

Restorative Circle Facilitator Practice

As acquaintance with the concepts of Restorative Justice has grown, so has interest and experimentation in applying restorative practices deeper into, and beyond, legal settings. The growth in restorative systems within schools, colleges, families, businesses, church groups and neighborhood associations – in fact, anywhere groups co-exist and community forms – has been substantial and continues to gather pace. Beyond an avoidance of punishment, the restorative ethos is now a proven, consistent basis for strengthening the ability of people to live together and respond to conflict in peace.

The Restorative Circle process has grown, and has its roots, in local communities forming partnerships of cooperation in the context of ongoing systemic and personal conflict. Its application in diverse contexts and cultures demonstrates the resilience of its simple, precise guiding principles and practice, as well as its adaptability to unique local conditions and scalability. As such there has been an increasing demand for training in the specific elements of facilitating Restorative Circles, for those with active projects or beginning them.

In response to this, we have begun to offer an in-depth Facilitator Practice, organized in a series of 3-day modules. We recommend facilitators attend 3 such modules, for a total of 9 days learning. The modules are not designed in a sequential curriculum, but in a spiral, where key elements are revisited and integrated into our practice at increasing depths.

The Facilitator Practice creates the conditions for focused exploration, peer support and deep group practice in the dynamics of Restorative Circles, in the company of experienced practitioners.

Over the course of 3 modules, participants will be invited to:

- Experience the 3 stages of the Restorative Process
- Participate in a Circle from the vantage point of each participant (including facilitator and co-facilitator)
- Observe and comment on others' facilitating
- Review the setting up and maintaining of Restorative Systems
- Listen to each others' questions, experiences and lessons learned
- Discover what each of us has to offer our developing learning community

This event will be filmed, as part of a project to produce educational videos to support broader access to this work, as well as ongoing learning for those who participate in these events. All participants will be asked to sign release forms before we begin.

Requested experience:

In order to create a learning environment focused on facilitation practice, we ask that all participants:

- Have completed a Restorative Circle Introduction
- Are actively involved in either a Restorative System* or an ongoing Semi-Simulated Restorative Circle practice group** or both.

(In either case 'actively involved' refers to participation in all relevant roles, including facilitator and participant – ie. you bring your own conflicts to the restorative process. Where lack of prior knowledge of the process makes this request hard to meet before your first FP module, a commitment to meet the request within a month of completing that FP module will suffice)

** Briefly, we understand a Restorative System to be an ongoing and utilized agreement between members of a community that they come together to collectively respond to acts which impact their well-being and that of their community through restorative practice.*

*** A Semi-simulated Restorative Circle practice group meets at least monthly to work on issues live for one of those present, using the Semi-simulated process presented in Restorative Circle Introductions.*

Co-creating the Resources for these Events and this Work

Dominic and his colleagues are committed to making this work available to all who request it, without exclusion.

We offer it as an open opportunity to come and learn, without charge, in the spirit of a gift.

We also request participants share with us the responsibility for making this event, and our ongoing sharing of the work, possible. The costs involved in organizing this event, bringing Dominic from Brazil, and supporting his ongoing work will be shared, and an open invitation made to all those who would like to meet those costs. We see us all as sharing power capable of creating the conditions for the world we want to live in. This is a chance to exercise such power.

If you would like to contribute before the event, to help organizing costs, you may do so when you register.