

Spring 2009



# Resolution 32

News from the Restorative Justice Consortium



## A New Dawn for Restorative Justice?

Government plans for a new adult strategy

## Sycamore Tree

Victim awareness and Restorative Justice

## Restorative Justice in Ireland

Challenges facing the National Commission

Company number: 4199237  
Charity number: 1097969

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## Editor's note

*Resolution* is here to reflect Restorative Justice and Restorative Approaches in all their forms and developments. To this end we welcome your input and ideas. Please get in touch if you would like to submit an article, have suggestions for a feature, ideas for what you would like covered, news of an event or would simply like to share an experience with other readers.

Cover picture 'A Shropshire Scene' contributed by Mark Fox - Fox IT.

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# Introduction

**W**elcome to the Spring edition of *Resolution*.

As many of you will know, our CEO Harriet Bailey left the RJC at the end of 2008 to travel around the world. The Board and staff of the RJC have been working closely with our very supportive funders to find the resources to appoint a successor to Harriet. But in the meantime, the RJC Board has asked me to step in as Acting CEO, on a temporary and voluntary basis, until we are able to appoint a permanent full-time successor. I have been involved in the RJC for many years - first as a colleague when leading the Home Office Restorative Justice Policy Team (2003 - 2005) and since 2006 as a Board member. It's a joy and a privilege to be able to serve the organisation in this new way at this difficult but also exciting time for both the RJC and Restorative Justice nationally.

Along with all the Board, I was delighted to see the recent references in Parliament to Restorative Justice, and in particular Minister Shahid Malik's statement that "We are working with stakeholders, including the Restorative Justice Consortium, to develop a victim-focused adult restorative justice strategy that will build on learning from pilots." The RJC continues to meet with Ministry of Justice (MoJ) officials to put the case for new RJ services, building on the very strong results of the four MoJ research reports on Restorative Justice. The Government has recognised the stunning impact of Restorative Justice on victims, including quantified reductions in post-traumatic stress symptoms, and their Restorative Justice strategy will now be led from the Victims and Witnesses Unit of the MoJ (see page 4). We welcome this, and have been working closely with the new organisation Why me? Victims for Restorative Justice to gain recognition for the right of all victims of crime to Restorative Justice. At the same time the impact of Restorative Justice on reoffending - the 27% drop in frequency found by the MoJ's own research, and the cost savings this delivers for the Criminal Justice System - should not be overlooked. So the RJC will continue to argue for Restorative Justice services to be delivered in ways that meet the needs of everyone involved - victims, offenders, their families and supporters, and the wider community.

These are exciting times for restorative practices across the piece, with the mushrooming of restorative approaches in schools and the widespread use by police forces of the new Youth Restorative Disposal

(see page 4). Welcoming and supporting people using restorative practices across all sectors is core to the role and remit of the RJC. During April we'll be working with Skills for Justice to develop a new National Occupational Standard that reflects these more informal and preventive uses of restorative practice; and our July Conference in Cardiff will be on Becoming a Restorative County - hearing from people across the country who are already making this happen in their area, and encouraging new areas to get on board.

It's also an exciting time for the RJC. Our Membership Development Project, led by John Pepin Associates, is now complete. The project has given us some really clear feedback from you, our members, on our strengths and weaknesses and how you want the RJC to develop in future - a summary of the project findings and recommendations is on the RJC website (see also page 3). The Board has already acted on many of these recommendations, for example turning our Forum meetings into one-day Conference events, and locating these during 2009 across the country. The events programme kicked off with our excellent January 2009 Conference on Restorative Justice in Prisons, held in Bullingdon Prison (see page 7). Our Accreditation Project is also in full swing and we will be sending out invitations to attend three regional consultation meetings on a Blueprint for Accreditation for restorative practice shortly. Overall, as the breadth of restorative practice and restorative approaches grows and grows the RJC is growing with it, both in terms of our membership and our vision for restorative practices.

Thank you to all of you, our members, for your support through these tricky times without a full-time CEO. Your commitment to the RJC, willingness to contribute and passion for Restorative Justice keeps the organisation and restorative practice going and growing through thick and thin.

