

Original Scientific Paper
UDC: 351.74:929 КРЕЈЧИК А.
DOI: 10.5937/zrffp55-57504

ANNA KREJČÍK: HUMANITARIAN, SOCIAL WORKER, AND THE FIRST WOMAN ASSIGNED TO POLICE DUTIES IN THE KINGDOM OF SERBS, CROATS, AND SLOVENES

Nevenka D. KNEŽEVIĆ LUKIĆ¹

University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies
Belgrade (Serbia)

¹ nevenka.kl@kpu.edu.rs;  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2499-6450>

Received: March 14, 2025
Accepted: September 25, 2025

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Keywords:
female police
trustee;
prevention of female
juvenile crime;
women's
humanitarian
societies;
history of social
work;
Kingdom of
Serbs, Croats, and
Slovenes.

Abstract. The involvement of women in police work was a pioneering initiative in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (SCS). It was initiated by women's humanitarian societies under the umbrella of the National Women's Alliance of the Kingdom of SCS. Realizing the importance of preventive work in suppressing juvenile crime, a special section was formed within the Alliance, which grew into the Society for the Protection of Girls (1924). This organization aimed to assist and protect neglected children, war orphans, and female youth frequently at risk of becoming victims of crime.

In 1923, the Minister of the Interior of the Kingdom of SCS appointed Anna Krejčík (1870–1944) as a police trustee for the protection and rescue of female youth, serving with the police authorities of the Belgrade City Administration. Her primary responsibility was to help suppress juvenile delinquency among girls through active participation in prevention efforts and the police treatment of minors. This paper explores the role and contribution of women in police work, as shown through the life and work of Anna Krejčík, a social worker, humanitarian activist, and the first woman to serve in a police role in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Introduction

In the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (SCS), a war-torn country with great material and human losses, a large number of children were left without parental care. As the most vulnerable segment of the population, many became victims of human trafficking or turned to crime. The importance and role of prevention in tackling juvenile delinquency, widely recognized abroad, were also acknowledged by local women's humanitarian associations, which had a long tradition of charitable work in the field of social welfare. Numerous women's associations united into the National Women's Alliance of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (hereinafter the Alliance), directing their humanitarian efforts toward caring for the most vulnerable (Kecman, 1978, pp. 169–170; Božinović, 1996, pp. 104–105).² A special section for the protection of young girls was formed within the Alliance, which later became an independent humanitarian organization called the Society for the Protection of Girls (hereinafter the Society).³ The Society's activists were engaged as trustees to assist state authorities in the protection and care of female children and youth without parental care.

The positive experiences of other countries regarding the involvement of women in police work, especially in dealing with women and juvenile offenders, encouraged the Alliance to submit a proposal to the Ministry of the Interior of the Kingdom of SCS for the inclusion of women in policing. The police would benefit from knowledge and experience of social work in treating the most sensitive categories of society. In cooperation with the Ministries of the Interior and Social Policy, women's humanitarian associations sought to actively contribute

² The Alliance was founded in Belgrade in 1919, on the initiative of the Serbian National Women's Alliance (1906–1919). By the end of 1921, it included 205 women's societies with approximately 50,000 members. It served as the representative body for the majority of women's organizations in the country, which remained fully autonomous and operated independently. However, it did not include associations founded on religious principles, which made up about one-third of all women's civil societies.

³ Special rules were adopted in 1924 to govern the work of the Society for the Protection of Girls (ИАБ, 1119, К72 84 6.3.5.5). Правила Друштва Заштита девојака [Brochure].

to the prevention and suppression of juvenile delinquency through preventive work, particularly among female children and youth, as the most at-risk category.

The first step toward the inclusion of women in the police force of the Kingdom of SCS was taken, and significant progress made toward the professional emancipation of women with the appointment of Anna Krejčik, a women's humanitarian society activist, as a police trustee for the protection of girls.

Anna Krejčik: Portrait of a Humanitarian and Social Worker

Anna Krejčik was born on September 1, 1870 in Cetno, Mladá Boleslav (now the Czech Republic).⁴ She came to Sarajevo as a child, and after marrying in 1892, she converted to Eastern Orthodox Christianity and moved to Belgrade (Луковић, 1930, p. 2). Krejčik dedicated her life to humanitarian work under the auspices of women's societies. The Kingdom's most influential women's societies formed the Serbian National Women's Alliance in October 1906 (Столић, 2018, p. 215).⁵ By joining the International Women's Council (IWC, 1888) in 1911 and the International Alliance for Women's Suffrage (IAWS, 1902) in 1909, the Serbian Alliance became part of the international women's movement (Столић, 2018, pp. 216–217; Столић, 2019, pp. 159–162).⁶

