

## Knife Crime



### What is knife crime?

knife crime is a crime that involves a knife. This includes:

- carrying a knife
- trying to buy a knife if you are under 18
- threatening someone with a knife
- owning a banned knife
- injuring or fatally wounding somebody with a knife
- intent to injure or harm somebody with a knife
- a robbery or burglary where a knife was carried as a weapon

**What's the law?** For carrying a knife in for example a public place or college setting, the maximum penalty if convicted is four years in prison. Those found on more than one occasion to be in possession of a knife face a minimum sentence of six months.

For offences when a knife is used on another person or in the commission of a crime (i.e., street robbery), the punishments become even more life changing.

## KNIVES AND THE LAW

**It's illegal and you could go to prison if you**

Buy or sell a knife to anyone who is under 18	Commit a crime with the use of a weapon – like a robbery	Use any knife in a threatening way	Commit a crime by pretending you have a real knife or gun	Carry a knife without good reason. You risk a sentence of up to 4 years
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### Other facts related to knife crime

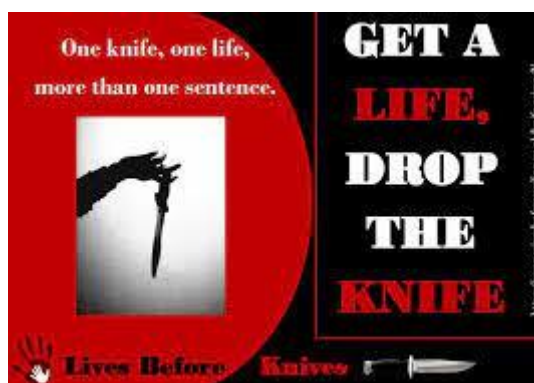
If you carry a knife you are much more likely to use it and to get stabbed yourself.	If someone is injured or killed by a knife in your presence you could be prosecuted even if it's not you who uses it. You could be sent to prison for murder under what is called 'joint enterprise'.	If you have a criminal record you might not be accepted into a college or university, get a job, or travel to some countries like the USA, Canada or Australia.	Police can and will search anyone they believe is carrying a knife.	If you get caught with a knife illegally, even if you were carrying it for someone else, you might be arrested and prosecuted.
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#BinTheKnife

Using a knife or another bladed instrument, depending on the circumstances and nature of injuries caused, can lead to offenders being charged with a range of offences, from assault to Section 18 Causing Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) with intent, from attempted murder to manslaughter and ultimately murder.

Such offences can lead to many years in prison. While committing murder carries a mandatory life sentence, offenders can also be sentenced to life in jail for committing a Section 18 GBH offence.

If someone is injured or killed by a knife while you are present, you too could be prosecuted. You could potentially be sent to prison for murder in a 'joint enterprise'.



## The Offensive Weapons Act 2019

- It is now illegal to possess certain weapons in private places, including your home. This includes items such as knuckledusters, flick knives and telescopic truncheons.
- There will also be changes to the process of buying knives online with enhanced age verification checks at point of sale and collection/delivery.
- Please store and dispose of knives safely to reduce the risk of them being used as weapons.
- Help prevent knife crime by reporting any concerns, including about how they are sold, to the Police or anonymously to Crimestoppers.



To find out more visit the National Business Crime Centre  
[www.nbcc.police.uk/knifeguidance](http://www.nbcc.police.uk/knifeguidance)

## The Offensive Weapons Act 2019

The Offensive Weapons Act 2019 is an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The act addresses crimes related to acid attacks (including the sale and possession in public places of corrosive substances); knife crime prevention orders; the sale of delivery and possession of knives and other offensive weapons; and introduced further restrictions on firearms. It was introduced to Parliament as a government bill by Sajid Javid and Baroness Williams of Trafford of the Home Office

Watch the short video on the offensive Weapons Act and some changes to purchasing knives:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiKSCEPcseE&t=11s>

## Knife Crime in the News

Children as young as nine default to "protection" as being the reason to carry a knife. The consequences are not considered on the fact that if you carry a knife, statistically you are more likely to be killed. How did we get to a place where our children and young people are actively thinking that carrying a knife will protect them? How did we get to a place where a knife or other weapon is carried 'just in case'? Knife violence is never the answer. Each of the knife crime offences represents a family, even a whole community, ripped apart by violence, be it a serious assault, or a death.



Just some of the 28 young victims of violence whose lives have been tragically lost this year, image from Sky news

Many knife crime offences have hit the headlines.

Emergency services attended a residence in London in October 2021 following reports of a fight. Police officers found 18-year-old Kamran Khalid who had been stabbed. He was treated by emergency services at the scene, but they were unable to save him.

