

## 'From Gang Leadership, to Gang Prevention, and Research'



Tanayah Sam

Conflict Resolution Consultant, Gang Historian, Prison Council Programme Manager

Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series

This seminar is preceded by the IoC PhD Public Seminar Series

## Thursday 21st February 2013, 5.30pm

Seminar Room B3, Institute of Criminology, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

A drinks reception in the basement foyer will follow this seminar for attendees

Tanayah Sam is a 'reformed offender', who has experience of: working with Gang members in the community and in prisons; setting up prison councils; and presenting talks on gang culture, intervention, and mediation strategies Tanayah has recently undertaken many public speaking appearances (the Youth Justice Board Conference; the Merseyside National Probation Conference; and the Howard League for Penal Reform) where he shares both his 'real lived' experience of UK gang culture, alongside sharing his insights into processes associated with exit strategies and desistance from criminal activity. Tanayah currently works at nationally recognised reformed offender organisation 'User Voice' where he is a Programme Manager overseeing four Prison Councils across the UK.

In recent times the UK has seen a rise in urban street gangs. This has become a significant issue on the Government's developing Criminal Justice agenda. An increasingly debated area of criminal justice policy is in the role of ex-gang members in assisting in increasing the insights, understandings, and future research/policy direction in relation to gang culture and its wider impacts on society.

Having spent a number of years as a profiled member of a prominent UK street gang, Tanayah Sam not only has an insight into the history of UK urban gang culture, but has deep insights into those processes that can lead to gang members exiting and ultimately desisting from gang membership, crime and violence. This seminar will consider the role of ex-gang members in providing guidance and advice for researchers/policy makers, as well as the increasing importance of reformed offenders like Tanayah playing a greater role in providing solutions to the problems associated with gangs.