

Student Handout: Understanding the Dangers of Knife Crime

Key Points:

1. The Risks of Carrying a Knife:

- Carrying a knife increases your risk of being involved in a violent incident.
- Even if you carry a knife for protection, it can easily be used against you.

2. Statistics:

- There is a knife offence every 15 minutes in the UK.
- In the 12 months to March 2022, there were 282 murders involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales.
- Nearly 2 young people are murdered every week due to knife crime.

3. Consequences of Using a Knife:

- If you stab someone, you can be charged with murder and face a life sentence.
- Carrying a knife can result in up to 4 years in prison and an unlimited fine.
- Being caught with a knife will leave you with a criminal record, affecting your future job prospects.

4. Personal Story – Dom:

- Dom was stabbed while trying to avoid a confrontation.
- The stab wound caused severe internal bleeding and nearly cost him his life.
- The aftermath included significant physical and emotional pain and life-changing injuries.

5. Safety Tips:

- **Stay Aware:** Always be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts.
- **Share Your Location:** Let friends or family know where you are.
- **Avoid Dark Areas:** Use well-lit routes and avoid shortcuts through dark or isolated areas.
- **Use Safety Tools:** Carry a personal alarm and consider taking self-defense classes.
- **Stay Connected:** Keep your phone charged and easily accessible.

6. Legal Considerations:

- Police can stop and search you if they suspect you are carrying a weapon.
- Being found with a knife can result in immediate arrest and prosecution.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does carrying a knife increase the risk of harm to yourself and others?
2. What are some alternative ways to stay safe without carrying a knife?
3. How can you help spread awareness about the dangers of knife crime?

Remember: Carrying a knife is not worth the risk. Make safe choices, stay aware, and protect yourself and others by avoiding involvement in knife crime.

Stay Safe. Stay Alive.