

Sir David Amess

Thursday, 26th May 2022

How do we make the  
world a safer place?



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“As you all know Sir David Amess, who was sadly taken from us last year, helped to start this children’s parliament and I’m proud to say that the parliament will, moving forward be held in his memory and bear his name.”

**THE SPEAKER**  
Peter Spencer-Lane

My father’s passion for both the British Parliament and for educating children is reflected wonderfully in this venture which he helped to design. For me it is an opportunity not only to build on my father’s work but to indulge my own belief in children and how essential they are in creating a wonderful future.”

**CHILDREN’S PARLIAMENT PATRON,  
SIR DAVID’S DAUGHTER**  
Katie Amess

“Young people like all of you are our future. If we don’t listen to you and encourage you, we don’t have a future, and Sir David knew that and that’s why it’s so important that members of parliament listen to you.”

**MP FOR SOUTHEND WEST**  
Anna Firth



Sir David Amess  
MP



Peter Spencer-Lane  
HEADTEACHER CHAMPION



David Davis  
MP



Anna Firth  
MP



Maggie Oliver  
MBE



Lennox Rodgers  
MBE

The Parliament was opened by the Speaker who confirmed that the Parliament would, henceforth, be known as “The Sir David Amess Children’s Parliament” in honour of the man who had been so closely involved with the project.

There followed a moving introduction by Katie Amess (the daughter of Sir David Amess) who has become Patron of the Parliament. She spoke about how honoured she was to be part of the event and to continue her father’s work and passion.

Child M.P. Lillian Green (11) from the Sir David’s Southend West constituency then introduced her House of Commons’ counterpart; Anna Firth M.P. who took over the constituency.

I am excited!  
ANTON, 10, ST HELENS CATHOLIC  
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Anna Firth (M.P. for Southend West) Commended Lillian on her eloquence and talked about the how she felt replacing Sir David both in her constituency an in the Children’s Parliament was a privilege.

“We make our decisions in parliament with all of you in mind and so that’s why I’m so excited to be sharing this debate today and listening to what you have to say. The topics that have been chosen for our debate couldn’t be more apt.”

The Children’s Parliament was then called to order by the Speaker. The children, all aged under 12, debated a variety of aspects of “How to make the world a Safer Place”. The child MP’s questions, and responses were both passionate and extremely well informed, leading to a lively discussion.

Just the best experience talking  
about such important issues  
LOLA, 11, SAINT PIERRE SCHOOL

# Meet some of the Child MP's!



Anton, St Helen's Juniors Catholic School



Banks St Stephen's Primary School



Edward, St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Ivy, St Issey C of E Primary



Ted, Norman Church of England Primary School



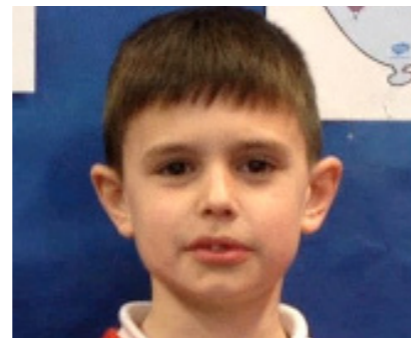
William, Wallop Primary School



Isaac, Moorthorpe Primary School



Henry



Jack, Endon Hall



Finn, Neatishead C of E Primary School



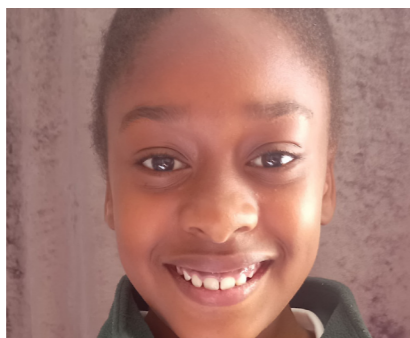
Joe, Greenfield Primary School



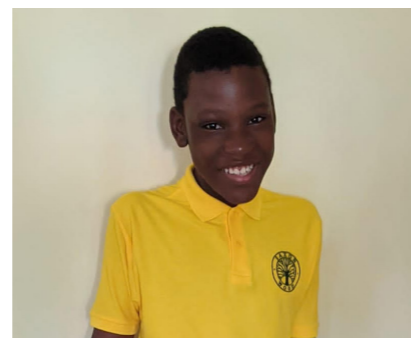
Charlie, Alverton Community Primary School