Lizzie Nelson  
Acting CEO  
RJC



Interested in making a contribution?  
If you would like more information about writing an article for *Resolution* please email [info@restorativejustice.org.uk](mailto:info@restorativejustice.org.uk)

02|03

# News in brief

## RJC contributes to new adult Restorative Justice strategy

The Government are currently in the process of developing their strategy for adult restorative justice, in the light of the Ministry of Justice research pilots on RJ, which showed such positive results for victims and reoffending. Ministers have repeatedly named the RJC as a key stakeholder in the development of the strategy and we shall be watching to see if our recommendations are acted upon.

The RJC is calling on all its members to show their support for Restorative Justice by writing to their MP. Please act now at this critical time in the development of Restorative Justice.

## Why Me?

This new organisation of victims for Restorative Justice has employed its first member of staff. Sara Hall's first tasks as Why Me co-ordinator will include establishing Why Me as an independent charity and developing the organisations relationships with victims who have benefitted from or otherwise support Restorative Justice.

[www.why-me.org](http://www.why-me.org)

## Regional Conference Programme announced

Restorative Justice and Social Change: How Nonviolent Communication contributes is the first of our quarterly conferences to be held outside of London, following recommendations in our recent membership review responding to the views expressed by our members.

Our summer conference Becoming a Restorative County is also planned to be held outside of the capital.

## News in full

For a full round up of all the latest news make sure you receive our monthly E-bulletin. This resource is available to all members and supporters and includes information on events, vacancies and resources. In the latest issue find out why a minute wielding pensioner has renewed calls for Restorative Justice in Devon, what the Lib Dems say about Restorative Justice and what's going on in Somerset, Yorkshire and North America.

For your copy email [info@restorativejustice.org.uk](mailto:info@restorativejustice.org.uk) today.

## RJC Membership Development Survey

At the heart of the Restorative Justice Consortium (RJC) is our commitment to providing relevant services for, and representing the views of, our members. To do this better we sought views of members and non-members; our thanks to those who responded. The following brief summary is based on their responses and a series of follow-up interviews.

### The Survey revealed;

- a varied profile of members and supporters, active in many sectors of the criminal justice, mediation and education services at both local and central government level.
- the RJC's crucial role as a central resource and networking hub, allowing people interested in different restorative approaches to contribute to the development of the movement.
- a high level of satisfaction with the RJC's contribution to the development of restorative practice; membership of RJC is considered "very useful".
- suggestions for improvements, the main ones in the areas of development of Restorative Justice, training and resources, research, advocacy and events.

The recommendations aim to build on the RJC's strengths, address the challenges that it faces and make the most of the opportunities.

### Strengths of the RJC

- A neutral and independent umbrella body able to bring together different strands of practice and thought.
- A central hub of expertise and knowledge of restorative practice, a good reference point for practitioners, the media and the public.
- A respected advocate for Restorative Justice, keeping Restorative Justice on the agenda of policy-makers and developing its principles.

- An organisation with enthusiastic staff, quick to respond to enquiries.

### Challenges for the RJC

- The RJC is a charity relying on voluntary donations and grant-funding for 95% of its income. To become sustainable the RJC must reduce its reliance on voluntary donations and needs to address the shortfall between the income from, and expenditure on, members.
- Widening its reach to groups that are not already involved, perhaps by broadening content.
- Furthering publicity and lobbying work to ensure government backing and increased public awareness.
- Locating events outside London.

### Changes to Membership

- Two categories of membership: Supporters who wish only to keep up to date with news and developments; Membership for those who require services to help develop practice and career progression.
- Revenue from membership will be need to be increased to account for 10% of RJC income through increases in the pricing of Individual and Organisational Membership.
- Events will be charged for in order to recover the cost to the RJC of hosting the event. Events shall remain open to all who would attend with profits made from non-members subsidising the attendance of RJC members.

### Developing the RJC

- Employment of a Development Officer to develop our relationship with existing members and reach out to new members and supporters in all fields of restorative practice.
- Encourage members to help promote the RJC and the benefits of joining. With a larger body of members and supporters the RJC will be better able to represent the field and influence policy.

**About Us** Restorative Justice can give victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime, to get answers, receive an apology and move on with their lives. It holds offenders to account whilst giving them the chance to understand the real impact of what they've done and to do something to repair the harm.

Restorative principles are also being used successfully in schools, workplaces, care homes, health services and communities without the labels of *victim* and *offender*.

