



Restorative Justice

In a criminal legal context, RJ is an approach that includes all those involved in a crime, from victim to defendant to community members to address harms, needs, and obligations stemming from a criminal act with the goal of putting things right and enable healing.

How does it work?

Out of a partnership with the District Attorney and the Solicitor General's offices, Georgia Conflict Center receives potential cases suitable for RJ in lieu of traditional criminal processing.

Opting In

Both victim and defendant are contacted separately to determine their interest in participating in a process that focuses on accountability to make things right in place of sentencing.

Then What?

GCC and trained RJD professionals meet with each party, connect them to community resources, conduct restorative conferences, help draft agreements, and follow up to ensure accountability to the victim and the community.

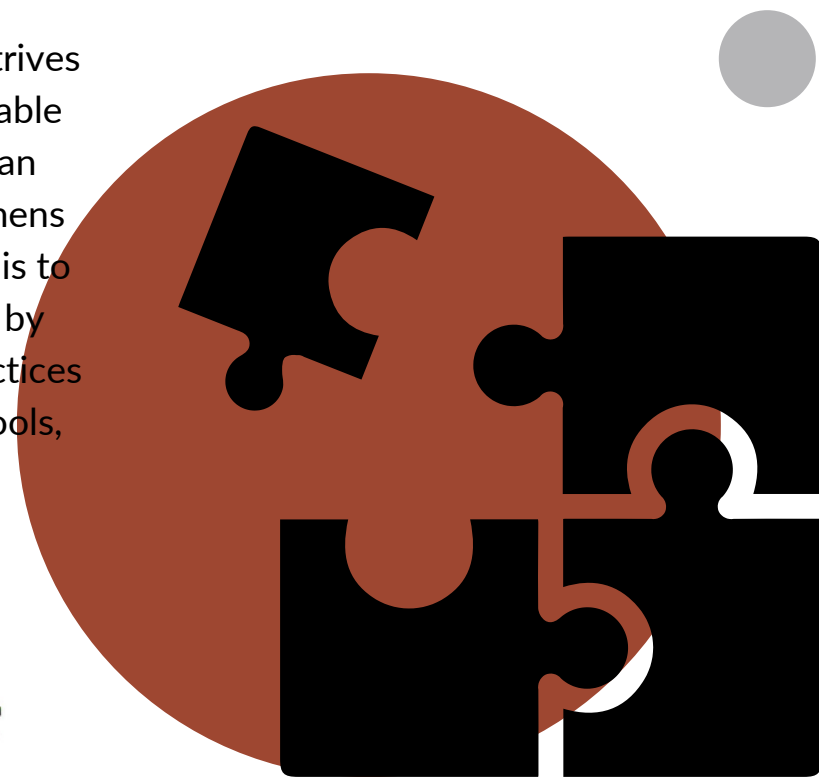
Georgia Conflict Center strives to foster a just and equitable community, where all can prosper and thrive, in Athens and beyond. Our mission is to build peace with justice by advancing restorative practices within communities, schools, and institutions.



www.gaconflict.org
info@gaconflict.org

1498 Prince Avenue, Athens, GA 30606
(706) 206-7472

Please Help Make It Right



MAKE IT RIGHT

The case for RJ Diversion

Accountability for
Community Wholeness



Community Benefits

- Over 70% of our case referrals are youth of color. While RJD reduces the criminalization of *all* youth, youth of color are disproportionately represented in our juvenile justice system.
- 9 out of 10 victims report high satisfaction with RJ diversion process and outcomes.
- RJD costs less than \$5K per case vs. approximately \$400,000 to incarcerate one youth per year.
- 9 out of 10 youth participants maintain connection to family and community supporters.

RJD had led to a significant decrease in the rate of recidivism among participating youth and an increase in satisfaction among people harmed in other jurisdictions where RJD has been put to use.

Lower rates of recidivism mean lower rates of crime, a net benefit to communities, as well as the opportunity for youth to remain in their home and in their school community rather than prosecution and possible detention.

Restorative Justice Conferencing

In Georgia's Western Judicial Circuit, we began partnering with the DA's office in late 2022. Because we believe in iterative improvements, building partnerships and the power of data, we have proceeded slowly and steadily. We are implementing what we've learned and continue to learn over all phases of RJ conferencing to create the most effective diversion process to meet both individual and community needs.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Our Make It Right Fund supports the training, management and ongoing support of community-based RJD facilitators. Our local model allows us to receive more case referrals to be facilitated by thoroughly trained and qualified community members with lived experience.

Your contribution directly increases accountability and repair within our community.





Restorative Justice Diversion *Criminal Justice Context*

This voluntary program includes all parties involved in a crime--victim, defendant, and community members--to address harms, needs, and obligations stemming from a criminal act with the goal of putting things right and healing relationships. We receive suitable cases through system partners and offer a process of accountability to make things right in place of sentencing.

Restorative Training

We customize programming for school staff, youth, workplaces, community leaders, university students, faculty, congregations--wherever groups have a desire to learn better ways to work through conflict that values human needs and relationships.

Conflict Facilitation

We facilitate restorative processes among people at all organizational levels. Some of our clients decide to change their HR policies to reflect restorative approaches. We facilitate that process, as well.

Please Consider Supporting GCC

GCC is a 501(3)(c). In addition to grants and fees for services, we are grateful for your one-time or recurring donations.

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**Your guide to
what we do and
how we can help**

*Conflict is
inevitable;
violence is not.*



Program Areas *where you'll find us*

K-12 Schools
& Higher Ed

Criminal Legal
Systems

Workplaces &
Communities

what we do there

Training/Workshops
Conflict Facilitation
RP Implementation
Org Development
Culture Audit/Change
Support & Coaching

Taking responsibility
Repairing harm
Building relationships

Restorative Practices *how we work*

Restorative Practices are guided by principles that prioritize building community and connection. Through democratic participation and actionable accountability, the harm is repaired and relationships are restored or built anew. RP can be implemented at work, in communities, schools, and within criminal legal systems.

*It is easier to build
strong children
than to repair
broken men.*

Frederick Douglass



Evidence and Outcomes *why Restorative Practices?*

Our Restorative Justice Diversion program diverts those who cause harm from criminal justice system involvement and decreases recidivism among participants. Data indicate an increase in satisfaction among people harmed where RJD has been put to use.

Restorative Practices in schools offer more engaged classrooms, fewer physical fights, detentions and expulsions. Students trained in RP offer their peers a collaborative process to transform conflict.

Workplaces report higher engagement and trust at all levels when people have tools to communicate restoratively, based on unmet needs, not politics or personalities.