

**European Forum for Restorative Justice  
Board Elections Tirana 2018**

Name of the candidate: **Tim Chapman (Northern Ireland)**

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Name of the proposer: Annemieke Wolthuis

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Name of the seconder: Patrizia Patrizi

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Summary of the candidate's restorative justice background and their (envisaged) contribution to the EFRJ:

I worked in the Probation Service in Northern Ireland for 25 Years. I was then an independent consultant and trainer until I was appointed by Ulster University to direct the Masters in Restorative Practices. Through this I trained hundreds of people in restorative practices and conducted several substantial research studies into restorative justice. I have published widely in this field. In 2016 I became a visiting lecturer at Ulster University allowing me more time to devote to the EFRJ.

I have been a member of the EFRJ since 2006 and a member of the Board since 2012. I became Chair of the Board in 2016. In the past year I have visited Germany, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, The Netherlands, Ireland, the Basque Country, Scotland, Spain, England and Bosnia Herzegovina to speak at conferences and to offer training and consultancy.

My priority is supporting the transition (Forum 15) that the EFRJ is going through so that it can become more proactive and effective promoting restorative justice in Europe, expanding its scope and developing the quality of restorative practice and research. I believe that the change process will take another two years.

Comments made by proposer:

Tim Chapman is an excellent chair of the EFRJ. He is a restorative justice expert from the first hour. He knows much about practice, but also has the academic perspective. His senior voice is charismatic. He likes to share his RJ knowledge and the stories of people. Above all he is a very warm leader who inspires many practitioners in Europe and beyond. Under his guidance the Forum has started a new period with more involvement of the members that we would like continue. In my position as the vice chair and on a personal level I really like working with Tim, who is a good team player, listens well and takes decisions when needed. That is why I would like to nominate him for a second term at the EFRJ board.

Comments made by seconder:

I propose Tim Chapman for a second term of chair at the EFRJ board for many reasons that I will synthesize in this presentation. Tim Chapman is a perfect representative of the EFRJ and of the board. His experience is characterized by his academic and professional competences, that he

practised in areas of high levels of social conflict. He is particularly generous in sharing his knowledge with others and dedicating his time in dissemination of restorative justice principles and values all over European contexts and beyond. His relational skills and his ability to build bridges between the various areas of application of RJ make him a great network facilitator. I was pleased to share with him his excellent, unusual availability to support projects developed by different kind of persons, institutions and other organized groups met by him in conferences and interventions. In my position as member of the EFRJ and then of member of the board, I observed his excellent organizational ability, his relational skills in supporting people and groups, in shared decision-making, and in orienting good practices and thought developments to spread restorative justice. His activity as chair of the board marked an important step in the role of the EFRJ in building and developing the European network, and leading the EFRJ toward a new, important perspective of restorative justice.

Name of the candidate: **Maia Chochua (Georgia)**

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Name of the proposer: Dr Anamaria Szabo, VC2020 Lecturer in Social Work, School of Applied Social Sciences, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

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Name of the seconder: Dr. Christa Pelikan. Senior Advisor - Institute for the Sociology of Law and Criminology

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Summary of the candidate's restorative justice background and their (envisaged) contribution to the EFRJ:

I have twenty years of progressively responsible experience working on justice reform initiatives that have strengthened the rule of law in my native country of Georgia. For the past ten years, my professional efforts have been focused primarily on liberalizing Georgian criminal justice policies and strengthening capacities of Georgian criminal justice institutions. During that time, I have both witnessed and compared different outcomes of zero tolerance and harsh criminal justice policies and application of restorative justice approaches. Working with strong, committed teams of professionals under European Union-funded Projects, I have collaborated on the creation of rehabilitation and resocialization mechanisms within the Georgian probation and penitentiary systems, for adults as well as for juvenile defendants and convicts, and I have further helped to implement juvenile justice reforms in accordance with the comprehensive juvenile justice strategy designed and approved by the Criminal Justice Inter-Agency Coordination Council of Georgia. These aforementioned reforms established a vital underpinning for our introduction of diversion and mediation programs within recent years and, ultimately, culminated with recent adoption of a Georgian Juvenile Justice Code in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UNODC Model Law on Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime.

Our purpose in promoting restorative justice practices in Georgia has been to advance the best interests of the child by eliminating discrimination, by ensuring each child's right to be heard, by protecting the privacy right of juveniles, by safeguarding the right to a fair trial, by eradicating criminal stigmatization, and by resorting to imprisonment only as the last measure. As the result of our successful reform efforts over the years, Georgia now adheres to the principle of minimal intervention while providing maximum support for alternative measures to criminal prosecution, both for the protection of child victims and for application of similar standards before "young offenders".

