



4th Annual Conference

21-22 November 2022

Living in Troubled Times

Restorative approaches to building resilience



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Programme Overview

Monday 21st November 2022

09:00 - 09:15	Log on and Registration
09:15 - 09:30	Welcome and opening remarks from Dr Gerard Drennan
09:35 - 11:05	Parallel Session 1
11:05 - 11:20	Screen Break
11:20 - 12:15	Keynote Presentation Dr Katherine Doolin Restorative justice and the secure estate - finding restorative spaces within prisons
12:15 - 13:00	Lunch (optional poster presentation)
13:00 - 14:30	Parallel Session 2
14:30 - 14:45	Screen Break
14:45 - 15:45	Criminal Justice Panel - Panel introductions
15:45 - 16:00	Screen Break
16:00 - 17:00	Criminal Justice Panel - Questions and Answers
17:00 - 17:15	Conference close - Jim Simon
17:15 - 18:30	Networking rooms open (via Zoom)

Tuesday 22nd November 2022

09:00 - 09:15	Welcome and opening remarks from Jim Simon
09:15 - 10:15	Keynote Presentation Debbie Watters and Kieran McEvoy The role of restorative justice in peacebuilding and conflict transformation
10:15 - 10:30	Screen Break
10:30 - 11:30	Parallel Session 3
11:35 - 12:30	Parallel Session 4
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	Parallel Session 5
15:00 - 15:15	Screen Break
15:15 - 16:15	Keynote Presentation Heather Skelton Embedding restorative practice with HR processes. The story of one NHS Trust's restorative journey
16:15 - 16:30	Presentation of the RJC Significant Contribution Award 2022
16:30 - 16:45	Conference close - Dr Gerard Drennan
16:45 - 18:00	Network rooms open (via Zoom)

Keynote Speakers

Monday 21st November 2022

Dr Katherine Doolin

Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland

Dr Katherine Doolin is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Auckland, New Zealand (<https://profiles.auckland.ac.nz/k-doolin/>), having previously worked in the law faculties at the University of Birmingham and University of Kent in the UK. She researches and teaches in the areas of criminal law and criminal justice, with particular expertise on restorative justice, prisons and youth justice. Her current research focuses on prison violence and on the use of restorative justice post-sentence, including in prisons. Dr Doolin has been a Visiting Scholar at the Faculty of Law and Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge and the Institute of Criminology at KU Leuven, Belgium. She has extensive experience of carrying out evaluations of restorative justice schemes for adult and youth offenders. Since completing a doctorate at the University of Kent on restorative youth conferencing, Dr Doolin has published widely on restorative justice and presented on her research at over 30 international conferences and seminars.

Elliot Colburn MP

Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom

Elliot has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Carshalton and Wallington since the 2019 general election. Prior to that he also had experience as a local councillor. He chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Restorative Justice, which was set up in April 2021 and produced its first report in September 2021.

Emily Spurrell

Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner

Emily Spurrell was elected as Merseyside's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2021. Prior to this, she served as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner from September 2017 to March 2019. During this time, she championed victims and led on work to tackle violence against women and girls. She developed a scheme to engage employers in tackling domestic abuse, successfully secured the living wage for police staff and initiated a project to investigate experiences of sexual violence across Merseyside. Emily has also served as a Liverpool City Councillor.

Dr Jamie Bennett

Chief Strategy Officer, Youth Justice Board

Dr Jamie Bennett is Chief Strategy Officer in Youth Justice Board. The Youth Justice Board has oversight of the youth justice system in England and Wales. In this role he oversees the research, data, stakeholder engagement and strategic development. Prior to taking up this role, he worked in prisons for 25 years including governing four prisons. He is also a Research Associate at University of Oxford and has published seven books on criminal justice issues.

Beverley Higgs JP MA OBE

Magistrates Association

Bev Higgs was appointed a JP in the South West in 2005. She later trained as an RJ practitioner and trainer and was very involved in a PCC commissioned RJ service in Somerset. Her doctoral

research compared magistrates, special constables and RJ practitioners in their volunteer roles criminal justice system." Bev has been a trustee board member of the Magistrates Association for eight years and just completed her term as national chair.

Tuesday 22nd November 2022

Debbie Watters

Founder and co-director, Northern Ireland Alternatives

Debbie has been to the forefront of the development of restorative justice in Northern Ireland including the introduction of restorative justice in arenas other than justice such as schools; churches, welfare, care and youth sectors. She also has a wide range of international experience in South America, South Africa, Israel/Palestine and the USA where she currently advise at Boston University on issues related to policing, conflict resolution, restorative and criminal justice. She developed a training programme and trained every probation officer in Northern Ireland in restorative justice.

Kieran McEvoy

Professor, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast

Kieran McEvoy is Professor of Law and Transitional Justice at Justice, Queen's University Belfast. He has conducted research in over a dozen conflicted or transitional countries on topics including politically motivated prisoners, ex-combatants, victims, amnesties, truth recovery, human rights, restorative justice and the role of lawyers in conflict transition. He has authored or co-authored four books, co-edited eight books and written over sixty journal articles and scholarly book chapters. He has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy and a Member of the Royal Irish Academy – the most prestigious indicators of peer recognition in British and Irish academia. He is a long-standing peace and human rights activist and was involved in direct dialogue with the Republican Movement in Northern Ireland in the 1990s which led to the creation of Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI), originally as an alternative to IRA punishment violence but now working in partnership with the PSNI and other statutory criminal justice agencies. He remains a CRJI board member.

