Annual Conference 2026 - Programme

Monday 16 November 2026 | Manchester Marriott Victoria and Albert Hotel

Session Title	Presenter	Description
Keynote - Repairing Systems: Restorative Justice, Relational Public Services and the Future of Accountability	Dr Ben Fisk – Research Associate Manchester Metropolitan University	What does meaningful accountability look like when systems and institutions have themselves contributed to harm? Drawing on research into how restorative justice understands and evidences success, Dr Benjamin Fisk will explore the tensions between restorative principles and the way public services are organised, measured and governed. The keynote will consider how relational and restorative approaches can strengthen trust, participation and accountability, redistribute power to communities and frontline practitioners, and help transform the conditions that create harm.
Moving From Risk to Safety: Safety Building as a basis for engagement, participation and culture change	Gavin Hudson & Nicola Fowler Remedi UK	Drawing on 30 years of restorative practice across justice, schools, social care and communities, Remedi explores its shift from top-down, risk-based approaches towards inclusive, accessible, trauma-informed Safety Building. This approach builds on its work with sensitive and complex cases, including domestic abuse, to support people to feel safer, heard and included.

Power, Repair and System Change: A Restorative Circle for Reflection and Action	Steve Green, Victoria Finnigan-Lord, Mary Liptrot & Izzy Fairhurst REACH – Wigan	What does meaningful repair look like when power is unequal and some voices are less often heard? In this interactive restorative circle, people with lived and professional experience of youth justice will explore accountability, participation and the potential for restorative practice to shape wider system change. Attendees will be invited to share perspectives and consider practical steps towards a more equitable and restorative youth justice system.
Who Gets to Feel Safe? Power, Equity and Inclusion in Restorative Practice	Sylvia Stevenson Absolute Diversity	Is giving everyone the same opportunity to speak enough to make a restorative process equitable? In this interactive workshop, exploring the intersection between restorative practice, equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)participants will use a fictional workplace scenario to explore how power, identity and past experiences can shape who feels safe and able to take part. The session offers practical questions for more inclusive preparation, including when a joint meeting may not be the right step.
Building a restorative culture in prisons – Guidance for Leadership	Dr Katherine Doolin Aukland University James Simon RJC	How can prison leaders create the conditions for restorative practice to take root? Drawing on Volume Two of their leadership guide, 'Building a Restorative Culture in Prisons', Dr Katherine Doolin and James Simon will share practical starting points for this work, including leadership support, staff development and safe responses to harm. The session will consider how small, well-supported steps can strengthen relationships, accountability and opportunities for repair.
"Liberating Electra" Script reading	Human Story Theatre Company	Oliver was a teenager when he murdered his father. Now at the end of his 12-year prison sentence, he longs to reconnect with his family. His sister Eliza is determined that must never happen. Based on a true story, LIBERATING ELECTRA by award-winning writer Rebecca Abrams is a searing and hope-inspiring new play about the devastating impact of domestic violence and the transformative power of restorative justice.

		Please note: Liberating Electra explores themes of domestic violence, murder, trauma and imprisonment, which some audience members may find distressing.
Closed is not the same as resolved	Leah Brown Wayfinders & Sammy Gildroy CEO of Address the harm!	When an organisation closes a complaint, who decides whether the harm has been addressed? In this interactive workshop, Address the harm® invites delegates to examine a complaint from both the organisation's and the complainant's perspectives. Together, they will explore how power shapes what counts as resolution and consider practical questions for testing whether harm has been acknowledged, addressed and meaningfully resolved.
"I'm sorry, we messed up": A Practice-Based Case Study exploring institutional courage and the role of Restorative Practitioners in leading system change.	Dr Davina Cull & Rebecca Rushton Relational Futures	What happens when the harm someone seeks to address lies not only with an individual, but within the systems they must navigate? Drawing on a case involving a victim of fatal violence and the Parole Board, Dr Davina Cull and Rebecca Rushton explore how restorative practitioners can create opportunities for dialogue, accountability and repair beyond conventional pathways. The session asks what it takes for institutions to acknowledge harm—and for practitioners to help turn that acknowledgement into meaningful change.
Restorative Approaches inside	Sam Warman and Rachel Chapman – Belong	How can restorative practice support people and relationships in prisons under pressure? Drawing on its work across several prison sites, Belong will share practice-based examples, including restorative post-incident debriefs and support for people serving Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences. The session will explore what practitioners are learning from this work and how those insights can inform wider change across the criminal justice system.

Polarisation: public trust and the role of restorative justice	Lucy Jaffe, Jacob Ferris, Tricia Pereira, Phil Champain, Alex Hyatt	This dynamic panel session asks difficult questions about the role which restorative justice plays in rebuilding public trust amid growing polarisation. Panel members are drawn from inside and outside the restorative world, including Up Project, lived experience of LGBTQ+ nightclub security, and peace-building organisation, In-Difference. They will shed light on practical questions about the relevance of restorative justice and what we can learn from others working in the field of social cohesion.

