# Leanne Lucas leads campaign to replace pointed kitchen knives with safer round-ended versions in UK



Leanne Lucas, the yoga teacher who survived a brutal attack in Southport last July, is at the forefront of a campaign advocating for the use of round-ended kitchen knives in the UK, named ‘Let’s Be Blunt.’ This initiative coincides with national knife crime awareness week and aims to address concerns surrounding the use of pointed knives in domestic settings, which can present a significant risk if misused. The campaign is also supported by the government’s recent announcement of a knife amnesty, intended to encourage individuals to surrender dangerous weapons.

Lucas described the life-altering impact of the tragic events that unfolded on July 29, 2024, when a mass stabbing resulted in the deaths of three young girls—Alice da Silva Aguiar, nine, Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, and Bebe King, six—and left numerous others, including adults, injured. Speaking to viewers on ITV’s Good Morning Britain, she shared her belief that every household should reconsider the presence of traditional kitchen knives, which, she argues, can easily be turned into weapons. “I don’t understand why I’ve got a pointed tip knife in my house that somebody could potentially use as a weapon,” she explained.

The findings of initial research by forensic scientist Leisa Nichols-Drew from De Montfort University bolster Lucas's campaign. The study demonstrated that rounded knives do not penetrate everyday clothing materials, indicating they may pose less risk compared to pointed blades. This evidence resonates with Lucas's call for change, advocating that even small shifts—like substituting pointed knives for rounded ones—could collectively diminish the likelihood of similar tragedies.

The campaign, officially launched at a parliamentary reception, is a poignant reminder of the heightened awareness surrounding knife crime in the UK. Remarkably, Lucas's efforts have gained support from notable figures, including actor Idris Elba, who echoed her sentiments at a recent speaking engagement. Many community advocates stress the importance of collectively working towards solutions, especially in light of the increasing concerns around youth violence and knife-related incidents.

In conjunction with ‘Let’s Be Blunt,’ the Home Office announced innovative measures to tackle knife crime. Activist Faron Paul will operate an amnesty van, touring several regions, including London and Greater Manchester, to facilitate the safe surrender of dangerous weapons. The initiative is part of a broader strategy where 37 new surrender bins, constructed by the charity Word 4 Weapons, will be strategically placed in areas significantly affected by knife crime. Additionally, a ban on the possession of ninja swords, influenced by a campaign led by the mother of murdered teenager Ronan Kanda, is set to take effect shortly, marking a significant legislative response to increasing knife violence.

Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson emphasised that the government seeks to partner with individuals who have direct experiences of knife violence, believing that such collaborations can effectively reduce risk and enhance community safety. Lucas's involvement in this campaign showcases a deeply personal initiative to advocate for change, drawing from her harrowing experience to inspire action for the future.

Ultimately, as Leanne Lucas and others work to generate awareness and effect change, the ‘Let’s Be Blunt’ campaign stands as a testament to resilience in the face of tragedy, highlighting the potential for societal change when individuals come together around a shared cause.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4
2. Paragraphs 2, 3, 4
3. Paragraph 2
4. Paragraph 4
5. Paragraph 2
6. Paragraphs 5, 6
7. Paragraph 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/southport-attack-leanne-lucas-knife-crime-blunt-b2755209.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/southport-attack-leanne-lucas-knife-crime-blunt-b2755209.html> - Leanne Lucas, a yoga teacher who survived the Southport attack in July 2024, is leading the 'Let's Be Blunt' campaign to promote the use of round-ended kitchen knives in the UK. The initiative coincides with national knife crime awareness week and is supported by the government's announcement of a new knife amnesty in July. Lucas emphasizes the importance of replacing pointed knives to reduce the risk of them being used as weapons, aiming to prevent future tragedies.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckglqx15z9po> - Leanne Lucas, the yoga teacher injured in the Southport knife attacks that resulted in three girls' deaths, spoke publicly about the tragedy's impact on her and the community. She expressed feelings of losing 'faith in the world' and highlighted the community's newfound connection following the horrific event. Lucas hopes that the memories of the victims can drive change to prevent similar incidents in the future.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3dxn2klkjko> - Women's charities have praised Leanne Lucas, the yoga instructor injured during the Southport stabbings, for her courage in speaking publicly about her experiences. Lucas, who was overseeing a Taylor Swift-themed dance and yoga class when the attack occurred, suffered serious stab wounds while trying to protect two girls. At a vigil in Liverpool, she emphasized the importance of raising voices and sharing stories to combat violence against women and girls.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_Southport_stabbings> - On July 29, 2024, a mass stabbing occurred at the Hart Space, a dance studio in Southport, Merseyside, UK. Seventeen-year-old Axel Rudakubana killed three children and injured ten others at a Taylor Swift-themed yoga and dance workshop attended by 26 children. The attack led to widespread misinformation and riots in the area. Rudakubana was arrested and charged with multiple counts, including murder and attempted murder.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/ninja-sword-ban-in-place-by-summer-after-relentless-campaign-by-family-of-murdered-teenager-13336451> - A law banning ninja swords is set to come into force by summer after a campaign by the family of murdered teenager Ronan Kanda. The 16-year-old was stabbed to death with a ninja sword in 2022. The ban will make it illegal to possess, sell, make, or import ninja swords from August 1, as part of anti-knife crime measures introduced under Ronan's Law. Anyone caught with a ninja sword could face six months in prison, increasing to two years under new legislation.
7. <https://www.itv.com/news/central/2025-03-27/ninja-sword-ban-under-ronans-law-set-to-come-into-force-by-summer> - A ban on ninja swords, campaigned for by the family of murdered Wolverhampton teenager Ronan Kanda, is set to come into force by summer. The 16-year-old was stabbed to death in a case of mistaken identity in 2022. The ban will make it illegal to possess, sell, make, or import the weapon from August 1, as part of anti-knife crime measures introduced under Ronan's Law. Anyone caught with a ninja sword could face six months in prison, increasing to two years under new legislation.