- Physical/sexual abuse by fathers
- Domestic violence by partners
- Spent time in care- broke family and friend bonds
- Running away, homeless-unemployed-poor

EVALUATION
(a) HEIDENSOHN shows many patriarchal controls that help prevent women from deviating
(b) CARLEN shows how the failure of patriarchal society to deliver the promised deals removed the
controls that prevent them from offending
CRITICISED for seeing women’s behaviour as determined by external forces and underplay the
importance of free will.

THE LIBERATION THESIS: ADLER (1975)
Less patriarchy = women’s crime rates similar to men’s.
Patriarchal controls and discrimination lessened- opportunities in education and work become more
equal- women adopted male roles in both work and crime.
Women no longer commit traditional female crimes.
Women’s greater self-confidence and more opportunities have led to this.
- Overall rate of female offending has risen
- Pattern of female crime shifted
- Media = growth of girl gangs

CRITICISMS OF THE LIBERATION THESIS
- Female crime rate began rising in the 1950s- long before the liberation movement
- Most female criminals are working class- group least likely to be affected by liberalation
- Little evidence that illegitimate opportunities of professional crime has opened up to women

WHY DO MEN COMMIT CRIME?

MASCULINITY AND CRIME
MESSERSCHMIDT (1993) masculinity = social construct/accomplishment- some men have more
resources to build their masculinity than others.
Hegemonic masculinity: most dominant, prestigious form
Subordinated masculinity: no desire to accomplish hegemonic masculinity
Crime and deviance: resources that different men use to accomplish hegemonic masculinity
WHITE MIDDLE CLASS YOUTHS have to subordinate themselves to teachers in order to achieve
middle-class status, leading to an accommodating masculinity in school. Outside school, their
masculinity is gained through drinking and vandalism.
WHITE WORKING CLASS YOUTHS have less chance of educational success, masculinity oppositional
both in and out of school. Constructed around sexist attitudes and opposing authority.
BLACK LOWER WORKING CLASS YOUTHS have few expectations of a reasonable job and may use
gang membership and violence to express their masculinity or turn to serious property crime.

CRITICISMS OF MESSERSCHMIDT:
- Is masculinity an explanation of male crime or a description of lame offenders? Creates circular
argument, masculinity explains crimes (violence) because they are crimes committed by males (who
have violent characteristics)