



THE



IMAC PROJECT

EQUIPPING FAITH & COMMUNITY LEADERS TO TRANSFORM LIVES
TO HELP TACKLE GANG CRIME IN LONDON

PROJECT TRAINERS



ARNAUD MANGA

*Conflict Resolution
& Youth Leader
CEO of Setup4Life
Home Office Consultant*



POWER ONYEKA ONYEKWULU

*Ex Gang Member
turned Pastor*



VERONICA KARARWA

*Dialectical Behaviour Therapist
and A Mental Health Practitioner.
Coach, Public Speaker and a
Trainer. Co-Founder/ Director of
Kevin Kararwa Leukaemia Trust.*

VISIT WWW.IMACPROJECTS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTENTS PAGE

ARNAUD MANGA:	The Scale of the Gun and Knife Problem	Pages 2 - 18
	The Best Interventions	
PROPHET POWER:	How to Prevent the Seduction of Crime	Pages 19 - 30
	How to Relate to Those in Gangs	
VERONICA KARAWA:	Uncovering Underlying Issues	Pages 31 - 46
	Dealing with Behavioral Issues	

PROJECT TRAINER

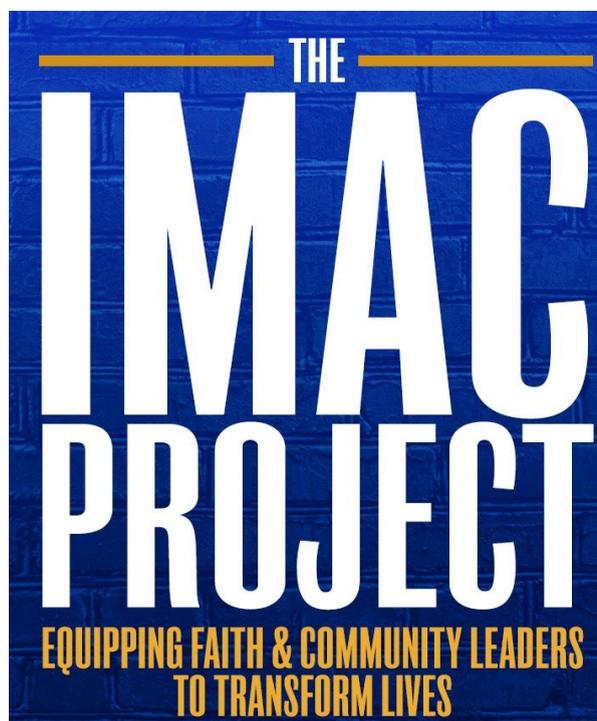


ARNAUD MANGA

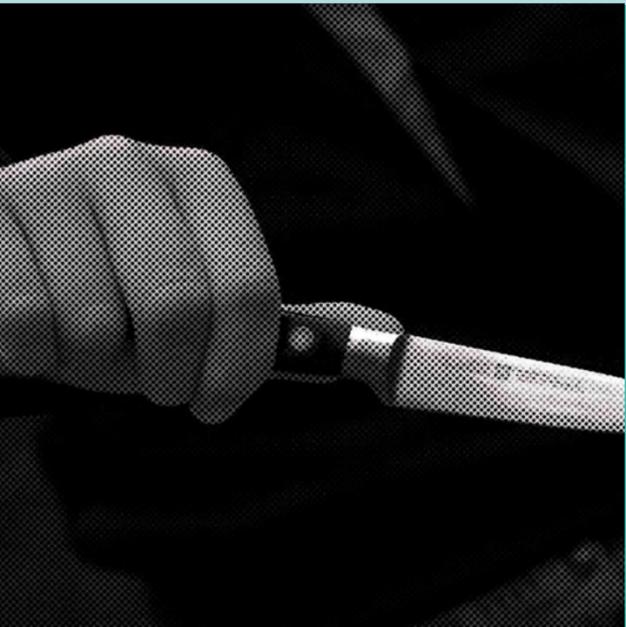
*Conflict Resolution
& Youth Leader
CEO of Setup4Life
Home Office Consultant*

COVERING :

- The Scale of the Gun and Knife Crime problem
- The Best Interventions



Understanding the scale of knife crime in London



& the important role faith based
and community organisations play
to decrease it.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY KNIFE CRIME



• Since 2008, knife crime has been defined as any offence that satisfies both of the following criteria:

•• Is classified as an offence of homicide, attempted murder, assault with intent to cause harm, assault with injury, threats to kill, sexual offences (including rape) and robbery;

•• Where a knife or sharp instrument has been used to injure, used as a threat, or the victim was convinced a knife was present during the offence.