Heather Skelton

Head of Restorative Resolutions, NHS - East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust

Heather is an experienced restorative justice practitioner, trainer and assessor. Over the last 20 years, she has developed restorative systems and processes for schools and family services throughout Kent. She has delivered training to the Children's workforce nationally and practiced within the criminal justice sector, education and social care. Heather has recently moved into healthcare, working for the NHS, helping to embed a Restorative Just and Learning culture into human resources systems, specifically focusing on staff conflict and grievance.

Monday 21st November

Parallel Sessions Programme

Parallel Session 1 - 09:35 - 11:05	
Room	
1	<p>Delivering restorative practice training in a restorative way to support culture change in schools</p> <p>Inger Brit-Lowater</p> <p>Building resilience in the university community: the use of restorative practice and restorative justice in Higher Education</p> <p>Dr Jane Bryan, Dr Amanda Wilson, Dr Rosie Chadwick, Abigail Hughes</p>
2	<p>Institutionalising restorative justice for adults in Scotland: An empirical study of criminal justice practitioners' perspectives</p> <p>Jamie Buchan</p> <p>Creating a centre of excellence for trauma-affected individuals regardless of race, culture or circumstance</p> <p>Ashley Scotland</p>
3	<p>Evidencing Success and Successful Evidence in Restorative Work: An Overview of initial Findings</p> <p>Ben Fisk</p> <p>An Economic Evaluation of Restorative Justice post-sentence in England and Wales</p> <p>Frank Grimsey Jones</p>

Parallel Session 2 - 13:00 - 14:30	
Room	
1	<p>Under Threat</p> <p>Sinead Murphy, Jim McCarthy</p>
2	<p>Harmed and harmer: how to incorporate trauma-informed and restorative practices when working with young people affected by crime and conflict</p> <p>Leah Robinson</p>
3	<p>Developing the RJC's Policy on Domestic and Sexual Abuse</p> <p>David Smith</p>

Tuesday 22nd November

Parallel Sessions Programme

Parallel Session 3 - 10:30 - 11:30	
Room	
1	Giving more victims a voice through offender initiated restorative justice Shirl Tanner, Jim Simon
2	Restorative Cities: International Travel Guide Dr Marian Liebmann, Cristina Vasilescu, Dr Gerard Drennan, Dr Rosie Jones, Joy Bettles
3	Children and young adults recruited for County Lines drug trafficking - identifying vulnerabilities that put young people at risk as well as the signs a child or young adult is being exploited by County Lines gangs Jana Dilger

Parallel Session 4 - 11:35 - 12:30	
Room	
1	Poster Presentations Various Contributors
2	Restorative Justice and Culturally Motivated Crimes: RJ as a means to deal with cultural differences in criminal law Sophie Charlotte Monachini
3	Reflections on the dynamics of transferring restorative knowledge Dr Ana Oprea
4	Joanna Shapland, Jamie Buchan, Steve Kirkwood and Estelle Zinsstag 'Mitigation and risk in restorative justice' Dr Joanna Shapland
5	Poster Presentations Various Contributors

Parallel Session 5 - 13:30 - 15:00	
Room	
1	The Loving Wolf Workshop - developing our compassion and emotional resilience in these troubled times Hannah Moore
2	Restorative Approaches to Building Safety and Inclusion WITH victims of Domestic Abuse Gavin Hudson
3	Together For Justice - Connecting Beyond the Labels Lucy Pearson, Abigail Addai, Hajar Beshira

4	<p>An investigation into police compliance in respect of restorative justice rights within the Victim's Code (2021) at one police force in the north-east</p> <p>Dr Nikki D'Souza, Dr Donna Marie Brown</p> <p>A critical evaluation of the use of restorative justice as an out-of-court disposal (OOCd)</p> <p>Franki Grant</p>
---	---

Parallel Session Abstracts

Monday 21st November - 09:35 - 11:05 - Parallel Session 1 - Room 1

DELIVERING RESTORATIVE PRACTICE TRAINING IN A RESTORATIVE WAY TO SUPPORT CULTURE CHANGE IN SCHOOLS

Inger Brit-Lowater

To create a restorative space, it is not enough to introduce some restorative values or techniques, there needs to be a culture change that incorporates all aspects of how an organisation operates. Culture change takes time and needs to be adapted to the individual setting and shaped by everyone in the organisation.

These were some of the lessons learnt by the Restorative Practice Team in Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) on their journey to support schools across Gloucestershire in implementing restorative practice.

The Restorative Practice Team in GCC has been delivering restorative practice training to schools since 2016, starting with two school pilots in a primary and secondary school. Since then, the team has worked with 75 schools including Secondary Schools, Specialist and Alternative settings and Primary Schools.

The team was initially set up to reduce school exclusions due to their negative impact on individual pupils, families and society, and reducing exclusions is one of the ways of interrupting the school to prison pipeline. It soon became clear that a more holistic approach could bring benefits to whole school communities while also reducing exclusions, and the training offer has evolved into a two-year Restorative Leadership Programme for headteachers and senior school leaders.

My doctoral research is an evaluation of the Restorative Leadership Programme where I critically examine the intention and design of the programme, the process and delivery of the training, and the outcomes on leadership and school culture.

