

VICTIMOLOGICAL EMPIRICAL  
INFORMED EXPLORATIONS TO

THE ADAPTATION OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS,  
NEEDS AND INTERESTS FROM THE  
STANDPOINT OF AN OPEN SEQUENTIAL  
JUSTICE



Departing from the injustice experiences of terrorism victims and victims of other violation of human rights, The Restorative Justice Theory & Practice Lab of the Basque Institute of Criminology(UPV/EHU), wants to collaborate with victims, together with other engaged agents -understood in an individual, institutional or social manner-, to offer complementary spaces of justice experiences, following the international restorative justice standards, with full respect for the principles of voluntariness, confidentiality, gratuity and avoidance of secondary victimization. This initiative was originally proposed to groups of victims in the year 2013.

WALKING  
RESTORATIVELY

INTERPELLATING  
EPHIMERAL  
MEMORIES

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RESTORATIVE  
PATHWAYS





Walking entails an active engagement where the relevant is the process, not so much the results, always under the idea of avoidance of secondary victimization. Human beings who have suffered, as other participants, should not be instrumentalized. Other participants are accompanying the victims or survivors in the manner and to the degree that they want us to be. With this idea in mind, we work with a concept of victims that is neither essentialist, nor antagonist or pathological.



Classical criminal justice evolves around the notion of punishment of the guilty person. Being this important, according to different victimological studies, victims aim to a more human justice, moreover when they feel the institutional system has not an adequate response for their legitimate claims (acknowledgment, truth, justice, reparation, guarantees of non repetition...). Without creating false expectations, restorative justice might offer some aspects of interests, connecting the ethics of care and the value of human rights.

## RESIGNIFYING TRAUMATIC PLACES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL, SOCIAL, EDUCATIVE, PROACTIVE AND PREVENTIVE PERSPECTIVE

After working in an individual manner with participants in order to clarify what they want, their motivations, limitations and engagements, some joint restorative walks will be proposed around places, previously chosen by victims, as time gates to reflect on the possibilities of restorative memory. If the participants agree the reflection on these walks can be documented to be used as university pedagogical material on human rights. Spaces can be urban, rural, institutional or natural, being nature an evoking metaphor on restoration possibilities.



Victims, with their generosity and prosocial concerns, help us to question the present culture and the justification of violence, linked to the idea of an endless progress. They offer us words as refuge and memory. Memory entails justice for the irreparable, questioning individual and social factors within given historical contexts. Walking with them allows creating nuanced spaces where knowledge and the encounter with the other can be promoted through ethical imagination and sensitive, honest, self-critical and respectful dialogue, with the horizon of a cultural reconstruction on the unique value of life and its vulnerability, acknowledging that diversity of ideas and conflict are inherent to human life, but not violence.

