

# Problem scenario – girls

## Gang Culture

Shazia has been going around with Max for about 12 months now. He is two years older than her and is in Year 11. She really has fallen for him in a big way. He's a member of the Brothers crew and she knew this when she started going out with him but thought she could handle it as he didn't really talk much about it to her. Just lately though she's been getting really worried and last week there was a bad incident which has left her really shaken, and she doesn't know what to do. Two male members of another local gang followed her home from school and before she got home they pushed her into a shop doorway and slapped her about really hard. They said that next time they would cut her face and it would be payment for the way Max had hurt one of their women. She's too frightened to go out now and doesn't think that she really knows Max as well as she thought she did.

## Questions

- ▶ Why do you think Shazia thought she could 'handle' Max being a gang member?
- ▶ Why has she been feeling so worried?
- ▶ Is she putting herself 'at risk'?
- ▶ Why did the incident leave her so shaken?
- ▶ How would you feel in Shazia's shoes?
- ▶ What do you think she should do?
- ▶ Where can she get help?
- ▶ Do you think she can sustain her relationship with Max?
- ▶ What advice and support would you give Shazia if you were her best friend?



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