My presentation will set out the context and development of the training by GCC and The Restorative Lab (TRL), an overview of the training offer, and some preliminary findings based on observations of training sessions and interviews with participants. It will highlight some of the learning around how to best create restorative communities within schools and the importance of restorative training being delivered using restorative values, principles and skills.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY: THE USE OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr Jane Bryan, Dr Amanda Wilson, Dr Rosie Chadwick, Abigail Hughes

Evidence from across the Higher Education sector in the UK and internationally points to issues with students' engagement and sense of belonging. Staff too often feel under-appreciated and isolated. When conflict and wrongdoing arise, many institutions offer little in the way of informal resolution routes, forcing many to leave issues to fester unaddressed or to use formal, adversarial methods which often cause harm to all parties.

This paper presents preliminary outcomes from a small-scale international study of higher education institutions designed to map the incidence and interest in restorative practices and restorative justice in the Higher Education sector. In particular, it reports on findings related to opportunities to introduce restorative practices to campuses to build community, and resilience amongst the staff and student body, through emphasis on facilitating dialogue and active listening, creating spaces where people feel empowered to speak and are enabled to feel heard.

This paper will also outline instances where restorative practices have already brought benefits to students and staff in university settings to begin a wider conversation about the benefits of much wider adoption, for example, in the area of teaching practice, residential life and conflict resolution as a means to build, maintain and restore community and resilience amongst university communities.

Monday 21st November - 09:35 - 11:05 - Parallel Session 1 - Room 2

INSTITUTIONALISING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR ADULTS IN SCOTLAND: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRACTITIONERS' PERSPECTIVES

Jamie Buchan, Edinburgh Napier University

While in some European and extra-European countries the incorporation of restorative justice into policy frameworks is a dated and widely studied phenomenon, in others it is a more recent and scarcely researched process. The Scottish Government is making renewed efforts to institutionalise restorative justice including the ambitious goal of making adult restorative justice available nationwide by 2023. In this article, we analyse the consequences of these recent attempts, addressing a gap in knowledge on adult restorative justice in Scotland. We gathered views from justice professionals (n = 17), involved in organising and delivering adult restorative justice, on the implementation of the policy and the future of Scottish restorative justice. Findings show that participants support expanding restorative justice services, but are sceptical about the Scottish Government's approach. They advocate for a coordinated but locally sensitive model of restorative justice development, to some extent challenging the stark opposition between 'purist' and 'maximalist' approaches to the expansion of restorative justice. These findings generate evidence to critically assess Scottish restorative justice policy and its implementation, while drawing implications for the development of restorative justice across Europe.

CREATING A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR TRAUMA-AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF RACE, CULTURE OR CIRCUMSTANCE

Ashley Scotland, Thriving Survivors

Ashley Scotland (TS) will present a brief overview of the Thriving Survivors consultation which focused on establishing an evidence base for Restorative Justice in cases of sexual violence and domestic abuse, based on the opinions, thoughts, and feelings of survivors in Scotland.

This presentation will cover the three central aims and the activities that were implemented in order to gather and analyse the data throughout the consultation period.

Going on Ashley will talk about how the research was integral to the development of a national service for restorative justice in cases of sexual harm. Providing an in depth look at the new national service, including the developments, the people involved, the services that are being developed, the support and the training package that underpins it all.

For survivors of sexual harm, the traditional justice system is not just, it instead removes the voices of those who have been harmed, further stripping them of power, choice and control.

Thriving Survivors asked and listened, now we will put those voices at the heart of the development of Restorative Justice services in Scotland.

Monday 21st November - 09:35 - 11:05 - Parallel Session 1 - Room 3

EVIDENCING SUCCESS AND SUCCESSFUL EVIDENCE IN RESTORATIVE WORK: AN OVERVIEW OF INITIAL FINDINGS

Ben Fisk, University of Gloucestershire

The raw data that restorative services collect has the potential to offer rich insight into the work that practitioners and professionals in the field are undertaking. This data is a primary source of

evidence that grows every single day and tells us much about the people that use these services, the types of challenges that they face, the varieties of work that are done with them, and the outcomes that are achieved on this journey. It is the foundation on which our sector builds its evidence base and is able to prove the effectiveness of restorative work, the inherent efficiency when compared to other ways of working with people, and the broad impact that it can have on individuals, communities and societies at large.

However, submissions from practitioners and professionals to the recent All Party Parliamentary Group on Restorative Justice enquiry outlined with stark clarity that there are systemic problems with this data.

Definition and meaning continue to vary which affects the types of data collected and reported. These are shaped by a variety of factors that include funding requirements, the expectations of those unaccustomed to working restoratively, and the increasing number of actors connected to the sector as it expands geographically and across work sectors. The language used plays a vital role in our understanding of what is happening.

There are significant implications for the sector if we do not rise to the challenge of service data. We cannot know if we are reinforcing institutional racism, sexism and ableism if we do not have accurate data about service users. We cannot measure impact if we do not accurately track the types of offences committed. We cannot draw on academic research if the data used is fundamentally broken and provides no equivalence in definition for comparison and analysis.

This presentation will outline initial findings from a Restorative Justice Council commissioned PhD research project in partnership with the University of Gloucestershire titled "Evidencing Success and Successful Evidence in Restorative Work: Developing Models of "Effectiveness", "Efficiency" and "Impact". It will include preliminary documentary analysis of recording and monitoring templates used within police services in England, and offer initial insights from a thematic analysis of professional and practitioner survey responses seeking to understand how success is conceptualised. Attendees will be invited to consider if data captures the full spectrum of success seen in practice, the potential for standardisation of recording and monitoring across the restorative sector, and the role of evidence to accurately champion the difference restorative work can make.

AN ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE POST-SENTENCE IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Frank Grimsey Jones, Why me?

