

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Welcome to this month's bulletin. The past few weeks have certainly been a time of significant change for us all. A new Prime Minister has taken post and is starting to reshape the Cabinet. Former Secretary of State for Justice, Dominic Rabb has been replaced by [Brandon Lewis MP](#). I look forward to engaging with him and his Ministers over the coming months.

We were all saddened by the announcement of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. We, of course, offer our sincere condolences to our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal and the Royal Family at this moment of great sadness.

Over the past week it has been announced that the Victims' Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird KC, has resigned her post. All of us at the RJC are grateful to Dame Vera for her dedication to raising the profile of restorative justice and her unquestionable commitment to advocating for victims of crime. Our policy officer has written a more in-depth article which can be read [here](#).

In other news, the deadline for making nominations for this year's Criminal Justice Alliance Awards 2022 closes on the 2 October 2022. You can read more about making a nomination [here](#).

I'd also like to make you aware of a current PHD research project being undertaken by Ben Fisk. The theme of his research is evidencing success and successful evidence in restorative work. You can read more and find out how you can participate [here](#).



And finally, our [annual conference](#) is fast approaching and I am delighted that we are now able to start announcing our presenters. So far we have announced [Elliot Colburn MP](#), Founder and Director of Northern Ireland Alternatives, [Debbie Watters](#) and [Emily Spurrell](#), Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside. Further announcements will be made over the coming week.

As always, I've included a roundup of the latest [CPD and events](#) and current [vacancies](#).

Don't forget, you can keep up to date with all the latest developments at the RJC by visiting our [website](#).

Best wishes,

*Jim Simon*

Chief Executive Officer

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## Dame Vera Baird announces resignation as Victims Commissioner

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**D**ame Vera Baird has announced her resignation as the Victims Commissioner - her last day in office is to be Friday 30 September. Her office tweeted her letter of resignation to the new Secretary of State for Justice, Brandon Lewis MP, on Friday 23 September. Dame Vera's term of office was due to end last June. Whilst previous Commissioners have had this extended for a second term automatically, the Government announced early this year that it would be conducting a full-scale recruitment process. However, the last Secretary of State Dominic Raab encouraged Dame Vera to apply. The initial round of interviews did not result in an appointment. The Government asked Dame Vera to continue in post until September, to allow for a second round of interviews, and she agreed to do this to ensure that victims voices were heard during the discussion of the draft Victims Bill. However, she has decided she is not willing to remain in post beyond the end of September whilst the appointment process reaches a conclusion. Her letter sets out clearly her reasons for this decision.

### [Letter from Dame Vera Baird to Rt Hon Brandon Lewis CBE MP on end of term as Victims' Commissioner - Victims Commissioner](#)

Dame Vera's comments in her letter about the draft Victims Bill are damning. She describes the Bill as "inadequate" and says that "my office had carried out a dozen victims round tables and sent in abundant recommendations ... but little of that work was reflected in the Bill." Dame Vera also expresses concern about the proposed Bill of Rights, which in her view "so severely threatens victims human rights that it undermines what little progress the Victims Bill is set to bring". She further states that little has been done to tackle the "enormous and catastrophic" court backlog or the "intolerable delay, anguish and uncertainty" it has caused to victims.

Dame Vera's resignation leaves a very significant gap in the criminal justice system. There is no-one else who is able to champion victims interests in the same way and with potentially the same benefits to victims. Dame Vera has been an outstanding Victims Commissioner. She brought to bear on the role all her knowledge and experience of how the system works, as a barrister, and former MP, Solicitor General and Police and Crime Commissioner. She has notably campaigned for the right to access to high quality restorative justice for all victims regardless of crime type. The Government's decision not to offer her a further three-year term of office is difficult to understand, except as an indication of discomfort about her strikingly effective advocacy of victims' rights. The Government claims in its overview of the draft Victims Bill that it wants to "amplify victims voices in the criminal justice process" and has in the past aspired even to empower them and end their current status as bystanders. Unfortunately, its recent actions - watering down the Victims Bill, failing to tackle the court backlog effectively and now refusing to re-appoint Dame Vera, preferring to leave the vital post of Victims Commissioner vacant for months at this crucial time - suggest that this rhetoric is not to be backed up by the changes needed to put these aspirations into effect. Lack of the necessary investment in restorative justice needs to be seen in the context of its lack of investment in the criminal justice system as a whole.

