

# SCHOOL TALKS AND FIRESIDE CHATS

## EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS TO EMBRACE LIFE'S JOURNEY

Stephen McGown's journey is one of resilience and the unwavering belief that freedom is an attitude. During his school talks, Stephen passionately shares his captivating story of being held captive by al-Qaeda militants for nearly six years in Mali. Despite the unimaginable hardships he faced, Stephen's unwavering spirit and determination to maintain his freedom of mind and spirit enabled him to endure the ordeal. Through his powerful message, he emphasizes that true freedom comes from within and can be maintained regardless of external circumstances. Stephen's engaging school talks inspire students to embrace a positive mindset, overcome challenges, and recognise the importance of cultivating freedom as an attitude in their own lives.

### KEY THEMES

**Attitude  
Freedom  
Ownership**

### INTERACTIONS

**Keynote Talks  
School Project Interviews  
Fireside Q & As**

*"5 years 8 months is a long time. I believe that I'm like any other person. I'm no different. We all have problems and we shouldn't judge one another, as we have different coping mechanisms and breaking points."*

Stephen is a captivating keynote speaker for senior schools who brings a wealth of knowledge and firsthand experiences to engage and inspire young minds. As a renowned figure, Stephen has been interviewed for school projects, allowing students to delve deeper into his remarkable journey. Moreover, his fireside Q&A sessions, led by teachers, provide a unique opportunity for learners to explore Stephen's learnings and gain invaluable insights from his extraordinary life experiences.

Prepare to be captivated as Stephen shares his remarkable story and imparts wisdom gained from his inspiring adventures.

*"If I was not going to be killed, then I needed to use this time productively and come back a better person. After all, the biggest tragedy would have been to have wasted my 5 years 8 months in the desert, to come back angry having learnt nothing. I had to make the most of my time!"*

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**STEPHEN  
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Freedom is an attitude

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