



HOW IS Restorative Justice FOR VICTIMS?

What is it?

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

"Any process which enables those harmed by crime, and those responsible for that harm, if they freely consent, to participate actively in the resolution of matters arising from the offence, through the help of a trained and impartial third party."

(Council of Europe Recommendation, 2018)

Motivations to participate

VICTIMS *Why do* OFFENDERS *choose to participate?*






-  → to meet the offender
-  → have questions to the offender
-  → to look for reparation (emotional, financial)
-  → are concerned about the offender



-  → to offer reparation
-  → to express their responsibility and remorse
-  → are concerned about the victim
-  → (in some cases) benefits in the criminal justice process

What is it like for victims?

THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROCESS

-  • feeling of involvement and empowerment
-  • fair process
-  • apology or other symbolic reparation can be more essential than material compensation
-  • faster than the traditional justice system
-  • financially attractive (lower judicial and medical costs)

The outcomes

OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES



-  • victims receive material and symbolic restitution
-  • victims' reduced anxiety about further harm by the offender
-  • reoffending rates are lower
-  • offenders appreciate to actively express remorse
-  • when community members are involved, it reinforces social bonds

Resources AND FURTHER READING

This leaflet was created by the European Forum for Restorative Justice. The information is based on research evidence. Further reading and resources: [European Forum for Restorative Justice. \(2017\). Effectiveness of restorative justice practices: An overview of empirical research on restorative justice practices in Europe.](#) Leuven: European Forum for Restorative Justice.