Krejčik was a member of *Kolo srpskih sestara* (the Circle of Serbian Sisters, hereinafter referred to as the Circle), the largest women's humanitarian society in the Kingdom of Serbia before the First World War. The Circle was founded in Belgrade in June 1903 as a patriotic society aimed at providing material aid and spiritual support to Serbs who lived in the Ottoman Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (Савић, 2009, p. 120). In the early 20th century, the Circle focused its efforts on strengthening the Serbian national identity and building the national state; after the end of the First World War, it helped to promote the idea of Yugoslav spiritual unity within the Kingdom of SCS (Dimić, 1994, p. 193). The Circle's activities also aimed to enhance cooperation with similar associations abroad (Викторовић, 2011, p. 210).⁷

⁴ Her father's name was Josif Polifka, and her mother's Anna Heinz (ИАБ, Картотека житеља града Београда и Земунa, retrieved August 20, 2024, from <https://digitalni.arhiv-beograda.org/login.php>).

⁵ The most impactful associations included the Serbian-Jewish Society (1874–1939), the Belgrade Women's Society (1875–1941), the Princess Ljubica Committee (1899–1942), the Mother's Association (1904–1941), and the Circle of Serbian Sisters (1903–1942).

⁶ Both international organizations promoted anti-war and anti-militaristic ideas, which led to the founding of the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace in The Hague in 1915, followed by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in 1919.

⁷ Especially with those in Poland, Bulgaria, and Czechoslovakia. After the Great War, as ideas of pan-Slavic rapprochement and collaboration in Europe strengthened, the Circle particularly fostered a relationship with the Prague-based Slavic Women's Alliance (Jednota

Members of the Circle often organized campaigns to raise money, goods, food, and medical supplies for the most vulnerable segments of the population (Викторовић, 2011, pp. 207–208).⁸ They were also very active in the areas of culture and education, organizing courses to educate women, opening crafts schools, and providing training for nurses, which soon proved purposeful and necessary. During the 1912–1918 wars, members of the Circle volunteered en masse as war nurses (Милановић, 2015, p. 35).

From the very establishment of the Circle, Anna Krejčík was among its most active members, both in Serbia and abroad (Д. М. III., 1915, March 11, pp. 1–3). She lived in America from 1909 to 1912 and was appointed manager of the Serbian House in New York (Аноним, 1913, October 6, p. 517; Луковић, 1930, p. 2).⁹ Immediately after the outbreak of the Balkan Wars (1912–1913), Krejčík initiated the establishment of the Committee of Serbian Women in America under the auspices of the Serbian Red Cross, with the aim of collecting aid for wounded Serbian soldiers and the families of those killed in the wars (Д. М. III., 1915, March 11, pp. 1–3). In 1912, she personally brought the collected aid from America to Serbia and put herself at the disposal of the Ministry of War, which assigned her to serve as a nurse on the battlefield. She worked at the Circle's hospital from December 15, 1912, to May 5, 1913 (Луковић, 1930, p. 2).¹⁰ After the Balkan Wars ended in 1913, she returned to America and continued her work at the Serbian House (Д. М. III., 1915, March 11, pp. 1–3; 3., 1929, July 31, p. 4).

slovanských žen, Czech). In 1939, it demonstrated solidarity with Czech refugees by providing material aid and shelter at the Circle of Serbian Sisters' Home. After Germany annexed the Sudetenland region, the Czech ambassador in Belgrade received 150,000 Yugoslavian dinars in aid from the Circle to support Czech refugees.

⁸ As an illustration, a Center for the Disabled was established in 1919; in 1921, it was transformed into the Vocational School for the Disabled. The Circle managed numerous funds to help the vulnerable (Serbian Aid Fund, Cleveland Community from Ohio, Serbian Emergency Aid Community from Philadelphia). By 1927, the funds collected from American charities amounted to 7,000,000 Yugoslavian dinars. They were used to support children, the elderly, the disabled, and the wards of the Circle Home, as well as to build homes for orphans, etc.

⁹ The Serbian House in New York was endowed by Helen Hartley Jenkins (1860–1934), a prominent benefactor of the American Red Cross. In 1909, she founded the Slavonic Immigrant Home and donated two furnished buildings to accommodate Serbian immigrant organizations. She also founded the Serbian-American Ecclesiastical Fund to aid Serbian schools and churches.

