



# EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Connecting People to Restore Just Relations

Leuven, 3 April 2020

Dear colleagues, organisers and volunteers,

Dear speakers, workshop presenters and registered participants,

Dear local services and sponsors,

In this past month, we did our best to continue with the organization of the 11<sup>th</sup> international conference of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ), in Sassari (Italy) on 25-27 June 2020, despite the confusion and confrontation with the hard reality. With Italy on the frontline in the battle against the Covid-19, almost all countries are now facing the emergency and limiting freedom of movement within Europe and beyond.

The EFRJ Board and Secretariat, in close collaboration with the local organizing team from Sassari University, and after consulting the representative of the Justice Programme of the European Commission, have decided to **postpone the 11<sup>th</sup> international EFRJ conference to the end of June 2021**. We wish to honour the work done until now by the *Team delle Pratiche di Giustizia Ristorativa* in Sassari University and give you all the opportunity to join this event next year.

Participants who already registered will receive a 100% reimbursement of the fee within the next month. If you paid via credit card, you must provide your bank details for the refund to our Finance and Administration Officer Rik Defrere (rik.defrere@euforumrj.org). The EFRJ is not responsible for other refunds (e.g. flight, accommodation), but, if requested by your travel insurance, we may provide a supporting letter on the cancellation of the event.





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The conference in Sassari was also linked to a series of other events. Some will still take place (online), while others will be postponed. We wish to share with you our future plans that will still bring us together this year: more details will come in the next months.

- Annual General Meeting of the EFRJ membership – online on 24 June 2020;
- Webinars – two one-hour online seminars on 25-26 June 2020;
- Training “Restorative language beyond borders” – postponed to 3-4 December 2020 in Leuven, close to the Restorative Justice Art Festival planned to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EFRJ;
- Seminar of the project “KINTSUGI” – postponed to autumn 2020 in Leuven;
- European Restorative Justice Award ceremony – postponed to June 2021 in Sassari.

The exact days of the 11<sup>th</sup> EFRJ conference in June 2021 will be confirmed in few months; the venue will remain the Music Conservatory Luigi Canepa in Sassari, Sardinia. The scientific programme will be slightly adapted, keeping the same themes and possibly the same speakers and local visits. A **new call for submissions** will be launched in autumn: authors whose abstracts were accepted already can decide to re-submit it or submit a new proposal (maybe inspired by a “justice beyond borders” also in times of coronavirus!).

This postponement was not an easy decision to make especially since the 2020 also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EFRJ, an additional reason for us to be together and celebrate. However, in this way, we wish to contribute to the general call to “stay home” and stay safe in the next months and still give the deserved visibility to our members in Italy who worked hard to put together the programme of our 11<sup>th</sup> conference. We do hope to meet many of you in December 2020 in Leuven and next June 2021 in Sassari, hoping that this period of restrictions and insecurity will create the space for new innovative practices to rise for a true “justice beyond borders”.

Take good care of yourself and your community.

The EFRJ Board and Secretariat

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