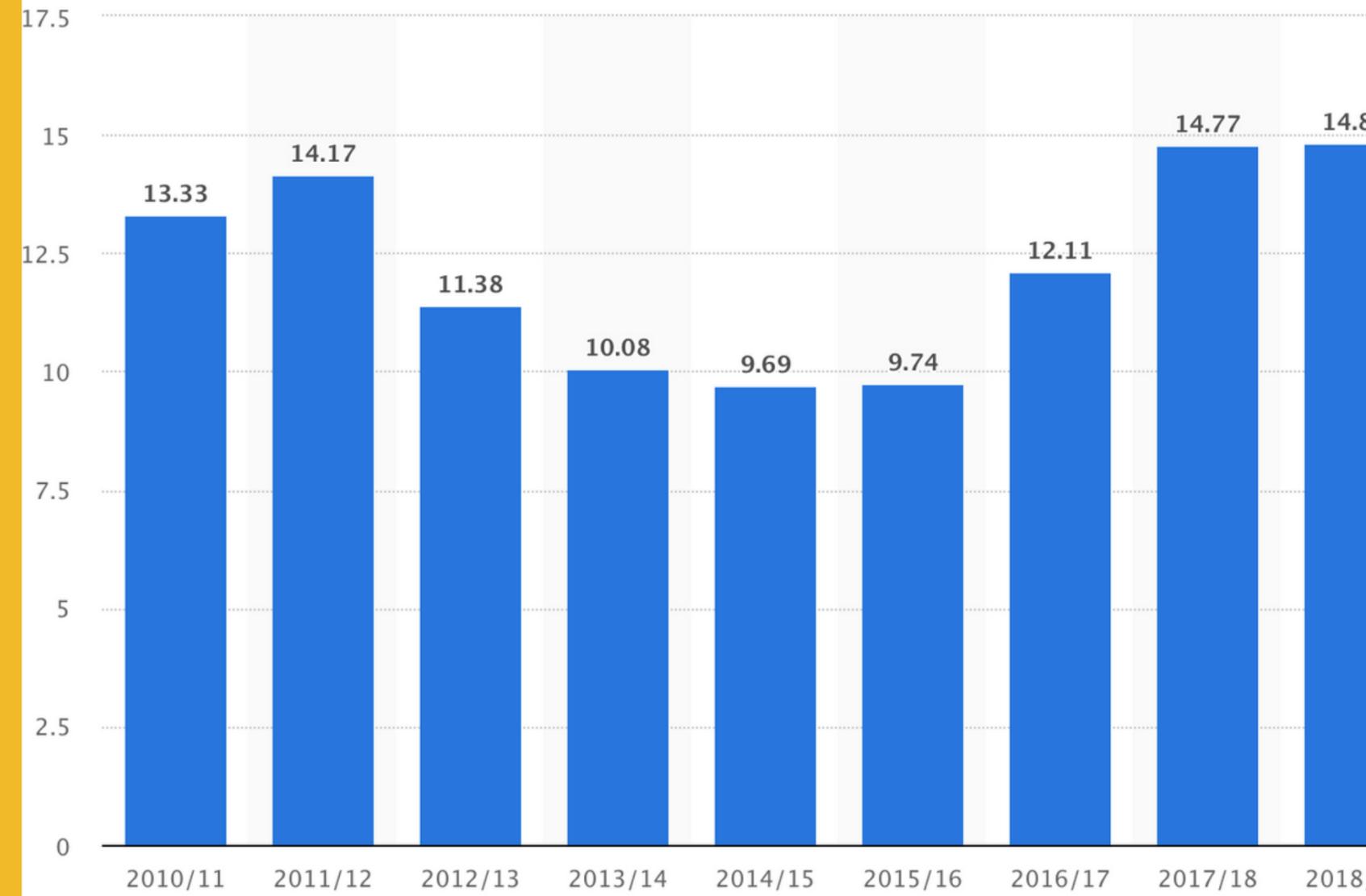
• **Knife possession offences** have been defined as:

• Having an article with blade or point in a public place (including school);

• Threatening with a blade or sharply pointed article in a public place (including school);

• Possession of offensive weapon; • Using someone to look after an offensive weapon; • Threatening with an offensive weapon.