Leo, St Joseph's Bingley



Nylah, Ranaleigh Primary School



Olumide, Saxon Wood



Poppy, The Weald



Megan, Ardleigh St Marys



Milanya, St Helens Catholic Junior Academy



Tom, Saint Pierre



Rufus, The Wyche School



Reuben, Southwood Primary



Olivia, Gilbert Inglefield



Ellie, Ysgol Y Dderi, Ceredigion



Maheera, Quarry Hill Academy



Rania, Prince of Wales  
Primary School



Safiya, Brooke Hill  
Academy



Emeliah, Quarry Hill  
Academy



Jessica, Marine Academy  
Primary, Plymouth



Rory, Stoke Bishop Primary  
School



Eva, Saint Pierre School



Olly, Hallam Primary  
School



Massimiliano, Quarry Hill  
Academy



Annabel, Brooke Hill  
Academy



Arvin, Saint Pierre



Marta, Robin Hood Junior



Lilith, St Helens Catholic  
Junior School Academy



Beatrice, Pendle Primary  
School, Clitheroe



Blake, Newhall Primary  
Academy



Elodie, John Blow Primary  
School



Cyrilla, St James Hatcham



Edward, Lockers Park Prep  
School



Hugo, Ewell Castle



Ewan, Brooke Hill



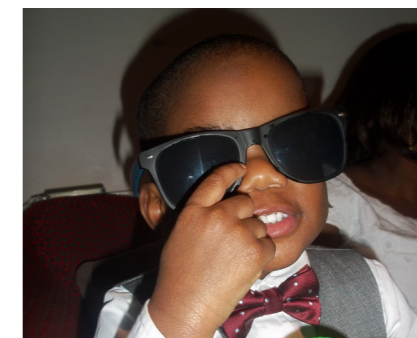
Kurt, Trewirgie Junior  
School



Toby, Brockley Primary  
School



Edward, St Mary's RC  
Eltham



Winston, St. Margaret  
Clitheroe R/C Primary  
School



Tilly, Pembury Primary  
School



Abeeha, Warren Junior School



Ava, St Lawrence College Junior School



Gabrielle, Manor Leas Junior Academy



Connie, Greenfield Primary School



Anastasia, Heckington St Andrews Primary



Charlie, Heckington St Andrews Church of England Primary School



Louis, St Vincent de Paul



Sienna-Lorelle, Hartlip Endowed C of E school



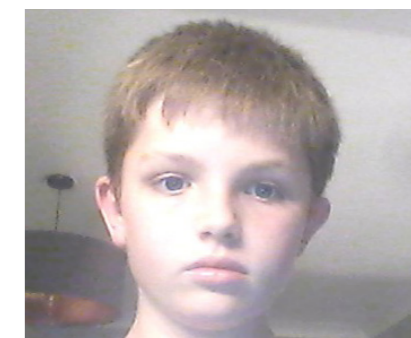
Maddie, St Helen's Catholic Junior School Academy



Fay, Brindle St James C of E Primary School



Harriet, Wallop Primary School



Jude, Ardleigh St Mary's Primary School



Grace, St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Sarah, Quarry Hill Academy