¹⁰ The hospital director, surgeon Dr. Jan Levit (Hořice, Czech Republic, 1884–Oświęcim, Auschwitz, Poland, 1944), a Czech by birth, was a close associate of hers. His father, Dr. Eugen Levit, served as a medical major in the Serbian army during the First Serbian-Turkish War and was awarded the Order of the Cross of Takovo and the Order of the Serbian Red Cross (Аноним, 1913, January 27, p. 22; Аноним, 1913, February 3, p. 46).

Anna Krejčik: Humanitarian, Social Worker, and the First Woman Assigned to Police Duties in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes



Figure 1. Anna Krejčik (no. 6) with Dr. Jan Levit at the Circle of Serbian Sisters Hospital. Source: Аноним, 1913, January 27, p. 22

During the First World War, Anna Krejčik took part in American humanitarian missions. In November 1914, she came to Serbia as a member of a humanitarian medical mission of the Czechoslovak-American Committee for Aid to Serbia in the Great War, organized by John Frothingham and his wife (Петровић, 2017, pp. 211–216; Столић, 2021, p. 345).¹¹ Anna Krejčik worked as a nurse at military hospitals (Д. М. Ш., 1915, March 11, pp. 1–3; 3., 1929, July 31, p. 4).¹² While caring for the wounded and sick, she contracted spotted typhus but survived (Аноним, 1915, March 1, p. 2).

Anna Krejčik joined Dr. Edward Ryan's American mission on June 29, 1915; during this mission, she encountered enemy soldiers at the military hospital in

¹¹ Industrialist John Frothingham (1879–1935) was one of America's most significant benefactors to Serbia. Together with his wife, he organized a network to collect aid in the form of food, money, and medical supplies. His wife, Helen Losanitch-Frothingham (Jelena Lozanić-Frothingham, 1885–1972), was a feminist, a nurse during the Balkan Wars, secretary of the Serbian National Women's Alliance (SNWA), and served as the Serbian Red Cross representative in the United States during the Great War. It is estimated that the aid Frothingham provided to Serbia during the war was equivalent to two to three and a half times the annual state budget of the Kingdom of Serbia.

¹² Military hospitals in Ferizaj (now Uroševac, Serbia) and Gevgelia (now Đevdelia, North Macedonia). She was one of the people who initiated the establishment of a hospital in Skopje (North Macedonia).

Belgrade (Луковић, 1930, p. 2; Петровић, 2017, pp. 206–208).¹³ When the central national kitchen opened in Belgrade in August 1916, the military authorities entrusted her with its operation (Anonim, 1916, August 8, p. 2).¹⁴ She was arrested on August 16, 1916, and interned at the Austro-Hungarian camp in Nezider (now Neusiedl, Austria) (Луковић, 1930, p. 2). When the First World War ended, Krejčík returned to Belgrade, where she volunteered at a military hospital until the end of 1919 (3., 1929, July 31, p. 4).

Journey from Social Work to Crime Fighting

In the period after the First World War, Anna Krejčík continued her life and activities amid changed socio-political circumstances in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, which included the territory of the former Kingdom of Serbia and parts of the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. During the Balkan Wars and the First World War, the Kingdom of Serbia suffered enormous material and human losses (Јагодић, 2015, p. 24).¹⁵ The devastation caused by the war affected children most severely (Влајић, 1925, p. 169).¹⁶ The Ministry of Social Policy was responsible for protecting children and youth through its regional and local authorities, as well as through institutions for child and youth protection within self-governing units. For this, it relied on the selfless cooperation and support of humanitarian societies. Trustees were selected from among individuals with a strong inclination to work with children and youth and served as voluntary local protection officials, receiving no monetary compensation for their work (Закон о заштити деце и младежи, 1922).¹⁷ Anna Krejčík was appointed trustee of a local state child protection board (Аноним, 1919, October 11, p. 2).

Protection was provided to very few children due to the state's insufficient financial capacity; in practice, only a fraction of funding came from the state budget,

¹³ Dr. Edward Ryan (1883–1923) arrived in Belgrade on October 16, 1914, as part of a medical mission sent by the American Red Cross. The mission was equipped with medical supplies provided by Helen Hartley Jenkins, in collaboration with Mihajlo Pupin. During the first occupation of Belgrade, Dr. Ryan assumed responsibility for all the hospitals in the city (five hospitals spread across 40 buildings). He was later taken as a prisoner of war by Austro-Hungarian forces. Dr. Ryan remained in Belgrade until the end of 1915.

¹⁴ The orphanage, old people's home, and schools in Belgrade prepared daily meals for two thousand of the most vulnerable individuals.

¹⁵ With 1,247,435 war casualties, it is estimated that Serbia lost nearly one-third of its total population.