Number of Knife Crimes committed in London from 2010/11 -2018/19



• In 2018/19 the number of knife crime offences recorded in London reached almost 15 thousand, an increase of more than five thousand compared with 2015/16. This rise reversed the trend of decreasing knife crime offences recorded between 2011/12 and 2014/15, which saw a reduction of knife crime offences from just over 14 thousand to under 9.7 thousand.

MYTHS

It is important to define what knife crime is as “Knife crime” is now a construct. It does not simply mean, as one might reasonably expect, crimes committed with knives. It denotes a certain type of crime committed by a certain type of criminal in a certain kind of context. It also carries heavy racial connotations.

Those who commit knife crime with injury are predominantly described as male and frequently from a BAME background.

The perpetrators and the victims appear to be almost exclusively young black men.”

Piers Morgan

Without accessible official data, or well-informed discussion, our understanding of the problem is cobbled together from a mixture of personal assumptions, media representation and political projection.

MYTHS.

**Youth
service cuts** **Gangs**

**Drill
music**

**Police
cuts**

MYTHS.

Youth service cuts

gangs

MAJORITY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CARRY KNIVES ARE NOT GANG MEMBERS.

drill music

AS MUSIC OFTEN PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS ABOUT HOW CHILDREN CRITICALLY ASSESS WHAT THEY CONSUME, AND TO RECOGNISE CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION AS THE KEY ISSUE AND THE WAYS IN WHICH CRIMINALS WILL HIJACK ALL POSSIBLE ROUTES TO MANIPULATE CHILDREN INCLUDING POPULAR CULTURE

police cuts

UNFORTUNATELY THIS STRATEGY HAS NEVER REALLY MADE ANY SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY IN ADDRESSING THE REAL PROBLEM.

WHY ARE PEOPLE CARRYING AND USING KNIVES?

The majority of research conducted into weapon carrying has pointed to self-defence and protection as a key reason why young people carry knives.

Significantly, for people surveyed, protecting themselves from others carrying weapons was considered to outweigh the risk of being caught by police.⁶ However we also recognise that the decision to carry or use weapons is often more complex – in many cases knives are carried not for protection but to intimidate others, to facilitate robbery, to deliberately injure or kill or simply for the perceived power and status that the carrying of a weapon provides.

1

SELF
DEFENCE/PROTECTION

2

TO INTIMIDATE/CRIMINAL
PURPOSE

3

STATUS/PERCEIVED
POWER



PEOPLE BEHIND THE KNIFE

Reports link the issue to varying factors, including youth service cuts, lack of opportunity and fewer police officers on the streets, while experts note there's a growing culture pushing and pulling disillusioned young people towards gang for a sense of identity, protection and status.

What people are failing to understand is that gang culture is being spread through social media. People post things on Instagram, Snapchat and Youtube which glamourises the gang lifestyle by showing money, clothes, cars and all of the trappings young people are gravitating towards -especially if you're from a disadvantaged background. But we're also seeing young people from middle class white backgrounds get involved, especially girls dating guys in gangs because it's exciting.

The issues around vulnerability aren't simply based around class, but around a lack of parental care.

Adverse Childhood Experience's(ACE's)

Research has shown young people exposed to four or more ACES are considered to be at high risk of emotional, psychological and even health issues moving into adulthood. Adopting this thinking enables society to look beyond the colour, race, cultural and religious narrative too often used to explain and label contemporary trends. When cross referencing all the perpetrators of knife crime against ACES a majority fall into the high risk category, irrespective of geography, class or socio-demographic. Symptoms of complex PTSD include lack of trust, difficulty controlling your emotions, destructive or risky behaviour and poor critical decision making.

Contextual Safeguarding

There is growing recognition that, as children grow older and spend increasing amount of time outside of the family home (with peers, online, at school, the community etc), they face particular risks within these extra familial contexts including risks associated with peer abuse and sexual or criminal exploitation. Contextual safeguarding recognises that in order to better safeguard a vulnerable young person, systems need to be developed in which a practitioner can appropriately

Child Criminal Exploitation(CCE)

•The Serious Violence Strategy (2018), defines child criminal exploitation as

-
- where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.’ 1

County line

- County lines is a police term used to describe a model of exploitation where criminal groups distribute illegal drugs from one area to another within the UK through the use of dedicated mobile phones – using young or vulnerable people to assist the storage and movement of cash and drugs.

