

The background of the entire cover is a dark, grainy image of a person wearing a light-colored hoodie, with their face obscured by a black rectangular box. The background is overlaid with a pattern of binary code (0s and 1s) in a light grey color. The title text is positioned in the lower half of the image, set against a solid dark green rectangular background.

A Community Guide to Serious & Organised Crime

A Faith Perspective



A project of



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In Islam, all crimes are selfish. There is no such thing as a selfless crime. Every possible sin involves hurting others – murder, rape, slavery, robbery, drugs, grooming and so many more. Islam asks Muslims to develop a moral consciousness at all times, and to reflect on what one sinful act can do to an entire community.

Islam reminds us that all crimes are counter-productive. No matter how profitable criminals view a particular sin, it never leads to long-term benefit. Certainly it does not lead to inner satisfaction. In fact, Prophet Muhammad defined ‘sin’ on this very basis – he said that ‘sin is that which troubles your soul and causes a heaviness on the inside’ (Musnad Ahmad).

All crimes disrupt the peace of society. Islam has always placed peace and security as the most important ingredient in a community. Prophet Abraham lived in Syria and was instructed to migrate to the Hijaz (modern-day Saudi Arabia). The first thing he did when he reached the new land was to supplicate: ‘O Lord! Make this a peaceful land...’ (Quran, 2: 126). Security precedes everything.

Peace (Salam) is perhaps the most central teaching of Islam. The religion is named after the Arabic for peace. A Muslim’s greeting wishes peace for others (Asalam Alaykum). Allah has ninety-nine beautiful names, of

which one is ‘As-Salam’. The first words which the inhabitants of paradise will hear as they enter will be ‘Salam’. Serious and organised crime never leads to Salam; neither for the perpetrators, the victims or the wider community.

Faith has the potential to inspire and motivate good works. It is undeniably a powerful force in our lives and commands good works, while it also requires us to build strong and healthy communities. Faith communities are uniquely placed to influence, to challenge and to transform social and cultural norms. It is with this in mind that we have authored this awareness-raising booklet, we want to highlight to our communities that being passive is not an option, to stand up against violent crime and the perpetrators of crime is an act of ibadah (worship).

Shaykh Sultan Niaz ul Hassan
Chairman
Bahu Trust



Serious and organised crime is one of the deadliest security threats that continuously invades our communities and consequently our economy. It leads to more deaths in the UK each year than all other national security threats combined. Serious and organised criminals brutally target those who are most vulnerable, ruining lives and devastating communities, costing the country nearly £37 billion each year.

West Midlands Police want to expose how criminals reap their benefits to fund their glamorous lifestyles, leaving victims to suffer the consequences. We know there is a clear and direct link between the drugs which are sold on our streets and violence which communities will see on a daily basis.

A lot of serious and organised crime is hidden and unreported meaning the true scale is very likely to be much higher than we already know. Criminals prey on those who are the most vulnerable in their communities and exploit them, sell deadly substances to them and steal their data ruthlessly for their own financial gains. They use strong

intimidation tactics and instil fear in their victims to help them hide their activities and profits, while investing in further criminality.

West Midlands Police are committed to exposing these criminals. Everyone has a duty to report anything they see. We would like to reach out to our faith communities to support our mission to reduce the vulnerability of our young people, your siblings, your families from being drawn in to a life of crime.

Ch. Insp Corrina Griffiths
Serious & Organised Crime
Community Co-ordinator
West Midlands Police



A person with dark, curly hair is seen from the back, wearing a grey and white long-sleeved shirt. They are looking into a dark, out-of-focus background that appears to be a wooded area. The lighting is dim, creating a somber and mysterious atmosphere.

What Is Serious & Organised Crime?

The UK Government and National Crime Agency (NCA) define serious and organised crime (SOC) as 'serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, for financial prosperity.'



Organised criminals working together for a particular criminal activity or activities are called an organised crime group (OCG)'

It is opportunistic

Involves violence, corruption and intimidation

It is conducted by people in groups who work together to build a criminal enterprise network for their own profit

Planned, conducted and coordinated by people who are working as a team on a continuous basis

Serious and organised crime takes place within local communities, across local borders, nationally and internationally

Some of the activities that are undertaken by Organised Crime Groups:



Distribution of drugs



The supply of firearms



Theft and robbery



Cyber-crime



Child Sexual Exploitation



Human trafficking and modern slavery



Fraud and other forms of financial crime

What is an Organised Crime Group?

An organised crime group consists of three or more people who act together with the purpose of carrying out criminal activities.

Organised crime groups often rely on vulnerable communities and individual needs to profit economically or otherwise.

These organisations can run criminal activity across international, national and county borders. In some instances, they may work with/for other groups to increase their criminal activity.

Some organised crime groups can also be loose networks who socialise and offend together, while others involve smaller groups who each have a specific role to play, such as in the supply and distribution of drugs.

These groups work in a networked way.

This will usually involve people who are not important to them in the action of the crime.

This includes using children or vulnerable people to do the more exposed work, such as storing illegal goods, transporting or supplying drugs and intimidating and harassing other people for them.

Our Responsibility

As Aristotle explained, by nature, man is a social animal. One must meet, mingle and interact with the wider community for one's needs. All Islam asks is to ensure the people we meet are figures that inspire us to righteousness, mutual love and a sense of humanity.

