

Today's Headlines:

Rising knife crime in UK

Giraffes facing 'silent extinction'

Meet one of Spain's four female bullfighters

Transcript:

Knife crime has increased by nine percent across England and Wales. In London it's risen by sixteen per cent over the last two years. Several years ago it was **predominantly** a gang problem. Now the police think seventy-five per cent of those who carry have no associations with gangs – they're just doing it because everyone else is.

Highly recognisable – but while Chester Zoo's giraffes are loved by the visitors, in their natural African habitat, the animals are suffering what has been called a **devastating** decline. Illegal hunting, expanding agriculture and civil unrest have all been **cited** as factors pushing the long-necked mammals towards extinction.

Twenty-five-year-old Conchi Rios is one of only four female matadors in the world of Spanish bullfighting. She said it took a few years to get a job as a bullfighter in Spain, but that it was worth fighting to do the job she loves. Bullfighting is **controversial** in Spain, but Conchi says those who are against it don't necessarily understand it.

Words and phrases and definitions:

predominantly

mainly; mostly

devastating

very harmful; damaging

cited

mentioned as evidence or proof

controversial

something people disagree about

Watch the video online: <http://bbc.in/2j8vKRY>

Exercise:

Use one of the words or phrases from Lingohack to complete each of these sentences. Note that you may have to change the form of a word or phrase to complete the sentence correctly.

predominately / devastating / cited / controversial

1. A _____ plan to demolish a Reading nightclub and replace it with luxury flats has been turned down.
2. Thousands of people have been made homeless after _____ floods caused by the heaviest rainfall the city has seen in a century.
3. The pop star _____ personal reasons for deciding to cancel his world tour. Naturally, his fans are very upset.
4. The rise in global sea levels since the 1970s has been _____ driven by greenhouse gas emissions and not natural climate variability, a study suggests.

Answers:

1. A **controversial** plan to demolish a Reading nightclub and replace it with luxury flats has been turned down.
2. Thousands of people have been made homeless after **devastating** floods caused by the heaviest rainfall the city has seen in a century.
3. The pop star **cited** personal reasons for deciding to cancel his world tour. Naturally, his fans are very upset.
4. The rise in global sea levels since the 1970s has been **predominantly** driven by greenhouse gas emissions and not natural climate variability, a study suggests.