

Gangsterism: gang and extort protection money



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Gangsterism is common in a developing nation such as Malaysia and we have heard a lot about it occurring in schools. It has been reported that in developed countries, schoolchildren are increasingly involved in gangs. To curb this social ill, parents, educators and society at large should be aware of what is going on among our youths. Though there are various psychological and physical factors that cause a person to choose to become a gang member, here are some basic suggestions for parents/guardians to help nurture their children with love and respect. * Provide the children with a good spiritual and moral background. Encourage the children to get involved in extracurricular activities and sports at school. * Teach them the value of money; do not spoil them with a big allowance. * Set a curfew for your children so they don't come home too late at night or in the wee hours of the morning. * Be aware of changes in your children whether it's their behaviour or attitude. * Take interest in your children's friends to ensure that they are in good company. * Do not allow them to visit discos, snooker and gaming centres. * Do a spot-check on the place your child frequents. * Keep your children away from gambling dens, and places that gangsters frequent.

Gangsters are a threat to society and you can be considered a gangster if you are involved in any of these activities: * Extort money from shop owners, hawkers and the like. * Receive payment for threatening others or to beat someone up. * Protect/cover-up gambling, prostitution, and drug trafficking syndicates. * Ransom people for money. * Be a part of organised crime. * Force anyone to join a gang and its illegal activities. * Attend a gang's swearing-in ceremony. * Engage in "table talk" or a fight with other gang members Below are common criminal activities of gangsters: Hurt, injure or

cause bodily harm to those who refuse to join the gang. * Collect money from new recruits. * Extort “ protection money” from businesses. * Collect “ protection money” from entertainment, prostitution and gambling dens. * Beat people up or destroy property of those who refuse to follow the gang’s commands. * Fight with another gang for a “ territory”. * Kidnap those who are wealthy for ransom. * Manufacture and store dangerous weapons. * Get paid to collect debts. Link: <http://thestar.com.my/fightcrime/resources/story.asp?file=/2006/3/11/resources/20060316164127&sec=resources>