If people do form groups together, it should be aimed at providing love, citizenship and safety for the people. In the Holy Quran, we are told: 'Help one another in righteousness and piety. And do not help each other in sin and aggression' (5:2). In practice, Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) did exactly that in his blessed youth. Before the appearance of Islam, Arabia had a climate of lawlessness, injustice and oppression.

It was in essence 'survival of the fittest' and one's fate largely depended on tribal affiliation. In this difficult climate, Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) joined a small alliance called 'Hilf al-Fudul', established by Abd Allah ibn Jad'an, whose aim was to 'help the oppressed, rich or poor'. The alliance was very successful in helping the oppressed. It played an important and pivotal role in ensuring that justice was done. Additionally, it showed that alliances are there to stop crime, not to allow it.

When people form alliances based on helping the community, seldom do we witness divisions and in-fighting between the members. The same cannot be said of OCGs.

How do individuals get involved in street crime?

There is no uniform way in which people get involved in serious and organised crime. However, there are some factors which increase the likelihood of an individual becoming involved in illegal activity.

We can identify these factors into three categories which can significantly put people at greater risk of being drawn into serious and organised crime especially when the factors are combined.



Identity:

- Low academic achievement
- Upbringing in deprived backgrounds socially and economically.
- Being brought up in an area with high levels of criminality.
- Individuals can feel like being part of a gang makes them feel like they are part of a 'family'.
- Poor health and housing can also lead individuals to turn to crime – wanting to better their own lifestyle or the lifestyle of their families.



Individuals:

- People are susceptible to idolising a criminal's lifestyle, which they see as the measure of an achievable success.
- Social media influences the way young people think – they see the glamorous lifestyles of others and want for themselves.
- Lack of confidence – they believe they will fail no matter what.



Networks:

- Access to criminal networks, through family, friendships, intimate relationships and associates (through business, prison or online).



Our Responsibility

Islam teaches Muslims that prevention is always better than the cure. Most of Shariah's rulings work on this maxim. For Adam, the fruit was what was actually forbidden. But he was told he could not go near the Tree. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) forbade two people speaking secretly in the presence of a third. It prevents ill feelings and suspicions stemming from the third (*Sahih al-Bukhari & Muslim*).

In the prevention of crime, the period of childhood is extremely important. Muslim parents are requested not only to provide a shelter for their children, but an upbringing based on good manners, citizenship and love:

- Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) famously remarked: 'A father can give his son nothing better than good manners' (*Sunan al-Tirmidhi*).
- Parents are reminded that children by nature seek role models to imitate. Parents are the most influential role models for children. If their behaviour is impeccable in public and private, the children will seldom develop criminal habits later in life.
- Part of this spiritual nurturing (*Tarbiyya*) includes encouraging good acts from a young age, since habits infused into a child from a young age stays with him/her for the rest of their lives. For instance, children at the age of nine are actively encouraged to perform Salah. This worship itself develops so many important life skills from a ripe age – (i) time-keeping as all prayers are time-specific (ii) self-discipline (iii) physical & spiritual cleanliness (iv) Importantly, it helps to deter sinning in the first place.
- No one will ever get everything they want in life. From an early age, children are taught about the Halal & Haram (*the permissible and the impermissible*). As they grow older, such an education will allow them to appreciate that they cannot have everything they desire and that there are things which are off-limits to them. So Muslims are thus taught to focus on what they do have (*and thank Allah for it*), rather than what they do not.

Who are the perpetrators of serious and organised crime?

The majority of serious and organised crime offenders are men from all different types of backgrounds; however this does not mean women are not also involved in OCGs. The traditional view of organised crime is of a ‘mafia’ style organised crime group that is similar to a hierarchy with strong family links, using violence and intimidation tactics for their own gain.

However, organised crime groups are dynamic and have changed and adapted to environmental factors, such as better international transport links, cyber enabled activity and access to wider criminal networks.

However, serious and organised crime is constantly changing. For example, they have multiple crime type operations, where one criminal operation often

funds or enforces another. They also operate a loose network of criminal associates, based on trust and mutual co-operation fulfilling different roles within the group. They are highly skilful at identifying new criminal opportunities while nearly always being motivated by profit, which they use to reflect their own status through glamorous lifestyles.