If you are interested in the post of Victims Commissioner, you have until the 10th of October to apply, further details can be found [here](#).

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### **David Smith**

Policy and Communications Officer

## Double Act TV developing a new restorative justice programme

Larry Walford, Creative Director, Double Act TV, has contacted the RJC about a programme proposal he is developing for Channel 4. He wants to work with a provider of RJ services to identify 3 suitable cases for inclusion in the proposal. These will be retrospective, so they will not be following a case study from the start of the process until the end but instead finding a way to document the final elements of a restorative justice case or, if this is not possible, cases that have already run to their conclusion. In this way they aim to show what kind of resolution is possible at the end of the process and how this can benefit not just the victim and harmer but others impacted by the crime. He is interested in all types of crime but is aware of the additional difficulties of complex and sensitive cases.

Larry would be interested to know if any providers can identify any cases where a meeting might be taking place in the next 12 months, or cases which have concluded in the last 5 years. The next step would be for Double Act TV to enter into a development phase where they can work with providers to identify just what is possible. They are looking for 3 potential cases – which will remain anonymised at this stage – but with enough detail provided to identify with Channel 4 if they are viable cases and if they are producible into programmes. The next step, if they can agree on which cases have potential, would be to work with the providers in order to reach out to all parties to gain informed consent.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact [larry@doubleact.tv](mailto:larry@doubleact.tv).

## Your opportunity to make a nomination for the 2022 CJA Awards closes on 2 October 2022



The **CJA Awards** celebrate outstanding individuals and organisations who are contributing to a fairer and more effective criminal justice system. Winners and runners-up of the Sector Awards receive cash prizes, ranging from £500 to £3,000.

There are five Awards in the Sector Awards category:

- Outstanding Individual
- Outstanding Local or Regional Organisation
- Outstanding National Organisation
- The Jack Merritt Legacy Award for Racial Equality
- The Saskia Jones Legacy Award for Victims Services

You can find out more about the CJA Awards 2022 on their [website](#).

[SUBMIT A NOMINATION](#)

## New Network for Managers in the Restorative Justice Sector

The RJC's Service Manager's Network has been set up to provide a forum for senior and middle managers in the restorative justice sector. This has been identified as a gap in existing networking arrangements. Our first meeting took place (virtually) on Thursday 15 September where we welcomed 20 service managers from across the RJ sector and from different parts of the United Kingdom.

Members engaged in discussions about practicing in secure environments and the draft victims bill currently before Parliament. They had detailed discussions about the local and national actions that could be taken to address the issues discussed. It was agreed that they would get a regular update on discussions between the RJC and HMPPS regarding the role of Re:hub and further information about the next stages of the Victims Bill as soon as it is available. Members also received the latest information about the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Restorative Justice, the MoJ Grants Scheme, the Northern Ireland Adult Restorative Justice Strategy and other topics.

Those present identified a number of hot topics for future meetings which will be held quarterly. These included domestic and sexual violence, restorative approaches to reducing school exclusions, joint enterprise (where no one individual in a group admits responsibility for a crime) and equality, diversity and inclusion.

If you want more information about the meeting, or would like to join the Network please get in touch with David Smith, RJC Policy Officer [david.smith@restorativejustice.org.uk](mailto:david.smith@restorativejustice.org.uk) The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8 December 2022. Membership of the Network is open to all [RJC members](#), both individuals and organisations.

**David Smith**

Policy and Communications Officer

## Evidencing Success and Successful Evidence in Restorative Work: Developing Models of “Effectiveness”, “Efficiency”, and “Impact”

Benjamin Fisk has been funded by the Restorative Justice Council and University of Gloucestershire to undertake a PhD titled “Evidencing Success and Successful Evidence in Restorative Work: Developing Models of “Effectiveness”, “Efficiency”, and “Impact”. Here he outlines what his research involves and some of the issues it is investigating.

