



## Marie Keenan

## BIO

Marie Keenan is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin (2000-present) and a member of the Advisory Board of UCD's Criminology Institute. She is an accredited psychotherapist, a restorative justice practitioner and a registered social worker.

Her publications include Child Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church: Gender, Power and Organizational Culture, (2012), OUP; and Restorative Responses to Sexual Violence: Legal Social and Therapeutic Dimensions, (2017), Routledge (with Estelle Zinsstag (Eds).

## **ABSTRACT**

This presentation is based on four decades of practice and research in the field of sexual violence, offered through the lens of a practitioner researcher on a road of therapy, justice and community safety. The presentation focuses on one dimension of that work: restorative justice. Divided into three sections the presentation begins by addressing what it means to be harmed by sexual violence and why someone so harmed would want to meet with the person who offended against them. Part two asks what it means to be responsible for





perpetrating sexual violence and why meeting with the person one harmed, if requested to do so, can help re-narrate a future and reduce self-loathing. The third part of the presentation focuses on the social, moral and justice imperative to offer restorative justice as a norm in the aftermath of sexual crime and offers suggestions on the essentials of best practice.

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