Participation in Restorative Justice interventions post-sentence has been shown to reduce reoffending and increase the wellbeing of victims and offenders. Investment in, and access to, Restorative Justice remains limited in England and Wales. This research developed contemporary and robust estimates of the economic impact of investment in Restorative Justice interventions.

This research focused on direct and indirect Restorative Justice interventions for victims and offenders post sentence in England and Wales. Included offences were those with an identifiable victim. A model was developed to estimate the cost-social benefit ratio Restorative Justice and the direct financial return to the criminal justice system. The modelled benefits of Restorative Justice included reductions in reoffending and direct wellbeing benefits for victims. It was not possible to incorporate direct wellbeing benefits for offenders due to evidence gaps. The model had a 2-year time horizon in the base case and used 2021 costs.

In the model, 8% of referrals to Restorative Justice resulted in direct Restorative Justice interventions and 19% in indirect. The modelled cost of the Restorative Justice pathway per direct Restorative Justice intervention was £3,394. The SROI of Restorative Justice was £14, with a direct return to the Criminal Justice system of £4 as a result of substantial reductions in

reoffending. Hypothetically, increasing the proportion of eligible cases referred for a Restorative Justice intervention from 15% to 40% would be associated with an increase in investment of £5m, and benefits to the criminal justice system totalling £22m, implying a net saving of £17m.

Restorative Justice was found to be associated with a substantial SROI and direct return on investment to the criminal justice system. Investing in Restorative Justice should be a priority for decision-makers at all levels of government. The economic case for investment in Restorative Justice centres on identifying offenders with a high risk of offending and enabling them to participate in an intervention that has been repeatedly demonstrated to help them to change their behaviour.

Monday 21st November - 12:15 - 13:00 (optional poster session)

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Becky Austin, Maisie Pratt, Akaela McKenzie, Ellen Greenness, Rose Burden, Elif Kartal, Jasmine Elliot, Amalie Frisch, Erin Rigby, Tochi Opara, Nottingham University

During this session we will be presenting a series of posters focusing on the potential for restorative practice within youth justice and schools. Our presenters will also be exploring restorative responses to burglary, sexual assault and child sexual abuse.

Posters will be shared on screen and delegates will have the opportunity to raise questions with each presenter.

Monday 21st November - 13:00 - 14:30 - Parallel Session 2 - Room 1

UNDER THREAT

Sinead Murphy and Jim McCarthy, Community Restorative Justice Ireland

This will be an informative and engaging session demonstrating the development of Community Restorative Justice Ireland throughout a time of conflict, social vacuum and pre peace process where the community policed itself. We will highlight the history of Community Restorative Justice, where we have come from and how we have now become an integral part of the community and statutory agencies providing a conduit of help and support to people within the community.

This session will allow for you to see the various levels of engagement that we have across the statutory and community, showing how we are strategically placed at the centre providing a holistic support model that helps to restoratively repair the harm that is caused by anti community behaviour.

We will examine how over time the changes within the community has meant that as an organisation we have also had to evolve, including the services and support that we provide. But by being held accountable by the community we are working in we are able to ensure that we are being responsive to their needs, ensuring that we are providing a person centred model of help and community based restorative justice.

Throughout the presentation we will show the various cases and work that we do. We will provide examples of real case studies showing how successful community based restorative justice is when you are key to the successful implementation and delivery. These case studies will look at people who have been under threat, how we engage with the various relevant agencies and people showing that our model of best practice can be done properly with the key people involved.

Monday 21st November - 13:00 - 14:30 - Parallel Session 2 - Room 2

HARMED AND HARMER: HOW TO INCORPORATE TRAUMA-INFORMED AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES WHEN WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CRIME AND CONFLICT

Leah Robinson, Why me?

It is crucial to understand how to utilise restorative practices in a sector which is increasingly focused on trauma-informed practice. When working with young people, it is commonplace to find that someone will have experienced interpersonal violence as both the harmer and the harmed person. It is vital, therefore, to work with young people according to both trauma-informed and restorative practices.

This skills workshop will explore engaging with young people who have experienced interpersonal violence from this mindset, acknowledging the importance of working according to a holistic, participant-focused approach. This engagement can therefore be seen as victim engagement and/or offender engagement, both in diversion schemes and through court ordered interventions.

What does it mean to work according to trauma-informed practice? What does it mean to work according to restorative practice?

How can you work according to both? What does this look like in theory and in practice?

This skills workshop will explore answers to these questions, drawing on theory and practical experience. Attendees will leave with different tools and techniques they can utilise when working with young people who have been affected by interpersonal violence as both harmed and harmer.

This skills workshop will be delivered by Leah Robinson, who is the Restorative Justice Development Officer (Youth Justice) at Why me?. Leah is a trained restorative practitioner who has previously worked as the Victim Liaison and Restorative Justice worker at Slough Youth Offending Team. Leah currently runs Why me?'s Youth Justice and LGBTQ+ projects and is involved with the delivery of Restorative Justice training. Leah's experience working within the Youth Justice sector from a restorative mindset informs her work and she will use her practical experience and expertise to inform this workshop.

Monday 21st November - 13:00 - 14:30 - Parallel Session 2 - Room 3

DEVELOPING THE RJC'S POLICY ON DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE

David Smith and Dr Gerard Drennan, Restorative Justice Council

The RJC is developing a policy about the use of restorative justice with those harmed and harmers in the context of domestic and sexual abuse and wishes to give those attending its Annual Conference a chance to make some input into this.

