1981

Correspondence Related to the Formation of the Division on Women in Crime

Phyllis Jo Baunach
Nanci Koser Wilson

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September 3, 1981

Phyllis Jo Baunach, Ph.D.
National Institute of Justice
Room 867
633 Indiana Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Colleague,

As you may know, over the past few years there has been an increasing interest among ASC members in the formation of a division on women and crime. This division would bring together ASC members of both sexes interested in discussing issues related to women of all ages as professionals, victims and offenders in the criminal justice system. In forming this division, we are not attempting to isolate or segregate the study of issues about women from the study of those about men. Rather, we want to focus on the importance of issues related to women and to facilitate a communication link and resource network among those concerned about the study of women and crime.

In order to develop a division, ASC requires that at least 3% of the ASC membership express an interest in participating in this division once it is formed. Therefore, enclosed is a sheet requesting you to provide your name, address and signature as a supporter of this division.

Once we have received these names, they will be forwarded to ASC for Board approval. In addition, we will file a formal petition requesting the creation of the division. We would like to provide this information to the ASC Board members by the end of October so that they may discuss the creation of this division during their annual meeting in November.

Therefore, please fill out the attached sheet and return it to Phyllis Jo Baunach at the above address NO LATER THAN October 15, 1981.

Because of the importance of issues related to women and crime, we urge you to join with us and thank you on behalf of the Caucus for Women's Issues in ASC for your support of the creation of the division on women and crime.

If you have any questions, please call Phyllis Jo Baunach at 202/724-2956.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Nanci Koser Wilson, Ph.D.
Co-Chair of the Caucus for Women's Issues

Phyllis Jo Baunach, Ph.D.
Co-Chair of the Caucus for Women's Issues
To: Executive Board American Society of Criminology

I, the undersigned, hereby state my wish to participate in the proposed Division on International Criminology. As an ASC member in good standing, I will accept membership in that division.

Signature __________________________ Date ________________

Type or print the following:

Name ______________________________

Institutional affiliation if appropriate ______________________________

Street Address __________________________

City, State or Country, Zip if appropriate __________________________
Members of the Steering Committee Women in ASC

(*Co-chairs)

1. Phyllis Jo Baunach*  
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Phyllis Jo Baunach, Ph.D.

Ft. Washington, Maryland 20744

Dr. Joseph Scott, Executive Secretary
American Society of Criminology
1314 Kinnear Road
Columbus, Ohio 43212

Dear Dr. Scott,

Enclosed is the formal statement petitioning the Board of Directors for the formal establishment of the Division on Women and Crime. Attached are signed statements in support of the creation of this Division. To my knowledge, these statements, totalling roughly 3% of the ASC membership in good standing, are all active, professional members.

In addition, enclosed is a copy of the letter of support sent to all interested ASC members along with a blank copy of the statement. Please note that due to a typographical error, the statement inadvertently read "Division on International Criminology" instead of "Division on Women and Crime". The error was discovered only after the letters had been sent out. However, immediately upon discovering the error I called Sarah Hall who assured me that this clerical error could be corrected simply by replacing the incorrect division title with the correct one. I received many calls from potential supporters and conveyed this information. Consequently, on the signed statements, the correct division title had been written in. In addition, several people noted the error on the statement.

There was obviously no intention to deceive would-be supporters which is evidenced by the statements made in the cover letter and the fact that my name and address appear on the statement; I have in no way been affiliated with the Division on International Criminology. I mention this error primarily to assure you that the support provided herein is for a Division on Women and Crime. Those people who signed the statement know they were signing a statement of support for the Division on Women and Crime.

I hope that this information is sufficient to enable the Board to act upon this request for Division status. Please let me know if additional information is required and future steps in the procedures.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Jo Baunach, Ph.D.
Co-Chair of the Caucus for Women's Issues

cc: Nanci Koser Wilson, Ph.D.
PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIVISION ON WOMEN AND CRIME

TO: Executive Board
American Society of Criminology
1314 Kinnear Road
Columbus Ohio 43212

FROM: Phyllis Jo Baunach, Ph.D. and Nanci Koser Wilson, Ph.D., Co-Chairpersons, of the Caucus for Women's Issues

DATE: October 20, 1981

1. The proposed name for a new division within the American Society of Criminology is the "Division on Women and Crime: A Division of the American Society of Criminology."

2. The purpose of the Division on Women and Crime is to bring together ASC members of both sexes interested in discussing issues related to women of all ages as professionals, victims and offenders in the criminal justice system. In forming this division, we are not attempting to isolate or segregate the study of issues about women from the study of issues about men; rather, we want to focus on the importance of issues related to women and to facilitate a communication link and resource network among those concerned about the study of women and crime.

3. For the following reasons, this proposal constitutes "an active and functionally unitary interest of a group of members":

a) The creation by the American Society of Criminology of the Caucus for Women's Issues indicates the Society's recognition, interest in and appreciation of the importance of understanding issues related to women and crime to further our knowledge, understanding and means of handling problems confronting these traditionally neglected people in the criminal justice system.

b) Within recent years, ASC Annual Meetings have included substantial numbers of panels and roundtable discussions about topics related to issues on women and crime. Most recently, this increasing interest and recognition of women's issues was evidenced by the publication of the Sage Research Progress Series in Criminology volume solely devoted to papers on women and crime.

c) Criminologists sharing theoretical and practical interests on women and crime may obtain more reliable and precise understanding about the issues that concern them by exchanging experiences and findings with other interested persons throughout the country. The accumulation of this knowledge can be accelerated through communication about and coordination of research across the country. Development of a network of academicians, researchers and practitioners interested in issues on women and crime will strengthen the ability to understand and handle problems effectively.

d) The advantages suggested herein for the American Society of Criminology and its membership can be gained more effectively with the establishment of an especially organized platform for expressing and cultivating the growing recog-
nition of the importance of issues on women and crime. In this way, the ASC will provide another important element in qualitatively improving the viability of national collaboration and the reliability of research in this area.

4. As the elected Co-Chairpersons for the Caucus for Women's Issues, we speak for the petitioners and are authorized to respond to subsequent communications for our terms of office which end with the Annual Meeting. Thereafter, subsequent Chairpersons will assume this function.

5. Attached please find the statements and addresses of more than 3% of the ASC members in good standing who join in this petition.

6] After approval of this Division by the ASC Executive Board, the Division shall draw up rules of procedure within the framework of the Society's By-Laws, shall establish the nature of its officers and their method of election, and otherwise specify rules of governance. The relevant documents will be filed with the Executive Board. Further, the requirements of Sections 7 and 8 of the "Resolution for the Establishment of Divisions in the American Society of Criminology" will be observed.

Attachments