Our Responsibility

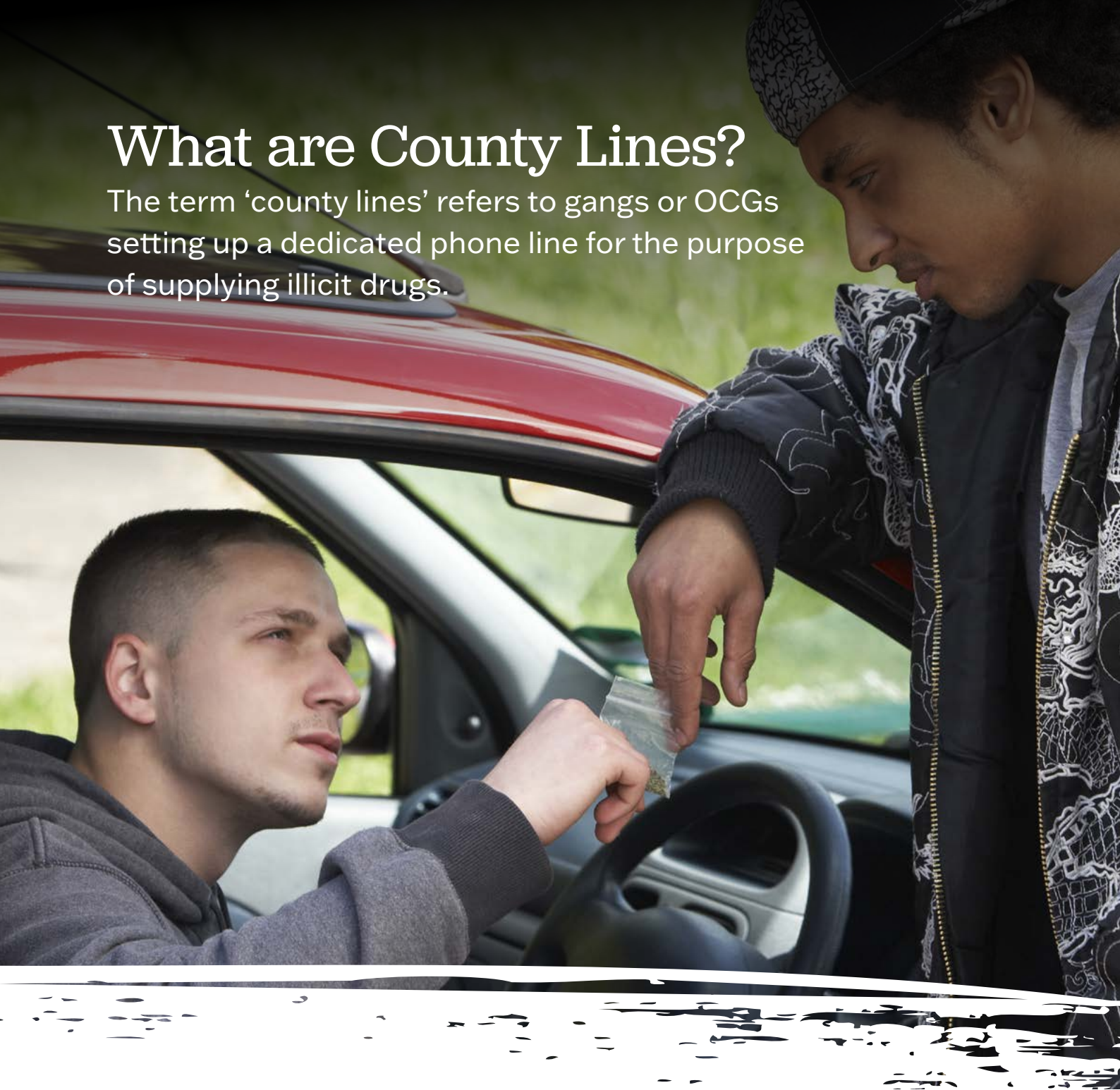
Perpetrators of evil have always existed in human history. The Quran mentions the story of the Pharaoh and Nimrod, men who used violence and intimidation to further their short-term, selfish needs. More importantly, Allah clearly mentions their horrible fate and the result of their lifetime of sin and aggression; insult in this world and punishment in the hereafter.

Because alliances of evil cause so much damage in society, Islam places mechanisms in all areas of life that encourage good companionship (*Suhba*), positive role models and a climate of mutual help. Holding positive family gatherings and

taking children on family trips is instrumental in providing identity and strength for young minds. Salah (*daily prayers*) ensures Muslims choose the right Suhba (*companionship*) in their lives. Many Islamic events held in mosques provide meals at the end, a moment where all members of the community – young and old – can attain the blessings of sitting and eating together. Moreover, gatherings of Dhikr (*remembrance*) and other spiritual gatherings organised in homes raise community spirits. All these mechanisms are so important in preventing networks of crime and destruction.

What are County Lines?

The term 'county lines' refers to gangs or OCGs setting up a dedicated phone line for the purpose of supplying illicit drugs.



Normally gangs from an urban setting moving to a more rural area, crossing county and police force boundaries in the process, to establish or take over the local drugs market. A phone number is then given out to those wishing to buy drugs so they know who to call and it is also used to contact others in the supply chain so that

more drugs can be delivered to the area when needed. The people involved have the capability to replace local drug dealers very quickly, often having an elevated status due to their habits of violence exerting fear over others.





How Does Serious & Organised Crime Impact the Community

Impact on the Community

The victims of serious and organised crime are local people, communities and businesses. The sole purpose of serious and organised crime is personal gain in whatever form.

Serious and Organised Crime Groups can harm communities in a variety of ways, including:

The supply and distribution of drugs in communities



Young people and children at risk of child sexual exploitation, online grooming or exposure to adult or illicit material online



Fraud, identity theft and other forms of financial crime can harm the wellbeing of individuals within a community



Firearms or other weapons to threaten or harm individuals



Human trafficking and modern slavery

Our Responsibility

In Islam, the focal point is the Ummah (*community*) not the individual. A few simple examples will highlight this very fact:

A. Most of the Quranic supplications in the Quran begin with Rabbana (*O our Lord!*), not Rabbi (*O my Lord!*). In other words, we pray for everyone, not just ourselves.

B. Most types of worship in Islam are collective ones or at least have the interests of all at heart. Salah (*prayer*) can be read alone but Muslims are encouraged to read collectively. Zakah benefits all, especially the underprivileged.



