

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GROUP OF FRIENDS AND A STREET GANG?

A real group of friends will not try to exploit you sexually (prostitution, dancing naked, pictures, etc.)

Several signs can help you identify street gang recruiting:


- False generosity (money, lodging, clothes, jewellery, outings, alcohol, drugs)
- Social and economic control (they isolate you from your friends or the people close to you, and take control of your money)
- Psychological, verbal or physical violence (yelling, insulting or beating you up)

To avoid a false love story or a false friendship, TAKE YOUR PLACE!

- Assert yourself and express clearly what you want, what you like and what you do not like.
- Do not do anything that you feel forced into doing.
- Make sure that you can always go back home or to a friend's without the help of a gang member.
- Do not hesitate to discuss your fears or your doubts about your gang's activities with people you trust.

**STREET GANG MEMBERS ARE CHARMING MANIPULATORS.
THEY LIKE GIRLS FOR THE MONEY THEY CAN MAKE OFF THEM.**

Resources: your parents, your brother, your sister, a friend, a teacher, the school nurse or social worker, your neighbourhood CLSC youth counsellor, your neighbourhood station police officers, a youth support or help line, Kids Help Phone at 1 800 668-6868, Tel-jeunes (514) 288-2266.



**THEY LOOK STRONG
THEY LOOK RICH
THEY WANT TO
SEDUCE YOU
THEY WANT TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU
THEY ARE STREET GANG
MEMBERS**

WHAT IS A STREET GANG?

It is a more or less organised group of teenagers or young adults who, with some regularity, commit crimes or violent acts (taxing, drug trafficking, prostitution, etc.)

GUYS JOIN STREET GANGS BECAUSE:

- They want to protect themselves from other school or neighbourhood gangs;
- They want a sense of belonging, and they want to live the good life;
- They want to belong to a family, a group, find friends;
- They want to be acknowledged as strong and important people;
- They want to have money;
- They want to be proud of themselves.

THE TRUTH IS:

- They live in constant fear and have to think of saving their own skin;
- Their "buddies" are in detention centres, and others have been injured or killed;
- New recruits get pushed around by gang members;
- Recruits do the dirty work for the gang's important members; they are forced to carry things that nobody wants to keep, and when they are in trouble, other members leave them on their own;
- It is far from easy to make money committing crimes. You have to protect yourself from the competition that wants to eliminate you or from the police that wants to arrest you;
- It is hard to be proud of yourself when you are in a cell, in front of a judge or in a rehab center, guilty in everyone's eyes.

Sick of being under street gang members' pressure

You want to move on? You think it's too late?
You're afraid of the consequences? Others before you have managed to move on to better things.

**CHOOSE SOMEONE YOU TRUST
AND TALK TO THAT PERSON!**

Take Action.

music, adrenaline sport, mechanic, computers or video games...!

Take Action

