Restorative Justice is very different from our repressive and punitive system of justice (the obedience model). Much of the theoretical perspective of Restorative Justice evolved “experientially” from the Mennonites’ involvement in victim and offender programs culminating in the seminal book Changing Lenses by Howard Zehr (1990).

According to Philly Stands Up!, Transformative Justice is a way of practicing alternative justice which acknowledges individual experiences and identities and works to actively resist the state’s criminal injustice system. Transformative Justice recognizes that oppression is at the root of all forms of harm, abuse and assault.

Restorative Justice: The Role of the Community

Restorative practices, by their very nature, provide an opportunity for us to express our shame, along with other emotions, and in doing so reduce their intensity. In restorative conferences, for example, people routinely move from negative affects through the neutral affect to positive affects (Nathanson, 1998).

Alternatives to Imprisonment

The handbook introduces the reader to the basic principles central to understanding alternatives to imprisonment as well as descriptions of promising practices implemented throughout the world. A companion Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes is also available from UNODC. This handbook offers easily accessible information about...