

Restorative Justice

In many countries, an individual, group of people or even the government that is in power has committed “crimes against humanity.”

What does that mean?

List some examples of this situation - from recent history and from current events.

In these situations, victims often have no way to express their ideas nor do they feel that “justice has been served.”

What are some ways victims can “get closure” after they have experienced a horrible situation?

Restorative Justice

This chart briefly and **simply** explains three types of restorative justice.

	Sentencing Circle	Shaming Sentence	Truth & Reconciliation Commission
Process	<p>Not held in a courtroom.</p> <p>People involved: victim(s), offender, judge, and members of the community who weren't involved in the incident.</p> <p>The victim(s) describes the impact of the crime.</p> <p>The offender explains why the crime was committed.</p> <p>Everyone discusses and agrees on what the consequences they will suggest to a judge.</p> <p>The judge announces the consequence/ punishment.</p>	<p>Held in a courtroom.</p> <p>The judge hands out a sentence.</p> <p>One part of the sentence involves an aspect of public shaming (publish name & picture, do community service and wear a sign with the word CRIMINAL, etc.)</p> <p>The victims and the community members are allowed to show their feelings to the offender as s/he is carrying out the sentence.</p>	<p>Process used in South Africa (after apartheid) Chile, Peru, and others. Canada</p> <p>The meetings are held in public and recorded.</p> <p>The victims "apply" to give impact statements. The ones that are selected are viewed as representatives of the group.</p> <p>The offenders also give testimony (sometimes they are given amnesty).</p>
Principles & Intentions	<p>The offender should be aware the impact of the crime.</p> <p>Physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual harmony of each person needs to be restored.</p> <p>The individuals involved in a conflict should find their own ways of resolving their conflict.</p>	<p>The victims and the community have the right to express their anger toward the offender.</p> <p>The offender's behavior changes after they are shamed publicly.</p> <p>People who commit minor crimes are not sent to prison.</p>	<p>The victims should be honored (including the ones who died)</p> <p>These crimes and their impact should not be historical secrets. They should be recorded for the future.</p> <p>By increasing awareness, it is hoped that 'history will not repeat itself.'</p>

In your opinion, which process would be suitable for these victims and offenders? Explain.

1/Child sex slave adult who purchased sex

2/ Family of a dead teen drunk driver

3/ Male rape victim rapist

4/ People who pay an agent to get a job in a city/country, but they are forced to work for little pay in poor conditions. the agent/ “snakehead”

5/ Children forced to leave their home to attend a school. The school staff emotionally & sexually abused them. staff/ directors of the school

Is there an event in your country’s history which could be dealt with through a Truth and Reconciliation Commission process? Explain.