

Case study from the UK

Lucy Cope



Lucy Cope, Founder of Mothers Against Guns.

Lucy Cope, originally from Scotland, now lives in Peckham in south London. She is a single mother of eight children. Her Jamaican husband, Winston, passed away in the 80s.

In 2002 Lucy was studying for a qualification in the care of handicapped children and the elderly when a family tragedy occurred that changed the focus of her attention to an alternative cause.

On 29th July 2002 Lucy's son, Damian, was shot with a small calibre handgun outside Browns nightclub in Holborn, central London. He died six hours later in hospital. Since his death, Lucy has become a leading anti-firearms campaigner, forming the nation-wide organisation Mothers Against Guns.

With Lucy's help, Mothers Against Guns has had a major influence on government policy and won several victories in its campaign for tougher gun control legislation. In 2003 this resulted in the introduction of a five year sentence for illegal possession of a firearm.

Lucy also played a key part in organising the gun amnesty that resulted in thousands of weapons being handed in to police. She continues to work closely with Operation Trident - the Metropolitan specialist police operation set up in 1998 to tackle black-on-black violence.

Lucy is now one of the most widely respected public campaigners against gun crime in the UK. She was awarded the EMMA (Ethnic Multicultural Media Academy) award for Public Figure of the Year in 2003.