STRUCTURAL FACTORS

1. Inequality and austerity
2. Lack of positive opportunities for young people
3. Disconnect between rhetoric around youth violence and the reality

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS

1. Challenges to mental health and little investment in emotional resilience
2. Challenging parent-child relationships
3. Lack of sense of belonging
4. Inhibitors on self-expression

SCHOOL EXCLUSION

School to Prison Line

Nearly 25,000 children under 7 were excluded from schools in 2015/6

Sent out of class

Detention

Isolation

Temporary exclusion

Permanent exclusion

Line closed indefinitely

Empathy

Support

Success

Excluded pupils are 7 times more likely to have special education needs

We deserve better

‘Every day, 35 pupils (a full classroom) are permanently excluded from school. Only 1% of them will go on to get the five good GCSEs needed to succeed. ‘It is the most disadvantaged children who are disproportionately punished by the system. We deserve better. ‘We are a group of South London students who believe in empathy not exclusion. We demand a more compassionate education system and a supportive approach to behaviour and discipline.

Recommendations structural factors

Levels of Youth BAME unemployment have been long term causes of young people looking for insecure, informal and at times illegal employment (resulting in criminal exploitation)

More mentoring and taught youth outreach . There needs to be a didicated intervention programme for younger age kids late stage of Primary School.

Practical intervention providing further support to the parents of victims and perpetrators of knife crime. Through creation of support groups for parents dealing with trauma in an effort to further develop relationships to bind communities together.

Recommendations individual factors

With trauma, ACE's and unstable family life all highlighted as possible root causes of youth violence, the home is seen by many participants as key terrain in efforts for early intervention and breaking the cycle

Parenting classes and in the home support to help parents spot the signs of criminal exploitation or gang involvement early.

Practical intervention providing further support to the parents of victims and perpetrators of knife crime. Through creation of support groups for parents dealing with trauma in an effort to further develop relationships to bind communities together.

LET'S

SQUASH IT

TOGETHER

"THE KNIFE CRIME
CRISIS IS
NATIONAL"

CONFLICT RESOLUTION
& ANGER MANAGEMENT
WORKSHOPS

"THE SOLUTION
MUST BE LOCAL"

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A MORE RESILIENT,
COMPASSIONATE & UNITED YOUTH CULTURE,
EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT ASSERTIVELY

PROJECT TRAINER

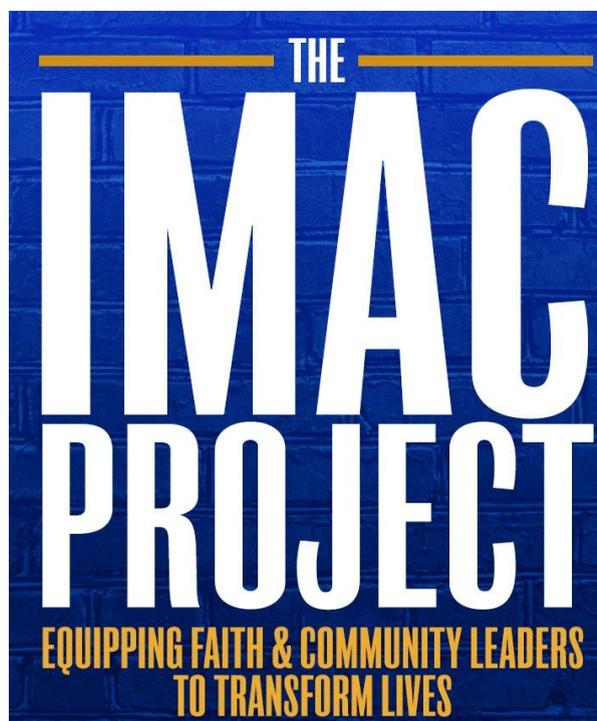


**POWER ONYEKA
ONYEKWULU**

*Ex Gang Member
turned Pastor*

COVERING :

- How to Prevent the Seduction of Crime
- How to Relate to Those in Gangs



My Profile

Brief introduction of myself and what I do

My Profile

- ▶ My name is Prophet Onyeka Power. I am 24 years old and currently live in Potters Bar. I want to share my journey from a gang leader to a youth Pastor and ordained prophet of Kingdom Life Ministries in Tottenham, north London, Bruce Grove to be precise under the leadership of Bishop E.O. Ansah.
 - ▶
- ▶ At the age of 14, I became involved in a gang, not just as a member but one of the leaders.
 - ▶
- ▶ I was always on the streets of Brixton and surrounding areas doing gang related stuff and unfortunately during this time one of my friends got stabbed in the chest and died in my presence. This was a very traumatic and distressing time for me. This made me more violent and all I wanted was revenge.