¹⁶ It is estimated that there were 300,000 neglected children in war-ravaged areas, including 200,000 war orphans.

¹⁷ *Службене новине КСХС*, IV (161), pp. 1–4.

while most support came from humanitarian aid secured by charitable societies and foreign missions, subject to local circumstances (Влајић, 1925, p. 170).¹⁸

In the new state, the Circle continued its activities as a member of the national union of women's organizations and humanitarian societies, which was restructured (Савић, 2009, p. 124).¹⁹ The initiative to integrate all women's organizations into a single union within the Kingdom came from the Serbian National Women's Alliance, leading to the establishment of the Alliance in Belgrade in September 1919 (Димић, 1920, p. 290; Božinović, 1996, pp. 104–105).²⁰ The unification of women's societies across the Kingdom, which had previously operated on opposing sides before the First World War and differed in ethnic composition, religious affiliation, cultural tradition, and social status, into a national umbrella organization was made possible by their shared goals: the fight for peace, preservation of the family, alleviation of war consequences, and assistance to and care for the most vulnerable populations (Božinović, 1996, p. 104).

The Alliance focused its efforts on achieving the highest ideals of humane, ethical, cultural, feminist, hygienic, social, economic, and patriotic work (Димић, 1920, pp. 303–307; Božinović, 1996, p. 105). It formed specialized sections to pursue individual objectives. Care for female children and youth at risk of moral suffering was entrusted to the Morality Section, which took young girls into custody and examined the causes of their socially unacceptable behavior, with the aim of protecting them through preventive action.²¹

In 1921, the Belgrade office in charge of state protection of children and youth issued an appeal to the Alliance to afford special attention to female children aged 12 to 16 (Јанковић, 1921, p. 368). In response, the Alliance established the Fund

¹⁸ Just after the end of the Great War, a total of 8,000 children were in state custody. By 1925, that number had dropped to 4,000, of whom only 2,370 were placed in orphanages. Budget cuts led to the closure of regional and local protective institutions, along with a gradual reduction in the number of children's shelters. At the end of the war, there were 56 orphanages; by 1922, the number had decreased to 45, and by 1924, to 39, reflecting a continuing downward trend.

¹⁹ The Circle founded its Home for the Disabled (1919–1921), which included a crafts school, and continued to assist those in need, especially war orphans and widows. Its activities aimed to bring the peoples of the newly unified Kingdom closer together, while maintaining national awareness and supporting all vulnerable groups both morally and materially. The first step in youth education was the establishment of a boarding school in Belgrade in 1922. Located on Frankopanska Street (now Resavska Street), in the Circle's own building, the school was designed to accommodate girls from across the country, regardless of religious or ethnic background.

²⁰ The decision to establish the Alliance was made at its first congress, held in Belgrade from September 21 to 23, 1919, by representatives of fifty registered women's societies and branches operating in the Kingdom. Nearly two hundred societies took part in the first assembly of the Alliance, held in Zagreb on June 30, 1920.

²¹ At its plenary session held from October 31 to November 1, 1923, the Board of Directors of the Alliance formally requested that the government retain the Ministry of Social Policy and to allow women to work within it (Аноним, 1923, p. 436–437).

for the Protection of Abandoned Female Children in 1922. The Committee for the Protection of Girls, formed on May 15, 1923, was tasked with guardianship of abandoned female children, acting as the Morality Section of the Alliance (Аноним, 1924, March 24, p. 3).²²

In June 1924, the section evolved into an independent women's humanitarian society within the Alliance, based in Belgrade and registered as the Society for the Protection of Girls (Аноним, 1925, October 15, p. 274). A book of rules was adopted to define the primary duties and methods of operation of the Society (Правила друштва Заштита девојака, 1929, p. 3).²³ The Society for the Protection of Girls was established to provide moral, physical, and material support to neglected female children and youth aged 7–21 years, regardless of ethnic or religious affiliation. Its primary aim was to establish social welfare institutions, one of which was “Guardianship” (Serbian: *Starateljstvo*), where girls were educated, received vocational training, and were employed. Intensive efforts were made to build various types of homes (shelters for short- and long-term stays, agricultural homes, households, apprentice homes, repair shops, lodgings, etc.).

