

# Growing Against Violence

## Gangs: Myths & Realities Year 7+

Building upon the foundation set in Friends vs. Friendly, students explore in detail the difference between gangs and friendship groups.



Our intent is to reduce gang activity by providing young people with the information they need to make informed decisions about gang association.

Students critically examine why people join gangs and the criminal activity that gangs partake in.

This session aims to deglamorize gangs by providing young people with the essential reality check in relation to how gangs operate. We demonstrate why gangs do not offer respect, money, excitement or a sense of belonging akin to a family. We look at the criminal component of gangs (including the sale and distribution of drugs/County Lines) demonstrating the consequences of selling drugs on the gang's behalf, associating with gang members and believing popular myths about gangs.

## Weapons: Choices & Consequences Year 7+

Developed in partnership with the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland Young people explore through this workshop how gang membership increases the odds of becoming a perpetrator or victim of knife crime and why street weapons intended to protect are liable to endanger.

The message is simple: carrying a knife offers neither protection nor respect. Through real life case studies, we explore why young people carry weapons/illegal items. Students examine how violence is advertised through drill music videos on social media platforms and the impact Joint Enterprise and define what constitutes a weapon. The session explores the legal, physical and psychological consequences of knife crime at the individual, family, and community level bringing the experiences and messages of Surgeons, Police, victims' families and offenders' using specially commissioned film material.



## So Social Media Year 8+

This workshop explores how digital technology has changed the way people communicate and the relationship young people have with social media and why Smart phones/tablets are so integral to young people's lives.

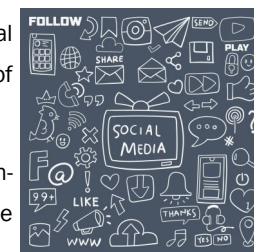
We examine peer-on-peer bullying, the communicative role of smart phones and social media in grooming children and facilitating child sexual exploitation (CSE).

The aim is to promote safe use of social media. We consider the students use of social media in a more in-depth way.

Students examine the dangers of communicating with people who pretend to be someone else online.

We highlight the concept of exposing others online and how offline activity that could be coercive or even criminal can be linked to the threat of being exposed.

We highlight the risks surrounding the tracking of movements and remote controlling and sensitive issues relating to social media, grooming, cyber bullying, gaming, sexting and inappropriate images are examined and young people are made aware of the law surrounding these issues and are empowered to report abuse if they encounter it.



## Attitude Adjustments Year 10+

This workshop's content supports the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy (VAWG).

The separate workshops for boys and girls explore sensitive and emotive issues regarding sexual violence and child exploitation. Rape culture, sexual violence, supporting victims/survivors and misogynistic attitudes/behaviours are discussed.

Students analyse case studies of sexual violence and its implications. Realistic consent scenarios illustrate risky situations in which boys and girls may find themselves and demonstrate what is required for true consent. At GAV we believe in having these difficult and uncomfortable conversations so that we can start to bring about change, by challenging outdated ideas and destructive and abusive behaviours.

## Knife Crime FE/College Students

This 90-minute workshop examines the facts around knife crime, the problems that create knife crime, gang involvement with it, county lines and the impact that serious youth violence can have on mental health.

Discussions will raise awareness about the causation and effects of the growing knife crime epidemic and how they can take positive steps to avoid the circumstances, which contribute towards knife violence and know where to seek help if needed.

Students explore why people stab people, fear, money, digital collateral, protection, criminal exploitation through gangs and the sale of drugs.

This session makes it clear that a wide range of people are affected by knife crime and how it devastates the lives of young people. Knife crime also hurts people who are not always immediately considered.

Students should also consider the roles of social, print and digital media in occurrences of serious youth violence. Students will hear a real-life testimony of a gang member speaking candidly about the perils of the lifestyle and the horror of being stabbed.

### Bookings and Enquiries

E mail: [Operations@growingagainstviolence.org.uk](mailto:Operations@growingagainstviolence.org.uk)  
(Martin Guest, Operations Manager)

### Safeguarding

E mail: [Safeguarding@growingagainstviolence.org.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@growingagainstviolence.org.uk)  
(Shaun Willshire, Safeguarding Manager)

### Strategic Enquiries

E mail: [Stuart@growingagainstviolence.org.uk](mailto:Stuart@growingagainstviolence.org.uk)  
(Stuart Trayler, CEO)