My Profile

- ▶ At the age of 18 I realised that being in a gang was never going to bring me any joy or fulfilment, so I decided to make U-turn in life and started going to church.
- ▶ This is when everything changed when I eventually surrendered to God and started going to church regularly and praying.
 - ▶
 - ▶ •I am now a lead pastor of one of the most dynamic and powerful youth ministries in Tottenham call Kingdom Life Youth Ministry with Bishop EO Ansah as The General Overseer and my spiritual Father and mentor.

My Profile

- ▶ We gather more than 80 youngsters from different works of life every Wednesday.
- ▶ This is to empower youths of Tottenham and other young people from London with the word of God and help them identify their purpose in life, help them realise and identify their potential in life. My desire and passion is to help stop gun and knife crime, get these precious young people off the streets and get them into something more fruitful and productive in life.
- ▶ Tottenham as we all know has a high crime rate thus the reason why we embark on Saturday street evangelism is to talk to young people, show them love and help them in every possible way we can.
- ▶ We help them find jobs, accommodation, finance etc. We also mentor a lot of them and offer advice about career paths for example. We embark on charitable events like feeding the hungry and clothing the less fortunate.



My Profile

- ▶ I did a documentary called The Brought Love and Hustle series 1) with The Garden production which was shown on BBC Three and BBC one and is also on BBC iPlayer. I was also recently featured on the Daily Mirror, Enfield and Haringey Independent, The Sun Online, Tottenham and Woodgreen Independent and Tottenham Community Press.
- ▶ This was to highlight the good that comes out Tottenham and let people know that in the midst of all the gun and knife crime in Tottenham, there are still good people in Tottenham, touching, shaping and transforming lives. People that are at the forefront with a mission to bring change. I was also recently invited to Houses Of Parliament
- ▶ I am using my past life to encourage young men involved in knife, gangs and gun violence to choose a different path in life like I did.
- ▶

My Profile

- ▶ My desire and aim is to get these youths with so much potential off the streets and gradually we are getting there. We are working hard to help Tottenham be a better and safer place for everyone especially the youths. I want and I am looking forward to working with the Metropolitan Police to make this happen. I am also currently mentoring a few youngsters that were in gangs but have now turned their lives around after getting in touch with them.

How To Prevent The Seduction Of Crime

- ▶ The definition of seductive is behaviour that is tempting. An example of seductive is someone dancing in a sexy way to attract someone to come dance.
- ▶ When crime is presented in an attractive or seductive way, it's because there are visible things that show or demonstrate the “goodness” of the practice of that particular crime. For example fast cars expensive homes, designer clothes, etc.

How To Prevent The Seduction Of Crime

These are a few points I believe can help in preventing seduction of crime

- ▶ 1. point them to the harsh consequences of such crime. This is to say they must be enlightened on what will happen when a particular crime is committed.
- ▶ 2. Show them who was great and famous for those crimes but was sentenced or died or for the crime
- ▶ 3. show them how they can achieve more doing the right thing or following their God given vision.

How To Relate To Gangs

- ▶ Most of these guys in gangs have had tough times and background. Disenfranchised rejected or swayed by friends.
- ▶ It's important to find a unique way of relating to them in order to assist them.

How To Relate To Gangs

In relating to them you have to:

- ▶ 1. show them acceptance and love
- ▶ 2. Understand them and where they are coming from and why they are where they are.
- ▶ 3. Point them to a better way or means of life with excellent results. Especially when you shed more light on them raising children who must not follow suit.



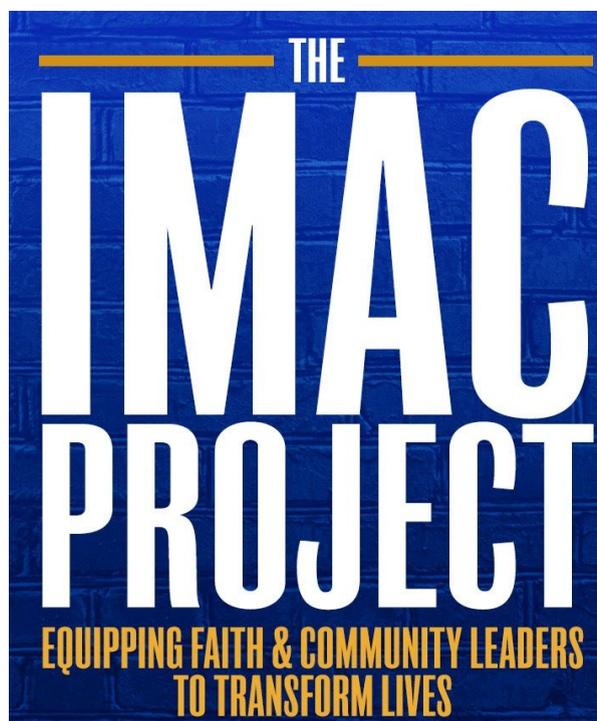
PROJECT TRAINER

**VERONICA
KARARWA**

*Dialectical Behaviour Therapist
and A Mental Health Practitioner.
Coach, Public Speaker and a
Trainer. Co-Founder/ Director of
Kevin Kararwa Leukaemia Trust.*