The harm caused by serious and organised crime is far reaching and can be very different for individuals, communities and businesses alike:

It can include the loss of money or other assets, or harm to business or personal reputation



Victims can suffer from anxiety and stress, particularly if they are vulnerable



Occasionally, victims can be physically injured, subjected to psychological trauma, or killed as a consequence of criminal action

Entire communities can also be victims; for example, prevalent drug supply and distribution across a local area can have substantial impact on the health and wellbeing of residents and the overall environment

C. Shariah laws always preserve the interests of the community, not the individual. Usury is forbidden because it allows the few to become extremely rich, at the expense of the majority.

With such an ethos, OCGs will never appeal to a true Muslim. Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) showed dismay to the Muslim who allows

his neighbour (*Muslim or non-Muslim*) to stay hungry whilst he is satiated (*Mishkat al-Masabih*). So how can OCGs, who bring unrest to all parts of a community, be a good thing? Islam is a religion of all; if something leads to the unrest of the entire community, it can never be justified.



Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. When a child or young person is exploited, they are given things like money, gifts, drugs and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities.

This can also include the production, distribution and possession of indecent images of children. Children are usually tricked into believing this is a loving and consensual relationship. This is called grooming. They may trust their abuser while not even understanding that they are being abused.

Some abusers may use violence and intimidation to frighten and force a child or

young person, making them feel as if there is no other option or by giving them large sums of money they know cannot be repaid to use financial abuse to control them. Anybody can be a perpetrator of child sexual exploitation, no matter their age, gender or race. The relationship could be framed as friendship, someone to look up to or romantic. Children and young people might also be used to find other young people to be involved in these groups.

What are the signs?



Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going



Often returning home late or staying out all night



Sudden changes in their appearance and wearing more revealing clothes

Becoming involved in drugs or alcohol, particularly if you suspect they are being supplied by older men or women



Becoming emotionally volatile (mood swings are common in all young people, but more severe changes could indicate that something is wrong)



Using sexual language that you wouldn't expect them to know



Engaging less with their usual friends



Appearing controlled by their phone

For more information visit: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

What can you do?

Work with community organisations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people through people such as local mosque/church/schools.



Use existing programmes and services to teach children about the dangers of child sexual exploitation



Raising awareness about child sexual exploitation and how to report it

Start the conversation within the community as well as within the household to ensure children know you are aware of what is going on



Our Responsibility

Were an individual to consider ‘what if my child or relative was subject to child abuse and exploitation?’, then a hatred and disgust for this crime would certainly appear. Islam has always stressed this philosophy. Shariah does not have a dual code but a single one. All human beings are equal because they are all the descendants of Adam (Quran, 4:1). All human beings are described as noble, not just Muslims (Quran, 17:70). God loves humans, and He created man ‘in the best image’ (Quran, 95: 4). When one looks at the conduct of Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*), he showed dignity towards all. Many criminals with a Muslim background have a mind-set of ‘us versus them’ or ‘non-Muslims are fair-game.’ Such a sentiment has no place in Islam at all.

In addition to this, the strong emphasis of ‘enjoining good and forbidding evil’ in Islam plays an instrumental role in putting an end to these heinous crimes. Catastrophes and crimes often occur purely because the good people refuse to speak out. In the Quran, Allah warns that in the past, people were destroyed not because they participated in crimes, but because they refused to speak up when they witnessed it (Quran, 7: 163-166).

Again, Islam places emphasis on prevention rather than cure. Muslims are taught to abhor nudity in all of its forms. From a young age, Muslims are taught what is acceptable in public and what is left for the private domain alone.



Halima's story

Halima's parents separated when she was six. Always looking for a surrogate family, she fell into the wrong crowd and indulged in criminality and anti-social behaviour. She was befriended by a groomer who bought her presents and made her feel special. She was sold for sex and used to traffic drugs and recruit other girls to do the same. Without knowing, she became part of an organised gang and was being used as a sex slave. Halima ended up in prison after she was charged for a string of robberies, sexual exploitation, drugs offences and much more.



Supply and Use of Firearms

The UK has some of the toughest gun laws in the world and as a result, firearm offences make up a very small percentage of overall recorded crime. However gun crime associated with street gangs and organised criminals, particularly in our largest cities, is a cause of major concern. Young people feature disproportionately among both perpetrators and victims.

What are the signs?

Supply of firearms across the UK



Firearms enter the criminal market through a variety of means, through post in parcels and from thefts from legitimate firearms holders or dealers



Community members being caught in the crossfire and potentially hurt



Effect on local community if somebody was to get hurt



For more information visit: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

What can you do?



Encourage communities who are at the centre of this to report possession of firearms



Start the conversation at home and within the community about the dangers



Work with local community organisations to share intelligence on the supply and demand of firearms

Leon's Story

Leon was a talented boy, always acted the lad in school but loved by all. His desire to make quick money saw him using and selling drugs at 13 and resorting to violence in all situations. This got him noticed amongst the 'elders' who were already part of an organised enterprise.

The offer of quicker and larger amounts of money engaged him in a life of violence and criminality. He was an up and coming drug dealer, robber and gangster – a young kingpin at the age of 14.

To solicit the lifestyle, he was involved in multiple stabbings and took hold of a firearm. At 14 he was confirmed to be involved in and using firearms and put in prison, having been forced to take the sole blame for these incidents.