We in Georgia are extremely encouraged by our own evidence-based success in juvenile justice. Our juvenile justice system today stands in marked contrast to where it stood a mere few years ago, when we could only refer to the best practices of Europe and other developed countries. Thanks to the solid partnership between the Georgian Government and civil society, we can now take pride in significant legislative, institutional and practical results which Georgia has realized in protecting and strengthening the rights of juveniles. In promoting restorative justice in my

country, I have witnessed first-hand this remarkable transformation. I have seen how individuals can be reintegrated back into the society; I have seen how victims of crimes can become the best defence against repeat offenders if their voices are heard; I have seen Georgians find a measure of peace through restorative justice processes; and, finally, I have seen the difference between isolation and rehabilitation. This transformation instils deep confidence that restorative justice is our surest path to prevent recidivism and to ensure a safer society.

For all of these reasons, I am excited and eager to continue advocating for the promotion and expansion of restorative justice in my country, as well as elsewhere. Most especially, our success in Georgia provides strong motivation for my application for membership on the Executive Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice. If entrusted with this responsibility, I will concentrate my efforts and utilize my skills and knowledge to promote restorative justice throughout the region. Having already completed consultancies in Ukraine and Armenia aimed at developing restorative justice approaches for children in conflict with the law, I am fully cognizant that a lot more remains to be done throughout the entire region. I strongly believe that even a small group of motivated people who believe in change can bring about big changes. I speak from that experience: I have collaborated successfully with many extremely knowledgeable and experienced national and international experts – professors and practitioners; I have organized various high-level international justice-sector conferences, trainings and workshops; I have completed consultancies on sector management and coordination within state institutions, with civil society and for donors; and I have designed projects and raised funds as founder and director of the NGO/FUND “New Page” created to help children in conflict with the law. I am confident that I possess the requisite skills, experience and motivation to contribute substantively and substantially to the mission of the European Forum for Restorative Justice as a Member of its Executive Board, and I am eager to dedicate my time to promoting restorative justice through various supporting EFRJ activities.

Comments made by proposer:

It gives me pleasure to propose Ms. Maia Chochua as Member of the Executive Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice. Ms. Chochua is a lawyer from Georgia with a master degree in public administration who has been involved in reforming the criminal justice system in her home country for the past 20 years. After the Georgian revolution she has contributed to the implementation of the Criminal Legislation Reform Strategy, and played a key role in the development of juvenile diversion through the mediation program in Georgia. She is not only an active promoter of restorative justice approaches in her home country, but also in neighbouring Ukraine and Armenia where she has provided expertise on reforming their juvenile justice systems, drafting juvenile justice codes and building multi-disciplinary cooperation.

Coming from an Eastern European country myself, I know that reforming criminal justice systems can be challenging processes that take years, but more than that they require commitment at different society levels. For this reason alone, I believe that Ms. Chocua’s results in this sector speak for themselves; having her on the Executive Board will provide the EFRJ with a strategic connection to this European region.

Comments made by seconder:

I want to act as a seconder to the proposal to elect Ms. Maia Chochua, a lawyer from Georgia as a member of the Executive Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice. Ms. Chochua has been active for about twenty years in criminal justice reform in Georgia, contributing to the drafting of new legislation, of setting up training and monitoring of training - predominantly in the field of juvenile justice. Presently she is involved in promoting the extension of restorative justice to adult criminal justice. She has also contributed to promoting restorative justice in the region by providing expertise to Ukraine and Armenia on reforming juvenile justice systems.

I myself have seen the dedication and commitment of young lawyers and social workers in Georgia in the course of participating and delivering a speech in a conference in Tbilisi in 2011. Georgia appears as a place of hope for spreading the idea of restorative justice to the countries of these region. Deepening Maia's connection by including her in the Executive Board of the EFRJ would therefore be highly advisable and would benefit both Georgia and the EFRJ.

Name of the candidate: **Dr. Kerry Clamp (United Kingdom)**

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Name of the proposer: Christa Pelikan

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Name of the seconder: Borbala Fellegi

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Summary of the candidate's restorative justice background and their (envisaged) contribution to the EFRJ:

I have been Newsletter Editor and Chair of the Editorial Committee since 2011. My team and I produce 4 Newsletters (3 electronic and one printed edition per year that is used for promotional purposes). Having edited the Newsletter for 7 years, I feel that this is an appropriate point at which to take on a more significant role within the Forum.

I believe that my broad skills and experience both within the EFRJ and as an academic stand me in good stead to be a productive and enthusiastic member of the Executive Board of the EFRJ. I would be keen to pursue activities that take restorative practice 'beyond the mainstream' in line with my expertise.

