Dear Amy Dunnigan

We’ve dedicated this PrisonerActionNet Spotlight to examining how restorative justice can be used in prisons. Links to methods and benefits of restorative justice practices can be found below, along with the topic for this month’s forum discussion, examples of restorative justice projects currently working in prisons, and a request for your project examples.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND VICTIM EMPATHY

The objective of restorative justice is to reduce the harm caused by a crime, both to the victim and to the offender. It is an approach to sentencing which focuses on the importance of an apology from the offender - and reparations for their actions. The victim and the offender are usually brought face-to-face by a trained facilitator. Also present are the significant people in the lives of both the offender and the victim; the people they most trust and respect, and from whom they seek love and respect: family, friends, community and religious leaders... (more)

FORUM DISCUSSION

On the forum this month we’ll be discussing: If restorative justice practices were embedded in the criminal justice process would their impact be increased or diminished?

Please share your thoughts on the PrisonerActionNet FORUM by clicking here

NEW VIDEO - MONUMENT TRUST LECTURE

Civilisation Spurns the Leopard
Gerard Lemos's lecture was presented by The Monument Trust, and examines shifts in perceptions of crime and criminals and the importance of engaging perpetrators as well as victims in the criminal justice process. Gerard outlines four proposals for ways to engage criminals to make reparations to the individuals and communities they've harmed and to have a greater stake in their own rehabilitation.. (more)
EXAMPLE OF THE MONTH

The RESTORE programme is an intensive, group-based programme, centred on the stories of victims and perpetrators of crime that is delivered by The Forgiveness Project. It encourages offenders to explore concepts of forgiveness and conflict resolution in a framework that fosters greater responsibility and accountability and recognises that although convicted of offences, many offenders themselves have histories of abuse, violence and trauma...(more)

MORE EXAMPLES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECTS

There are more examples of projects involving restorative justice and victim empathy on PrisonerActionNet.

YOUR EXAMPLE

Do you know of or are you involved in a restorative justice project? Please let us know:

- What did the project aim to achieve?
- What activities did the project involve?
- What would you say the project has achieved?
- Has the project been assessed or evaluated?
- Are there any other aspects of the project you would like to tell us about?

Please reply to this email or email amyd@lemosandcrane.co.uk

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Simon Fulford, Chief Executive, Khulisa

What does your job involve? 'I run a small, innovative charity that takes programmes that have been successful in South Africa, piloting, evaluating and disseminating them as innovative crime-prevention, violence-reduction and offender rehabilitation programmes.'

What inspires you? 'Seeing, benefiting from and trying to live with integrity, honesty and commitment'...

MORE FROM PRISONERACTIONNET

PRISONERACTIONNET BRIEFING

Transforming Rehabilitation: A revolution in the way we manage offenders (more)

ARTS ALLIANCE EVIDENCE LIBRARY

An online library housing the key research and evaluation documents on the impact of arts-based projects within the Criminal Justice System (more)