The Restorative Justice Consortium is the national voice for Restorative Justice. We provide information about Restorative Justice to the public; support and resource our members who deliver Restorative Justice, and promote the development and use of Restorative Justice.

## Restorative Justice in Devon and Cornwall

*RJC: Few forces have as a good a history as Devon and Cornwall Police when it comes to Restorative Justice. Having been involved its development since 2001, when the Force were not selected to trial the official pilot of the Youth Restorative Disposal, Chief Constable Simon Otters gave the green light for the force to pilot their own version. PC Phil Skedgell brings us an update.*

Since my last update in Resolution (edition 26, summer 2007) the use of RJ has increased significantly within many Police Forces within England and Wales. As many of you will know, a senior officer, Assistant Chief Constable Gary Shewan (Cheshire) has been appointed as the Association of Chief Police Officer (ACPO) lead for Community and Restorative Justice.

The Home Office has also relaxed the measurement of Police Forces 'Sanctioned Detection' rates. This has been a restrictive practice historically because Restorative Justice was not a formally recognised measure. Thus there was no incentive for the Police Service to use Restorative Justice, as there was no performance reason for doing this.

This change in performance regime has now enabled forces to respond more freely and to the needs of their communities, rather than detection rates. At the time of this relaxation, Forces are now measured by the Home Office public satisfaction data -



Photo provided by Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

providing (as we all know) and excellent platform for Restorative Justice.

Within the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, as with some other forces, the move from Sanctioned Detections to public satisfaction data and Positive Outcomes provides frontline policing resources the opportunity to utilise Restorative Outcomes (including the more complex full RJ Conference) as a performance measure.

We are now using the Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD) as a means of encouraging Young People to consider the effects of their offending behaviour - within a restorative environment - whilst enabling the force to be "measured" within our new performance environment. This also provides Young People an opportunity to avoid a criminal record for their first offence (assuming a number of other conditions are met) and provide an excellent opportunity for learning.

Whilst still in its infancy, the YRD does finally provide victims of crime with a much greater voice within the formal Criminal Justice setting. It is also our hope that this youth disposal can also be replicated within the adult setting (imaginatively we may call it an Adult Restorative Disposal!).

In relation to the YRD, some of the feedback from victims involved in the process has been fantastic. One elderly lady in Cornwall was so impressed at being able to meet the offender that she didn't want any reparation (although she did receive an apology). Another 3 youths that damaged a wall in a school assisted in re-building the wall.

The mainstreaming of the use of Restorative Justice also comes with genuine concerns and issues over effective monitoring to ensure that 'true' Restorative Justice is being used - rather than another process under the guise of being restorative. Thus far, those concerns have not been realised within our Force.

PC 4412 Phil Skedgell  
Force Restorative Justice Support Officer, Territorial Policing Department  
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary Police  
philip.skedgell@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

## Interview: Meet the national policy lead for Restorative Justice

RJC: Who are the OCJR?

Andrea Dias: OCJR stands for the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The organisation sits within the Ministry of Justice and works trilaterally with the Justice Secretary, the Home Secretary and the Attorney General. The aim of this set up is to work towards a joined up approach to criminal justice reform.

The Victim and Witness Unit of the OCJR is aimed at supporting services of victims of crime.

What is the OCJR's responsibility for Restorative Justice?

The organisation is responsible for implementing the Ministry of Justice research findings given the high levels of victim satisfaction. The Victim and Witness Unit is tasked with introducing a victim led approach to Restorative Justice. Our primary approach will be through Local Criminal Justice Boards.

What are the benefits of placing RJ with the Victim and Witness Unit?

It supports the research findings, which were strongest for Restorative Justice's impact on victims. The Unit aim to increase victim's voice and Restorative Justice is an effective way of doing this whilst increasing confidence in the criminal justice system.

What work is the Victim and Witness Unit doing on Restorative Justice at present?

We are developing our strategy for adult Restorative Justice through talking with stakeholders such as ACPO, the Restorative Justice Consortium and other agencies such as Victim Support. Through this victim focussed approach we hope to raise the impetus for Restorative Justice within the criminal justice system.

Andrea Dias is the Restorative Justice Policy Lead at the Office of Criminal Justice Reform.

