



## **What is Restorative Justice**

Restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused or revealed by criminal behaviour. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include all stakeholders.

Practices and programs reflecting restorative purposes will respond to crime by:

1. Identifying and taking steps to repair harm,
2. Involving all stakeholders, and
3. Transforming the traditional relationship between communities and their governments in responding to crime.

Some of the programmes and outcomes typically identified with restorative justice include:

Victim offender mediation  
Conferencing  
Circles  
Victim assistance  
Ex-offender assistance  
Restitution  
Community service

## **Three principles form the foundation for restorative justice:**

1. Justice requires that we work to restore those who have been injured.
2. Those most directly involved and affected by crime should have the opportunity to participate fully in the response if they wish.
3. Government's role is to preserve a just public order, and the community's is to build and maintain a just peace.

## **Restorative programmes are characterized by four key values:**

1. **Encounter:** Create opportunities for victims, offenders and community members who want to do so to meet to discuss the crime and its aftermath
2. **Amends:** Expect offenders to take steps to repair the harm they have caused
3. **Reintegration:** Seek to restore victims and offenders to whole, contributing members of society
4. **Inclusion:** Provide opportunities for parties with a stake in a specific crime to participate in its resolution