

Taking action against arms abuse: United Kingdom

Mothers' war on gangland shootings

Two mothers whose sons were victims of gangland shootings in Manchester are campaigning for an end to gun crime.

Together they helped set up Mothers Against Violence (MAV) to support victims' families.

Patsy McKie and Sheila Eccleston travelled to Boston, United States, last year, to find out how American methods are curbing street crime. In the USA police patrols intervene and mentor young gang members before they get sucked into a life of crime.

With 200 people injured and 25 dead in Manchester in the last four years, Patsy and Sheila set up a similar scheme closer to home. The scheme in Greater Manchester uses two specially appointed street workers rather than the police to go out into communities.

Mrs McKie's son, Dorrie, who had never been in trouble with the police, was shot dead in 1999, but nobody has been charged with his murder. Sheila's son, Dean, was shot and killed almost two years ago in Longsight, Manchester. Police say his death was gang-related but no one has been charged with his murder.

Patsy and Sheila hope the MAV group will get to the heart of the problem and spare other mothers the heartache they have gone through.

(Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk>)

Mothers against guns

I am a poet, daughter, sister, mother. This is something I wanted to share. Peace needs to begin in our hearts to reach the streets...

A mother to her children

This fragile world we live in, the trials that we face
the children scared of living, they pull guns they don't embrace.

As mothers of these children,
we fear to let them go.

You think you have prepared them,
but then you never know.

The torment that you live with,
the fear that clouds your days.

These children what can we give them,
to make a brighter day?

It's always in a mother,
to love with her whole heart.

In hope her child may follow...

be strong, be wise, be smart!!

Ms L Lovell

(Source: Black Information Link, www.blink.org.uk)