The Restorative Justice Consortium is calling on all our members to show their support for Restorative Justice by writing your local MP through [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com). Please act now at this crucial time in the development of the Government's new adult Restorative Justice Strategy.

04|05

# Sycamore Tree: Victim awareness and Restorative Justice

*RJC: Anne Mason is manager of Sycamore Tree, an intensive programme running in prisons across the country. Sycamore Tree brings together unconnected victims and offenders with the aim of raising victim awareness among prisoners whilst providing victims with an opportunity to share their stories and gain insights into the behaviour of offenders. We look forward to hearing about the stories and people involved in the program in a future edition of Resolution, but first Anne informs us about the program itself.*

**P**rison Fellowship International (PFI) is the world's largest and most extensive criminal justice ministry - a global association of over 100 national Prison Fellowship organisations. PFI's Centre for Justice and Reconciliation promotes restorative justice initiatives that work to heal broken relationships, repair the damage done by crime and restore the offender to a meaningful role in society.

Sycamore Tree was developed by PFI and first run in Houston (USA), then in New Zealand. It was first run in England and Wales at HMP The Mount in 1998 and has since expanded to run in 34 prisons of all security categories, with more than 12,000 offenders having taken part since its start.

Sycamore Tree is an in-prison programme run over 6 sessions (usually one per week) that aims to challenge prisoners' attitudes to offending behaviour; raise awareness of the impact of crime on victims and communities; and teach the principles and application of Restorative Justice. Sycamore Tree seeks to provide offenders with an opportunity to make an informed choice to change their lives.



The name 'Sycamore Tree' is taken from the New Testament Bible story of Zacchaeus, a thieving tax collector who made amends to his victims and community. The programme is faith based but it is not faith promoting. Sycamore Tree is offered to all faiths and people with no faith. If interest in Christianity is expressed as a result of the programme, the offender is told they can explore their interest through the Chaplaincy and Alpha courses.

**"I am entirely committed to the Sycamore Tree course... the benefits are evident with regard to reducing re-offending and properly resettling offenders." Prison Governor**

Sycamore Tree was awarded accredited status by OCN (Open College Network) in 2003, and Prison Fellowship is an OCN approved centre of learning. Accreditation by an external body such as OCN validates the programme with clear aims and

objectives, measurable learning outcomes, and professional standards.

Alongside anecdotal feedback a psychometric questionnaire called Crime Pics II is used to measure changes in each prisoners' attitudes after taking part in Sycamore Tree. An evaluation of more than 2,000 Crime Pics questionnaires was conducted by Sheffield Hallam University and indicates that the programme reduces attitudes that are known to be conducive to offending behaviour.

Additionally Prison Fellowship has recently commissioned a research project, supervised by Professor Lawrence Sherman of Cambridge University, to demonstrate the Sycamore Tree's effect on reducing reoffending. At the heart of this project will be a Randomised Control Trial, which will rigorously compare recidivism of adult male participants and non-participants. The project will measure the frequency and severity of re-offending of the offenders within one year and also two years of release. The research will provide evidence for Prison Fellowship and significant policy-makers of the economic and human value of this programme.

The future holds three key challenges for Prison Fellowship and Sycamore Tree to address: continued and sustainable funding, compliance with the accreditation requirements of Prison Service Order 4350 'Effective Regime Interventions' and the recruitment, training and support of volunteer tutors, victims and group facilitators to present the programme.

Prison Fellowship England and Wales was formed in 1979 as a Christian faith-based voluntary sector organisation to restore all those affected by crime.

[www.sycamoretree.org.uk](http://www.sycamoretree.org.uk)  
01621 843232



Sycamore Tree, Birmingham

## Restorative Justice in Ireland: Challenges facing the National Commission

The National Commission on Restorative Justice was established in March 2007 to examine Restorative Justice and to make recommendations as to its future direction in Ireland. The Commission has published an interim report to date and a final report is due mid 2009.

### The Current Situation: Restorative Justice at Juvenile Level

Restorative Justice exists on a statutory basis for juveniles as per The Children Act 2001. The Act is the most significant diversionary strategy for juveniles in conflict with the law and its objective is to prevent young people from committing further offences. This Act provides a legislative basis for the Garda Youth Diversion Programme to facilitate restorative cautioning and conferencing. A second programme provides family conferencing for court-referred cases involving the Probation Service.