George, Elveden Primary Academy



Reuben, St James CEVA Primary School



Luskas, St Vincent De Paul Catholic Primary School



Chloe, Amesbury Archer Primary School



Tanvi, Lakenham Primary School



Zoravar, Lake Farm Park Academy



Emily, Trewirgie Junior School



Lois, Grace, Emmaville Primary School



Arnav, Hallam Primary School



Grace, Salhouse Primary School



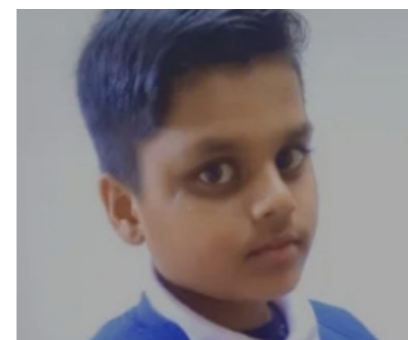
Emily, Christ Church  
Charnock Richard



Abi, Birchwood Grove CP  
School



Jacob, Heckington St.  
Andrew's C of E



Inayat, Blowers Green  
Primary School



Alfred, Allendale Primary



Olivia, Willowcroft  
Community School



Kara, Quarry Hill Academy



Shloka, Robin Hood Junior  
School



Tobias, Penistone St  
John's Primary



Alexander, Templars  
Academy

**A huge thank you to  
everyone who took part  
to make this Children's  
Parliament happen!**



Jess, Madresfield school



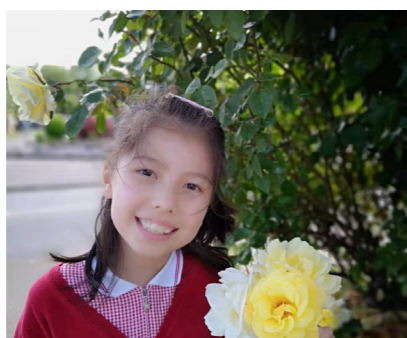
Rosie, Whitehall Park  
School



Alice, Trewirgie Junior  
School



Alexa, Archbishop  
Cranmer CofE Academy



Evie, Elizabeth Woodville  
Primary School



Eve, Elveden C of E  
Primary Academy



Children's

Parliament

Image by LEVI MEIR CLANCY

## THE WAR IN UKRAINE

The parliament felt it was important to stress that this was a war with Putin and not the Russian people. There was significant concern for the Ukrainian refugees and what the UK could do to help.

We need to act now I think we should convince other countries to help, and ideas will be shared

MARTA, 9, ROBIN HOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Lola (11) who was the child MP matched to Sir David, then introduced David Davis MP.

“Mr Davis is one of the most respected and experienced MPs in the British parliament. He was the person who guided the country through Brexit and he stood in for David Amess when we held the parliament last year. As an ex-member of the specialist armed forces the SAS he is uniquely qualified to talk to us about the war in Ukraine.”

“... one of the troubles with a country like Britain is that you know we always have more people who want to come here than we can possibly cope with...but not withstanding that we need to help every single Ukrainian family that wants help now. So it's a very practical issue but it's a massive moral importance and I think actually it's not that hard for us politicians to do our part. The Ukrainian people have touched the heart of the British people.”

Putin has broken multiple of the war of rules... No one wanted this. Just Putin. People think we should be against Russia ..., but it's not the Russian soldier's fault. In fact it's actually Putin's

ISABELLA, 11, ST MARGERETS

Image by JORDY MEOW



KATIE (10) SOUTHEND WEST  
"Aside from the steps taken by the United Kingdom, what other steps and measures can the government take to help Ukrainian refugees and ensure their safety?"

DAVID DAVIS MP "...it's a very practical issue but it's a massive moral importance and I think actually it's not that hard for us politicians to do our part. The Ukrainian people have touched the heart of the British people.

I feel migration is a big issue as we are restricting citizens from countries that being attacked under war and it is our duty to aid them and comfort them so they live in a safe environment with an amazing education for children.

ABEEHA, 10, WARREN JUNIOR SCHOOL

ISABELLA (11) MARGARET SCHOOL  
"... I also believe that it was Putin that started this war and no one else wanted it, it's not a lot of people. People are saying things like, we don't like it, we should be against Russia, but it's not Russian soldier's fault. In fact it's actually Putin's. It's the Russian soldier's job to serve whoever is in charge of Russian. They are not allowed to go against Putin's orders in fact most of them probably don't even want to be in this war, it's only Putin that wants to create this by taking Ukrainian land."

DAVID DAVIS MP "Yes, it's a very good question. The Prime Minister has said time and again this is not a war with the Russian people, It's a war started by Putin...the west reaction has been really interesting at the beginning. Frankly, we were mostly pathetic, people were afraid of the third world war, understandably. Putin won't do anything out of the goodness of his heart. He's a bad man, no two ways about it and we have to put pressure on him, and as best we can, we must focus the pressure as closely on him as possible, thus minimizing the damage for everybody else."

We need to help more refugees from all over the world

CLARICE, 10, ATHELSTAN PRIMARY



I think we should organise a global parliament formed of all the world leaders where they can debate their issues with one another rather than going to war.

