

# Taking Stock

A guide to using NKBL stock images on knife crime in Scotland



**No knives, better lives.**

[www.noknivesbetterlives.com](http://www.noknivesbetterlives.com)



## Introduction

No Knives, Better Lives is a national knife carrying prevention programme in Scotland. The programme was set up in 2009 as a response to the very high incidence of knife crime in Scotland.

Over the last ten years, the total number of crimes involving offensive weapons has reduced by 64%<sup>1</sup> and this has meant that the approach taken by NKBL to preventing knife crime has changed.

These are the key NKBL prevention messages:

- Reassurance – Hardly anyone carries a knife
- Responsibility – It's okay to report knife carrying
- Risks – You are more at risk of harm if you carry a knife
- Resilience – Have the confidence to resist knife carrying in the first place

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services, Recorded Crime in Scotland: Handling Offensive Weapons, June 2018

## About the project

The Taking Stock project was formed to co-design new stock images on knife carrying with young people. We believe working with the media will help to support the wider prevention message to young people and communities in Scotland. Our approach was shaped by our understanding of and commitment to children and young people's rights. Through working with young people with experience of offending, we translated their experiences and ideas into new images that better represent both the consequences of knife carrying, and also of being a young person in Scotland.

### Links to Children and Young People's Rights<sup>2</sup>

- Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously. (Article 12)
- Every child has the right to reliable information from the media. (Article 17)
- A child accused or guilty of breaking the law must be treated with dignity and respect. (Article 40)

<sup>2</sup> UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



## Using these images

The No Knives, Better Lives stock images collection provides images free of charge for print, online and broadcast media editorial use only. The images have been created to support the prevention of knife carrying in Scotland.

They are not to be used for any commercial advertising, marketing or promotional purposes by third parties, or for internal communications requirements such as newsletters or non-commercial websites, without the expressed permission of No Knives, Better Lives and the copyright holder.

The images may not be cropped, altered or manipulated in any way.

The images should be shown with a small copyright notice acknowledging the original work's authorship, as is typical for rights-managed stock photography: © Open Aye

The people depicted in the images are models and represent imaginary persons.

View the full collection at: [noknivesbetterlives.com/practitioners/resources/stock-images](https://noknivesbetterlives.com/practitioners/resources/stock-images)

## NKBL tips for reporting on knife crime

- Use up to date facts to contextualise the incident. Remember that it is a small minority of young people in Scotland who carry knives. For more information, see Resources on page 6.
- Avoid sensationalist language, pictures or videos.
- Be clear if your information relates to the whole of the UK, or is particular to Scotland. Knife carrying varies hugely between areas in the UK.
- Encourage active bystanders by referencing positive ways young people can report knife carrying, for example to a trusted adult or to Fearless, the youth Crimestoppers charity. Young people in Scotland are working to prevent knife crime in their communities through peer education programmes and by making positive choices.
- Consider the circumstances that led to the incident. Research tells us that young people with experience of offending behaviour have often faced multiple adverse situations in their lives.
- Take a children's rights approach to reporting. Children accused or guilty of breaking the law still have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.



## Resources

**No Knives, Better Lives**  
[www.noknivesbetterlives.com](http://www.noknivesbetterlives.com)

**Scottish Government – Law and order**  
[www.gov.scot/law-and-order/](http://www.gov.scot/law-and-order/)

**Fearless**  
[www.fearless.org/en](http://www.fearless.org/en)

## The photographer

Becky Duncan, director of Open Aye C.I.C, is a professionally trained photographer specialising in social documentary for the third sector. Through her work at Open Aye C.I.C, Becky uses creative participatory methodologies and practice to strengthen communities and enable positive communications.

[beckyduncanphotos.photoshelter.com](http://beckyduncanphotos.photoshelter.com)

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