Our Responsibility

Like all major religions, Islam stresses the sanctity of life. Death is tragic, irrespective of colour, creed and gender. On one occasion, a funeral passed by, upon which Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) stood up in respect. One person remarked 'O Messenger of Allah! That was the funeral of a Jewish woman [and not a Muslim].' Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) replied, 'I know. Whenever a funeral passes by, please stand for it' (*Sahih al-Bukhari*). When a criminal murders one individual, then according to Islam, he has slayed all of humanity (5: 32).

When it comes to firearms, we should not focus on the possible repercussions if we report it, but the countless possible consequences if we do not.

Muslims by nature enjoin good and forbid evil. Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) once gave the example of people boarding a boat that had two decks. Those on the lower deck had to pass the upper deck to fetch water, which caused inconvenience to them. So they said, 'If we make a hole in the lower deck, we do not have to disturb those on the upper deck.' Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) explained that if the upper deck passengers did not speak, they would have all drowned. If they did speak up, all of them would be saved (*Sahih al-Bukhari*).

The same analogy applies to firearms. If we stay silent, we all pay the price. If we speak up, we save everyone.



Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Today, slavery is less about people literally owning other people, although that does still exist – but more about being exploited and completely controlled by someone else, without being able to leave.

Someone is in slavery if they are forced to work through coercion, psychological or physical threat. Also if they are trapped and controlled by an 'employer' through psychological or physical abuse and especially if they are dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'. They can also be physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom of movement.

Human trafficking involves recruitment, transporting or exploiting people through the use of violence, deception or coercion and being forced to work against their will. In other words, trafficking is a process of enslaving people, coercing them into a situation with no way out and exploiting them. People can be trafficked for many different forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labour, forced begging, forced criminality, domestic servitude and forced marriage.

What are the signs?

Appear to be under the control of someone else and reluctant to interact with others



Have few personal belongings, wear the same clothes every day or wear unsuitable clothes for work



Not have personal identification on them



Not be able to move around freely



Be reluctant to talk to strangers or the authorities

Appear frightened, withdrawn, or show signs of physical or psychological abuse



Dropped off and collected for work always in the same way, especially at unusual times, i.e. very early or late at night



For more information visit: <https://www.antislavery.org/>

What can you do?

Raise awareness about the signs of human trafficking, including how to report a safeguarding concern or crime



Try to support the victims you are aware of, understanding that they might not be rescued at short notice



Raise awareness of sham marriages or signs of forced marriage with local communities



Talk about issues within the community and try to overcome the cultural taboos around forced marriages



Our Responsibility

In most cases, the poor and underprivileged are the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. It is the poor and underprivileged that Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) loved most. Allah instructed His Messenger never to say 'no' to them (*Quran, 93: 10*). He (*peace be upon him*) housed the poor in his mosque (*the As'hab al-Suffa*), though mosques by nature are not for residential purposes. He taught people to sit with them and ask the underprivileged for Du'as (*supplications*). He (*peace be upon him*) stressed that a good society is defined by how it treats the poor, needy and disabled, not how they treat the rich and privileged alone. Human trafficking and slavery goes totally against the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, who himself was an orphan.

Slavery existed much before the appearance of Islam, but so much was done by Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) to discourage this inhumane practice. The freeing of slaves is one of the most virtuous acts possible, as mentioned in the Qur'an. A slave seeking to pay his ransom for freedom can accept Zakah money. Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) was once asked about which deed leads to paradise. He (*peace be upon him*) replied: 'free slaves or help the freeing of slaves (*Shu'ab al-Iman*)'. In another saying, he (*peace be upon him*) declared that 'Allah loves nothing more in His world than the freeing of slaves...' (*Dara Qutni*). If our Lord loves nothing more than the freeing of slaves, then perhaps nothing can be more disliked to Him than human trafficking and slavery.



Andrei's Story

Andrei has recently moved to England from Romania. He knew he would need a job to support himself and a place to live, so he found a job in the local takeaway. He was given a room to sleep in at the back of the shop with one sofa and is paid less than minimum wage. He works from 10am to 1am in the morning every day and takes responsibility for the whole shop while his bosses come in and out whenever they wish to.



Cyber Crime

Cyber crime is a term for lots of different types of crimes which take place online or where technology is a target for the attack. It is one of the fastest growing criminal activities across the world, and can affect both individuals and businesses.

What are the dangers?

Bogus emailing asking for security information and personal details



Criminals accessing your webcam



Criminals hijacking files and holding them to ransom



Criminals recording what you type on your keyboard (keylogging)

Hacking in computer accounts and information



For more information visit: <http://www.actionfraud.org.uk/>

What can you do?