CLARICE, 10, ATHELSTAN PRIMARY

Image by LEVI MEIR CLANCY

# TECHNOLOGY

The child MPs voiced the opinion that education was the key to online safety. Technology itself (setting online alerts) could be used to reduce the problems. A few spoke powerfully about how a hidden danger was the online world discouraging people meeting face to face.

"I was involved in a group chat and my friends invited me onto it and there were actually 14, I think, people on there and half of them I didn't know. When I told them it was wrong, I don't think they thought it was serious and that it can really hurt some people if they can say stuff and don't know who you are and it escalates really quickly with how some people can be rude to you."

POPPY, 11, THE WEALD, SURREY

"Thank you Poppy, I'm glad you shared that. I think it's difficult to share that type of thing and I think a lot of people, I'm seeing you nodding, relate to your experience so thank you Poppy for letting us know what happened."

SPEAKER

We need to educate children about online safety NOW

JOE, 11, GREENFIELD



Image by MAXIM HOPMAN

"Okay Mr Speaker, firstly thank you for taking part in our children's Parliament and I thank you for this opportunity in getting my voice heard as well as the voices of our honourable members. We are living in this world of technology and although effort is being put into protecting our generation from cybercrime, we still have a lot of improvement to do. Of course, we should try to bring the world closer together, but this can only be achieved if we take precautions. We can create an alarm system, for example when someone tries to scam you or hack your details, there should be an alarm system that can make you aware that someone is scamming you or hacking with a simple alarm warning flash or pop-up ping to alert us of a possible risk." ... "Mr speaker I would like to ask, can our government give attention to these needs such as creating an alarm system online."

HASAN, 10, BEVOIS TOWN, HAMPSHIRE

We should make it harder for children to access older age apps

TED, 11, THE NORMAN C OF E SCHOOL

"My dear honourable friend has said the same thing that I would like to say. Although we're living in the same world of technology, a lot of scamming has been going on recently therefore I feel that we should have a format which tells your first name, surname, date of birth and you can back it up by using your passport."

ARVIN, 10, SAINT PIERRE SCHOOL, SOUTHEND WEST



Image by ZOE FERNANDEZ

I think that if something happens to you online you should tell a trusted person and ban the person who make you feel uncomfortable

CHLOE



I think cyber-crime is stifling our ability to bring the world closer together because so many people get hurt and bullied online this can turn them into bullies affecting the offline world as well in many ways

CHARLIE, 10, ALVERTON SCHOOL

"Yes Mr Speaker it's very important that young people understand the dangers of being online and how we must protect ourselves and our information being shared with people we don't know. The problem I see with using electronic devices is that they've become ingrained in everything we do and are accessible at all times. This leads to young people prioritizing devices and online activity over face-to-face communication relationships and no matter how hard our adults try to make the online environment safe, this isn't always possible. I strongly believe we can flourish individually and bring people closer together by being with other people, learning from others we have actual contact with and reserving the online environment as a resource instead of a way of life."

BEATRICE (11) PENDLE PRIMARY SCHOOL CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE

"I think that the education of children about online safety is very important as we young children should know the dangers of being online and show know how to stay safe."

EVIE, 11, ELIZABETH WOODVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEICESTERSHIRE

