

**Exploring Restorative Circles and Restorative Justice**  
**with AVC (Feb 2018)**

**As our collective/individual response to conflict:**

- i. What works?*
- ii. What doesn't work quite so well?*
- iii. How do we dream it could be?*

**Our dream:**

**... that our collective processes and individual posture would include:**

- Being rooted in oneness; feeling a lived aspiration for this oneness
- Walking towards each other with an open heart
- Deep listening
- Curiosity to understand
- True commitment
- Intuition for how to respond
- Supportive energy-field (not feeding the story, not being destructive)
- A lived sense of community / family
- Taking care of those who are isolated / "trouble-makers"
- Inclusion of all
- Remembering that we're an experiment, and taking everything as a learning
- Seeing everything as a mirror for our growth
- Flexibility
- Emotions channeled to positivity
- Space for all emotions to be held
- Less ego, and letting go
- Systemic reality is taken into consideration
- Spontaneous reaching out: to repair broken connection, to take self-responsibility

**What does “JUSTICE” mean, in its pure form?**

Accuracy      Just = correct/right      Balance  
Based on truth      Equality

**Punitive / Retributive**

**vs.**

**Restorative Justice**

**Life-alienating / “negative associations”**

Punishment  
Imposing  
Arbitrary  
De-personalized  
Misuse of power / power-over / feeling  
powerless  
Not looking for the truth  
Winners and losers  
Exclusion  
Inequality  
Decisions are biased (based on person’s  
background)  
“Asking for justice”

**Life-serving / “positive associations”**

Fairness  
Equality  
Compassion  
Human rights respected  
Safety  
Understanding  
Wisdom  
Restoring  
Help and support  
Finding inclusive resolutions  
A feeling of release  
Healing  
Transformation  
Accountability  
Grace