Comments made by proposer:

I want to propose Dr. Kerry Clamp, Assistant Professor in Criminology at the University of Nottingham as a Member of the Executive Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ). Kerry has already been involved with the EFRJ for many years most prominently as Editor of the Newsletter and Chair of the Editorial Committee. In this capacity I have personally met with her diligence, her broad scientific understanding of matters regarding RJ and her kind and diplomatic handling of contributors. Further, I appreciate her well-prepared and well-balanced statements and her involvement in discussions at various conferences. In connection with her publications this has made her an important voice within the world-wide RJ-discourse. Her still deeper involvement with the EFRJ as a member of its Executive Board will further enhance this role and work towards strengthening the impact on criminal and legal policy of the EFRJ.

Comments made by seconder:

I am nominating Dr. Kerry Clamp, because I have found her activities, knowledge, commitment and broad perspectives on RJ exceptional. As Editor of the Newsletter and as an active member, her dynamic personality, energy, 'new wave' thinking together with her humbleness and respect towards academic rigor have been well shown to me throughout her activities within the Forum. Her experiences in policy, research and international networking activities make me feel that her joining the Board will significantly strengthen the Forum's impact and activities. This is why I strongly recommend the nomination of Kerry Clamp to become member of the Board of the EFRJ.

Name of the candidate: **Rasim Gjoka (Albania)**

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Name of the proposer: Karen Kristin Paus

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Name of the seconder: Maija Gellin

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Summary of the candidate's restorative justice background and their (envisaged) contribution to the EFRJ:

Rasim Gjoka is the Director of the Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation of Disputes (AFCR). AFCR is the leading civil society organization in the area of Alternative Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice in Albania, with 23 years of experience. Since the year 2000, the organization has been implementing projects on restorative justice, with a focus on juvenile victims and offenders, which were initiated in cooperation and support from the Norwegian Mediation Service and continued with support from EU Delegation in Albania, UNICEF, Save the Children, OSCE, etc.

As representative of AFCR, Rasim is one of the founders of EFRJ. AFCR, led by him, has been for years an active member of EFRJ since the establishment. The AFCR experience in applying restorative justice at a national level has been introduced in EFRJ conferences. Rasim has been part of the steering group for the project “Building Social Support for Restorative Justice (December 2007-March 2010), implemented by EFRJ.

Comments made by proposer:

Rasim Gjoka’s long-term experiences of implementing and developing restorative approaches in Albania – from the transmission times in the 1990s, working at the community level, to building good relations with the justice sector, resulting in agreements and guidelines for cooperation and new legislation, represents accumulation of experiences to promote and implement RJ. Further, Gjoka’s vast experience of sharing knowledge in this field both in the Balkan region and in several international and bilateral projects and activities gives him a broad insight into practices and challenges in this field beyond the borders of Albania.

AFCR is one of the oldest and one of the bravest organisations for restorative approaches in Europe in view of the conflicts they have approached, e.g. vendettas in the local communities. The democracy-building aspect to AFCR’s engagement promoting peaceful – including restorative – approaches, in times of uncertainty and latent instability of their country in the transmission times, is of great relevance, also for current challenges in Europe for building or maintaining peaceful communities. Rasim Gjoka’s central role as the executive director of AFCR from the very beginning gives him a unique experience that would be an asset to the work of the EFRJ board.



Comments made by seconder:

It is important to have representatives on the board also from Eastern parts of Europe. As written above Rasim Gjoka has been a long-term active influential person in the field of restorative justice and approaches in Eastern countries of Europe, which I also learned in Tirana during the EU-twinning co-operation project between Finland and Albania in 2017. Confirming the information in the comments of first proposer I do support his selection to the board of European Forum for Restorative Justice.

Name of the candidate: **Olga Kiseleva (Russia)**

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Name of the proposer: Rustem Maksudov, Chairman of the Russian Association of Restorative Mediation, President of The Public Center for Legal and Judicial Reform, certified coach in the field of mediators' trainings, practicing mediator

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Name of the seconder: Nicola Preston, M.A., senior lecturer in special educational needs and inclusion at the University of Northampton, instructor of the International Institute for Restorative Practices

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Summary of the candidate's restorative justice background and their (envisaged) contribution to the EFRJ:

My name is Olga Kiseleva, I am Master of Law, PhD student and teaching assistant of the Department of Judicial Power of the National Research University 'Higher School of Economics'. Despite the fact that I am a beginning researcher in the sphere of Restorative Justice, I am sure that my enthusiasm, leadership qualities and communication skills will help me to contribute to the dissemination of the Restorative Justice standards in Eastern Europe and, in particular, in my country. Currently I am writing a thesis on the topic of the role of Restorative Justice in ensuring fair trials. As a volunteer I cooperate with the Public Centre for Legal and Judicial Reform and the Russian Association of Restorative Mediation. I am an author of several articles and a participant of conferences on Restorative Justice and international human rights protection. I speak Russian, English and French and am currently learning German.