Image by THISISENGINEERING RAENG

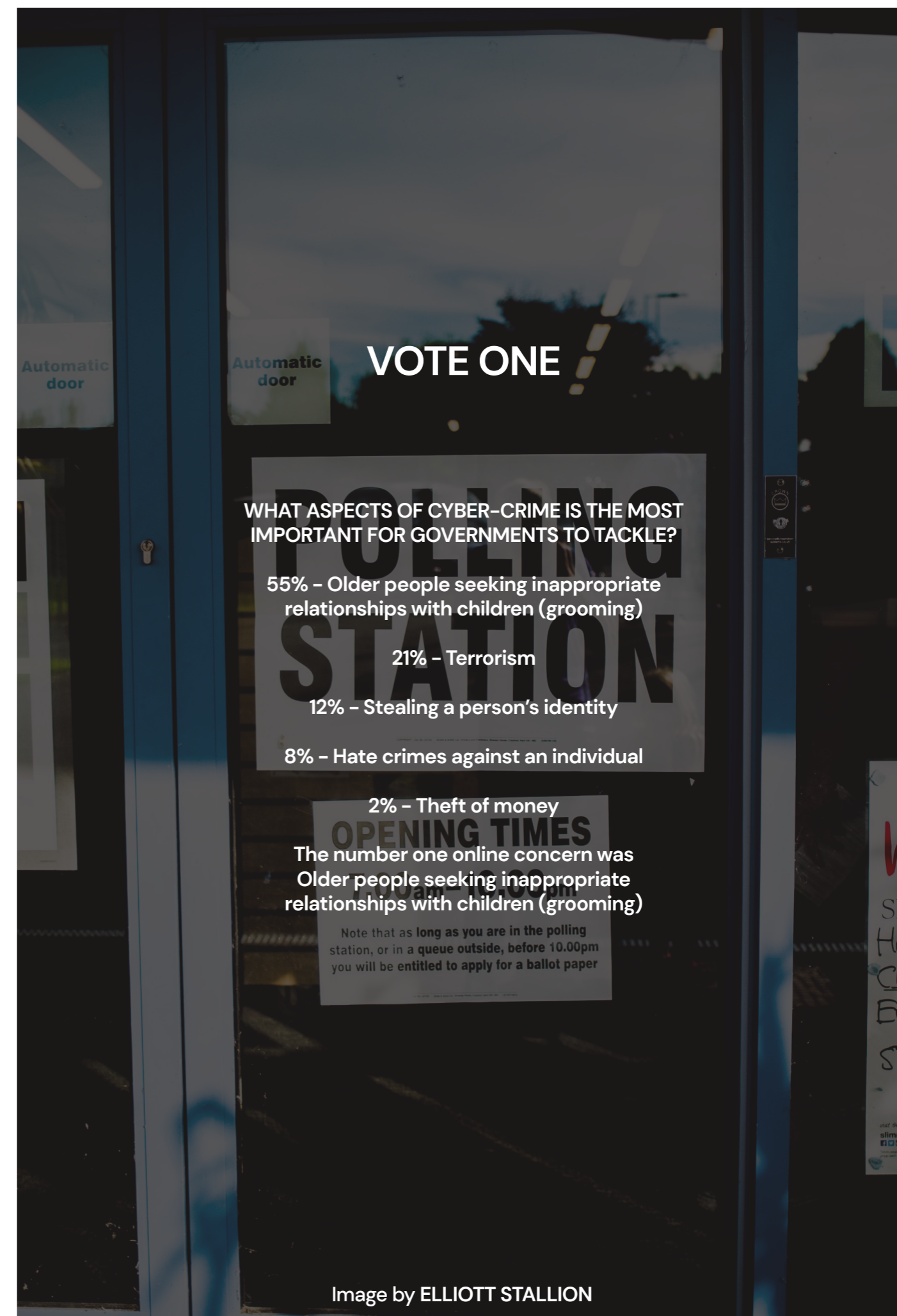


Image by ELLIOTT STALLION

## KNIFE CRIME

Again, Education was seen as vital along with offering alternatives to those tempted towards gangs. They advocated a strategy of early discouragement from this lifestyle in tandem with strong weapon control measures.



"As we all know knife crime is the growing problem across our society and as a young person is becoming more common to see and hear knife crime cases on the news.

Sadly, one of the cases being our late founder Sir David Amess. I believe one way to solve this issue is to have better controls over social media music and games that encourage a violent lifestyle and can be easily seen by young people every day. I would like to ask the honourable members what services, facilities or access can be provided to deter young people from a life of violence and knife crime."

NYLAH, 11, DANKWAH RANALAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, IPSWICH

"I think that because we see a lot of knife crime rising in the news, I think it should be made a lot harder to buy anything that could be used as a weapon, like a knife especially for younger people."

ANNABEL, 11, BROOKE HILL ACADEMY, RUTLAND

"What I want to talk to you all about today is about protecting yourselves when you are online. For me the key to that is communication. So, whether you communicate online with the people that you know and that you're talking to, I think it's equally important that you communicate with your parents and that your parents are there to make sure that you are safe when there may be danger around."..."There are online people who would try to hurt you in various ways but I really do believe that learning about the internet, about the benefits and the dangers, is how you protect yourselves at the end of the day."

