

27 November 2019

JUST NEWS 3/2019

Dear colleagues

As this year draws to a rapid close, I thought I'd use the opportunity to bring you an update from the Restorative Justice Centre.

We're encouraged by the start of 2 projects:

- Supporting Victim offender mediation in Correctional Services. Funded by the National Lotteries Commission, we aim to deal with at least 20 cases over the course of the next year



- The Application of Restorative Justice to Wildlife Crime. Funded by USAID and in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust, we will be developing technical guidelines and identifying existing community-based projects that could incorporate a restorative justice approach.



For some time we have been engaging with members from the SA Association of Mediators to develop a framework to accredit restorative justice training and practitioners. We're happy to report that the SA Restorative Justice Accreditation Body (SARJAB) was launched at a conference on child justice hosted by Unisa's Department of Criminology. We are part of the steering committee that is developing procedures to give effect to this vision.

Peer / Private ADR Accreditation Framework in SA



International Mediation Institute



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SARJAB

- The Restorative Justice Centre
- Social Justice Foundation
- RESTORE
- Hope Now
- SAAM
- NICRO
- Khulisa
- Centre for Justice and Community Development

We participated in a workshop hosted by the SA Board for People Practices on sexual harassment in the workplace. We were pleasantly surprised by the extent to which mediation is already being used in this context. See <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qk68p3uq648gsz2/AAB5IHW3w9g4LtV4NJm0wPV0a?dl=0> for some excellent podcasts on the subject.



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Through a Diplomacy Lab project of the US Embassy, we have a connection to Virginia Tech. A team that has produced several papers on the benefits of the restorative justice in the US will examine South African politics, culture and policy in conjunction with existing literature in restorative justice. Comparisons will be made with the US and Europe to formulate guidance for South African criminal justice practitioners.



We continue to engage Gauteng Department of Social Development for the possibility of funding our work at the courts and in communities.

We have published a monograph by Mike Batley and Ann Skelton, *W(h)ither Restorative Justice IN South Africa? An Updated Status Review 2019* on our website – see <https://www.rjc.co.za/about/resources/181-w-h-ither-restorative-justice-in-south-africa-an-updated-status-review-2019> . The monograph provides a comprehensive review of restorative justice in South Africa and makes recommendations for the future.

Be alert to further information from International Restorative Justice Week 17 – 24 November that will be posted on our Facebook page.

I hope you take good care of yourself in the pressured days ahead, that you are able to rest well over the festive season, and that you have a meaningful Christmas and New Year season.

Warm wishes

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