

If you had a chance to meet the person who burgled your house or mugged you, what would you say to them?

Imagine being able to ask those important questions and hear what they have to say for themselves.

Many victims of crime have chosen to meet the criminal through a process called Restorative Justice (RJ).

"For me, restorative justice turned the tables and I don't feel like a victim any more. I'm in control now."

Daughter of a murder victim

RJ gives victims a chance to explain to offenders the real impact of their crime, to get answers to their questions, and sometimes, an apology. It gives victims a voice and the chance to play a part in preventing others from becoming a victim of crime. It can be part of repairing the damage and can help the victim to move on.

RJ also provides a way for offenders to face up to their actions, understand the devastating effects their crimes have had on the victim and their family and, where possible, make amends. In this way, RJ can help stop offenders from re-offending.

"Restorative justice was my turning point. When I realised what effect my crimes had on other people, I felt ashamed and embarrassed."

Ex-burglar

RJ is voluntary for both the victim and offender and only takes place if a trained RJ facilitator decides that it would be safe and suitable. RJ can be done in different ways. Sometimes it's right for a victim and offender to meet face-to-face, other times they can communicate by passing messages back and forth through a trained facilitator.

The key thing is that it helps both the victim and the offender.

Before a meeting can take place:

- The offender must accept responsibility for the crime.
- Both the victim and the offender must be willing to participate.
- An RJ facilitator must decide it's safe for both the victim and offender to be involved in the process.



A trained facilitator will prepare both the victim and offender ahead of the meeting and during the meeting will guide the participants in a conversation about the crime and its impact. The facilitator makes sure that both the victim and offender get a chance to speak and that the victim is comfortable throughout the meeting.

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## Restorative Justice

Imagine being able to speak to  
the person who committed a  
crime against you.

Imagine being able to tell them the  
effect the crime had on you, your  
life, and your family.