**MAGGIE OLIVER, EX-GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE DETECTIVE**

"I think a lot of young people that haven't been noticed, they've gone under the radar and so they've been left on their own to deal with their problems. And they've dealt with them in a violent and criminal way sometimes and often criminal gangs have noticed them and decided to target them and use them to commit crimes. So I think we need to be able to pick these issues up early, the earlier we can pick them up the more chance we have to be able to help them to keep away from crime and negative behaviour."

**LENNOX RODGERS  
REFORMED GANG LEADER AND  
EX-KNIFE CRIMINAL**



Image by ETHAN WILKINSON

I think the best way to protect people in the UK from knife crime is in fact education. If we educate young people about knife crime, why it's not cool and how dangerous it is then it will start to eventually die out

**CHARLIE, 10, ALVERTON SCHOOL**

What about helping the person because they might need mental support?

**LOTHIAN, 11, SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY**



Image by ETHAN WILKINSON

"Thank you Mr speaker, I think that education is very important in helping young people decide what's right and wrong. I'm nearly 11 years old who have never been spoken to about crime in school. Yes I'm aware that young people of my own age, sometimes younger, carry knives and commit crimes involving bladed weapons. It's not nice to discuss negative subjects, but I feel that we need to know the risk of carrying knives and the situations we should avoid or should tell adults about. A lot of young people may be exposed to knife crime either as a witness of criminal acts, as observers of lifestyles like carrying a knife is a normal occurrence. We need to look at how well controlled the sale of knives is, as possibly in a similar manner to gun control."

**BEATRICE, 11, PENDLE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE**

"Mr speaker, knife crime prevention orders have been put in place in certain areas and although these are a good idea, wouldn't it be advisable to invest in tackling the root causes of these crimes, like mental health housing and youth services, thank you."

**MIA, 11, ST MARY'S SCHOOL**

People should not be able to buy a knife without some form of security check

**MILANYA, 9, ST HELENS JUNIOR SCHOOL**

## Q&A with Lennox Rodgers

RUFUS, 11, WYCHE SCHOOL

"I had a question on how we could prevent ourselves from joining a gang or being forced into a gang, to stop sort of ourselves from the situation even happening in the first place?"

LENNOX RODGERS

"Yes well, a lot of the county line gangs, and this is not all gangs, but a lot of the county line gangs are trying to tempt children with money and nice things like trainers, jewellery,

playstations. So the way to prevent children from getting involved is to not be tempted by getting free money or free food. The way a young person should deal with that, if they are approached by someone who could be in a gang who's offering to buy you food is to say no thank you, always be polite and say no thank you. They are hoping that you will get tempted by the attraction of money. If you don't then there's less chance of you getting caught up in the gang."

OLUMIDE COLE (11) SAXON WOOD SCHOOL, HAMPSHIRE

"Good afternoon Mr Speaker. The government should educate people about the long-term consequences of knife crime, example a criminal record which may prevent you from getting into university or getting a job. There should also be more places where young people involved in dangerous situations can feel comfortable going to seek help and talk to others in confidence, thank you Mr speaker."

LENNOX RODGERS

"Yes, some things are being done but not enough is being done. I think there needs to be more outside agencies going into schools to help educate young people about the dangers."..." I think we need to continue with some of the youth services that provided diversionary activities, but education from an early age is very good."..." I'm a pioneer for verbal self-defence and teaching young people how to respond to cruel and harsh comments that other young people might say to them, and I think that helps them to be able to manage in their peer groups."

There should be greater publicity to the statistic that carrying a knife increases your chance of being hurt by it. It does NOT make you safer.

If we teach love, care and compassion for each other and humanity it will eliminate all hate crime, not just knife crime

ARISSAH



Image by KING'S CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

## ENVIRONMENT

The Open Debate focussed on environmental issues with a strong feeling that world safety was irrevocably linked to addressing aspects such as climate change and pollution.

I don't think the environment or terrorism and war should be prioritised over each other because they are both very important areas and we should invest as much time, energy and resources as possible into both areas.

