



This is a presentation of the following published document and is licensed under All Rights Reserved license:

**Hobson, Jonathan ORCID logoORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8081-6699> and Monckton-Smith, Jane ORCID logoORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7925-5089> (2021) Translating the recommendations from the APPG on Restorative Justice into practice: key considerations for Coercive Control and the potential of the 8-stages of Homicide model as an aid to risk and threat assessment for coercive control. In: Scottish Government and COSLA Joint Roundtable Event on Restorative Justice and Gender-Based Violence.**

EPrint URI: <https://eprints.glos.ac.uk/id/eprint/10400>

#### **Disclaimer**

The University of Gloucestershire has obtained warranties from all depositors as to their title in the material deposited and as to their right to deposit such material.

The University of Gloucestershire makes no representation or warranties of commercial utility, title, or fitness for a particular purpose or any other warranty, express or implied in respect of any material deposited.

The University of Gloucestershire makes no representation that the use of the materials will not infringe any patent, copyright, trademark or other property or proprietary rights.

The University of Gloucestershire accepts no liability for any infringement of intellectual property rights in any material deposited but will remove such material from public view pending investigation in the event of an allegation of any such infringement.

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR TEXT.

**Translating the recommendations from the APPG on Restorative Justice into practice:  
key considerations for Coercive Control and the potential of the 8-stages of Homicide model as an aid to risk and threat assessment for coercive control.**

**Dr Jonathan Hobson** Associate Professor of Social Sciences  
jhobson@glos.ac.uk

**Professor Jane Monckton-Smith** Professor of Public Protection  
jmoncktonsmith@glos.ac.uk

# All Party Parliamentary Group on Restorative Justice

## Overview

1. What might a right to RJ look like?
2. Coercive control and the homicide timeline

## HOMICIDE TIMELINE

### Pre-relationship history

Criminal record or allegations from former partners of control, domestic abuse or stalking. Victims often aware but do not always believe reports.

1

### Early relationship

Relationship sped up with early declarations of love, possessiveness and jealousy.

2

### Relationship

Relationship dominated by coercive control, usually with some of the high risk markers.

3

### Trigger/s

An event occurs which threatens the control of the perpetrator. Usually separation or its potential. May be a physical or mental illness or financial problems.

4

### Escalation

An increase in frequency or severity of control tactics, like suicide threats, begging, violence and stalking. Attempts to reinstate control.

5

### Change in thinking

Feelings of revenge, injustice or humiliation may drive a decision to resolve issues, through either moving on, revenge, or potentially homicide.

6

### Planning

May include buying weapons, seeking opportunities to get victim alone, stalking and threats.

7

### Homicide

May involve extreme violence, suicide, suspicious death, missing person, multiple victims (including children).

