



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

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PHOTOCALL

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MAIN DOOR, McEWAN HALL

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

BRISTO SQUARE EH8 9AG

Boxing charity founder to receive Edinburgh honorary degree

A boxing academy pioneer who has devoted himself to helping some of Brazil's most disadvantaged young people is to be honoured by the University of Edinburgh.

Edinburgh graduate Luke Dowdney, who founded the Fight For Peace charity in Rio de Janeiro in 2000, will receive an honorary degree at a ceremony in the McEwan Hall tomorrow (Tuesday).

The organisation uses boxing and mixed martial arts as a way to engage with children, many of whom live in the city's sprawling housing schemes, the favelas.

The initiative grew out of research that Mr Dowdney conducted for his Masters degree in social anthropology at Edinburgh. His studies focused on the violence suffered by street children in Brazil, many of whom find themselves drawn into a violent world of drug gangs.

Fight For Peace – which has since set up a second base in London – has mentored thousands of young people towards an education.

Mr Dowdney, who will receive a Doctor honoris causa, was captain of the University boxing team and a British Universities Light-Middleweight champion. He is also the author of *Children of the Drug Trade: a case study of children in organised armed violence*.

Photographers and TV crews are invited to meet at the McEwan Hall's main door at 12:15pm, where Mr Dowdney will be available for pictures and interview.

For more details, including video footage of Mr Dowdney in his Rio gym, please contact:

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