The Society for the Protection of Girls aimed to expand its activities by establishing committees throughout the country. Its work included maintaining contact with girls' biological families, where applicable, as well as with foster families. The Society collaborated with other organizations engaged in similar work and having similar goals, and it maintained close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy and other relevant ministries.²⁴

Police Trustee for the Protection of Girls—the First Woman Assigned to Police Duties in the Kingdom of SCS

Preventive work in addressing juvenile delinquency among girls and young women, widely practiced abroad, influenced the Alliance to advocate for women's involvement in police work. Considering that the circumstances led many people, including women and youth, to break the law, women believed that their engagement in the police force should primarily be based on social work and activism. There was a strong belief that women, through preventive work with juvenile delinquents, could help reduce crime and thereby make a significant contribution to society: “A woman would play an important role in this task, because by saving children from arrest and imprisonment, she would also save society” (Главинић

²² As a symbolic gesture, the Alliance dedicated the Fund for the Protection of Abandoned Female Children to Queen Marija Karadorđević as a wedding gift.

²³ ИАБ-1119-К 72; 84 6. 3. 5. 5.

²⁴ ИАБ-1119-К 72; 84 6. 3. 5. 5. The Society for the Protection of Girls also collaborated with the Ministries of Public Health, Justice, Education, Trade, the Interior, Agriculture, and Water.

Кнез-Милојковић, са. 1941).²⁵ It was emphasized that women would have a comparative advantage over men in working with minors and other women, as they were more likely to gain trust and establish connections with members of the juvenile population, particularly young girls who were victims of sexual offenses and human trafficking. This was because “women approach juvenile delinquents with much more understanding and tenderness, and they are able to reach their soul more easily than men” (Главинић Кнез-Милојковић, са. 1941).

The treatment of juvenile offenders and the protection of minors from prostitution were the responsibility of the Department for Child Protection, which operated within the Department of Public Security of the Ministry of the Interior (Уредба о устројству Министарства унутрашњих послова КСХС, РБр. 16292/19 од 8. 05. 1919).²⁶

In response to a request from the Alliance, and by Order of the Minister of the Interior, the head of the Department of Public Security issued a decision on June 19, 1923, appointing Anna Krejčík as police trustee for the protection and rescue of female youth within the Administration of the City of Belgrade.²⁷

Krejčík's main task was to interrogate detained young girls in detail before sentencing, consider their life circumstances and the context in which the offence was committed, assess their predisposition for criminal behavior or socially unacceptable conduct, predict possible consequences, and evaluate the likely effects of correctional measures on their future lives. Based on Krejčík's assessment, the police chief would then propose further treatment, which could take one of two directions: the minors could be spared punishment and immediately handed over to the care of the Alliance, or they could be sent to a reformatory for forced re-education. The trustee was also required to maintain constant contact with the commissariats of the steamboat and river police to protect minors arriving from the interior from human traffickers (Лазић, 1923).

The Role of the Police Trustee in the Prevention of Crime among Underage Girls

There were two key problems that Anna Krejčík recognized as the police trustee for the protection and rescue of girls. One of them was the treatment of girls, the conditions in the premises they stayed in while detained, and the way they spent time during police detention. Poor hygienic conditions and the fact that

²⁵ ИАБ-1119 N53 3.3.2 Главинић-Кнез Милојковић, Д. (са. 1941). Нове улоге жене у данашњем друштву. Потреба увођења женске социјалне полиције у Југославији.

²⁶ *Службене новине КСХС*, I (47), pp. 2–3.

²⁷ ИАБ-1119-53 3.3.2. Лазић, Ж. (1923, Јун 19). Допис начелника Одељења јавне безбедности Министарства унутрашњих дела КСХС, Управи Народног женског савеза КСХС.

detainees were incarcerated for first-time offenses, often stemming from difficult life circumstances, and that they did not belong to the category of individuals considered born with a predisposition for crime, staying in detention with older female perpetrators had a very bad effect on young girls, who spent most of their detention time without doing any work or having any other responsibilities. This negatively affected their moral condition.

According to Krejčík, employing girls during detention would enable them to earn some money, which would improve the nutrition and hygienic conditions within the detention facility. She recommended that detainees perform jobs for which no special professional training was necessary. Female detainees would be employed under the supervision of women qualified for professional and pedagogical work. Girls would be supervised at all times, especially when performing tasks requiring the use of various tools, due to the risk of misuse and the potential danger of causing injuries and endangering their own or other detainees' lives. In addition to combined benefits for detainees and the state, work engagement would contribute to the acquisition of skills and the development of work habits, which would enable easier adaptation to the community after leaving detention.