8

# 1. What might a right to RJ look like?

## All Party Parliamentary Group on **Restorative Justice**



58 written and oral responses submitted, just over 250,000 words

Full report available:  
<https://rjappg.co.uk/inquiryreport/>



Restorative Justice APPG Inquiry into  
Restorative Practices in 2021/2022





## All Party Parliamentary Group on Restorative Justice

1. Registration of commissioned services

2. Standardise the sharing of information

3. Improving quality through effective monitoring and evaluation

4. Publication of a new Action Plan

5. Reviewing ring-fenced funding for RJ practices

6. Explore automatic rights for victims through the Victim's Law

7. End to blanket bans

8. More and better communications.

9. Government Minister with specific responsibility for RJ

1. **Registration of commissioned services.** Police and Crime Commissioners and other relevant bodies should make it a mandatory requirement for all commissioned services to be registered and to ensure integrity of practice, that restorative processes are only facilitated by practitioners who are registered, regardless of whether they are paid or unpaid. This registration process should be managed by the Restorative Justice Council, who should be given sufficient funding to support this task.
2. **Standardise the sharing of information.** The Ministry of Justice, in consultation with partners, should produce a national information sharing template which can be adopted by all providers and their partners.
3. **Improving quality through effective monitoring and evaluation.** Further investigation should be undertaken by the Ministry of Justice, in consultation with partners, to develop guidance for gathering and using data to monitor and evaluate restorative justice.
4. **Publication of a new Action Plan.** The Ministry of Justice and Home Office should publish a new joint national action plan for restorative justice and practices. This should include internal actions for criminal justice settings and providers, such as embedding restorative principles into HR policies and processes, awareness raising, training involving people with lived experience in the design and delivery, and ensuring adherence to the Public Sector Equality Duty. The plan should be reviewed every three years. Alongside this, the National Police Chiefs Council, College of Policing, and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's should work together to improve understanding and encourage greater use of restorative justice and practices amongst senior leaders in the sector.
5. **Reviewing ring-fenced funding for restorative justice practices.** The Home Office should review minimum ring-fenced funding for restorative justice services to ensure greater consistency in accessibility across different PCC areas. This funding should also be sufficient to cover adequate training, awareness raising, volunteer management and outreach work. There should also be minimum contract terms to provide greater consistency and stability for providers to develop and nurture partnership arrangements (subject to robust accountability mechanisms).
6. **Explore automatic rights for victims through the Victim's Law.** The new Victims' Law should include a specific right for victims to be referred to and access restorative justice services.
7. **End to blanket bans.** PCCs should remove any blanket bans on funding restorative justice for certain offence types, instead they should ensure that there are specialist staff trained for serious and complex cases available to assess the risks associated with a particular type of offence or additional need. This should be underpinned by a robust organisational (or ideally a national) policy that provides referring agencies and potential service users with a clear explanation as to why a case cannot be progressed.
8. **More and better communications.** A new national action plan should include a specific communications plan to raise awareness amongst the public of restorative justice and practice. This plan should be co-produced by communications experts, who have a good understanding of how to frame issues, along with restorative professionals and people with lived experience.
9. **Government minister with specific responsibility for restorative justice.** A government minister with responsibility for restorative justice and practices should be appointed, or this responsibility should be incorporated into a Minister of State's role or Undersecretary of State. This should initially be focused on the Ministry of Justice, though with potential for cross departmental working where it may be applicable in future.





6. **Explore automatic rights for victims through the Victim's Law.** *The new Victims' Law should include a specific right for victims to be referred to and access restorative justice services.*
7. **End to blanket bans.** *PCCs should remove any blanket bans on funding restorative justice for certain offence types, instead they should ensure that there are specialist staff trained for serious and complex cases available to assess the risks associated with a particular type of offence or additional need. This should be underpinned by a robust organisational (or ideally a national) policy that provides referring agencies and potential service users with a clear explanation as to why a case cannot be progressed.*

i. RJ should be available (right to be referred)

ii. RJ should be safe (specialist staff and risk assessment)