Research how you can secure your online accounts



Encourage communities to protect and secure their online transactions and communications

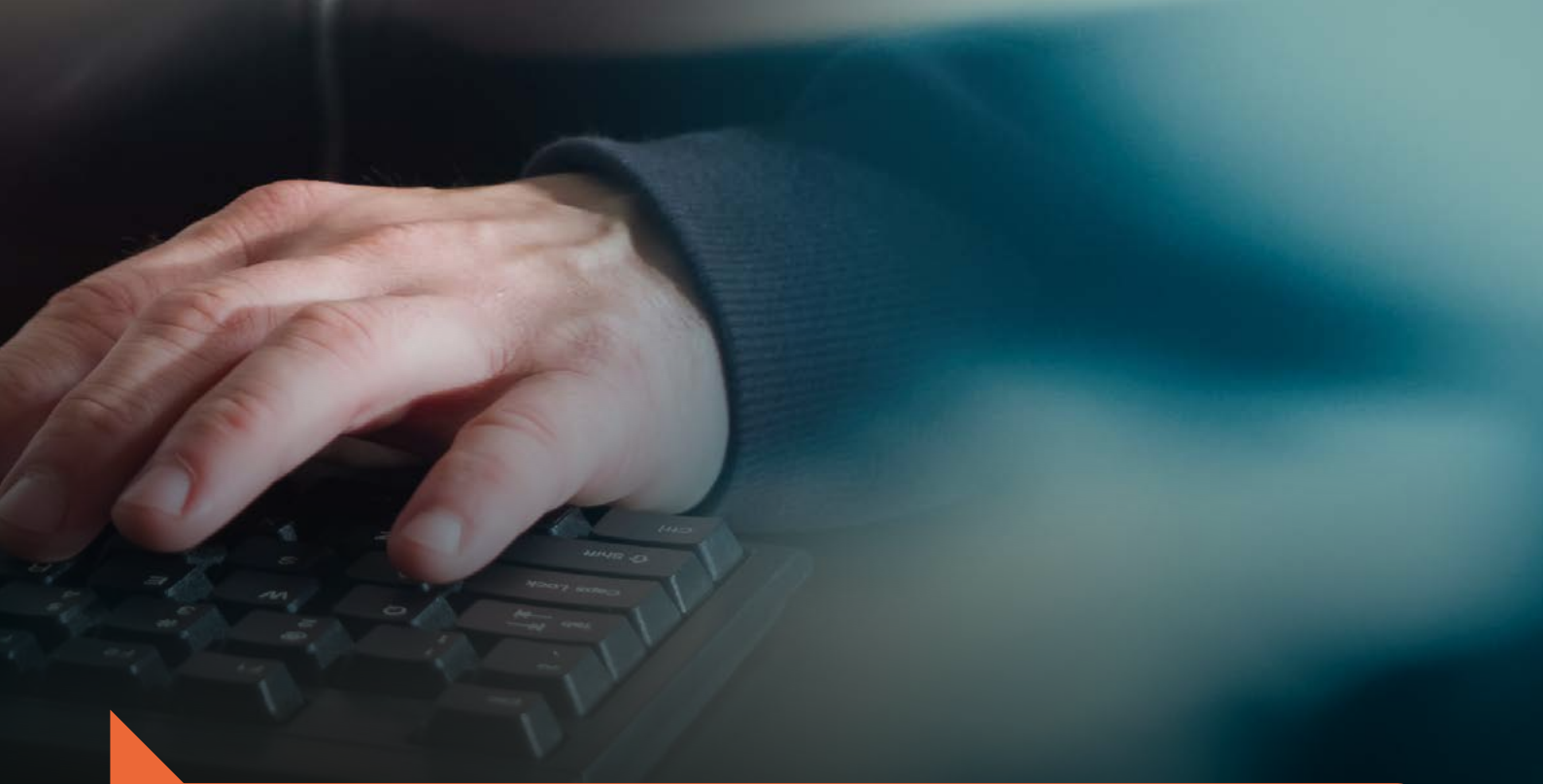


Raise awareness of cyber-crime amongst communities and its potential impact



Encourage people to report unusual activity that could be cyber-crime to the police





Tom's Story

Tom had a fascination for computers from a young age and spent most his evenings on the computer, soon discovering the dark web. He became entrenched in hacking people's computers and later founded a criminal gang online of hackers and fraudsters. By 16 he was accessing webcams and exploiting people online, holding their data for ransom. He defrauds peoples' online banking details and has conned hundreds and thousands of pounds out of the pockets of innocent people. At 17 he is now serving a sentence for a string of offences including one where his actions have led to the suicide of a victim who he conned out of her life savings.

Our Responsibility

Allah constantly asks Muslims to always weigh up the benefits and harms of things around us. Are children and money always a good thing? Most would answer in the affirmative. In the Quran, Allah reminds us that on occasions, both of these can be a form of a tribulation too (8:28).

Undoubtedly, the internet is a wonderful tool that has changed our lives in so many positive ways. But equally, we should be aware of the possible dangers too, like cyber crime.

Cyber crime is very complicated and by nature, it is ever changing. Ordinary people are sometimes oblivious of how easy it is for criminals to access their personal files. The only means by which we can protect ourselves is through education. The Quran reminds us that whenever we are ignorant over a matter, then we should consult the 'people of knowledge' (21:7). Young or old, everyone should make the effort to learn how cyber crime works from the computing experts, in order to protect one's self from this evil crime'.

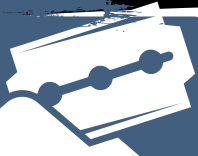


Drugs

Drugs are related to crime in multiple ways. It is a crime to use, possess, manufacture or distribute illegal drugs. Some examples are cocaine, heroin, marijuana and amphetamines. Drugs are also related to crime through the effects they have on the user's behaviour and by creating violence and other illegal activity in connection with the supply of drugs.

What are the dangers?

Production and supply of drugs in our community



Children in the area being groomed to supply drugs



Impact on the health and well-being of local communities and families



Increase in drug related crime activity



For more information visit: www.talktofrank.com

What can you do?

