

KATHMANDU DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, 2018

We, the believers of Restorative Justice and Practices, who circled together at the Second Nepal Conference on Restorative Justice held in Kathmandu, Nepal,

Having considered the relevance of restorative justice to address the broad justice concerns related to crimes or conflicts in various contexts,

Internalizing the principles and values laid out in *United Nations Resolution on Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters* (ECOSOC Resolution 2002/12), especially pertaining to the rights and concerns of the victims, wrongdoers and communities,

Decide to adopt the Declaration on the Right to Restorative Justice with the following points:

1. The actual stakeholders of crimes or conflicts are those directly affected by them. The victims should have the right to access restorative justice at any stage of criminal proceedings, such as: being heard; being healed; having a say in the outcomes; and the wrongdoers should get the opportunities to be made accountable to the harms caused. The needs of the wrongdoer leading to the crime should also be equally understood and taken into account in the restorative justice proceedings;
2. The language and communication used in justice requires redesign and needs to be applied in a new way, as the indistinct use of certain terms in the traditional/adversarial and restorative justice systems without due clarity on their distinction slows the full development of restorative justice;
3. Restorative justice principles and processes should be increasingly encouraged in events that include all forms of harm and violence;
4. The relationship between restorative justice methods and other forms of dispute resolution should be made clear in theory and practice;
5. More linkages on national, regional and international levels should be established to develop and strengthen the restorative justice movement; and
6. The stakeholders of crimes or conflicts should be able to access restorative justice in judicial, administrative and community contexts.

Adopted on the Twenty-fifth of November, Two Thousand and Eighteen A.D.

Kathmandu, Nepal

