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20 News

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### Students warned off violence by former New York criminal

**NEWHAM:** An ex-criminal paralysed after being shot six times in New York has visited London to warn teenagers about the dangers of violence.

Hashim Garrett was just 15 when he was hit five times in the leg and once in the back as he fled from a gunman in Brooklyn.

Now 33 and a motivational speaker, Mr Garrett was invited to Eastlea Community School by Breaking The Cycle, an organisation that speaks to students about conflict resolution.

It was formed following the 1999 Columbine High School shootings to stem the rising tide of youth violence



**Peacemaker:** Hashim Garrett says conflict must be solved through forgiveness

and launched in Britain in January. Mr Garrett said: "The children were extremely receptive."

He believes conflict can be resolved through forgiveness. Last year, 27 children were murdered on London's streets. So far this year, 11 have died.

Mr Garrett said: "If the issues are not addressed the number will rise."

**ROB SINGH**

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[www.breakingthecycle.co.uk](http://www.breakingthecycle.co.uk)