

Restorative Justice Signposts

1. Focus on the *harms* of wrongdoing more than the rules that have been broken.
2. Show equal concern and commitment to *victims and offenders*, involving both in the process of justice.
3. Work toward the restoration of *victims*, empowering them and responding to their needs as they see them.
4. Support *offenders* while encouraging them to understand, accept, and carry out their obligations.
5. Recognize that while *obligations* may be difficult for offenders, they should not be intended as harms, and they must be achievable.
6. Provide opportunities for *dialogue*, direct or indirect, between victims and offenders as appropriate.
7. Involve and empower the affected *community* through the justice process, and increase its capacity to recognize and respond to community bases of crime.
8. Encourage *collaboration and reintegration* rather than coercion and isolation.
9. Give attention to the *unintended consequences* of our actions and programs.
10. Show *respect* to all parties including victims, offenders, and justice colleagues.

Crime wounds—justice heals

Harry Mika and Howard Zehr, 1994