



WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

REPAIR • REVITALIZE • RESTORE

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is a way of understanding crime and wrongdoing in terms of the people and relationships impacted, in addition to a law or rule that was broken. Restorative justice offers ways of responding to harm that focus on repairing relationships and healing all affected by crime. When human dignity and relationships are violated by harm and injustice, a restorative approach offers an opportunity to live in right relationship and enables healing and transformation.

A restorative approach:

- Seeks healing through transformative encounters that embrace both justice and mercy
- Provides victims with the opportunity to have a direct voice to express their needs and perspectives
- Strengthens community engagement and social bonds by allowing all voices impacted to be heard

Restorative Practices

Restorative practices can **repair** individuals, **revitalize** the criminal justice system and **restore** communities. These practices seek justice and healing, and help rehabilitate those who violate the law while protecting society. Restorative practices promote alternative sentencing, in-prison transformation, re-entry support and breaking the cycle of violence.

Victim-Offender Dialogue is a facilitated encounter that brings together the people directly affected to discuss the impacts of the harm and what needs to be done to make things right.

Circle Process is a structured method that allows every voice to be heard. It can be used to heal harm, learn, listen and build community.

Restorative Principles



- Promote Accountability
- Build Just Relationships



- Uphold Human Dignity
- Advance Racial Equity



- Seek Healing
- Enable Transformation

RESTORATIVE LIVING IS FOR EVERYONE

Restorative principles can be widely used to shape our communities. These principles and practices can be applied in countless settings, including the criminal justice system, places of worship, families, and schools.



What does restorative living look like?



SOLIDARITY

Remembering we are all interconnected and our actions impact one another, institutions, and the environment.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Seeking repair when relationships are fractured. This includes taking responsibility when we harm another.



COMMUNICATION

Creating spaces for open conversation and dialogue, even when it is difficult.



LISTENING

Listening deeply to the needs and concerns of others, even when you don't agree.



COMPASSION

Practicing compassion, mercy, love, and forgiveness in relationships.

“There is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.”

Pope Francis, “Fratelli Tutti,” 225

Bring restorative practices to your organization



grdiocese.org/mirestorativejustice/



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