The Youth Diversion Programme is used for a wide variety of offences, from the most serious, such as robbery and assaults, to those of a less serious nature, such as under-age drinking and minor thefts. It uses a package of interventions designed to challenge juveniles' offending behaviour by engaging the support of the offender's family and the extended community.

Under the second programme, the Court may direct the Probation Service to arrange a family conference prior to sentencing. The Court can then approve or amend any agreed action plan and order compliance; where no plan is agreed the Court may formulate one, or resume prosecution proceedings. This is also the case where the Court is dissatisfied with the plan.

Restorative practices, in a school setting, are also operated in some areas.

### Restorative Justice at Adult Level

There is no corresponding statutory basis for Restorative Justice at adult level but there is scope for the prosecution authorities to divert cases from court under the Garda Adult Cautioning Scheme.

The scheme, which is not currently grounded in Restorative Justice principles, is aimed at low level crimes. While it may have potential to encompass a restorative dimension, such a move is susceptible to "net widening", targeting individuals who would not ordinarily have come within the criminal justice system.

Two Restorative Justice pilot programmes deal with adult offenders at the court stage. The Nenagh Community Reparation Project offers an additional option to the Court for persons who plead guilty to, or are found guilty of, criminal offences. The focus is primarily on community reparation, as opposed to mediation. Project records of cases referred between 1999 and 2007 show very positive results but further research is needed for full evaluation.

The Tallaght Restorative Justice Service offers either offender reparation or victim/offender mediation. Cases are court-referred at the pre-sentencing stage at the discretion of the Judge and the Court remains in charge of the process at all times.

### Major considerations for the Commission

- The assumption that the rate of offender recidivism is the primary measurement of the success or failure of Restorative Justice. Such a narrow focus for assessing the merits of Restorative Justice fails to take into account its many other aims and objectives, such as victim satisfaction, its potential to redress the harm caused by crime, and its ability to give those directly affected a voice in the process of reconciliation. It is imperative that policy-makers retain a sense of balance between the crime reduction potential and the other major benefits offered by Restorative Justice initiatives.

- How Restorative Justice can be incorporated into the existing criminal justice system. In theory, Restorative Justice could be located anywhere inside or outside the criminal justice system. However there is no single blueprint for building a restorative system and the Commission will need to acknowledge this.

- Whether or not Restorative Justice needs a legislative basis to function consistently. The lack of a legal framework should not necessarily be detrimental to the success of Restorative Justice, however, enshrining Restorative Justice in legislation would promote predictability, certainty of use, legitimacy, and uniformity of application.

- The range of offences and types of offenders most appropriate for a restorative intervention. Attention should be paid to the evidence-based research which has shown that Restorative Justice can be more effective with more, rather than less, serious crimes. This suggests that there is little basis for the view that Restorative Justice interventions are only appropriate for first time and juvenile offenders, or less serious offences.

- The danger that Restorative Justice could be perceived as a "soft option",

if it were used for serious offences. It will be important to balance the public interest in the distribution of proportionate punishment and general deterrence against the growing consensus amongst academics and practitioners that restorative interventions can be applied to certain types of serious offences.

- The danger that Restorative Justice alternatives will supplement rather than replace existing procedures. It will be important not to focus exclusively on offenders who would not ordinarily be dealt with in the formal process, as this would deny the potential of targeting individuals within the criminal justice system who could benefit from a restorative intervention.

### Conclusion

Our present criminal justice system is heavily reliant on custodial remedies, and while "get tough" rhetoric may have public appeal, it is difficult to ignore the fact that approximately 25% of inmates are back in prison within a year, and 50% re-offend within four years. In addition to the exorbitant costs of custody, the very high rate of recidivism amongst those released should be persuasive authority to explore other methods and remedies.

However, it is paramount that Restorative Justice is not "oversold" in terms of its ability to reduce recidivism. Restorative Justice is not solely about reducing re-offending rates, but has many objectives which can benefit victims, offenders, and society at large.

It can be argued that Restorative Justice delivers a more humanistic and efficient way of dealing with victims and offenders. It holds the promise of restoring a victim's material and emotional loss, safety, damaged relationships, dignity and self-respect. It also has the potential to reduce the use of custodial sanctions, by offering an additional sentencing disposal and diversionary option to the judiciary.