Wednesday 18 November 2026 | Online via Microsoft Teams

Keynote: **Keeping the peace or making it? Restorative justice, structural injustice and positive peace**	Dr Terence Bevington	A friendly provocation to open the day. What if peace is meant to unsettle us? Dr Terence Bevington invites us to look critically at how our restorative work might quietly reproduce negative peace, and to imagine how we might embody and enact positive peace instead.
The Gap and the Bridge: Understanding Accountability Before Engagement	Leoni Purdy Senior Restorative Specialist Officer RJC	What happens when an organisation is ready to participate, but accountability is not yet ready to enter the room? Drawing on learning from complex organisational harm work, this session explores the gap between institutional participation and meaningful accountability. It will examine the challenges of fragmented responsibility, unclear authority, organisational representation and competing expectations, and how these can affect preparation, consent and the possibility of repair. The session will also explore the role of representatives as the bridge between individuals and institutions, and the conditions needed for restorative processes to support accountability rather than unintentionally reproduce harm.
Who Holds the Talking Piece? Representation and Inclusion in the Restorative Sector	Dr Anamika Twyman-Ghoshal and Prof Jon Hobson	As restorative justice becomes increasingly institutionalised, there is a risk it drifts from its community roots and becomes less representative of the diverse populations it serves, particularly in post-colonial societies. Drawing on participatory action research with racially, ethnically and culturally minoritised restorative practitioners in England and Wales, this presentation reflects on the barriers to inclusion with some suggestions for how to build a more representative sector.

Restorative Justice and Collective Trauma: Exploring the Possibilities and Limits of Repair	Srila Devi	What can restorative justice offer when harm is collective, historical or carried across generations? Drawing on examples of institutional apology and approaches to collective trauma, Srila Devi will explore the possibilities and limits of acknowledgement, accountability and repair. The session invites delegates to consider when symbolic acts can contribute to meaningful change, and where more substantive action is needed.
Developing children and young people-led conflict resolution in schools: A shared learning report by the Restorative Justice Council and Quakers in Britain	Ben Harper Quakers In Britian and James Simon RJC	How can schools support children and young people to resolve everyday conflict while keeping clear boundaries around more complex harm? Drawing on a shared learning report by the Restorative Justice Council and Quakers in Britain, Ben Harper and James Simon will explore insights from schools in England and Northern Ireland. The session will consider how peer mediation and adult-led restorative practice can work together within a wider relational culture, giving pupils meaningful opportunities to participate while safeguarding responsibilities remain with adults.
Beyond the Bullet: Building Restorative Justice Systems That Pair Accountability With Better Outcomes	Hon. Ieshia E. Gray. Presiding Judge, Sauk Village Restorative Justice Community Court	How can restorative justice respond to serious harm while strengthening accountability and public safety? Drawing on her experience in a community court for emerging adults, Judge Leshia E. Gray will use an interactive scenario to explore how restorative approaches can address harm, understand the circumstances behind it and support more effective outcomes. The session will consider what it takes to embed this work within court systems and community partnerships.
“Nuggets” of Wisdom – Children and Young People’s Perspectives on Restorative Justice in Scotland	Pamela Morrison Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ)	How do children and young people understand restorative justice, and what shapes their willingness to take part? Drawing on engagement with 8- to 25-year-olds across school, youth group and Young Offenders Institution settings, Pamela Morrison will explore their perspectives on shame, empathy and healing. Developed with children and young people, the workshop will consider

		declining interest in participation as they grow older, possible links to emotional maturity, shame and changing worldviews, and how their insights can inform services and help address barriers to participation in Scotland.
The Unseen Ripple Effect Beyond the Sentence: Parental Incarceration, Family Systems, and Restorative Justice	Molly Leach - Restorative Justice on The Rise	When one person is imprisoned, how does the sentence affect the family around them? Drawing on her lived experience, Molly Leach will explore the often-unseen effects of incarceration on relationships, care, connection and belonging. The session will invite participants to consider whose needs are recognised, how institutional processes can compound harm, and where restorative approaches might create space for dialogue, support and repair without assuming that family reconnection is always appropriate or desired.
Restorative Journalling in the Restorative Justice Process	David Masters Wales Probation Service	How can restorative journalling support safer, more thoughtful restorative justice processes? Drawing on practice within Wales Probation Service, David Masters will explore how journalling can help people engage with restorative questions during preparation, including when direct communication may not be possible or appropriate. The session will consider what a restorative journal looks like, how it differs from a restorative letter, and how practitioners and case supervisors can use it safely and effectively within the wider restorative process.
From Fragmented Systems to Restorative School Communities: Children's Voices from the 5-Scale Project in Colombia	Antonio Varón, Irene Salas-Menotti	What can children's own understanding of justice teach us about building restorative school communities? Drawing on the 5-Scale project in Bogotá, Colombia, Antonio Varón and Irene Salas-Menotti will share how workshops with children explored fairness, rights, conflict and repair. In a facilitated conversation, they will consider what worked, what did not, and what UK practitioners might adapt to strengthen relationships and children's participation in schools.

The Future of the Profession: Standards, Credibility and Accountability in an Era of Complexity	Aisa Shearing RJC	As restorative practice becomes more influential across increasingly complex systems, what will it take to earn and sustain public trust? In this closing keynote, Our Senior Standards Officer Aisa Shearing will challenge the sector to look beyond growth and consider the standards, capability and accountability needed for its next decade. The session sets out a vision for a profession ready to respond to complexity with confidence, integrity and a shared commitment to quality.