This is a hot topic in the restorative justice sector, and for the organisations that make up the domestic and sexual abuse sector, such as Women's Aid, Rape Crisis and others. Historically victims of domestic and sexual abuse have often been excluded from RJ on the basis of the type of crime they have suffered. Organisations such as the National Police Chiefs Council, the CPS and Police College have had policies in place either ruling it out altogether or discouraging its use. The crux of these concerns are about how persistent, manipulative perpetrators can use the restorative justice process to pursue the same forms of controlling coercive behaviour that have been features of their abuse, resulting in re-victimisation. The recent open letter from Women's Aid Scotland to the Scottish Government about its funding for Thriving Survivors is a good example of the objections which are made.

However, it is a fact that restorative justice is being used in respect of this crime. The statutory guidance about the provision of restorative justice for both the harmed and harmers does not

exclude any particular crime types from receiving information about RJ services or being referred to them. A small number of them do express an interest in restorative justice, and wish to pursue it, sometimes against the advice of support services. The Victims Code gives them the right to do this. RJC registered restorative service and training providers have developed policies, procedures and courses in this area, to meet this demand. The majority of Police and Crime Commissioners (76% according to a recent survey by Nottingham University) do not operate any “blanket bans” for particular crime types in the RJ services they commission.

This session will all participants to discuss a number of issues related to this topic:

- A. The current policy context including Victims Code, CPS, current RJC Guidance, APPG report. PCC & CC views at local level.
- B. How the RJC’s policy can acknowledge the concerns and risks, and how to mitigate them
- C. Whether there are types of situations where its especially impactful
- D. How the RJC might work in partnership with the DSA sector in developing its policy

Tuesday 22nd November - 10:30 - 11:30 - Parallel Session 3 - Room 1

GIVING MORE VICTIMS A VOICE THROUGH OFFENDER INITIATED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Shirl Tanner, Sussex Pathways

Jim Simon, Restorative Justice Council

It is a reality of the restorative sector that many victims of crime are marginalised by the postcode lottery of funding that determines whether they can access restorative justice. Practitioners and services providers understand that restorative justice must be victim led and initiated; we pride ourselves on the fact that restorative justice gives a voice to victims who are often discounted, left behind and voiceless at all other stages of the criminal justice system. Yet, we operate in a sector where few victims of crime know about or are given the opportunity to participate in a restorative process.

Raising awareness of restorative justice has dominated discussion across the sector for many years; indeed, it has and remains a key action in several government and sector led reviews so why have we not made more progress? Why is victim awareness of restorative justice still so low? Have we become too focused on only raising awareness with victims?

Consider this, worldwide, we have tens of thousands of offenders serving sentences with little or no knowledge of their thoughts on the victims they have harmed. Research tells us that when an offender is offered restorative justice and participates in a process, with or without an outcome, they come to understand what impact they have on a victim.

So why are we not focusing our attention on this cohort? If we can engage more offenders in restorative justice, it will create more opportunity for victims of crime to be reached out to, and offered RJ, offered a voice and have the harm repaired.

Of course, this approach goes against the concept of victim led and initiated but consider this: If you approach a victim for a restorative intervention first and the offender says ‘no’ who is leading the process?

If the offender is approached first, and then the victim when you know that the offender has agreed, who is leading it now?

One could argue that this approach will revictimise the victim, but a skilled and experienced can avoid these pitfalls, ensuring that it is victim led and the victims steer the path all the way through the process.

In this discussion session we ask are we missing opportunities to engage victims in restorative processes by raising awareness with those who offend?

Tuesday 22nd November - 10:30 - 11:30 - Parallel Session 3 - Room 2

RESTORATIVE CITIES: INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GUIDE

Dr Marian Liebmann, Cristina Vasilescu, Dr Gerard Drennan, Dr Rosie Jones, Joy Bettles

Nowadays communities are characterised by increased social tensions, which are often dealt with in an aggressive way, enhancing social fractures. Furthermore, isolating wrongdoers from the community is often considered the main solution to deal with social conflicts/crimes, while in reality their exclusion triggers a reiteration of these problems. In this context, restorative justice (RJ) aims to deal with social conflicts/crimes through 'engaging all those affected in coming to a common understanding and agreement on how the harm or wrongdoing can be repaired and justice achieved. Restorative processes restore safety and security through bringing people together to undo injustice, repair harm and alleviate suffering.' (EFRJ, 2018).

Over the years, RJ has extended its area of action from criminal justice to other policy fields (e.g. education, social policies, urban design). In this context, the idea of restorative cities emerged strongly, even though their implementation on the ground still remains limited. The lack of wide social support for restorative justice is one of the main challenges to making restorative justice a 'mainstream movement' (Pali and Pelikan, 2010), hampering also the development of restorative cities.

This session aims to provide learning on how to build restorative cities and understand how the process unfolds. It will highlight the main factors that impact positively/negatively in achieving this. We will introduce the Travel Guide, based on the journeys of nine cities around the world towards becoming Restorative Cities, drafted by the European Forum for Restorative Justice Working Group on Restorative: (Bristol (UK), Leuven (Belgium), Wroclaw (Poland), Tirana (Albania), Tempio Pausania (Italy), Como (Italy), Lecea (Italy), Canberra (Australia) and Vancouver (Canada).

The Travel Guide will be launched during Restorative Justice Week 2022. The main aim of the Travel Guide is to share lessons learnt from experiences in the existing restorative cities with practitioners interested in building a restorative city/community. In particular, the Guide aims to draw attention to the context (geographical, cultural, political, social and historical) and intervention features that favour the creation process of a restorative city. It includes descriptions of how the idea started in each city, the approaches used, the people involved, the main activities, the design and delivery, the learning points, any results, and future plans. It will be led by three members of the Working Group, two from the UK and one from Italy.