## i. RJ should be available



# A right to referral is not a guarantee of a process

### Information

- What RJ is
- When it might be suitable
- How it might be used

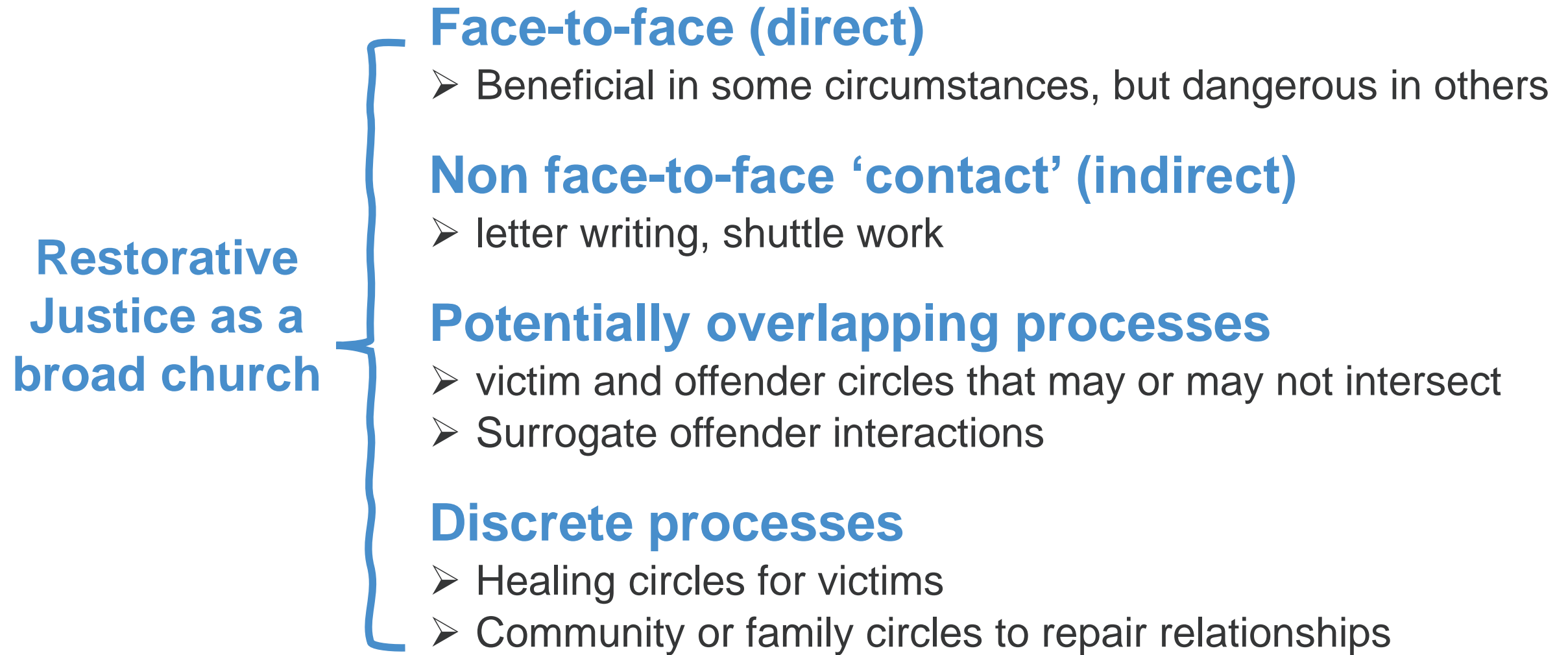
### Assessment

- Individual assessment for suitability
- Risk assessment

### Process

- What type of process is suitable?
- Direct/indirect

# Restorative Processes





# Decision making:



## *Dr Diana Batchelor (2021) the importance of understating victim goals*

### What you might hear victims say:

*The process is so unfair.  
No-one's listening.  
I don't know what's going on.*

*They've got away with it.  
The sentence is nothing  
compared to what I've  
been through.*

*I don't feel safe.  
I don't want it to happen  
to other people.  
I want to help the offender.*

*I can't stop thinking  
about whether she meant  
to do it or not.  
I don't know if he's evil or ill.*

*I'm not my old self.  
I'm afraid of everything.  
I'm angry all the time.  
I feel guilty (even if I  
know it wasn't my fault).*

### Underlying goal:

#### Have a say and be treated fairly

- Have their say
- Be respected
- Regain sense of control
- Receive information



#### Get feedback about punishment

- Hear about or see the offender's punishment
- Find out that punishment is not too lenient, too harsh or both



#### Stop it happening again

- Feel safe and less at risk from the offender
- Prevent the offender doing it to others



#### Find out more about the crime or the offender

- Reduce uncertainty
- Find out about the offender's life and character
- Hear why the crime happened



#### See themselves differently

- Feel strong despite impact of the crime
- Stop blaming themselves
- Overcome fears
- Do something altruistic



## i. RJ should be Safe



**Making safe  
processes**

**The importance of registered services and practitioners**

**The importance of practitioners that understand and can manage complex Risk**

**The importance of expert knowledge > coercive control**

## 2. Coercive Control and the Homicide Timeline

### HOMICIDE TIMELINE



- Not all DA is coercive control
- The research tells us that coercive control is **not** about the dynamics between two people or 'a couple arguing'
- Coercive control and stalking are particular forms of offending that often involve **fixation** and **obsession**
- There can be unintended consequences, for example:
  - The process can be used to manipulate contact
  - There is a power imbalance between the controlling person and the victim
  - The new partner of the controlling person could become a target for escalating abuse

