

Restorative Justice Service for Adult Survivors of Institutional Child Abuse

Consultation on Restorative Justice Toolkit – Response Form

As part of our commitment to making our service as appropriate, efficient and effective as possible we are grateful for your feedback on the Toolkit and proposed service. Please respond either yes or no to the following questions by ticking the appropriate box.

Q.1 Do you agree that a Restorative Justice service could be of benefit to some survivors of institutional child abuse?

	No	
Comments		<p>Restorative Justice in this context is a misnomer, the low Pilot take up rate demonstrated that this model is simply not an appropriate model for this particular group of extremely vulnerable adults. The low outcomes demonstrate clearly that this model in its current format is not suitable for this particular group of extremely vulnerable adults abused by the past care system.</p> <p>The feedback also we have had is that this model in its current format and the process has in fact caused further, trauma, distress and hurt to a number of those victim-survivors who took part in the Pilot, with their reasonable expectations and needs not met in this process.</p> <p>The current Restorative Justice Service for this particular group of adults would have to fundamentally change and take fully into account the Scottish Human Rights Framework and Recommendations. These would have to be implemented in full as part of the Restorative Justice Service Toolkit. This should include a range of equitable remedies including reparation in line with the SHRC recommendations that meets the needs and reasonable expectations of individual victim-survivors.</p>

Q.2 Do you agree that the service as outlined in the Toolkit is designed appropriately and adequately?

		No
Comments		<p>Using victim-survivors in this way who are an extremely vulnerable group of individuals abused by the past system and who the State and others had a duty to protect yet failed. To develop invaluable experience in this way regarding the previous Pilot is also morally indefensible, victim-survivors are not guinea pigs or some experimentation.</p> <p>Proposing that extremely vulnerable adults many with severe mental health issues may have to represent themselves in such a process is clearly inappropriate and is putting individual's at further risk and in harms way.</p> <p>Some victim-survivors simply do not have the capacity to represent their own issues in such situations and are open to further exploitation and abuse by a system and institutions and the State that has already let them down badly.</p>

Q.3 Are there any specific additions or changes you would suggest?

		Yes
Comments		<p>The full implementation of the Scottish Human Rights Commission's Framework and Recommendation pertaining to these issues with a range of equitable remedies based on the victim-survivors "Rights" reasonable expectations and individual needs.</p>

q.4 Is there anything further you would like to discuss with us?

YES	
Comments	We would be happy to discuss this Restorative Justice Toolkit further provided SACRO is prepared to listen and consider implementing in full the Scottish Human Rights Commissions Framework and recommendations into the said model and Restorative justice toolkit and process going forward. The model and the process to include equitable resolutions and range of equitable remedies including reparation that meets the reasonable needs and expectations of a majority of Scottish victim-survivors abused in the past Scottish care system.

Please feel free to contact us should you wish to discuss

If so, please enter your contact details

Jennie Bristow, Secretary Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers Homes
Contact, fbga1@aol.com