The Commission has much to consider over the coming months and in the current economic climate it is hoped that the potential of Restorative Justice within our society is not lost on our policymakers.

Martin Haverty has worked as lead researcher with the National Commission on Restorative Justice, and his new website [www.restorativejusticeonline.ie](http://www.restorativejusticeonline.ie) is in development.

This article is a summary of Martin's full paper which is available at [www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?Resources](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?Resources)

06 | 07

## Mediation is a joke! Conflict resolution in Burkina Faso

*RJC: It is in keeping with the restorative principles of inclusivity and respect that Restorative Justice has been so inspired and influenced by anthropological observations around the world - most famously by the approaches to conflict resolution of the Maori and the indigenous peoples of North America. Here Dr Martin Wright relates the practices of the West African country Burkina Faso and discovers that joking can be a serious approach to conflict resolution.*

There is much scope for conflict in one of the poorest countries of the world, with 61 ethnic groups and 8 large language families. Burkina Faso (known as Upper Volta until 1983) is a mainly rural West African country about three times the size of Austria, with a population of 1.2 million. Its major religions are Christian, Muslim and a natural religion in which the other two are seen as living equally 'under the roof' of the highest existence, DO (God). This religious perspective stresses that their ancestors wish them to live together with consent, co-operation and harmony, and may be linked to the lack of religious conflict there. It appears to have survived the colonial legal system introduced in 1919, partly perhaps because of the need to co-operate in the

face of inhospitable conditions.

When conflicts do arise they are handled by elected chiefs of families and villages (each with about 100-300 people) who act as mediators. Women are present as advisers, children as learners. This method is supplemented by the remarkable tradition of 'joking relationships' which the clans, ethnic groups, and districts have with each other. A visitor may be surprised to see two men arguing loudly in the street and gesticulating, from time to time breaking out into laughter about stereotypes of each other's ethnic group (but not about mothers, physical handicaps or sexuality), and then parting with good wishes for their families and ethnic groups.

There are numerous stories about how this system originated, telling for example about times when men quarrelled and were ready to go to war over trivial matters. The clever forefathers put a stop to this lust for fighting by introducing the joking relationships. They exist in practically all social groupings, and between ethnic groups however small. Now even children learn how to do it. Diversity is seen as enriching, to be contained, not feared. Real conflicts are generally prevented by being turned into comic, verbal ones.

In some ethnic groups the wife has a joking relationship with her husband's brother (if any) or a prescribed cousin (and the husband with his wife's sister, grandparents with grandchildren, and so on). They make flowery jokes with each other, not too strongly, with satirical elements. If for example the wife cannot resolve problems with her husband on her own, she asks her joking partner for help. With the husband present, she enacts a humorous scene, dressed up in metaphors, about the joys of married life, her own feelings and needs, with scattered references to any marital tensions. The brother-in-law listens attentively, jokes with her about everyday life, and drops in some ideas about handling the conflict. It is important not to blame the husband or show him up. He acts as if he wasn't listening; so he keeps his dignity while hearing his wife's feelings and needs.

With ever-increasing westernisation the enormous cultural and emotional richness of these traditions is threatened; but the African renaissance proposed by the South African president Thabo Mbeki is being felt.

Summarised by Martin Wright from two articles by Sonja Steixner in *Perspektive Mediation* (Vienna), 2007 (3) and 2008 (3)

## Restorative Justice in Prison HMP Bullingdon RJC January Event Report



The RJC held its first event of 2009, Restorative Justice in Prison, in the heart of Her Majesty's Prison Bullingdon (pictured). Peter Patrick, RJC Chair, opened the event recognising the important contribution RJC events have made to the development of the Restorative Justice movement by nurturing the sharing of ideas and best practice. The days first presentation by Geoff Emerson & Julie Tartakover of Thames Valley Restorative Justice Service (RJS) was a shining example of this.

Thames Valley RJS' first Restorative Justice conference back in 2001 was held in a room adjacent to HMP Bullingdon

Chapel where the presentation was being delivered. We now know from the research that these results contributed to an estimated 33% reduction in the frequency of reoffending by prisoners. Geoff and Julie shared with us the lessons they have learnt as a manager and as a practitioner in the seven years since that first conference.