After mandatory eight-hour work, female detainees would attend lectures on basic education, religion, ethics, and other fields in accordance with their intellectual abilities and inclinations. As the proposed reform required funding and investment, its implementation remained limited in scope (Крејчик, 1923а).²⁹

Another problem Krejčík described in her report concerned the benefits of sending minors to reformatories for forced re-education (Крејчик са. 1923б).³⁰ She presented a scheme for working with minors based on the principle of prevention and how this would be beneficial. Instead of the outdated system of punishment, juveniles were to be given corrective measures depending on the crime committed and according to the trustee's evaluation. The care and guardianship of girls who had committed minor crimes was taken over by the Alliance through the Society for the Protection of Girls. Following interrogation, minors who had committed more serious crimes were sent to reformatories for forced re-education. The greatest threat to society did not come from the occasional offenders but from the recidivists. Foreign practice showed that reformatories were of great benefit (Крејчик, са. 1923б).³¹

Previous experiences had shown that in order to prevent criminal conduct among female youth, it was necessary to change both individual and wider social circumstances, of which the latter bore more weight. Heredity was believed to be the main cause of criminal conduct, but it was present in a limited number of

²⁹ For example, building new protective fences, procuring basic resources for the work of female detainees, and similar measures.

³⁰ ИАБ-1119-N53 3.3.2. (Крејчик, 1923б). *Користи од упућивања малолетница у заводе за присилно васпитање.*

³¹ According to data from England, which was ahead of other countries in this regard, juvenile crime rates were reduced by 70% following the establishment of reformatories.

children and resolved through treatment and adequate medical control and care of children from birth. The social environment, the minor's family in particular, was believed to be the key factor affecting them; therefore, "offenses committed by minors should almost always be attributed to the environment" (Крејчик, ca. 19236).

Krejčík pointed out that the most critical factors that led to the emergence of juvenile delinquency and increased the propensity of juveniles towards crime and socially unacceptable behavior were lack of education, inadequate parental supervision of vagrant children, abuse of juveniles by family members, and being raised by parents who were themselves offenders and negative role models (Крејчик, ca. 19236).

Krejčík found that girls who, at an early age, showed tendencies towards criminogenic behavior and committing criminal offenses most often started with vagrancy and begging, followed by theft and prostitution. The most susceptible to crime were minors who did not attend school and therefore did not have any profession. Krejčík believed (ca. 19236) that the most effective measure to fight against juvenile delinquency was to send girls to institutions where they would receive moral, social, and religious education; there they would acquire a minimum of education and learn at least one useful trade, which would enable them to make an independent living. Previous experience had shown that juvenile delinquency was most effectively suppressed by separating juveniles from their parents and bad social influences and placing them in institutions, since "a juvenile's crime is not her crime but that of her parents, family, and the environment she was in" (Крејчик, ca. 19236).

There were two reformatories in the territory of the Kingdom—one in Begunje, Slovenia, and the other in Slavenska Požega, Croatia. Both institutions functioned as forced labor reformatories. Girls over the age of 16 were housed in Begunje. The wards of this reformatory received a basic education, and through the help of teachers who were mostly formally educated women, they also practiced women's handicrafts in reformatory-sponsored workshops. The reformatory had its own library and garden.

The reformatory in Slavenska Požega received girls under the age of 16. In addition to regular schooling, they performed household chores daily. The restrictive measures were milder compared to those in the reformatory in Begunje (Крејчик, ca. 19236). The Society for the Protection of Girls took over the reformatory in Požega from the Ministry of Justice, which accommodated up to 100 girl wards for reformation (Станојевић, 1925, p. 798).

Activities of the Society were not only focused on working with "fallen" girls but also on the protection and education of female children who had remained without guardians, or were neglected or abandoned due to poverty and difficult life circumstances. They were particularly vulnerable and at risk of human trafficking and crime. At the Society Home, opened in Belgrade in April 1923 to provide temporary shelter and accommodation for girls, wards were taken care of until

they finished school, learned a trade, or found decent and secure employment (Аноним, 1930, June 16, p. 2). Many girls were sent to work outside the Society Home under supervision. The Society provided moral and material support to its wards even after leaving the home. In such cases, the girls remained under the supervision of trustee Anna Krejčík until they reached adulthood. When necessary, Krejčík placed them back in the home and worked to secure both safe housing and stable employment for them (Херенда, 1928, May 24, p. 6).

The Society also sought to help girls to get married and receive a dowry. The Marriage Fund was accordingly established, which raised money for the dowries of the wards who wished to get married and start a family. Sick wards were sent to convalescent centers. To facilitate the employment of women and girls, the Society obtained approval from the Ministry of Social Policy for the establishment of a Women's Labor Exchange, which functioned independently as a section of the State Labor Exchange (Херенда, 1928, May 24, p. 6).

Many girls and women passed through the Society Home; thus, from its establishment in April 1923 until June 1929, over 700 girls of different ages and religious and ethnic affiliations were accommodated at the home and shelter (Аноним, 1929, June 17, p. 6).