CHARLIE, 10, ALVERTON SCHOOL

Climate change and war both affect the world in the same way as they both destroy the planet and hurt animals and humans

LILIAN, 10, ST PIERRE SCHOOL

"Climate change is more the most important thing as if climate change is not stopped the world will be very hard to live in and that will likely lead to lots of war and terrorism"

RORY, STOKE BISHOP PRIMARY

Image by MARKUS SPISKE



Children's

Parliament

Image by MARKUS SPISKE

Stop building on farmland, so then we  
dnt have to import more food and grow  
more of our own food

FAY, 11, BRINDLE ST JAMES



I think climate change is very important  
because our ecosystem depends on a  
healthy balance whereas the way we live  
is creating an unhealthy imbalance

CHRIS

"Hello I have a strong opinion  
about this topic because  
after I read a book at school  
about Greta Thunberg, I was  
super inspired and planned to  
change my life forever. As we  
all know our ecosystem and  
world is crumbling, I think that  
we could take a big turn for our  
lives and start changing the  
way we work."

EVE, 10, ELVEDEN SCHOOL  
SOUTHWARK, SUFFOLK

"I'd like to address this,  
I've heard some people  
in the chat talking about  
how we could stop the  
climate change but I'd like to  
address the fact that some  
people have said about  
using electric cars but the  
electricity could come from  
fossil fuel power plants and  
so it's not very green energy.

So what I'm saying is first of  
all we like replace these fossil  
fuel power plants with more  
green energy so then it will  
make the electricity greener  
and so it will be less carbon  
dioxide coming from it, thank  
you for letting me speak.

MUSTAFA, 11, SHERWOOD  
PRIMARY, LANCASHIRE

Image by STUDIO DEKORASYON



"Dear Mr Speaker, it is an honour  
to speak with you. Pollution is  
a big factor affecting lots of  
children and families. Though we  
already have electric vehicles,  
it is not affordable for everyone.  
I mean so not all people can  
switch to electric vehicles."

RITHIK, 10, ST HELENS JUNIOR  
SCHOOL

Image by MANNY BECERRA

## VOTE TWO

SHOULD THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER  
ENDING VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT IN THE WORLD?

76% - Yes  
23% - No

76% of Child MPs felt that environmental issues should take  
precedence over solving wars and conflicts.

Children's

Parliament



Image by DAN DENNIS

# CONCLUSIONS

"Thank you very much indeed Mr speaker. I just want to say to you how fantastic you've all been and how exciting it is to have such a full chamber when we are having a debate and a vote that has not been "whipped" in parliament."..." Today you've all come voluntarily, you haven't needed to be persuaded and you've all spoken incredibly well which makes me think that the future of this country and our future parliament is very bright indeed."

ANNA FIRTH, MP FOR SOUTHEND WEST

"...you've all spoken incredibly well which makes me think that the future of this country and our future parliament is very bright indeed."

ANNA FIRTH

Image by SHANE ROUNCE

"Mr Speaker, I hope my honourable friends are familiar with our Prime Minister's phrase. It is that the biggest economies in the world are causing the problems, while the smaller suffer the consequences. COP26 is our best and last chance to save the planet. By saying that our ambition is limited to net zero by 2050, we are saying we don't care enough to do anything about mass extinction at all. or Realistic or not, in 2050 it's too little too late. Extraordinary measures are required which means everyone, government, businesses children, and adults should do all they can to save the world as we it. know it. Mr Speaker I strongly recommend that this 2050 procrastination plan appears more like a toddler delaying bedtime, than our government leading by example."

EVIE, 8, BEECHFIELD SCHOOL

"Political party alignments must be put to a side my honorable friends, for the greater good we shall work together today to reach a compromise to save our earth"

BEVAN, 11, KEW GREEN PREP

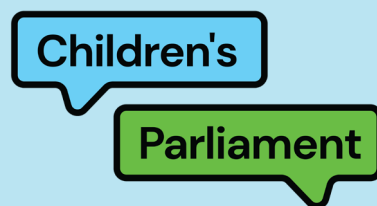
"Hello Mr Speaker, it has been a honour and a privilege for me to represent my school and my local are and speak to this house about my understanding for organising such gatherings to enhance awareness among the new generation and vass on their recommendations to the policy maker that has been implemented as well."

RANIA, 10, CLEVELAND ROAD PRIMARY



Children's

Parliament



wakelet