Ben is currently working on two strands of research: He has a publicly available survey for professionals that asks questions about personal and organisational definitions of success in restorative work which can be found [HERE](#) or by scanning the QR code below:



Ben would also like to connect with services to discuss their recording and monitoring processes and procedures. If you are interested in taking part or would like more information, you can e-mail Ben at [benfisk@connect.glos.ac.uk](mailto:benfisk@connect.glos.ac.uk)

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## Early Bird Registration for our 4th Annual Conference closes soon



Over the past two years we have all experienced unprecedented challenges but we have also witnessed many examples of communities coming together to provide support, heal and rebuild. Despite this, we are still living in troubled times. We are increasingly seeing cases of interpersonal violence within our communities and find ourselves in times where war, conflict and organised violence are becoming more commonplace. Class, gender, generational, religious, race, political and social polarisation continue to leave our communities divided and disconnected and the notion of a 'just society' all the more out of reach.

This is why, during this year's conference we want to explore the potential for restorative justice and practices as an approach to building resilience within our communities. Thus, the theme of the 4th annual RJC conference is 'Living in Troubled Times - Restorative approaches to building resilience'

This year, our conference sessions will focus on one of four areas:

- Restorative responses to interpersonal violence
- Restorative responses to war, organised violence and societal conflict
- Building community resilience in troubled times

- Restorative practice and social justice

We are particularly interested to explore how restorative approaches are being used in cases of interpersonal violence. Whether this be violence against women, hate crime specifically racialised, homophobic, transgender and xenophobic incidents, and the rise in knife crime. We ask: how can restorative practice be visualised and developed in cases of interpersonal violence?

War, conflict and premeditated acts of violence continue to dominate our news. Whether this be the uncertainty of the war in the Ukraine, the reports of war crimes inflicted on Ukrainian communities, the threat and actual acts of violence instigated by organised gangs, the exploitation of young people through county lines crimes, acts of terrorism both home and abroad and societal conflict between communities across the United Kingdom. We ask, how are/can we respond restoratively to war, conflict and acts of violence?

We ask how can we create restorative communities? How do our institutions, including our secure estates, schools, social care providers, health services and religious communities become restorative spaces? How does a community become a space for developing strong and effective restorative relationships?

Finally, in a world where class, gender, generational, religious, race, political and social polarisation continue to leave communities divided and disconnected, we want to understand how we can align restorative practice within the social justice movement. We ask, how can restorative practices contribute to developing a just society?

**We will be announcing our list of confirmed speakers over the next 7 days.**

**[REGISTER TODAY](#)**

# RJC APPROVED COURSES



Whether you are just starting your restorative practitioner career or you are an experienced practitioner seeking continued professional development opportunities, selecting the right course is vital to ensuring high quality practice. You can be confident that by opting for an Approved Course, delivered by our [Registered Training Providers](#), your course meets our practice standards.

## Restorative Facilitator Training

**Location:** Hybrid

**Provider:** Royal Borough of Greenwich

**Start Date:** 4 October 2022

[APPROVED COURSE DETAILS](#)

## Restorative Practice Facilitation Skills for Education Settings

**Location:** Online

**Provider:** Restorative Now

**Start Date:** 11 October 2022

[APPROVED COURSE DETAILS](#)

## Are you interested in becoming a Registered Training Provider?

**A**s a Registered Training Provider, you will be demonstrating that you are committed to delivering high quality restorative practice training to nationally agreed standards.

Having your courses approved provides confidence to participants and training commissioners that your training meets the required standards. For participants who may consider becoming a [Registered Practitioner](#), completion of an RJC Approved Course is preferred and reduces the cost and amount of evidence they need to provide. Our Registration Frameworks for [Service Providers](#) and [Restorative Organisations](#) also encourage leaders to commission approved training.

You can find more information about becoming a Registered Training provider with the RJC by visiting our website using the link below.

