



# The IARS International Institute

Community-led solutions for a fairer society

For Immediate Release

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## “Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence: Friend or Foe”

*International Reception on Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence*

*1<sup>st</sup> June – London (18:00-21:00)*

The [IARS International Institute](#) is proud to announce an international reception [on Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence](#) that will be taking on **Monday 1st June 2015 (18:00– 21:00)** at **The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, 2 Butcher Row, London, E14 8DS.**

Despite current developments and reforms of the justice system both nationally and internationally, the utilization of restorative justice practices in cases of domestic violence remains a controversial topic and divides the opinions of researchers, service providers and practitioners.

This unique event is held as part of an EC funded project to which IARS is participating focusing on the use of restorative justice for domestic violence cases. It will offer an international platform to 60 leading experts from policy, academia, research and practice to debate the use of restorative justice in such cases, with particular focus on; gender based violence, its applicability and the risks involved for participants.

The event is hosted by [Dr. Theo Gavrielides](#), IARS' Founder and Director, and an international expert in restorative justice. Other Keynote speakers include: **Ellie Acton**, *National Policing Manager for Restorative Justice, Ministry of Justice* and **Brian Dowling**, *Restorative Justice expert and lead practitioner*

**Dr. Theo Gavrielides**, said: "We are pleased to be hosting this event which will be followed by 3 day debates on what a good restorative justice is for domestic violence. Our guests and experts will help us finalise a Best Practice Guide for the application of restorative practices in these complex cases which have puzzled the criminal justice system for decades. In the IARS' evidence based and community-led spirit, we hope that we can help practitioners from around the world to strengthen their work through our research and networking".

Commenting on pledges and commitments of the newly formed government to strengthen the rights of victims of crime with a new Victims' Law that will explicitly enshrine their key rights, this event will aim to culminate and debate evidence collected through a ground-breaking pan-european research programme entitled " *Restorative Justice in cases of domestic violence: Best practice examples between increasing mutual understanding and awareness of specific protection needs'* involving victims, perpetrators as well as front line practitioners and service providers.



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The programme aimed to generate and pilot new knowledge on practices of restorative justice and domestic violence and to identify criteria for offering restorative approaches to such cases, in accordance with the [Victims' Directive 2012/29/EU](#).

Participants will be provided with the opportunity to discuss project findings, debate issues of safeguarding both victims and perpetrator, share good practice and contribute to the project's forthcoming "EU Best Practice Guide: Restorative Justice with Domestic Violence Cases."

The first findings of the programme are published in the "[Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence: A critical review](#)" which is available as an [e-book](#) from [IARS Bookstore](#) .

Places are limited and will be offered on a first-come basis. Tickets (£12) include refreshments and nibbles and can be purchased by donating through [the Big Give](#). All proceeds will go to our charitable activities with marginalized communities including those who have been affected by domestic violence and violence. You can also email us at [contact@iars.org.uk](mailto:contact@iars.org.uk) or call us on +44(0)20 7064 4680 to book.

The [agenda](#) for the event and more information can be found here <http://iars.org.uk/content/RJDVdiscuss>.

Ends

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## Notes to Editors

- To find out more about the "[Restorative Justice in cases of domestic violence: Best practice examples between increasing mutual understanding and awareness of specific protection needs](#)" programme contact Dr. Theo Gavrielides, [T.Gavrielides@iars.org.uk](mailto:T.Gavrielides@iars.org.uk), 0044(0)2070644380, Direct Mobile: 07955728951, Office Mobile: 07833224442, @Tgavrielides
- The "[Restorative Justice in cases of domestic violence: Best practice examples between increasing mutual understanding and awareness of specific protection needs](#)" is funded by the European Commission (EC Grant Agreement *JUST/2013/JPEN/AG/4587 agreement*)

## [About The IARS International Institute](#)

[The IARS International Institute](#) is user-led and user-focused charity with a mission to give everyone a chance to forge a safer, fairer and more inclusive society. Over the last 10 years, the Institute has been providing world-class and cutting-edge educational, research, policy and networking services of local, national and international significance. We are focused on empowering the most marginalised communities through direct service delivery, while enabling organizations to achieve, measure and



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improve their social impact. IARS is an international expert in **criminal justice, restorative justice, human rights and inclusion citizenship, public service and user-led research**. To find out more about the IARS International Institute please follow the link [www.iars.org.uk](http://www.iars.org.uk)

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## Ends

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