technological progress contributes to the rapid growth of professional crime such as: organized crime, white collar crime, pink collar crime, human trafficking, corruption etc.

There have been extensive investigations by sociologists, criminologists, and psychologists of the differences in criminal behavior between men and women. The early literature on this subject, starting with Cesare Lombroso and Sigmund Freud, claimed that female criminals were anomalies, and that they showed biological and psychological traits that were very similar to those of male criminals.⁶⁴ From phenomenological aspect it is so important to mention the participation of women in crime, with target to identify the rate of crime in past ten years in Republic of North Macedonia, there for we are going to show the rate of reported, adult perpetrators of crime by sex.

Years	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male	25.182	29.098	28.518	29.757	30.533	32.937	35.543	24.508	19.343	19.637
Female	1222	1306	1486	1527	1327	1499	1793	1561	1159	945
Total	26.209	30.404	30.004	31.284	31.860	34.436	37.104	26.069	20.502	20.582

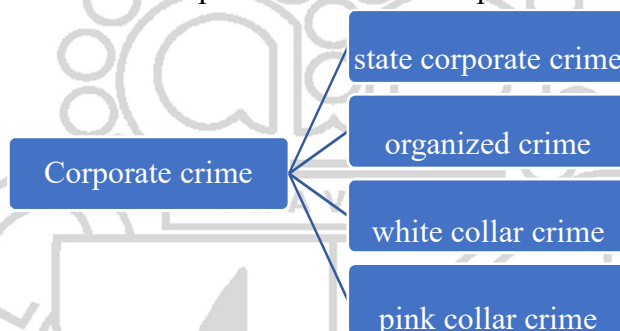
Table 1: Total number of participation of male and female offenders in crime

When it comes to the analyses about the women's participation in crime, not only in North Macedonia but on a global level it is statistically much less unlike males. As shown in the table 1, in last 10 years, 2012, 2013 and 2014 were shown as an unsuccessful years about growing crime rate, given that in 2012 from total reported adults 1327 were female adults, in 2013 from total reported 34.436 adults, 1499 were female and finally the most critical year about crime rate was 2014 with total 37.104 adults and 1793 were female perpetrators. This is a general situation about the reported perpetrators in our country, but when it comes to committing a professional crime by women we are going to pay attention to pink collar crime as extension of white collar crime who is characteristic for female offenders.

⁶⁴ Campaniello, Naida. (2014, November). *Women in crime*. Retrieved May 04, 2019, from website: <https://wol.iza.org/uploads/articles/105/pdfs/women-in-crime.pdf>

2. Pink Collar Crime as a Threat of Corporate Security

The history of corporate crimes dates from 1939. Edwin Sutherland coined the term corporate crime or also well known as a white collar crime. One general area of corporate crimes are those committed directly against consumers, many of which affect their health and safety. Examples include: the sale of unfit goods (such as the drug Thalidomide); the provision of unfit services (trains which crash, aircraft in which we breathe polluted air or suffer illness as a result of inadequate leg room); false/illegal labelling or information (endangering health when household cleaning products are improperly used, for example); and the fraudulent safety testing of products (as in the development of the contraceptive device, the Dalkon Shield).⁶⁵



Corporate crime overlaps with: *state corporate crime* which refers to crimes that result from the relationship between the policies of the state and the policies and practices of commercial corporations; *organized crime* which can be defined as a part of professional crime and covers the activities of criminal organizations; *white collar crime* as a professional and contemporary crime who is committed by members of the upper ruling classes who use their connections in the society for committing criminal acts that bring huge material benefits; and finally we are going to add the forth category of corporate crime well known as *pink collar crime* which is counterpart to the white collar crime and in defining this type of crime, we can use the same definition as in white collar crime with a special emphasis on women perpetrators.

The term pink collar crime was popularized by Dr. Kathleen Daly during the 1980s to describe embezzlement type crimes that typically were committed by females based on limited opportunity. Pink collar crime describes a number of female perpetrators of crime who are low level or mid-level office workers.

Women were more likely to have committed low level crimes such as check kiting and book-keeping fraud from positions of less power, compared to men who had engaged in acts of white-collar crime.⁶⁶ Check kiting is closely related to check fraud and it's committed against banking institutions, involving taking advantage of the float to make use of non-existent funds in a checking or other bank account. Bookkeeping fraud who is committed by female offenders who misreport financial transactions, with target to create false statements.

⁶⁵ Minkes Leonard, Minkes John. *Corporate and white collar crime*. London: Sage publications, page 19.

⁶⁶ <https://pinkcollarcrime.com/what-is-pink-collar-crime>

In this context, there may be a misunderstanding about the position of women perpetrators in white collar crime and pink collar crime. Can women be a white collar criminal? The answer is yes, it's not about gender, but it's about position, the same situation is with male perpetrators, man can be a pink collar criminal too, but in this "pink positions" statistically there are more women than man. In what kind of corporations can be find pink collar criminals? Pink collar criminal can be the managers of companies, bookkeepers, office managers, secretaries, cashiers etc. We will once again emphasize that pink collar crime is not a synonym only for female offenders, it's about position in work and in pink collar crime we have a criminal acts who are committed by people which are most common office workers. To determine the difference of pink collar crime from white collar crime we can compare the main characteristics of these two kind of growing modern crimes.

	Pink collar crime	White collar crime
1	Statistically committed more by female offenders	Statistically committed more by male offenders
2	Not popular background in business world and in politics	Popular persons who are owners, directors or manager of big companies as well as politicians
3	Low level crimes	High level crimes
4	Low work positions	High and renowned work positions
5	Low material benefit	Enormous material benefit
6	Characteristic criminal acts: check kitting, bookkeeping fraud	Characteristic criminal acts: impending trade; false submission of facts; infringement of patent trademarks and copyrights; financial fraud

Table 2: Comparative analyze between pink collar crime and white collar crime

Conclusion

Development of society means fast development of technology or well known as a century of digitalization. This brings new forms of crime, development of crime and raising the number of crime as well. Enormous rising number of types of economic crime (corporate crime) is alarming. *First*, crime cannot be define anymore as a male thing, participation of female perpetrators in crime, compare to the male perpetrators is much less, but taking into account the position and the role of women in society, there are different motives and reasons of committing crime by female offenders; *second*, in last century there is a huge number of women who are part of the labor market, this means that there are already women in different work positions as managers of companies, collaborators in public and private institutions, secretaries, directors etc. and these work positions are favorable for committing corporate crimes and *third* the most

complicated thing in professional crimes are detection of the perpetrator and prevention as well.

Corporate crime in many theories is defined as a crime that overlaps with state corporate crime, organized crime and white collar crime, but we also add the pink collar crime too as a fourth category. The reason behind this is the rising number of “pink collar criminals” which can be both man and women. We must mention that there are a huge differences between pink collar and white collar crime, the name “pink” refers to low level job positions. It is not connected to gender, it is connected to positions in workplace. Pink collar criminals mostly are women who work in small companies and have low work position and low salaries. Characteristic criminal acts for this crime are: check kitting and bookkeeping fraud, unlike in white collar crime which covers: impending trade, false submission of facts and many other serious acts which contribute huge illegal material benefits.

References

- [1] Campaniello, Naida. (2014, November). *Women in crime*. from website: <https://wol.iza.org>
- [2] Minkes Leonard, Minkes John. (2008). *Corporate and white collar crime*. London: Sage publications
- [3] Paxton, Kelly. (2019, May). *What is Pink Collar Crime?*. From website <https://pinkcollarcrime.com>