

## Triad no more and the way to Crime Free Living

If someone had told us five years ago that we would proudly introduce ourselves as a recovering Triad member instead of an active one, most of us would have laughed. For most of our life, we believed the Triads were our family, our protection, our purpose, and our destiny. We accepted the traditions of loyalty, secrecy, honor, and obedience without ever questioning where they were leading us.

Like many before us, We learned that the Triads did not begin simply as criminal organizations. They were born centuries ago from secret societies whose original purpose was to unite people against oppression and protect Chinese communities. Over time, however, many groups drifted away from those ideals. What once claimed to protect people gradually became associated with fear, violence, extortion, illegal gambling, trafficking, corruption, and countless broken families. History changed, but the suffering remained the same.

Many know that suffering because they lived it. For years, many believed respect came from intimidation. Some believed loyalty meant never questioning wrongdoing. We believed power came from making others fear us. Yet no matter how much influence we thought we had, we were never truly free. We constantly looked over our shoulders, distrusted almost everyone, and carried burdens that no amount of money or status could remove.

Then many found **Gangsters Anonymous**.

We did not find an organization that hated Triad members. We found recovering gangsters who understood each other because they had lived the same life in different organizations around the world. They did not judge anyone's past. Instead, they introduced each of us to the Twelve Steps—a spiritual program that helped them confront the criminal thinking that had controlled many lifestyles for years.

Working the Steps taught us that the greatest act of courage is not enforcing fear, it is telling the truth. The greatest victory is not defeating an enemy—it is overcoming the gangster within ourselves. We learned that real honor comes from keeping one's word, making amends where possible, serving others, and living honestly one day at a time.

Today we accumulate years of crime free living. We no longer live according to a code of intimidation. We live according to principles of honesty, responsibility, humility, service, and accountability. We have discovered something that no criminal organization could ever give us: peace of mind.

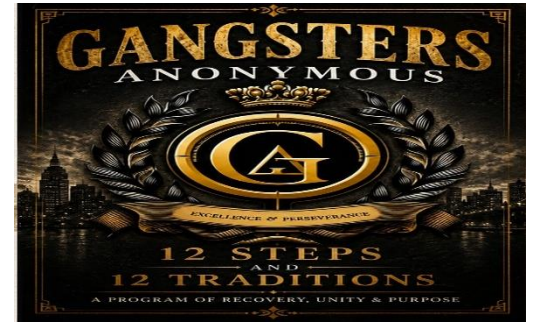
If you are a Triad member reading this, we are not asking you to betray your people. We are asking you to save your life. There is a difference.

Gangsters Anonymous is not against Chinese culture. It is not against loyalty, family, or tradition. It is against criminal thinking that destroys lives, imprisons the spirit, and leaves generation after generation believing there is no way out.

There is a way out.

We are living proof. Learn to live the 12 Steps of Gangsters Anonymous.

One recovering gangster helping another, that is how freedom begins.



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Crime Free Living**