Comments made by proposer:

I know Olga Kiseleva in the framework of the activity of the Centre for Legal and Judicial Reform and Russian Association of Restorative Mediation that are the first and for today the most active organizations that have initiated Restorative Justice programs in Russia. Olga, on the voluntary basis, interacts with the Centre and Association, assists with development of international cooperation with the foreign universities and organizations, participates in trainings and seminars organized by the Centre, and makes translations of the foreign normative acts and research articles. Nomination of Olga as a candidate to the members of the EFRJ Board is very important, not only for Russia as such a big country, but for Eastern Europe as a whole because there is a need to intensify educational activities in the sphere of Restorative Justice; an exchange of experience and a development of international cooperation are necessary. I am sure that Olga as a committed and talented researcher (she is writing a thesis about Restorative Justice) and a person that speaks foreign languages is a suitable candidate for this.

Comments made by seconder:

Olga has a commendable curriculum vitae and is currently pursuing doctoral studies around the role of Restorative Justice in a fair trial system. Olga provides great support for the Public Centre for Legal and Judicial Reform in Russia and the Russian Association of Restorative Mediation and is key support to the development of Restorative Justice in both Russia and elsewhere in Europe. Olga has won several scholarships and has written extensively. Her advanced knowledge of English allows her to support and share the development of the work of the Russian members of the EFRJ as well as translating and sharing the learning coming from her studies and work with both the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. I have no hesitation in seconding the nomination of Olga to the Board of the European Forum for Restorative Justice.

Name of the candidate: **Aikaterina Soulou (France)**

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Name of the proposer: Brunilda Pali

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Name of the seconder: Roberto Moreno Alvarez

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Date of nomination:

Summary of the candidate's restorative justice background and their (envisaged) contribution to the EFRJ:

As a jurist, I am devoted to RJ academic research from a maximalist perspective. However, I consider that RJ is a practical philosophy, so I am also devoted to RJ activism. My ideological commitment to restorative movement led me to contribute, as a EFRJ member, in several EFRJ activities: translation of subtitles for “A Conversation”, organization (and intervention in) more than four events during the RJWeek 2017, contribution in the EFRJ booklet on Arts and RJ, preparation of a workshop for the next EFRJ event in Tirana, etc. In France, I introduced RJ ideology in the Association GENEPI and I am preparing related workshops for its members. As a Board member, I envisage the “openness” of EFRJ to more countries and people (eventually, the organization of one of the next EFRJ international events in Greece or France and collaboration with other local and national organizations, associations and universities). Likewise, I consider the encouragement of research issues and interdisciplinary connections of vital importance.

Comments made by proposer:

I am extremely pleased to propose Katerina Soulou as a Board member of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ). I have known Katerina Soulou since she started exploring the possibility of conducting a PhD candidate in the Aix-Marseille University on restorative justice. Her academic rigour, her commitment to the restorative justice field, her boundless creativity, and her sunny character are all excellent reasons for Katerina to join the EFRJ board. Her many talents and interests make her able to move easily between academia, activism, arts, and policy. Without hesitation she has already given so much time and energy to the activities of the Forum, and I am sure she will continue to do so from within the Board. Her background, Greece and her current home France, make her a vital member for the board which has so far lacked representatives from these countries. Her positivity guarantees establishing further connections in these countries. One of Katerina’s best qualities is her human commitment to restorative justice and to the members of the Forum, with whom she has already established step-by-step long-lasting connections. I strongly advise the members of the EFRJ to support Katerina’s membership to the Board, as this would be an extremely valuable contribution for all of us.

Comments made by seconder:

Katerina would be, no doubt, fresh air for the Board of the EFRJ. She has been attending EFRJ events regularly and collaborating spreading our activities both in France, where she studies, and in Greece. Moreover, she has been fully involved organising activities and screenings of the film “A conversation” working hand-in-hand with the EFRJ to promote the RJWeek2017. I especially value her critical approach to RJ; she is always full of questions that invite reflection about the present and the future of RJ. Finally, I have to say that I worked with her during the Summer School of the EFRJ in Como and she is always ready to help and devote time for the Forum. It would be good to have a strong and committed woman representing the countries of southern Europe that are misrepresented in the Forum as much as France.