Vicky O'Dea, former Governor of Ashfield Young Offenders Institute, delivered a vibrant presentation on how, the embracing of restorative practice contributed to transforming Ashfield into an award-winning model of best practice. A Youth Justice Board evaluation of Ashfield following the introduction of Restorative

Justice recorded a 19% reduction in violence.

Presentations followed from SORI and Sycamore Tree (see page 5), two prison based interventions, which teach restorative principles and bring together victims and offenders of similar though unconnected crimes to raise victim awareness with offenders. We also learnt about pioneering restorative work being done to divert offenders from custody by West Yorkshire probation and closed with group discussion and reflection on the day's presentations.

A detailed transcript of the event is available at [www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?Events](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?Events)

# Events

08

For up-to-date information on RJ events go to: [www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?Events](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?Events)



## RJC Spring Conference

### Restorative Justice and Social Change: How Nonviolent Communication contributes

Date: Monday 20th April  
Time: 10.45am - 4.15pm  
Venue: The Pierian Centre, Bristol

This conference will explore how Nonviolent Communication can help us:

- Be more fluent in the needs of others and produce more positive outcomes.
- Encourage others to cooperate, without coercion or manipulation.
- Develop restorative conversations enabling social agendas to be addressed

Presenters are experts in the above fields and include Paul Crosland RJC, Founder of Mediation Support & Freelender.org and Paul Baker Independent conflict consultant, practitioner & therapist.

This event - on the skills, ethos and practical application of Nonviolent Communication in generating responsibility and social change - costs just £25 for members and £50 for non-members and supporters of the RJC.

For information and booking contact call 020 7653 1992 or email [admin@restorativejustice.org.uk](mailto:admin@restorativejustice.org.uk)

## European Forum for Restorative Justice

"Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices – Are they the same?" and "Building Social Support for Restorative Justice"

Date: Wednesday 3rd June – 5th June  
Leuven, Belgium

Run in conjunction with the Forum's AGM over this three day period. These seminars will deal with core issues for Restorative Justice and provide an opportunity to meet colleagues from all over Europe working in the field.

## Summer School "Towards Critical Restorative Justice Practices"

Date: Monday 20th – 24th July  
Barcelona, Spain

The summer school is aimed at trainers, practitioners, volunteers, researchers and programme managers in victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices.

For more information on all these European Forum for Restorative Justice events please visit [www.euforumrj.org](http://www.euforumrj.org)

This events listing is not exhaustive  
For a full list of events on Restorative Justice and related fields please visit [www.restorativejustice.org.uk](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk)

## Aim Project

### AIM WEEK

Date: Monday 13th – Friday 17th July  
Venue: Carolina Way, Salford

AIM week is designed to share with delegates materials and training, as well as providing delegates working with children and young people who display sexually harmful behaviour and their families with the opportunity to share practice issues and network.

Workshops include Sexually harmful behaviour and Restorative Justice – can there be a link? Wednesday 15th July, £90.

For more information and programme email [aimproject@msn.com](mailto:aimproject@msn.com)

## Hull Centre For Restorative Practices

Hull: The Riverside Community  
A Restorative Practices Conference

Date: Monday 15th June 9:30am - 3:30pm  
Venue: The Freedom Centre, Hull

We are delighted to invite all colleagues working with children, young people and families to attend this multi-disciplinary conference.

- Learn about successful Restorative Practice strategies that build and strengthen communities
- Participate in multi-disciplinary workshops led by leading practitioners.
- Network with colleagues

Attendance costs £115 per delegate, more information email [HCRPadmin@goodwin-centre.org](mailto:HCRPadmin@goodwin-centre.org)

## Join the RJC

If you believe in Restorative Justice, join the Restorative Justice Consortium and help support our work.

Members benefit from free copies of *Resolution*, monthly emails about the latest Restorative Justice news and events, free entry to our regular Forums and further discounts on all our events as well as the opportunity to place articles and advertise on the RJC website.

We rely on our membership to help us promote the use of Restorative Justice and add your support will help us do even more.

Join us now by downloading an application form from [www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?Membership](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/?Membership) or call the RJC on 020 7653 1992 to sign up by phone or for more information.