COVERING :

- Uncovering Underlying Issues
- Dealing with Behavioral Issues





UNCOVERING OF UNDERLYING ISSUES OF KNIFE CRIMES

STATISTICS

- Knife crime rose from 41,000 in 2018 to 47,000 in 2019
- Office of National Statistics said there were 15,080 knife offences in London alone, by Sept. 2019
- Crimes mostly committed by males aged between 18-34 Increase in younger knife offenders from age 11-17yrs



CAUSES OF KNIFE CRIMES



Reasons for these crimes are varied and complicated



All are intertwined and cannot single out one of them as the main cause



They follow under 4 categories

CATEGORIES



Social



Political



Economic

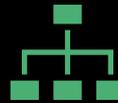


Moral Values

SOCIAL REASONS



Toxic environments



Lack of role models



Lack of trust with the
authorities



Poverty

POLITICAL



Austerity measures



Lack of equity in distribution of wealth and services



Service cuts in the community

ECONOMIC



POVERTY AND LACK
OF REGENERATION IN
POOR COMMUNITIES



MATERIALISTIC MIND
SET



SOCIAL MEDIA

Moral Values



Lack of purpose with
the young generation



Decline in moral
values



Lack of meaning in
life

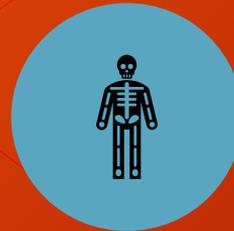
HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THESE BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES



UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS WRONG BY



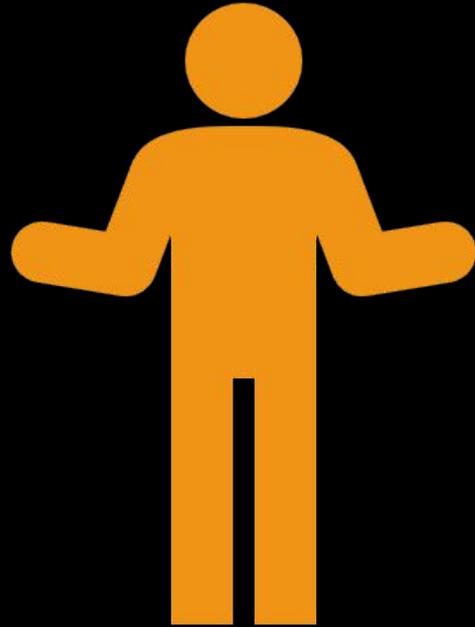
FIRST, ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS



SECOND, FINDING OUT THEIR NEEDS/WHAT IS MISSING



THIRD, BY COLLECTIVELY ADDRESSING THESE NEEDS IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAYS



- What makes a young person carry a knife?
- What is their intent?
- What really drives a young person to stab another person?
- Are they aware of the consequences?
- If they are what is their attitude towards the consequences?
- What is in it for them?

**QUESTIONS
WE NEED
TO ASK**

POSSIBLE ANSWERS TO ABOVE QS



Fear for their lives



Need to protect themselves



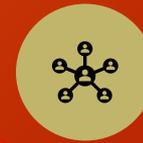
Believe that there is no one to protect them



