

STREET BELONGING

VIOLENCE, CONNECTION & HEALING

GRAEME ARMSTRONG

2005.

Glasgow is named murder capital of Europe. Scotland's most violent period of gang culture is unfolding. Alcohol and substance abuse are rife. For many young people, territorial violence and carrying knives are everyday realities.

GRAEME ARMSTRONG is 14 and a young man who has lost his father. He is looking for **STREET BELONGING**.

He joins two gangs, the **YOUNG MAVIS** and the **LL TOI**. But, the glamour is short lived...

Street Belonging is a journey through Scotland's violent gang history from the interwar razor gangs, widespread young team culture, to modern drill influenced youth violence.

Graeme Armstrong, bestselling, multi-award winning author, broadcaster, and doctoral researcher uses academia and live storytelling as tools to chart his rise and fall as a young gang member. The event is followed by an interactive Q&A for reflection and debate.

Exploring the truths behind Scottish gang culture, Graeme takes a nuanced look at themes of violence, substance abuse, masculinity, and fundamentally: faith, family, and healing.

THIS IS HIS POWERFUL STORY OF REDEMPTION.



Graeme is fighting to change futures and prevent youth violence in our communities. He has worked in partnership with schools across Scotland, Local and Central Government, the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, Medics Against Violence, Education Scotland, Police Scotland, the third sector, BBC, and many others. He is an ambassador for The Hope Collective - Damilola Taylor's legacy foundation - whose mission is preventing knife crime in London and across the UK.

His bestselling debut novel **THE YOUNG TEAM** is multi-award winning and published internationally. His BBC documentary **STREET GANGS** is available now on BBC iPlayer.

He is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Strathclyde and in 2023, was named one of Granta's 'Best of Young British Novelists' - a once-in-a-decade literary honour.

Please note this is a hard-hitting event which deals with serious violence, suicide, drug death fatalities and can be emotional, particularly for those with lived / living experience. It is best suited to adults or S3 learners and above.