Tuesday 22nd November - 10:30 - 11:30 - Parallel Session 3 - Room 3

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS RECRUITED FOR COUNTY LINES DRUG TRAFFICKING - IDENTIFYING VULNERABILITIES THAT PUT YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK AS WELL AS THE SIGNS A CHILD OR YOUNG ADULT IS BEING EXPLOITED BY COUNTY LINES GANGS

Jana Dilger, Trilateral Research

Children are considered to make up most victims groomed into UK County Lines gangs, with numbers growing consistently and significantly over the last years. As a response, the UK government has made combatting County Lines a priority in 2016, investing a lot of money into tackling County Lines crimes. The UK's approach, however, has received criticism for a perceived over-focus on a law enforcement response. In addition, first responders often appear to lack sufficient guidance, training, understanding, and capacity to identify and safeguard victims of County Lines. Notably, children involved with criminal gangs such as County Lines are often considered perpetrators rather than victims by Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

This study aimed to identify, firstly, vulnerabilities that increase a young person's risk of being recruited, and, secondly, indicators to spot if children and young adults are involved with County

Lines. Apart from an in-depth literature review, 6 interviews with professionals as well as frontline responders were conducted.

The 6 interviewees cover Academia (Participant 1), the Housing Sector/Law (Participant 2), LEAs (Participant 5, Participant 6), and City Councils (Participant 3, Participant 4).

The study shows that every child and young adult is at risk to be groomed and exploited by County Lines gangs. However, the promise of money as well as increased social status function as key pull factors.

Children growing up in an impoverished and neglected environment appear particularly vulnerable to recruitment and grooming attempts. Further identified vulnerabilities are linked to the health and emotional wellbeing, academic performance as well as the wider social environment of the child or young adult. Crucially, the study stresses that intersecting vulnerabilities increase risks.

Moreover, the study produced an extensive list of indicators to spot signs of exploitation as part of County Lines. The set of indicators will help frontline responders - and the public - identify if an individual has fallen victim to County Lines. While a single indicator by itself may not necessarily point to a person being involved in County Lines activities, a combination of indicators is understood to increase likelihood.

Understanding if somebody is a victim rather than a perpetrator will enable the provision of adequate and much needed safeguarding support. The study, further, calls for coordinated collaboration and information sharing between first responders and other relevant actors - such as from the housing, public health, education, community, and voluntary sector as well as police forces who are key in early victim identification. Better communication between these actors will improve their ability to spot when a child or young adult is being exploited by Organised Criminal Gangs.

Tuesday 22nd November - 11:35 - 12:30 - Parallel Session 4 - Room 1

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Sophie Elkady, Max Swanson, Rae Dowling, Olivia Drew, Naomi Hallowell, Emma Travers, Charlotte Shaw, Hannah Bellingham, Zara Shafique, Amelia Pickles, Sophie Robin, Natalya Waddy, Holly Blackburn, Lucy Diamond, Lucy Southam, Olivia Cadden, Giulia Evangelisti and Shauna Greaves, Nottingham University
Amanda Carrasco**

During this session we will be presenting a series of posters focusing on the potential for restorative practice within youth justice, schools, universities and prisons. Our presenters will also be exploring restorative responses to hate crime, theft, youth violence, murder, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Posters will be shared on screen and delegates will have the opportunity to raise questions with each presenter.

Tuesday 22nd November - 11:35 - 12:30 - Parallel Session 4 - Room 2

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND CULTURALLY MOTIVATED CRIMES: RJ AS A MEANS TO DEAL WITH CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN CRIMINAL LAW

Sophie Charlotte Monachini, Università degli Studi di Verona

The focus of the presentation will be the application of the RJ paradigm to culturally motivated crimes. By analysing some landmark Canadian and South African leading cases in which RJ was applied to these specific crimes, I would like to point out a peculiar and distinctive methodology that can be applied by Italian courts.

Dealing with culture during a criminal process is not an easy task and most of the time judges are not aware of the cultural background characterising criminal conducts: RJ seems to be a useful tool not only to help judges fulfilling their functions, but also to reach a fit sentence for all the parties involved in the crime.

Learning from the Canadian and South African experience on RJ, I would like to answer these questions: How can we develop a tailor-made method of restorative justice applicable to culturally motivated crimes in the Italian justice system?

How can restorative justice help judges in reaching a fit sentence for the offender?

How can we reach a joint model of restorative justice and criminal justice heading for a new justice landscape?

Tuesday 22nd November - 11:35 - 12:30 - Parallel Session 4 - Room 3

REFLECTIONS ON THE DYNAMICS OF TRANSFERRING RESTORATIVE KNOWLEDGE

Dr Ana Oprea, De Montfort University

Restorative justice is a fast-growing social movement with a sinuous but overall ascending development trend that has captivated the thoughts, feelings and actions of many practitioners in the past 40 years. This development has come with its share of supporters and critics, as well as with an increasing body of knowledge produced through (sometimes intense) theoretical debates and years of practice and research. What we currently term 'restorative' has been shaped by many practitioners working in different contexts and using restorative knowledge in ways that accommodate their organisational culture and institutional goals. However, not all examples of projects implementing restorative ideas are successful, or at least they are not producing the intended outcomes. But we can learn from these and add to the growing body of restorative knowledge. This presentation opens a conversation about the dynamics behind transferring restorative knowledge across different contexts. It does this by uncovering some of the factors that foster or impede the dissemination, exchange and sustainability of restorative ideas. Discussions are drawn by applying the framework of the Dynamic Knowledge Transfer Capacity model by Parent, Roy & St-Jaques (2007) and pointing out factors that can explain the success and/or the failure of sustainable knowledge transfer. The presentation also outlines a few practical recommendations for decision-makers and practitioners that wish to embark on knowledge transfer projects involving restorative ideas.