Anna Krejčík received numerous awards in recognition of her work: the Order of the Red Cross (Serbia), the Royal Red Cross (UK, gold-gilt), the Serbian Cross of Mercy, the Serbia Red Cross Society Medal, and the First and Second Balkan War Commemorative Medals. She was also a member of the board of the Association of Czechoslovak Women in Belgrade, as well as the Association of Serbian Volunteers (Луковић, 1930, p. 2). Additionally, she was awarded the Order of the White Lion, First Class (Аноним, 1931, October 29, p. 3).

The Family Life of Anna Krejčík

The Krejčík family left a notable impact in the Kingdom of SCS and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Anna's husband, Jaroslav Krejčík, Czech by birth (1864–1927), was a sculptor and the founder of the first woodcarving school in Serbia (Рајчевић, 1984/1985).³² He came to Belgrade in 1898. Raised in the spirit of Slavic ideas, Jaroslav Krejčík actively participated in the work of patriotic associations that advocated the liberation of Slavs from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. During the First World War, he failed to retreat with the Serbian army and was captured. He was tried on six counts of high treason and six counts of crimes against the armed forces. During his captivity, he changed seven prisons. Mentally broken and physically exhausted, he withdrew from public life after the war. He was buried in Belgrade on December 7, 1927 (Аноним, 1927, December 8, p. 7).

³² The woodcarving school produced 27 artistically significant iconostases.

Anna and Jaroslav Krejčík had three sons—Miroslav, Bogoljub, and Velibor—and a daughter, Radmila (Луковић, 1930, p. 2).³³ During the First World War, Miroslav was enlisted in the so-called Student Battalion of Serbia and was one of the 1300 Corporals. He was a sergeant in the 12th Tsar Lazar Infantry Regiment in Kruševac (Association of Holders of the Commemorative Medal of the Great Serbian Retreat, 1915–1916).³⁴

Anna Krejčík's family life suffered immensely due to her humanitarian work. The marriage between Jaroslav and Anna did not last; their life together ended in 1910 (Крејчик, 1918, November 21, p. 2).³⁵ She lived apart from her family, in the Society Home, together with her wards.³⁶ During the Second World War, she lived in Belgrade, first at the Czech Home (Český dom, 1941–1942), after which she moved to the elderly care home at Deligradska 33, where she died in August 1944 (Аноним, 1944, p. 7).

Conclusion

The work of Anna Krejčík as a police trustee proved a successful combination of social care and policing, including preventive and repressive measures to suppress juvenile crime. In terms of prevention, her work in welfare focused on care of

³³ Miroslav, born on April 12, 1895, was an architect by profession. Bogoljub was born on March 12, 1900. Velibor, born on December 21, 1905, worked as a surveyor in the Administration of the City of Belgrade. Radmila, born on June 7, 1908, was employed as a bank clerk in Belgrade (Картотека житеља града Београда и Земуна [Resident Card Index of the Cities of Belgrade and Zemun], Digital Repository of the Historical Archives of Belgrade, Serbia. Retrieved August 20, 2024, from <https://digitalni.arhiv-beograda.org/login.php>).

³⁴ Miroslav Krejčík was a recipient of the Commemorative Medal of the Great Serbian Retreat, the Gold Medal for Bravery “Miloš Obilić,” the Czechoslovak War Cross, the Czechoslovakian Revolution Medal, the Order of the White Lion, Fourth Class, the French Cross of War, and the Commemorative Medal for the War of Liberation and Unification 1914–1918 (Miroslav Krejčík Resident Card, Novi Sad. Retrieved November 10, 2024, from <http://xn----7sbbgqqcsmdf1anf9f.xn--90a3ac/NosiociSpomenice/Detalji/4084>).

³⁵ In 1918, after the war, Jaroslav publicly announced: “I broke all ties with my ex-wife Anna Krejčík eight years ago because she abandoned her young children to seek adventure and live off others while using my name. Due to the war and my three years of internment—which she largely contributed to—I was unable to legally disassociate my name from hers.”

³⁶ Ana Krejčík lived in Belgrade at the Home of the Society for the Protection of Girls, located at Studenička Street 79, from July 30, 1924, until January 13, 1935. She then moved to Garašaninova Street 37, where she lived until September 30, 1941. After that, she relocated to the Czech Home at Garašaninova Street 39, residing there until July 3, 1942. On that date, she moved to the elderly care home at Deligradska Street 33, where she remained until the end of her life (Картотека житеља града Београда и Земуна, 1918–1941 [Resident Card Index of the Cities of Belgrade and Zemun, 1918–1941], Digital Repository of the Historical Archives of Belgrade, Serbia. Retrieved August 20, 2024, from <https://digitalni.arhiv-beograda.org/login.php>).

children without custody and supervision over wards after their departure from the Home of the Society for the Protection of Girls, as they adjusted to life in their new communities. The key aspect of these activities included collaboration with the police during police investigations and interrogation of girls. The professional and advisory support of the trustee in providing protection during the interrogation of juvenile girl offenders following detention improved police investigation procedures and facilitated the process of decision-making regarding their further treatment.

