

The Advocacy Foundation, Inc.

Preparing Individuals, Organizations and Communities to Achieve Their Full Potential



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Restorative Justice in the US

Part I of III—Introduction

Make a Donation

Amos 9: 11-15

The Restoration of Israel (MSG)

¹¹⁻¹²“But also on that Judgment Day I will restore David’s house that has fallen to pieces. I’ll repair the holes in the roof, replace the broken windows, fix it up like new. David’s people will be strong again and seize what’s left of enemy Edom, plus everyone else under my sovereign judgment.” GOD’s Decree. He will do this.

¹³⁻¹⁵“Yes indeed, it won’t be long now.” GOD’s Decree. “Things are going to happen so fast your head will swim, one thing fast on the heels of the other. You won’t be able to keep up. Everything will be happening at once—and everywhere you look, blessings! Blessings like wine pouring off the mountains and hills. I’ll make everything right again for my people Israel: “They’ll rebuild their ruined cities. They’ll plant vineyards and drink good wine. They’ll work their gardens and eat fresh vegetables. And I’ll plant *them*, plant them on their own land. They’ll never again be uprooted from the land I’ve given them.” GOD, your God, says so.

Introduction

Restorative Justice (also known as **Reparative Justice**) is an approach to [Juvenile] Delinquency that focuses on the needs of the victims and the offenders, as well as the involved community, instead of satisfying abstract legal principles or punishing the offender(s). Victims take an active role in the process, while offenders are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, "to repair the harm they've done by apologizing, returning stolen money, or community service".

...

It is based on a theory of justice that considers delinquency and wrongdoing to be an offence against an *individual* or *community*, rather than the state. [Because] Restorative Justice fosters dialogue between victim and offender, [it consistently] shows high rates of victim satisfaction and offender accountability.

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restorative_justice

“[It is] a process where all stakeholders affected by an injustice have an opportunity to discuss how they have been affected by the injustice and to decide what should be done to repair the harm. “

- "Restorative Justice and De-Professionalization"
The Good Society 13 (1): 28–31. Braithwaite, John (2004)

The Three Key Ideas that Support Restorative Justice

There are three key ideas that support the doctrine of restorative justice. **First** is the understanding that the victim and the surrounding community have *both* been affected by the action of the offender and, in addition, restoration is necessary. **Second**, the offender's obligation is to make amends with both the victim and the involved community. **Third**, and the most important aspect of restorative justice, is the concept of 'healing,' or the collaborative unburdening of pain for the victim, offender, and community. (Emphasis added)

Healing by reintegration of offenders into the community, strives to restore harmony, health, and well-being by comprising personal accountability, decision-making and the [correcting] of harm.

A Multidisciplinary Approach

The inclusion [of non-legal disciplines in the Restorative Justice process], as opposed to exclusion, demonstrates the capability of transformation of the administration of criminal justice, mental health, psychology and public policy norms. Examples of healing sciences include: Victim/ Offender Mediation, Conferencing, Healing Circles, Victim and Ex-Offender Assistance, Restitution, and Community Service.

Restorative Justice Principles are Characterized by Four Key Values

The **First** key value involves the encounter of both parties. This step involves the offender, the victim, the community and any other party who was [affected by the delinquent act]. **Second**, the amending process takes place. In this step, the offender(s) will take the steps necessary to help repair the harm caused. **Third**, reintegration begins. In this phase, restoration of both the victim and the offender takes place. In addition, this step also involves the community and others who were involved in the initial offense. **Finally**, the inclusion stage provides an open opportunity for both parties to participate in finding a resolution. The process of restorative justice is lengthy and must be committed to by both parties for effective results.

Always feel welcome to contact me directly with any questions, comments, or great ideas!

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ADVOCACY
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*Helping Individuals, Organizations & Communities
Achieve Their Full Potential*

Our Mission

The Mission of The Advocacy Foundation
is Threefold:

To Rescue

Young persons from the prison pipeline
and help redirect and restore their lives;

To Teach

New and fledgling nonprofit organizations to become
fundable, to thrive, and to maintain compliance;

To Train

Qualified Juvenile Justice Professionals with a passion
for effective careers in the Juvenile Justice system.

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