Tuesday 22nd November - 11:35 - 12:30 - Parallel Session 4 - Room 4

JOANNA SHAPLAND, JAMIE BUCHAN, STEVE KIRKWOOD AND ESTELLE ZINSSTAG 'MITIGATION AND RISK IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE'

Joanna Shapland, Sheffield University

Those wishing to participate in restorative justice should have an individualised risk assessment done by the facilitator or mediator prior to the decision on whether to go ahead and what forms of restorative justice to use. If risks are identified, then the facilitator will need to consider whether there are mitigation strategies which can be put in place. Strangely, despite the considerable literature on both the theoretical basis of restorative justice and its practice, there is very little known about risk mitigation strategies. The authors have been interviewing experienced facilitators from a number of European countries to find out what they have used in relation to different types of risk, and the extent to which it has been successful, both in relation to young and older offenders, and in relation to more complex and difficult cases, as well as more apparently straightforward ones. We link our findings both to the prevalence of a risk culture today and to the aims, values and theoretical bases of restorative justice.

THE LOVING WOLF WORKSHOP - DEVELOPING OUR COMPASSION AND EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES

Hannah Moore

There is a traditional story that tells we each have two wolves inside us:

One wolf that is joyful, bountiful, energised, and full of love,

One wolf that is depleted, resentful, intolerant and full of wrath.

These two wolves are locked into a constant fight, grappling with each other inside us all the time.

In the story, a child asks, "which one is going to win?!" And a wise elder replies, "the one you feed."

How can we feed our 'loving wolves'?

How can we perceive and feed the 'loving wolves' in others?

Is it true that when we feed the 'loving wolf' in ourselves, we become better equipped to feed it in those around us, and vice versa?

The Loving Wolf Workshop is a practical session about building our personal resilience and emotional dexterity in daily life, as well as in our work as RJ facilitators, at this time when the world and our work is full of challenges.

Participants will explore ways to resource themselves with tools for self-compassion and personal understanding, and look at how we can strengthen the empathy, deep listening and consideration which we employ as facilitators, so that we can hold space for ourselves and others with care and strength.

The facilitator, Hannah Moore, is an RJ practitioner and also a professional storyteller. During the workshop, she will share a selection of traditional stories from around the world that contain themes of reconciliation, restoration, conflict resolution and actively humanising other people.

We will use these stories to explore techniques for developing our ability to engage resiliently with the trauma, pain, violence, grief and harm that we are witnessing and working with as practitioners. We will also use the stories to create a depersonalised, imaginative language for analysing, articulating and reflecting on our own and others' experiences and behaviours.

Participants will be invited to engage in a variety of activities throughout the session including personal reflection, sharing circles, group discussions and creative exercises.

The workshop will create space for practitioners to share their own experiences, so that we can support and learn from each other's challenges and successes.

Participants will leave the session with:

A fresh set of tools to help them go into challenging situations and stay resilient and compassionate.

Creative ways of thinking and talking about conflict which they may use in both their personal lives and their communities to help work through troubled times.

New practices of humanising and connecting with others.

Invaluable learning from hearing peers' experiences and reflections.

The Loving Wolf Workshop is based on the premise that:

In many instances of hostility and conflict, what lies beneath the destructive outward expression is a need to be seen, validated and humanised,

When we do this with and for others, we feed and strengthen ourselves,
In strengthening ourselves we also strengthen our communities.

Tuesday 22nd November - 13:30 - 15:00 - Parallel Session 5 - Room 2

RESTORATIVE APPROACHES TO BUILDING SAFETY AND INCLUSION WITH VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Gavin Hudson, Remedi

Remedi approach restorative justice in cases of domestic abuse and coercive control from the viewpoint of safety building and inclusion as opposed to risk management. Asking, is it safe to proceed with RJ? Rather than, is it appropriate or suitable? This approach ensures that concerns around safety are discussed WITH those affected by domestic abuse in a manner that doesn't implicitly repeat patterns of coercive control.

Delegates attending this workshop will see how we have adapted domestic abuse safety plans to be used alongside the RJ process. By making safety planning an explicit part of the process we have been able to provide victims with an enhanced service that seeks to identify needs and ensure support is put in place even where it is deemed not safe to proceed with RJ.

Key Skills to Take Away:

It is worth noting that the skills learned in the workshop are also useful practice in cases other than domestic abuse cases

The difference between safety building and risk management approaches

How to create a safety plan WITH those affected by coercive control and how these can be adapted for each stage of the RJ process

How to consider safety fully when closing a case regardless of where it reached in the restorative justice process.

Tuesday 22nd November - 13:30 - 15:00 - Parallel Session 5 - Room 3

TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE - CONNECTING BEYOND THE LABELS

Lucy Pearson, Abigail Addai, Hajar Beshira, RJ Working, CIC

'Together For Justice - Connecting Beyond the Labels' was an event run by and for young people in Cornwall this summer. Young people aged 16-25 came together to explore the issues of identity, prejudice and discrimination - forms of harm and social injustice. Through creative workshops they explored using Restorative Approaches to build a fairer society.