[REGISTERED TRAINING PROVIDER](#)

[VIEW ALL RJC APPROVED COURSES](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND COURSES

## Restorative Facilitator Training (RJC Approved at Foundation Level)

**Location:** Hybrid

**Provider:** Royal Borough of Greenwich

**Start Date:** 4 October 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## European premiere of the award-winning Apples in Winter

**Location:** In Person

**Provider:** LynchPin

**Start Date:** 5 October 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## Sensitive and Complex Case Training

**Location:** In Person

**Provider:** Remedi

**Start Date:** 11 October 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## Restorative Practice and Domestic Abuse

**Location:** In Person

**Provider:** Remedi

**Start Date:** 17 October 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## Complex and Sensitive RJ Training

**Location:** Online

**Provider:** Restorative Engagement Forum

**Start Date:** 19 October 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## Being an Inclusive Restorative Practitioner

**Location:** In Person

**Provider:** Remedi

**Start Date:** 28 October 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## Being Restorative in Education

**Location:** In Person

**Provider:** Remedi

**Start Date:** 3 November 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## RJC 4th Annual Conference

**Location:** Online

**Provider:** RJC

**Start Date:** 21 November 2022

[READ MORE](#)

[VIEW ALL UPCOMING COURSES & EVENTS](#)

# LATEST VACANCIES

## Restorative Justice Worker

**Location:** Hastings / Eastbourne

**Employer:** East Sussex County Council

**Closing Date:** 9 October 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## Volunteer Community Panel Members

**Location:** Croydon

**Employer:** Croydon Youth Offending Service

**Closing Date:** 16 October 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## Restorative Justice Practitioner

**Location:** HMP The Mount

**Employer:** Belong

**Closing Date:** 18 October 2022

[READ MORE](#)

## Volunteer Restorative Justice Practitioner

**Location:** London

**Employer:** Calm Mediation

**Closing Date:** Rolling recruitment

[READ MORE](#)



**Keynote Speakers  
Announced**

[VISIT OUR CONFERENCE PAGE](#)

[VIEW ALL CURRENT VACANCIES](#)



# SUPPORTING THE RJC

## DONATE VIA AMAZONSMILE

**You can now support the RJC every time you shop!**

Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support us by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and selecting the Restorative Justice Council as your preferred charity.

[\*\*REGISTER WITH AMAZONSMILE\*\*](#)

## MAKE A DONATION

Your support will help us to campaign for the widespread use of restorative justice, raise the profile of restorative justice in the media and with the public and enable victims to access restorative justice wherever and whenever they need it.

You can make a one-off donation or become a regular supporter from as little as £3.00 per month.

[\*\*MAKE A DONATION\*\*](#)

## BECOME A MEMBER

Anyone can become a member of the Restorative Justice Council. We are the independent, national voice for restorative justice in the United Kingdom. Our constitutional objectives are to promote restorative justice for the public benefit as a means of resolving conflict and promoting reconciliation by:

- A. Promoting the use of restorative justice in the criminal justice system, in schools, in the workplace and elsewhere in the community in situations where conflict may arise
- B. Developing and promoting agreed standards and principles for evaluating and guiding restorative practice
- C. Advancing education and research on restorative justice and the publication of the useful results of that research

Membership brings along with it many benefits including:

- Monthly RJC bulletins
- Access to, and opportunity to, promote your own work in the RJC's publication: Resolution
- Networking opportunities with academics, researchers and practitioners from the UK and beyond
- Access to our quarterly practitioners network
- Reduced fees for the annual RJC conference
- Reduced fees for RJC Connect CPD activities and other RJC events
- Ability to nominate for the RJC Annual Award for significant contribution to the field
- Exclusive access to the member's section of the website
- Access to our standards for practice registration
- A voice in the decision-making of the RJC
- Opportunities to participate in RJC working groups

[\*\*BECOME A MEMBER\*\*](#)

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING THE RJC**

# About us

## About the RJC

The Restorative Justice Council (RJC) is the independent third sector membership body for the field of restorative practice. It provides quality assurance and a national voice advocating the widespread use of all forms of restorative practice, including restorative justice. The RJC's vision is of a restorative society where everyone has access to safe, high quality restorative practice wherever and whenever it is needed.

## Restorative Justice Council

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W: [www.restorativejustice.org.uk](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk)

Patron: HRH the Princess Royal

Company no 4199237

Charity no 1097969

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