



FLYER FOR ACJRD SEMINAR

21st JANUARY 2013

Facing Forward's Background and Approach to Restorative Practice

Facing Forward was established in 2005 in response to gaps in the Irish criminal justice system and to support the introduction of restorative approaches based on best practice that has emerged in other countries.

Our Management Committee is made up of people from a variety of backgrounds, including mediation, criminal justice, community development, and peace and reconciliation work. We are a member based, voluntary organisation.

Facing Forward is a group of trained facilitators who seek to engage people affected by crime, including serious crime: the people who have been harmed and those who have caused harm, their families and communities. Restorative practice includes the use of circle work, facilitating family and community members to support the process of repairing the harm caused by harm. Another approach is face-to-face dialogue between the parties harmed by and responsible for the crime. Sensitive and thorough preparation is the key to effective restorative work that meets the needs of survivors and offenders without causing further trauma.

We can respond to referrals from victim support agencies, prison chaplains and others to facilitate both circle processes and Victim Offender Dialogue. These processes bring together those directly impacted by crime to create opportunities to address the harm arising from abuse, violent behaviour and criminal offences.

Facing Forward's Core Values

We are committed to valuing the views of those who have experienced crime and those responsible for it. We believe that by paying attention to the harm done by crime and the needs that arise from it, we can create justice together.

We believe in the value of each person and their capacity to come together with others to heal, recover, change and find new ways to move forward with their lives.

Other Areas of Facing Forward's Work

Research

We are currently conducting a significant piece of research, '*Sexual Trauma and Abuse: Restorative and Transformative Possibilities?*'. This work is in partnership with Dr Marie Keenan, School of Applied Social Sciences, UCD and is informed by participatory and emancipatory action research in which the voice of the service-user is of primary concern. The aims of the research are to:

- (1) Provide a space for discussion of the unaddressed psychological and social needs of people who have experienced sexual trauma or who have engaged in sexually harmful behaviour/violence.
- (2) Establish the level of interest in setting up a restorative and transformative programme.
- (3) Hear suggestions for a possible programme structure, content and design.

The research has ethical approval from University College Dublin (UCD) and the Prisoner-based Research Ethics Committee (PBREC) of the Irish Prison Service.

Training

Facing Forward members provide both informal and accredited training in Restorative Justice. We also bring international practitioners and trainers from the field of Restorative Practices to Ireland to provide training and consultancy to statutory and voluntary groups.

Awareness Raising and Collaborative Work

We raise awareness of and develop Restorative Practices by working in collaboration with community and statutory groups.

Find out More

If you are interested in finding out more about Facing Forward or our work, please contact us at:

Email: facingforwardevents@gmail.com

Phone: 086 856 6114