Lack of trust with the authorities and the system



Anger

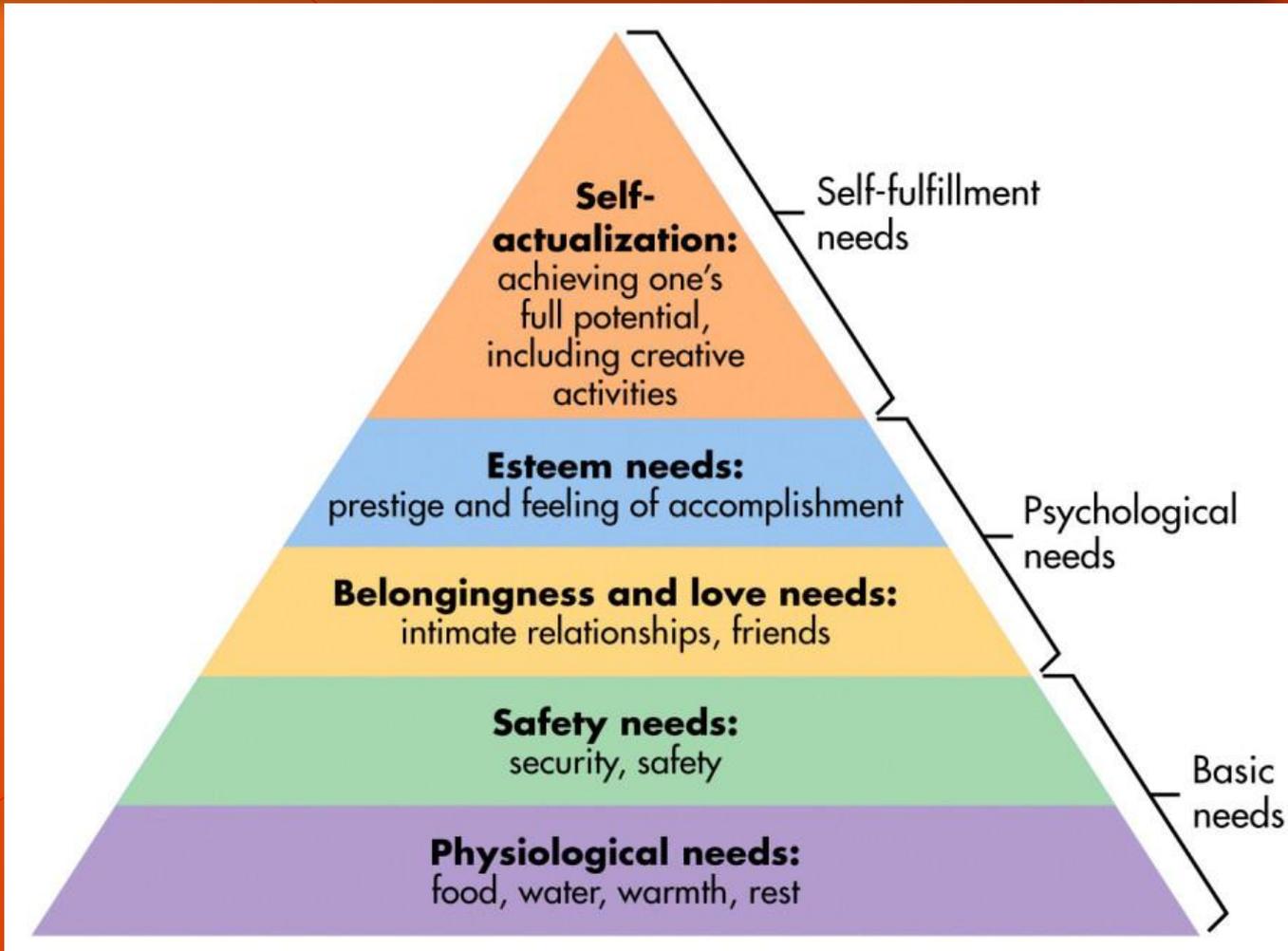


Sense of significance/recognition and belonging



They have nothing to lose

MASLOWS HIERACHY OF NEEDS



HOW DO WE ADDRESS THESE NEEDS



Usually everything starts with the family



This requires a combined effort by all members of community



All leaders and especially anyone in a position of influence in whatever capacity needs to get involved in protecting our children.

ACTIONS



As individuals, let us speak out and not turn a blind eye to what is happening in our homes and communities.



Political leaders to play their part, regenerate poor areas, raise minimum wage, increase policing and address racial discrimination in institutions



