

# Restorative Justice



# Restorative Justice

## Integrating Theory, Research, and Practice

SECOND EDITION

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— Aida Y. Hass-Wisecup

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— Caryn E. Saxon



# Introduction

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The potential for conflict is most universally seen as an intersection between an individual, other people, and their social environment. Without any reference to cause, we cannot help but articulate the resolution of such breakdowns in relationships as the defining epitome of restoring something that has been severed or broken. For this reason, we introduce here a paradigm of thought which has embraced this concept to form the foundation of processes involving dialog, inclusion, and the reparation of harm. While the imposition of criminal sanctions will continue to be the subject of much debate, we present here a journey which embarks on the exploration of the concepts of reconciliation and repair through a scientific understanding of theory, research, and its application to a variety of settings where conflict has permeated relationships in a manner that has led to breaches of trust, incidents of harm, and the breakdown of communication.

The material presented in this text is broken down into four sections. The first section provides an overview of restorative justice and its various historical, philosophical, and theoretical origins, which provides a framework within which we can further explore its application in diverse settings. The second section begins our navigation through the various processes and practices involved in the application of restorative justice in the real world of conflict and dispute resolution. In section three, we build on this knowledge by examining the interactive processes involved in the application of restorative justice processes in various systems, organizations, and communities. The final section of our text gives us a glimpse of the future of restorative justice as a field that continues to grow, expand, and explore further mechanisms of intervention involving its principled practices, guided by critique, research, and evaluation.

It is our hope and goal that, as we move forward with the presentation of this information, your mind will be challenged to greater heights of innovation and critical thinking that center upon a greater understanding of restorative justice and its various ways of bringing new and improved mechanisms of dialog to traditional methods of repairing harm and restoring relationships. And now let us begin our journey!

