

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	The purpose of this activity is to generate discussion with young people about the way in which involvement in gang culture affects other parts of your life and the impact that might have later on in life.
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rope</li><li>• A4 Paper</li><li>• Some pens</li></ul>
<b>TIME</b>	15 - 45 minutes
<b>METHOD</b>	<p>Split the group into three small subgroups and give each group three to four pieces of paper each. Now ask the small groups to come up with four positive and negative activities to write on each piece of paper. These should link to what the young people get up to within their circle of friends, for example, education, family, playing football, music, going to school, drinking alcohol, hanging out with girlfriends, taking drugs, carrying a knife, gang fighting, getting a job.</p> <p>Once the task is complete, take the rope and create a circle big enough to fit the group inside along with the pieces of paper. Now ask the group to stand in the rope circle, making sure that their feet don't touch the rope or the pieces of paper. When everyone is in the circle, ask them to stand outside again. Now tell them that they are going to repeat what they have just done, but this time the rope is going to get smaller. Repeat this process until you get to the point that the young people have to stand on the paper.</p>

## TOP TIP...

Throughout this activity try to encourage the young people to do most of the talking and be aware, as the facilitator, not to be too negative or judgemental about the decisions made by the group as this can discourage open conversation.

## **METHOD**

Once this happens ask the group to stand outside of the circle and as a group decide which pieces of paper they will then remove to allow their feet to go back into the circle. This effectively makes the group decide what is important to them i.e. football, music etc, and creates a visual representation of this. Once this is done, repeat the process and ask them to step back in. You should repeat the process as many times as it takes to get to a point where there are only five pieces of paper left.

Once the whole activity is complete ask the young people to sit down and show them what they discarded, in what order they were discarded and read out to them what is left.

## **POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

Ask the young people the reason for removing each of the activities that were discarded and why they chose to discard them in the order they did.

Education and school are usually the first to go, and often drugs, alcohol, friends, gang fighting and stealing are some of the activities that remain.

Key questions you might ask the group are:

- If you had taken education out as a 14 year old and if you were involved in a gang, what age do you think you would try to get education back in your life?
- If you were to continually, week by week, do the five things that were related to your gang would it help you for the future?
- List some things you want to do in life such as play sport, listen to music, go to the cinema, learn to drive, get a job, go to college, help your family, volunteer, go on holiday, learn new skills, go swimming, have money, go on a plane or sail a boat.