Three of the team, Abigail Addai, Hajar Beshira and Lucy Pearson would like to present the short film (5 minutes) that young people made at the event. We will then host a thematic discussion reflecting on the content of the film, the themes we have raised and ways of approaching identity harms restoratively.

The film captures young people's reflections on their multiple and complex identities, and the challenges of navigating prejudice and discrimination.

It looks at ways in which Restorative Practice can support and equip young people to challenge prejudice and discrimination, and build stronger fairer communities and networks of support.

AN INVESTIGATION INTO POLICE COMPLIANCE IN RESPECT OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE RIGHTS WITHIN THE VICTIM'S CODE (2021) AT ONE POLICE FORCE IN THE NORTH-EAST

Dr Nikki D'Souza, Northumbria University

Dr Donna Marie Brown, Durham University

We are witnessing a watershed moment for victims' rights in England and Wales. The Conservative Party's 2019 manifesto promised that it would pass a Victims Law which would guarantee victims' rights and the level of support that they can expect. In May 2022, following a public consultation "Delivering justice for victims: A consultation on improving victims' experiences of the justice system", the government published a draft Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny. The government is currently considering the feedback from the consultation before introducing the final Bill to Parliament.

Within professional discourses, a commitment to prioritising victims is central to the role and remit of the organisations and agencies constituting the justice system. However, debates and discussions about the most efficient and effective way of creating a victim-centred system abound. The policies, protocols, programmes and practices designed to deliver this approach, are as diverse as the stakeholders involved in its delivery. Amidst the various measures created to support victims throughout the criminal justice system, The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (Victims' Code) occupies central role.

Under section 32 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, the Secretary of State must issue a code of practice for services that those persons working in the criminal justice system must provide to victims. The first Victims' Code came into effect in 2006 and the latest revised code came into force in April 2021. It sets out the minimum standard of services that organisations in England and Wales must provide to victims. Unfortunately, the extent to which victims' rights are upheld in practice is the subject of on-going concern. To date, there is a lack of evidence base examining the extent to which different organisations fulfil their statutory obligations under the Victims' Code. Given the pivotal role that this Victims' Code is likely to play in the Victims Bill, this must be addressed to improve service delivery.

This paper draws on an exploratory piece of research looking at the extent to which one Police Constabulary in northern England is meeting its statutory obligations under the Victims' Code, in respect of offering and providing Restorative Justice (RJ) to victims and offenders. Under section 4 of the Victims' Code, victims have a 'right to be referred to services that support victims and have services and support tailored to your needs' (p.17). The Victims' Code makes provisions for RJ services, with victims who were offended against by an adult entitled to the provision of information about how they may access those services where available. Victims who were offended against by a young person are entitled to RJ provisions by the Youth Offending Services. Drawing on innovative qualitative and quantitative data generated earlier this year, this paper will outline some initial findings from our research, identifying which factors facilitated and circumscribed policing professionals in upholding the RJ rights enshrined within the Victims Code. This research attempts to address inequalities of a significant magnitude in relation to RJ rights which has resulted in a post-code lottery preventing benefits being realised.

A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE USE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AS AN OUT-OF-COURT DISPOSAL (O OCD)

Franki Grant, University of Gloucestershire

This research uses a single case study of a police force in the South West of England and focuses on their use of RJ as an O OCD. This case study was chosen due to implementation of the 'adult

two-tier out-of-court disposal' framework in November of 2021, resulting in an increased focus on the use of restorative justice (RJ) as an out-of-court disposal (OOCd).

Restorative justice (RJ) is a voluntary process which brings victims and offenders together in communication to repair harm, providing victims with the opportunity to ask questions and explain the impact of an offence (Criminal Justice Alliance, 2019). This can occur at any point in the criminal justice system (CJS) as an early intervention, out-of-court disposal (OOCd) or post-sentence in prison or upon release (Criminal Justice Alliance, 2019).

OOCds are diversions from court for offenders who have taken some responsibility and where the evidential threshold has been met. Some diversionary measures can be used 'there and then' on the street by police officers, where something may not be in the public interest to pursue a full investigation. There are currently 2 main types of Restorative Justice OOCd – Level 1 and Level 2. These can be used within/alongside the Children First schemes (diversion schemes for children, where they focus on the child first and the offence second) and the two/three tier OOCd framework for adults.

The key principle of voluntarism poses concerns in OOCds as there is an incentive for the offender and the victim may feel pressured into participating (Wright, 2002). Strang (2013) found that victims may feel re-victimised when the process is focused on the offender. Strang (2013) and Wright (2002) claim RJ should not be an alternative to prosecution, as punishment should remain the reserve of the state. Miller and Blackler (2002) found that RJ was limited where victims were not active. Therefore, there are many cases which are not suitable for RJ as there is not always an identifiable victim (Strang, 2013).

Sherman and Strang (2013) found that victims benefit from face-to-face conferences, as their post-traumatic stress symptoms reduce. However, victims may not engage for themselves but to help reform the offender due to their social concern and desire to help (Wright, 2002). Van Ness and Strong (2013) support this as victim's main goals of RJ is to recover some of their losses, help deter offenders from recidivism, and participate in the criminal justice process. Strang (2013) found that almost all victims felt the offender ought to apologise, four-times as many RJ as court victims received an apology. Morris and Maxwell's (1995, cited in Morris and Young, 2000) study found offenders that apologised to their victims were less likely to be reconvicted within four years. However much depends on the skill of the facilitator, Strang (2013) found that where the victim felt worse after the conference it was due to the poor quality of the process. Therefore, consideration should be given to the training and support of facilitators.