



# School. That's a no go area.

## Not any more

### This is Jemma's story

"Ever since the age of 6 we have lived in temporary accommodation. we've moved 14 times so far, mainly because of my dad's life of crime and sometimes to escape his violent abuse towards us. But if we got away he would hunt us down and terrify us all, despite having a restraining order.

When I was 10, Pop forced me and my brother to smoke cannabis. He taught me how to be a look out for his crimes and to hot wire a car and steal it.

My dad said I had to stay home to spy on mum and it was me who looked after my brothers and sister. I missed 3 years of school and all my GCSE's.

In 2007, the Youth Offending Team put me on the All 'Bout Me programme, at Eco-Actif. I met Amanda and Gifford who helped me to understand right from wrong and I've now got my own opinion. I learned that I was repressed by a life of constant violence and abuse.

I am now doing a Youth Work Course and I'm helping Amanda and Gifford with their workshops by telling young people my story to help divert them from a life of crime."

(SLF awarded a significant grant to Eco-Actif to run 3 workshops, including one for girls only. Eco-Actif supports people who are in the criminal justice system)

To find out how you can help call Venetia Barton on 020 7202 8513 [venetiabarton@saferlondonfoundation.org](mailto:venetiabarton@saferlondonfoundation.org)

### Safer London Foundation

Skyline House 200 Union Street London SE1 0LX

Tel: 020 7021 0301 Fax: 020 7021 0302

[info@saferlondonfoundation.org](mailto:info@saferlondonfoundation.org)

[www.saferlondonfoundation.org](http://www.saferlondonfoundation.org)

Limited company number 5190766

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Design: [www.nicethinkingdesign.co.uk](http://www.nicethinkingdesign.co.uk)