By synthesizing the results of the research presented in this paper, it can be concluded that Anna Krejčík, trustee for the protection of female youth, was the first woman officially assigned to police duties in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. She was an intermediary between the Belgrade police and the National Women's Alliance. Through cooperation with the police, she worked intensively on the prevention and suppression of juvenile crime, especially among female youth. Through her work as a police trustee, she became a positive example of women's involvement in police work and confirmed the importance of prevention in combating crime. Under her influence, a large number of girls deprived partially or entirely of parental care were professionally trained for work and independent living, providing them with an opportunity to become beneficial members of society. For young girls and women who were in custody of the Society for the Protection of Girls, both during their stay at the Society Home and after becoming independent, the likelihood of engaging in crime or straying into unlawful activities was significantly reduced.

Corpus

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Невенка Д. КНЕЖЕВИЋ ЛУКИЋ

Криминалистичко-полицијски универзитет
Београд (Србија)

Ана Крејчик, хуманиста, социјални радник
и прва жена на полицијским дужностима
у Краљевини Срба, Хрвата и Словенаца

Резиме

У Краљевини Срба, Хрвата и Словенаца (СХС), хуманитарна женска друштва, под окриљем Народног женског савеза Краљевине СХС (1919–1941), покренула су иницијативу за ангажовањем жена у раду полиције, посебно током полицијског поступања према малолетницима и женама. Превентивни рад на сузбијању малолетничког криминалитета и спречавању друштвено неприхватљивих понашања, који су често настајали услед тешких животних околности и недовољне бриге надлежних државних институција, све више је био заступљен у свету. Схватајући значај превентивног деловања, у Народног женском савезу Краљевине СХС формирана је посебна секција која је касније прерасла у самостално друштво „Заштита девојака” (1924) ради пружања помоћи незбринutoј деци, ратној сирочади и женској омладини, који су често постајали жртве криминала.

За рад са малолетницама извршиоцима кривичних дела и девојцима склоним друштвено неприхватљивом понашању било је неопходно искуство на пољу социјалног и хуманитарног рада, где су активисткиње добротворних женских друштава имале истакнуту улогу. Законом је било омогућено да се у заштити најугроженијег дела становништва, поред државних органа, као помоћни органи месне заштите укључе и лица са истакнутом склоношћу за рад са децом у својству повереника.

Ана Крејчик (1870–1944), хуманиста, социјална радница и добровољна болничарка, чланица Кола српских сестара, именована је за првог повереника полиције за заштиту и спасавање женске младежи (1923) при полицијским властима Управе града Београда. Основни задатак поверенице био је да се кроз активно учешће у истражним полицијским радњама према малолетним лицима и превентивни рад у хуманитарним женским удружењима утиче на смањење криминалитета младих девојака.

Рад поверенице за заштиту девојака показао се као успешан spoj социјалног старања и рада полиције у превенцији женског малолетничког криминалитета. Стручна и саветодавна подршка поверенице при испитивању приведених малолетница била је од пресудне важности за доношење одлука о даљем поступању према њима. Рад на социјалном пољу преко хуманитарних женских друштава исказан је кроз бригу о деци без старатељства. Под утицајем поверенице, велики број девојака, лишен делимично или у потпуности родитељског старања, стручно је оспособљен за рад и самосталан живот, чиме је створена могућност да постану позитивни чланови друштвене заједнице. Бригом и надзором над штићеницама под окриљем друштва „Заштита девојака” током боравка у дому и након осамостаљивања смањене су могућности за одавање криминалу и препуштање животу са друге стране закона.

Синтезом резултата спроведеног истраживања презентованих у овом раду може се закључити да је Ана Крејчик, повереник за заштиту женске младежи, била прва жена на полицијским дужностима у Краљевини СХС. Својим радом у својству поверенице, постала је позитиван пример ангажовања жена за рад у полицији и потврдила значај примене превенције у сузбијању криминалитета.

Кључне речи: женска полиција; превенција женског малолетничког криминала; женска хуманитарна друштва; историја социјалног рада; Краљевина СХС.



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