

## STREET KIDS - BRITAIN'S VIOLENT YOUTH

The article is about street kids in Britain. It says, that most of the criminal action is done by adolescents or children.

Research shows that 90% of all 10-17-year-old violent offenders have been victims of severe childhood trauma. The crimes of youngsters can be seen as a terrifying re-enactment of the brutality and suffering they experienced in their own childhood. It is an attempt to express fury at their own childhood maltreatment.

Severe poverty is often another factor. Bored youths who go out and ransack the neighbourhood are often the second or third generation of unemployment.

Juvenile crime and violence are very much male problems rooted in the promotion of macho attitudes and models.

From their earliest years until the threshold of adulthood, many children only have contact with older delinquents for whom street fights and petty crime are daily occurrences.

So, what can be done? The suggestion is that recourses are needed to intervene when youngsters show signs of disruptive behaviour. Expertise claim it would make all the difference to a child, if the family were given support and help, and if there were enough specialists in school. Instead special needs and psychological support for children have been cut and just 5% of the nation's mental health budget is spent on youngsters. This is despite the fact that children make up 25% of the nation.

- **in the wake of** - if a second thing follows in the wake of a first thing, it follows after the first thing is over, often as a result of it
- **amenable** - willing to do something - voljan, podložen
- **re-enactment** - if you re-enact a scene or incident, you repeat the movements that were made originally - obnovitev, ponovitev
- **to ransack** - if someone ransacks a place, they steal things from it and leave it in a mess - pregledati, prebrskati, pleniti
- **on the dole** - someone who is on the dole is registered as unemployed and receives money regularly from the government
- **fury** - violent or very strong anger - bes
- **juvenile** - activity or behaviour which involves young people who are not old enough to be considered as adults - mladoleten, mladosten
- **threshold** - a particular significant amount, level, or limit, at which something begins to happen or take effect - prag, vhod, začetek
- **petty** - small, unimportant - neznaten, droben, malenkosten
- **intervene** - take action in a situation that did not originally involve you, especially to help someone or to prevent a conflict - posredovati