Charity Integrate UK to Launch Theatre Boy, a Film Raising Awareness of Knife Crime - Chatham House Pre-Screening October 24th, Available on YouTube from November 8th

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London, UK – **On November 8th, 2024**, the **charity Integrate UK** will officially unveil a powerful new short film titled **Theatre** Boy, created by its young activists, aimed at addressing the urgent issue of **knife crime in the UK**. The film, which supports their mission to raise awareness and promote youth advocacy, will be available to watch and share following this official release at their annual youth conference on November 8th 2024.

Chatham House Pre-Screening: Local Stories, Global Reach

In advance of the public launch, an **exclusive pre-screening** will take place at **Chatham House, the prominent policy institute** on **October 24th, 2024**. This event highlights the importance of addressing knife crime as both a national and global issue. Featuring a panel discussion with **young advocates and experts**, the event will explore the devastating effects of knife crime and discuss possible solutions. Integrate UK encourages broad engagement with the film following its November 8th release, aiming to spark meaningful conversations around preventing violence and promoting youth advocacy.

UK Knife Crime Crisis: Prime Minister's 10-Year Coalition Plan

This film launch comes at a crucial time, following the UK government's unveiling of a 10-year strategy to halve knife crime incidents by 2034. **Prime Minister Keir Starmer** has launched a **coalition of campaigners,** community leaders, and figures like Idris Elba, focusing on prevention through education, stricter regulations, and community engagement. Integrate UK's youth-led initiatives align with this national effort, particularly in their focus on using education and creative advocacy to combat

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knife crime. With over **50,000 knife-related offences** recorded in England and Wales in the past year, young people are disproportionately affected by this violence. Integrate UK is calling for government and educational bodies to introduce mandatory educational programs in schools to help prevent future tragedies and protect students.

Hana, a 17-year-old activist involved in the project, added:
"Being part of this film gave me the chance to share my experiences and help others understand how serious this problem is. Too many young people feel like they have to carry a knife for protection, and we need to change that mindset."

Lisa Zimmermann, CEO of Integrate UK, said:
"We are incredibly proud of the work our young people do - if we want a better society, we need to listen to our youth and ensure their voices are part of important conversations. If we give them the opportunities and platforms and really learn to listen to them, anything is possible."

Peer-education Workshops

Alongside the film, Integrate UK offers workshops to educate students about knife crime, using creative tools to engage them in discussions about the causes and consequences of violence. The peer-education workshops are delivered by young activists in schools across the country, reaching over **7,000 students** annually. These workshops use creative tools like music videos, films, and dramas to tackle complex issues, including knife crime, gender inequality, and racial discrimination. By focusing on peer-led learning, these sessions demystify stereotypes and empower students to engage with critical social issues in a relatable way. The workshops are free to state schools and are supported by multimedia resources, ensuring they resonate with young people nationwide.

Janet Fyle MBE, Chair of Trustees, emphasised:
"Our role is to empower young people to speak up and create the change they want to see in their communities. This film and our educational programs are just one way we are supporting their efforts to challenge the status quo and create safer, more inclusive environments."

Call to Action: Watch, Share, and Raise Awareness

The film will be available to view on Integrate UK's YouTube channel. Integrate UK encourages everyone to watch the film and share it on social media, using the hashtag #EndKnifeCrime to amplify the message. This youth-led project aims to spark conversations around knife crime and inspire action to create safer communities.

Drive Engagement: Follow Integrate UK

For updates on where and when to watch the film, follow Integrate UK on their social media channels and website. Join the conversation by using the hashtag #EndKnifeCrime and sharing your thoughts on the film.

Ends -

Notes to Editors:

Trailer: https://bit.ly/TheatreBoyFilm

Media Pack: Images, Quotes and Factsheet etc:

https://bit.ly/TheatreBoyMediaPack

About Integrate UK

? Integrate UK is a youth-led charity empowering marginalised young people, primarily from racialised and socio-economically challenged backgrounds, to become advocates for social change. Founded in 2009, the organisation began by tackling female genital mutilation (FGM) and honour-based abuse. Now, it addresses broader issues of gender and racial inequality through education, creative advocacy, and leadership development. By offering training, mentorship, and platforms for young voices, Integrate UK continues to drive impactful change and shape a more inclusive society.

? Synopsis of the Film: Theatre Boy tells the story of Anthony, a student who gains sudden popularity after a fight video goes viral at school. His classmate Akira, however, is troubled by the attention that violence brings. As tensions rise and a new danger emerges, Akira witnesses Anthony make a pivotal decision that will change both of their lives forever. The film powerfully addresses the global issue of youth violence, focusing on knife crime. It highlights how many young people face similar pressures and emphasises the lasting impact of the choices they make when confronted with peer influence and moments of crisis. Production and director: The production company is

called Grow Big Soup Ltd and the director is Kwame Lestrade.

? The film's release date is 8th November 2024 on YouTube.

? Integrate UK supports young people with their learning, ambitions and aspirations, and runs a range of creative and educational initiatives. The projects and resources are produced by young people, helping them to develop transferable skills in areas such as film development, stage production, songwriting or organising a conference.

? Integrate UK, based in Bristol, is closely connected to the issue of knife crime, with the city recording at least one knife-related incident each week in 2023. This proximity makes the issue particularly important to the charity and its young activists, many of whom have been personally affected by knife crime.

? Integrate UK is supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. PHF was established by Paul Hamlyn in 1987 and is now one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in the UK. They use their resources to support social change, working towards a just and equitable society. For more information please visit the PFH website.

? Lisa Zimmermann, the CEO and Co-founder of Integrate UK is a former teacher with more than 20 years' experience working with young people on creative educational projects and issues relating to social change.

Social and website:

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Additional Assets:
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