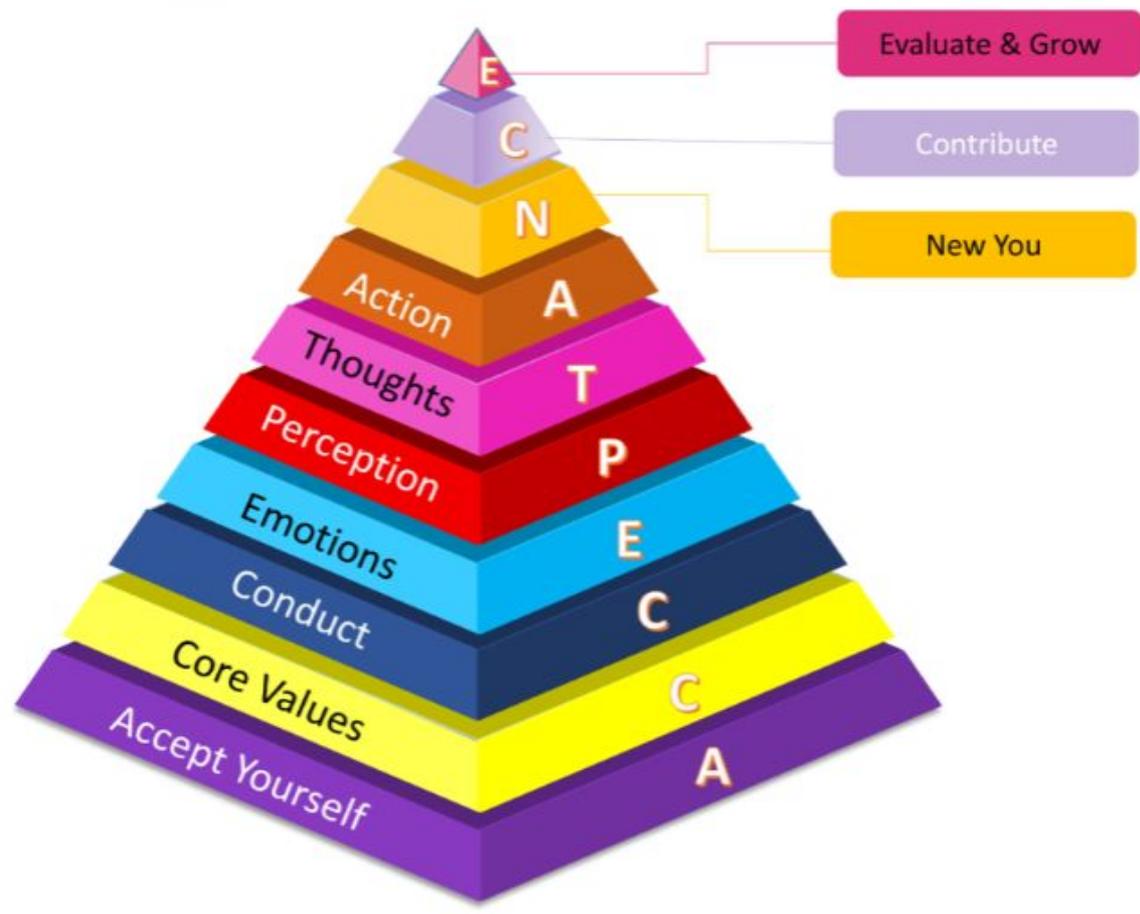
Community leaders to identify gaps of unmet needs for the youth and flag them up



Cooperate leaders to take social responsibility of the people and communities they serve

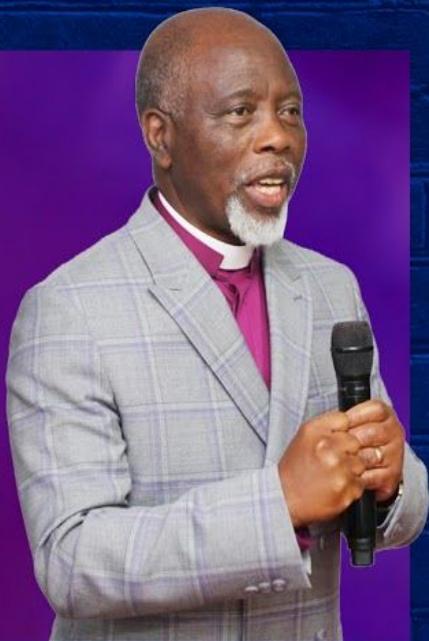


Church leaders to do the same, educate and inform their congregants



THE IMAC PROJECT

EQUIPPING FAITH & COMMUNITY LEADERS TO TRANSFORM LIVES
TO HELP TACKLE GANG CRIME IN LONDON



The IMAC Project Lead Facilitator Bishop Joel Oluwafemi has worked with many multi-faith and local diverse groups in London, Africa, and the USA. He brings with him the international experience of training local leaders to effectively disseminate hands-on training to individuals and small groups.

Bishop Joel is also presiding Bishop and founder of IMAC whose passion is connecting Community Leaders, Pastors of small and big churches to work together in the communities for the benefit of the people.

IMAC TOP FLOOR
34-36 EAST STREET
BARKING IG11 8EP

INFO@IMACPROJECTS.COM
07402 741 263

VISIT WWW.IMACPROJECTS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION