

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Bárbara Atal, Almar De Moura, Vicente González and Carolina Olave

It is an evolving approach oriented towards repairing the harm caused by crime or other transgressions. This consists in any process in which the victim and offender participate actively in the resolution of any matter evolving the criminal offense, in order to arrive to a common understanding on how the harm can be repaired, with the help of an impartial third party .



## CIRCLES OF RE-ENTRY FOR COEXISTENCE



It is a way of restorative justice focused on the reinsertion of the ex-prisoners and the reparation, in some way, of the harm done. Participants can be all those affected by the original harm, the offender itself, community members invested and any professionals involved or that will be involved with the returning citizen.

## EXAMPLE WITH A CASE

The father of a family, in a fit of rage and for the abuse of alcohol hurted badly a neighbor during a bar fight. He was sentenced for this violent crime, went to jail and then came back to his wife and kids. His family and the neighbors didn't feel safe and didn't trust the man, so a local psychologist propose a circle of re-entry of the community for them to talk honestly about the harmed done.

The encounter was 2 months after prison, placed on the community center where all the parts involved (neighbors, family, the offender and the victim) were seated in a circle. They follow the process of circles of re-entry (pre circle, restorative circle and post circle) with an open and honest dialogue about what happened, the consequences of the crime in the community and the real needs of the parts involved.

This voluntary and open process of restorative justice was guided by a trained psychologist. The expected results were the symbolic restitution of the victim and the reinsertion of the offender to the community, coexisting with him.