A 15-year-old boy has appeared in court accused of Kamran's murder. Kamran had suffered from 24 knife wounds

Samina Khalid is the 26th mum this year to have her teenager murdered in London - and she plans to demand to meet Boris Johnson face-to-face over the scourge of knife crime. Her eighteen-year-old son Kamran Khalid, or Kay to his friends, was on his way back from the gym on October 28 when he was stabbed to death near his mum's home. A gifted footballer from a young age nicknamed 'Speedy Gonzales' Kay was no stranger to making the news as a youngster for the right reasons. In 2014 he was pictured in a BBC Sport article aged 11 as a winner of Chelsea FC's Asian Star scheme aimed at addressing the lack of Asians in professional football. The morning of his murder his brother Rajan told 'MyLondon' he was "in the wrong place at the wrong time." Mum Samina is adamant his death was not gang related. "He was going to be my little treasure. He was an inspiration to all the other boys. Obviously, I did not know what he was like outside, but everyone who I didn't even know has all said he was such a lovely boy, and he is always polite. He was also such a good comedian, his timing was impeccable, he would just say the funniest things in the right moment and have us all in stitches."

Kamran's mum has allowed the BBC to film her regarding the knife crime and her journey to burying her son, see the article and video here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-59392584>

## Did you know?

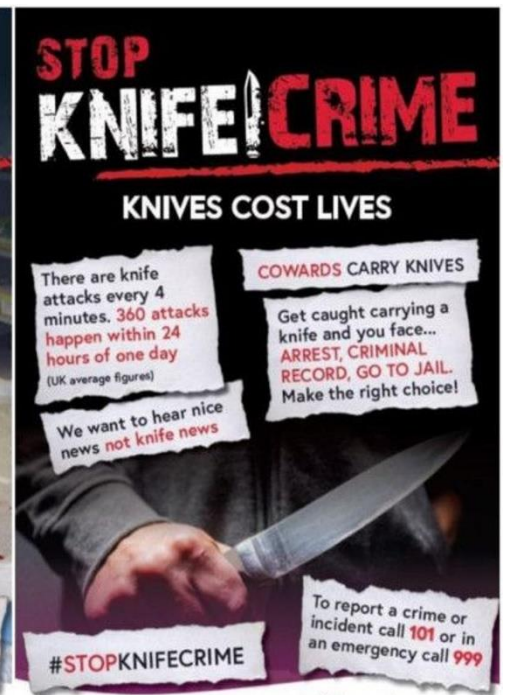
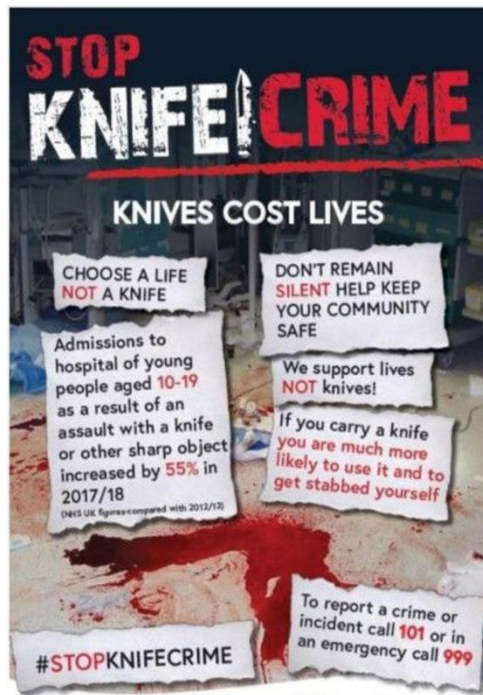
**44285** Police-recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months to March 2021

**29** percent increase in knife crime in England and Wales since 2011.

**221** Police-recorded murders involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months to March 2021.

**23** children aged just 17 or younger were murdered with a knife or sharp object in the 12 months to March 2020.

**42549** offences recorded in England in the 12 months to March'21.



## Make a change

The Home Office has launched an advertising campaign to reduce knife crime amongst young people, supported by free education lesson plans and resources also. The website covers real stories, information on knife crime and further support: <https://www.knifefree.co.uk/go-knifefree/>



**KnifeCrimes.Org** is an Online Knife, Gun & Gang related information Resource...Violence Reduction, fewer Victims by Changing Attitudes. They are a National Registered Charity...providing peer support to families and friends affected by Serious Violent Crime or Bereaved as a result of Homicide. Involved in training, education, research and raising public awareness to achieve better rights for victims. <http://www.knifecrimes.org/about-us.html>