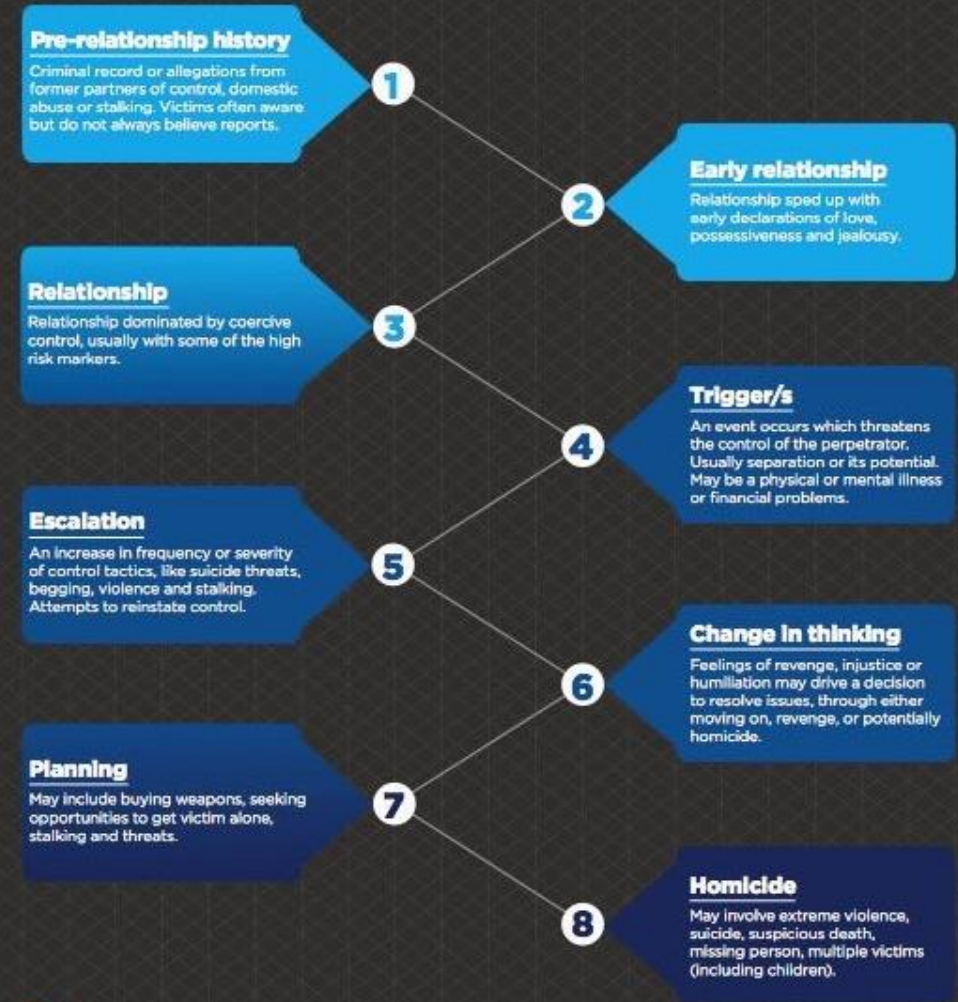
# Risk and threat assessment

The Homicide Timeline is based on coercive control and stalking patterns - It tracks a journey of escalating risk

1. History
2. Early relationship
3. Relationship
4. Trigger
5. Escalation
6. Homicidal ideation
7. Planning
8. Homicide

Where any victim and perpetrator are at stage five for example, any contact between them can escalate risk or threat as the fixation is still present. If they are at stage six or seven, any contact is high threat.

## HOMICIDE TIMELINE







- Alternative forms of RJ where there is no contact with the controlling person (where the controlling person is still fixated) should be the default
- Consider the safety of any new partners of the controlling person
- IDVAs or specialists in CC or DA could be trained in RJ, rather than RJ practitioners trained in DA/CC
- Controlling people will go to extraordinary lengths to gain access to a victim, this must be considered
- The motivation of the controlling person must be carefully evaluated if they are to be involved in any contact, even if that is by distance method
- RJ should not be used as diversion

# References



Batchelor, D (2021) Helping victims achieve their restorative justice goals with different degrees of offender participation, see: <https://restorativejustice.ie/2021/10/21/helping-victims-achieve-their-restorative-justice-goals-with-different-degrees-of-offender-participation/>

Gaarder, Emily (2015) Lessons from a restorative circles initiative for intimate partner violence, Restorative Justice, 3:3, 342-367, DOI: [10.1080/20504721.2015.1109334](https://doi.org/10.1080/20504721.2015.1109334)

Keenan, Marie (2018) Title Training for Restorative Justice Practice in Sexual Violence Cases, The International Journal of Restorative Justice, 1 (2): 291-302 see [here](#)

Marder I and Zinsmeyer C (2021) Restorative justice and intimate partner violence Annual Conference, 2019: Available <https://restorativejustice.ie/2021/06/20/restorative-justice-and-intimate-partner-violence-acjrd-annual-conference-2019/>

Monckton Smith, J. (2020) The Homicide Timeline: Using Foucauldian Analysis to Track an Eight Stage Relationship Progression to Homicide Violence Against Women 26 (11). pp. 1267-1285. open access: <http://eprints.glos.ac.uk/6896/>