

# Gangs: A Guide to Understanding Street Gangs

*Alora J. Valdez*

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**Alora J. Valdez : Gangs: A Guide to Understanding Street Gangs** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gangs: A Guide to Understanding Street Gangs:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Horrific, unprofessional grammarBy Just a guyThe writing in this book is horrific and should make anyone question Valdez's professional credentials. Horrific and unreadable. Valdez needs an editor--which given the level of writing demonstrated-- could just as easily be a high school honors student.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book for the PriceBy VonneThe price was great and the book was exactly what I expected. It was in excellent condition and arrived on time.21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. From an Ex-Gang MemberBy JorgeI am an ex-gang member and I have read this book, written by Al Valdez. Before I write about the contents of the book, I would like to say something about the author. Al Valdez along with his special target gang unit were harassing me for a long time in the neighborhood, but to my surprise the target unit wasn't about putting me in jail, but giving me a chance to escape. Thanks to the motivation of this man and his special unit, I have been able to leave the gangs and create a new start on life. The book was extremely well written and is true in all of its aspects. I recommend this book to all parents who are struggling to comprehend their child's decision to live on the wild side. I recommend this book to teachers who are not coming from the surrounding community in which they teach and who are attempting to understand the life styles and decisions of their pupils. Finally, I recommend this book to law enforcement agents and large companies in order for them to better work with the community and to better comprehend the people they are working for and with.

As you begin your study of gang behaviors you will quickly find that gangs share many characteristics and are also unique to themselves. The author has attempted to research the genesis and history of a few of the larger better-known gangs to be illustrations of specific gang types. They are not mentioned to glorify gang activity, but rather to better understand the affect that culture and history has had on gang development in the United States. Street gangs tend to form as a result of bias, racism and class distinction. These three social factors appear to be root causes that facilitate gang formation. Whether perceived or real these social factors exerted and continue to exert an influence on people who live in this country. There are many reasons why youth join gangs. That is why there is no 'one size fits all' solution to the complex issues regarding gang recruitment, membership, suppression, intervention, and prevention programs. Street gangs are a function of your community. Street gangs are dependent on demographics, geography and community dynamics. Therefore it becomes easier to understand why communities should not compare their gang issues with other communities. Every community is different yet there appears to be a common thread that links all gangs together and makes them similar. That thread is gang related behaviors.