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**i-RESTORE**

Better Protecting Child Victims  
Rights through Restorative Justice



A material issued within the "i-RESTORE – A better protection, by means of restoring justice, of the rights of children who are victims" project, co-financed through The European Union Justice Program (2014-2020). The content of this material solely represents the opinions of the authors and it is in their responsibility: the European Commission doesn't take any responsibility for the usage of the information it contains.







## Restorative approaches - solutions proposed by children

# What is it?

### Restorative justice

It is an approach to justice that aims to repair the relationship between the victim of a crime, the perpetrator and other people affected by the crime.

### Restorative practices

They are practical methods that offer the possibility to resolve conflicts between people through clearly established rules and only through their voluntary participation (if they want to). Some restorative practices can also be used to prevent conflicts and improve relationships between people.

### The victim

The person who suffers from a crime or a conflict. For example, a child who is hit or a child who is saddened when other children make fun of him and annoy him.

### The perpetrator

The person who does harm, willfully or involuntarily, affecting the victim. The perpetrator has the opportunity to assume the facts. If participating in a restorative process, the person has the chance to change their problematic behavior in the long run.

### Facilitators

Sometimes known also as mediators, they are people who try to resolve the conflict between the victim and the perpetrator, making sure that both parties are listened to and are out of any danger. They explain to those in conflict what the stages of the restorative process are, they offer them support and encourage them to discuss what happened, the consequences and how the harm done could be repaired, finding solutions for the future.

# Who?





## The school counselor

The person in the school environment that students can turn to when they have problems in their family and at school or feel the need to talk to someone. They can advise them on how to act in some more difficult situations.

## Supporters

People who were not directly involved in the conflict, but are important to both parties, in order to create a safe, reliable and comfortable space (family/parents, friends, probation officers, specialists in child protection, teachers, colleagues etc.).

- Restorative approaches can be applied to different types of conflicts and crimes;
- Restorative justice can be applied immediately after the incident or even several years after the occurrence of the conflict;
- It is very important that both parties want to participate and feel ready to go through this restorative process, so they can interrupt the meetings at any time if they feel too affected or if they cannot reach an agreement.

# When?

# How?

The victim and the perpetrator meet, if they wish, in a safe environment and in the presence of a facilitator/mediator. These meetings can take place before, during and after the trial, in the following forms:

## Mediation

It is a procedure by which the two parties, meaning the victim and the perpetrator, meet and discuss in order to repair the harm caused by crime or conflict, being always assisted by a mediator who guides the process.

## Restorative conference

It is a procedure similar to mediation, but which also involves the presence of family, friends or other supporters to discuss the crime and its effects.

## Restorative circle

It is another form of restorative practice in which there may participate other members of the community indirectly affected by the crime/conflict created, in addition to the parties mentioned in the case of the restorative conference. The goal is not only to discuss what happened, but also to strengthen the community.





## Community meetings for young people

We find them mainly in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and they are applied in cases where young people who have committed crimes appear in front of committees made up of members of the community, where what happened is discussed. This approach helps the judge to make a decision regarding the young perpetrator.

### Where?

In a space established by the parties involved together with the facilitator/mediator:

- as part of the justice system (probation services, educational and detention centers, non-governmental organizations)
- In the child protection system (social assistance offices, non-governmental organization)
- In the community (building association, community centers)
- In school, to prevent situations of violence and conflict between children, to create a safe space for them and to make them responsible.

- For the perpetrator to be aware of the consequences of their actions and take responsibility accordingly;
- So that the victim can overcome the trauma/difficult moment;
- To prevent (another) conflict;
- To solve a conflict in a participatory way;
- To repair the damage
- For reducing bullying in schools

### Why? Why is this important?





This brochure was created with the help of the children who participated in the consultations of I-RESTORE project, implemented in Romania by the Terre des hommes Foundation.

The I-RESTORE project (Better Protecting Child Victims Rights through Restorative Justice) aimed at better protection of children victims, with the help of restorative justice. Its activities have promoted the use of restorative justice in cases where children victims are involved, by improving knowledge among national stakeholders on child-friendly and victim-friendly restorative justice and empowering children to advocate for better protection of children victims.

I-RESTORE project is implemented by Terre des hommes - Hungary, Terre des hommes - Romania, Terre des hommes Hellas - Γη των ανθρώπων, European Forum for Restorative Justice, Restorative Justice Netherlands, Terre des hommes - Albania



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