Start conversations within the home and the community to ensure children and young people are aware of the dangers as well as aware that you have knowledge on the topic



Get children and young people involved in extra curricular activities to keep them busy



Raise awareness of the connection between drugs and organised crime to prevent engagement



Abdul's Story

Abdul Hadi is 16 years old, he is involved in the supply of drugs through associating with other men involved in county lines. He is happy with the money he makes and feels because he doesn't take the drugs himself, he is doing nothing wrong. He has now moved onto violence as the territorial wars between rival gangs rise. He is regularly missing and has older men often visiting the family home making threats if he does not go with them. He lives his life in constant fear, not knowing when his own lifestyle could hurt him.

Our Responsibility

Man is the magnum opus of all of God's creation. He created Adam (*peace be upon him*) with His own Blessed Hands (38: 75). Stemming from this love Allah has for man, Islam has provided rules and guidance on how best to preserve this wonderful body He has gifted us.

In particular, our religion has stressed the importance of safeguarding the Aql (*intellect*). Without a sound mind, a person can never serve his Creator or the creations around him. This is the reason why alcohol, drugs and other abusive substances are forbidden in our religion. Once a person loses his intellectual senses, he loses his sense of right and wrong, good and evil. This is why Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) described Khamr (*intoxicants*) as the 'mother of all evils' (*Sunan Abu Dawud*).

When someone performs an act of spirituality – helping humanity, spending time with children or even simply admiring nature – the effects touch the heart, which subsequently brings prolonged peace to the entire body. One reminisces the act fondly and thus finds long-term serenity.

Substance abuse never has the same effect. It is only a short term thrill or fix that leaves the person wanting more. It never brings lasting satisfaction, because it does not touch the heart (*like an act of spirituality does*).

Islam reminds us that all sins are selfish, which itself is disliked in all religions. No matter how much a person convinces himself that drug use is not harming others, it always does. Everyone feels the financial, social and spiritual consequences in the wider community.



Economic Crime

Economic crime, is an illegal act for financial gain. Due to there being a low risk and high profit associated with economic crime it is a very attractive activity for organised crime groups.

The reason for this is that investigating this crime is very complex and therefore the likelihood that it will be detected and prosecuted is very low. The financial impact on victims of economic crime can include the loss of assets of financial security.

Impact on the community:

- Fraud against members of the community
- Fraud against the public sector
- Bribery and corruption
- Money laundering and criminal finance

What are the dangers?

Health and wellbeing of victims of economic crime



Impact on local businesses

2/10

Reputation of a safe business

For more information visit: <http://www.actionfraud.org.uk/>

What can you do?



Encourage communities to protect and secure their financial information and to check for irregular activity



Raise awareness of economic crime amongst communities and its potential impact



Encourage people to report unusual activity that could be economic crime to the police



Fouad's Story

Fouad has a string of businesses which he has financed through drug money. At an early age he started laundering money and now his operations have grown massively. He cleans double the amounts of money through his businesses. At 21 he was laundering money for organised drug dealers for a fee and defrauding people through insurance and financial scams. He has used the names of most of his family to finance assets which he never paid for and tarnished their opportunities for credit without them knowing. Fouad regularly uses his position to facilitate bribery and corruption, his movements were difficult to trace as the complexity of his operations advanced. He was later convicted for his crimes and is serving a sentence.

Our Responsibility

Muslims are taught that employment itself is a form of worship (*ibada*). In one report, Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) declared that earning a legitimate income wipes away sins. Any effort to earn provisions is rewarded by Allah, just like a Muslim would be rewarded for reciting the Holy Qur'an. A Muslim would not mug someone in order to give charity to the mosque. In the same manner, Muslims are taught that earning an income through illegitimate means – which is a form of worship – is self-defeating and contradictory.

In the same way there is an inner peace in

performing good acts, there is a burden in sin. Muslims are reminded that seeking forbidden income never leads to peace; one is always constantly worried about whether they are caught and arrested. It leads to sleepless nights.

Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) once famously said: 'No one has consumed food better than the food he has earned with his own [clean] hands.' In other words, we should seek satisfaction in the food, goods, properties and gadgets we purchase through the correct, non-criminal manner. Purchasing goods in the criminal manner never brings such satisfaction.








Who to Turn to For Support

If you believe someone is in immediate danger, dial **999** and get in touch with the police. Otherwise you can talk to our team on Live Chat via our website www.west-midlands.police.uk.

Most police services have dedicated departments with specialist officers who only investigate these types of crimes and their case will be dealt with by passionate and understanding officers..

Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Organisation	What they do	Phone number	Website
	PACE Parents Against Child Exploitation Pace works alongside parents and carers of children who are – or are at risk of being – exploited by perpetrators external to the family. We offer guidance and training to professionals on how child exploitation affects the whole family.	0113 240 3040	www.paceuk.info
	NSPCC The fundamental goal of the NSPCC is to help reduce – and eventually stamp out – cruelty to children in all its many forms.	0808 800 5000	www.nspcc.org.uk
	Barnardos To support and protect children and young people facing a wide range of issues, from drug misuse to disability, from sexual abuse to domestic violence.	0121 359 5333	www.barnardos.org.uk/space
	Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid Support for women and children affected by abuse.	0121 685 8687	www.bswaid.org
	Birmingham CSE Team A multi-agency team led by Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Police to provide support to victims of CSE and young people identified as being at risk of CSE.	0121 303 1888	www.nwgnetwork.org/services/birmingham-cse-team/




Slavery and Human Trafficking



Organisation	What they do	Phone number	Website
	Modern Slavery Helpline The Modern Slavery Helpline and Resource Centre brings us closer to the eradication of modern slavery. It provides victims, the public, statutory agencies and businesses access to information and support on a 24/7 basis.	08000 121 700	www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/report
	Crime Stoppers To tell Crimestoppers what you know, not who you are, call them or visit their website	0800 555 111	https://crimestoppers-uk.org/
	West Midlands Police If you think someone is at serious risk of harm, or the slavery is happening now please call 999	999	www.west-midlands.police.uk/
	Anti Slavery Together with local organisations we work to secure the freedom of those affected by slavery and press for effective implementation of laws against slavery.	020 7501 8937	www.antislavery.org/contact-us/
	Victim Support An independent charity that help people affected by crime and traumatic events. They are not part of the police or any other criminal justice agency.	0808 168 9111	www.bswaid.org




Cyber Crime



Organisation	What they do	Phone number	Website
	Action Fraud The UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.	0300 123 2040	http://www.actionfraud.org.uk/
	West Midlands Police If you think someone is at serious risk or harm is happening now please call 999	999	www.west-midlands.police.uk/
	Police Digital Security Centre A not-for-profit organisation, owned by the police, that works across the UK in partnership with industry, government, academia and law enforcement.	0208 0160 999	https://www.policedsc.com/



Drugs



Organisation	What they do	Phone number	Website
	Realiteen To give parents confidence to approach their children regarding these issues. As a parent we sometimes tend to ignore certain issues in the hope that schools will educate our children enough to make the right choices in life.		www.realiteen.co.uk/
	UK Narcotics Anonymous Helpline and regular self help meetings for addicts who have a desire to stop using and who wish to support each other in remaining drug free.	0300 999 1212	www.ukna.org
	FRANK Find out everything you need to know about drugs, their effects and the law. Talk to Frank for facts, support and advice on drugs and alcohol today.	0300 123 6600	www.talktofrank.com

Economic Crime

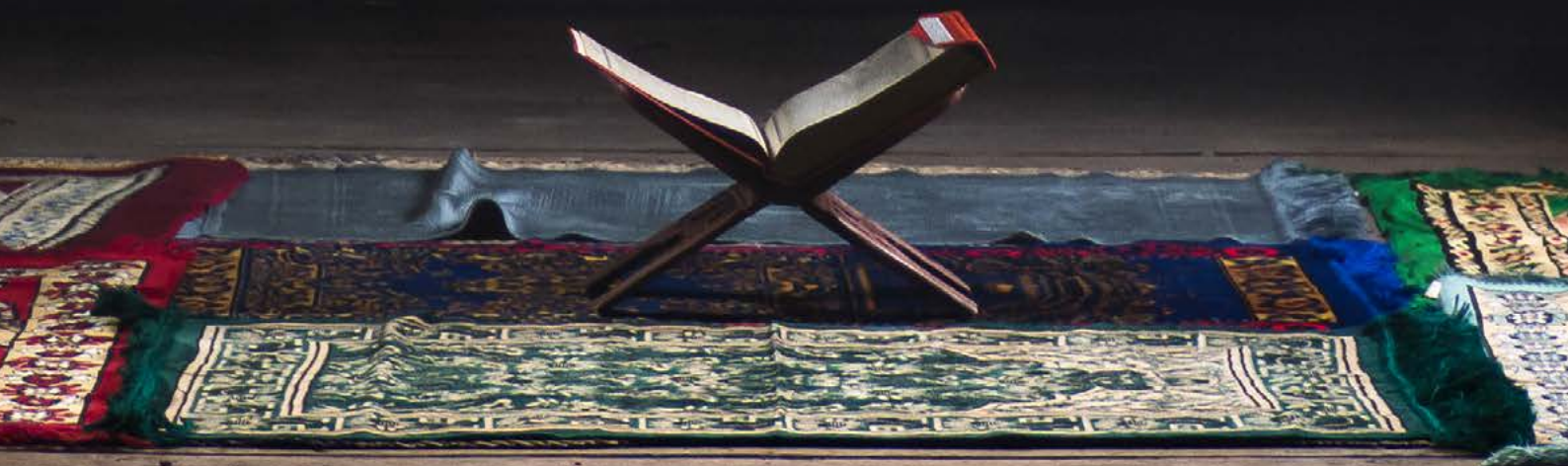


Organisation	What they do	Phone number	Website
	Action Fraud To give parents confidence to approach their children regarding these issues. As a parent we sometimes tend to ignore certain issues in the hope that schools will educate our children enough to make the right choices in life.	0300 123 2040	http://www.actionfraud.org.uk/
	Police Digital Security Centre DSC is a not-for-profit organisation, owned by the police, that works across the UK in partnership with industry, government, academia and law enforcement.	0208 0160 999	https://www.policedsc.com/

“

**Be a community that
calls for what is good,
urges what is right and
forbids what is wrong.
Those who do, are the
successful ones”**

(Quran 3:104)



A Community Guide to Serious & Organised Crime

bahustrust.org/communitysafety