

Most of Europe's most-wanted criminals are women

22nd October, 2019



The majority of the most-wanted fugitives in Europe are women. Europe's crime agency Europol has revealed a list of 21 criminals who are on the run from the authorities.

Eighteen of these are women. The wanted suspects have been accused of a range of charges including murder, human and drug trafficking and robbery. The most-wanted list was released as part of Europol's "Crime has no gender" campaign. A spokeswoman said: "People think that usually these crimes are not being committed by women, but they are, and they are equally as serious as those committed by men." However, a crime expert told the BBC that: "Some women do commit serious crimes. They do so far less frequently than men."

The Europol campaign hopes to raise awareness, "that women are just as likely to commit violent crimes as men." A spokeswoman said: "Even though the discourse is often around male fugitives, women can be just as bad." The campaign's website asks visitors the question: "Are women equally as capable of committing serious crimes as men?" It then answers that very question by stating: "The female fugitives featured on Europe's Most Wanted website prove that they are [capable]. The criminals - of both genders - in this new campaign by EU law enforcement are all wanted for grave offenses like murder, drug trafficking, fraud, theft and trafficking in human beings."

Sources: telegraph.co.uk / mirror.co.uk / usatoday.com

Writing

Men and women are equally capable of committing serious crimes. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

majority / fugitives / crime agency / on the run / robbery / gender / serious / expert / campaign / awareness / discourse / website / criminals / law enforcement / trafficking

True / False

- a) Eighteen of Europe's 21 most-wanted criminals are women. T / F
- b) Some of the women are charged with human trafficking and murder. T / F
- c) The article says people rarely think women commit serious crimes. T / F
- d) A crime expert said women commit crimes more frequently than men. T / F
- e) Europol says men are far more likely to commit crime. T / F
- f) Europol said most conversation about crime is about male criminals. T / F
- g) Interpol said women are incapable of committing most serious crimes. T / F
- h) Interpol has a website campaign focusing solely on female criminals. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. majority | a. assortment |
| 2. revealed | b. embezzlement |
| 3. range | c. consciousness |
| 4. committed | d. disclosed |
| 5. expert | e. sexes |
| 6. awareness | f. demonstrate |
| 7. fugitives | g. lion's share |
| 8. prove | h. carried out |
| 9. genders | i. escapees |
| 10. fraud | j. specialist |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Why do you think the majority of the most-wanted are women?
- b) What would it be like to be on the run?
- c) What more can the police do to catch the suspects?
- d) What is crime like in your country?
- e) Do men and women commit different crimes in your country?
- f) Do you think 'crime has no gender'?
- g) What do you think of Europol and Interpol?
- h) Why do people commit crimes?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The majority of the most-wanted | a. genders |
| 2. criminals who are on | b. frequently than men |
| 3. a range of charges | c. capable |
| 4. they are equally | d. in human beings |
| 5. They do so far less | e. the run |
| 6. raise | f. be just as bad |
| 7. women can | g. fugitives in Europe |
| 8. women equally as | h. as serious |
| 9. both | i. awareness |
| 10. trafficking | j. including murder |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Have you ever committed a crime?
- Why are most criminals thought of as being men?
- Are women equally as capable of committing serious crimes as men?
- What would you do if you saw someone on the most-wanted list?
- What do you think of criminals?
- How can we reduce crime?
- What questions would you like to ask Europol?

Spelling

- The imtryaoj of
- rveeelad a list of 21 criminals
- on the run from the suthretiaio
- drug ifitarnfkqc and robbery
- a crime pxerte
- they do so far less fqyelnuRET
- hopes to raise nerwaeass
- male gifvtiues
- capable of iocnigtmtm serious crimes
- ropve that they are
- by EU law monnfeetcre
- grave efoesnsf like murder

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. h	5. j
6. c	7. i	8. f	9. e	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Shoplifting

You think shoplifting is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least punishable of these (and why): pickpocketing, speeding or vandalism.

Role B – Pickpocketing

You think pickpocketing is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least punishable of these (and why): shoplifting, speeding or vandalism.

Role C – Speeding

You think speeding is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least punishable of these (and why): pickpocketing, shoplifting or vandalism.

Role D – Vandalism

You think vandalism is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least punishable of these (and why): pickpocketing, speeding or shoplifting.

Speaking – Crimes

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst crimes at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| • Possession of cannabis | • Shoplifting |
| • Vandalism | • Pickpocketing |
| • Hate speech | • Speeding |
| • Train fare evasion | • Assault |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.