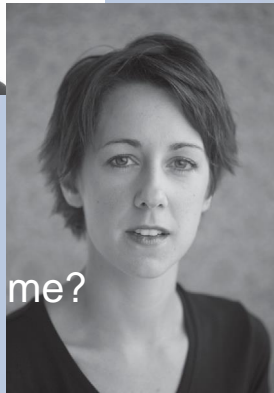
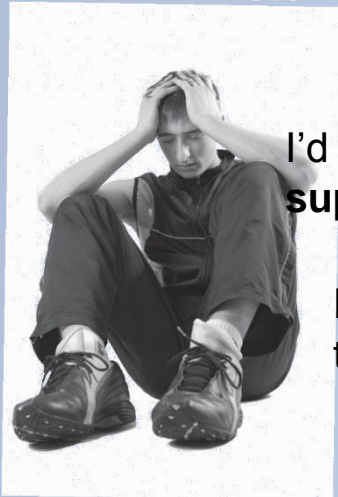




Where do I **start**?



Who will
listen to me?



I'd like some
support

Do I have to meet
the **offender**?

We're looking
for some
professional
advice



restorative
justice
giving victims a voice



Find out more

Please feel free to contact us. Restorative Justice is available to victims of both reported and unreported crime. We are able to offer support before, during and after your participation.

Restorative Justice

Office of the Committee for Home Affairs
La Charroterie
St. Peter Port
GY1 1FH
Tel: 717353
Email: restorative.justice@gov.gg

Victim Support & Witness Service

Tel: 713000
Fax: 710024
Email: victimsupportgsy@cwgsy.net

restorative
justice

giving victims a voice



Restorative Justice has been practiced in Guernsey for a number of years, mainly as part of the Youth Cautioning Scheme. It has been used in the community and in the Prison with adult offenders (after they have been sentenced by a Court) and victims, sometimes involving very serious offences. Additionally restorative Justice has been used in schools to deal with conflict between pupils.

Restorative Justice places the victim at the centre of any harmful event and works to resolve conflict and repair that harm.

It encourages those who have caused harm to acknowledge the impact of what they have done and gives them an opportunity to make reparation. It offers those who have suffered harm the opportunity to have their harm or loss acknowledged and amends made.

What has it got to do with me?

If you have been affected by crime, you may be left with questions and feelings that will not easily go away.

You may want to know:

- Why did this happen to me?
- Was I targeted?
- Does the person responsible realise the harm they have caused?
- Is it going to happen again?
- What sort of person would do this?
- Are they sorry?
- What does their family think of this behaviour?

Can this help me?

Restorative justice can provide you with :

- An opportunity to ask questions which have been bothering you
- The possibility of receiving an apology, some reparation or agreed recompense
- It can help you to achieve greater peace of mind

How does restorative justice work?

We can provide you with impartial advice and information about the process. If you decide to take part, it is important that you know that:

- Your participation will be voluntary at all times
 - Your well-being and safety are a priority
 - Confidentiality will be respected at all times.
- The only exception is if there are concerns relating to safety or crime prevention.
- You will be thoroughly prepared and supported before, during and after any meeting you take part in.

The main restorative justice methods are listed right.

Meetings are always carried out in a safe environment and facilitated by a trained independent person. You may bring along a Victim Support volunteer, a friend or family member to any meeting for support.

If a meeting is not appropriate, we will always try to ensure another restorative justice process is available to you if requested. Restorative Justice Conferences have proved to be very successful and according to feedback 100% of victims who have taken part believe they are effective.

Restorative justice methods

Victim/offender mediation

This style provides an opportunity for victims and offenders to engage in a process of communication with each other. Such mediation may take place face-to-face with a neutral facilitator or could be an indirect process where the facilitator acts as an intermediary. In both cases the aim is to allow those involved to come to some agreement with or without a direct meeting.

Scripted Restorative Conference

Such conferences focus upon the offence, the impact of that action on others and what can be done to repair the harm that was caused. These conferences are run according to a script of pre-determined questions by trained facilitators. Again, these facilitators act as intermediators and are not involved to determine the outcome of the conference.

Community Conferencing

Where a wide group of people have been affected by an incident or situation a community conference can be utilized to embark upon addressing problems of anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood disputes. Participants might include victims, offenders, supporters, residents and professional agencies.

Family Group Conferencing

In this case trained and experienced facilitators will arrange a meeting that brings together a young person, immediate family or carers, relevant professionals and any supporters. All are given an opportunity to give an account of the particular incident that has occurred along with their feelings and views. Time is then given to formulate a plan to bring about reparation to the victim that will also reflect the concerns and opinions of the professionals involved.