



# Restorative justice and drugs-related offences

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# Evidence on effectiveness of restorative justice

The highest quality evidence on the effects of restorative justice **as a process involving those affected and responsible** for crime:

- ✓ **High victim satisfaction – compared with courts** (Strang, 2002; Campbell et al., 2005; Shapland et al., 2011; Strang et al., 2013; New Zealand Ministry of Justice, 2016).
- ✓ **Reductions in some post-traumatic stress symptoms for victims** (Strang et al., 2013; Angel et al., 2014; Lloyd and Borrill, 2019).
- ✓ **Evidence of reduced reoffending** (Strang, 2002; Strang et al., 2006; Shapland et al., 2011; Strang et al., 2013; Sherman et al., 2015).





An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh  
The Probation Service

## Restorative Justice - Reparation Panel

### Case Enactment



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpSlyNSibOU&t=4s&ab\\_channel=theprobationservice](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpSlyNSibOU&t=4s&ab_channel=theprobationservice)

# Restorative justice, legal changes and addressing harm caused by the war on drugs

Criminal justice systems ask **limited questions**:

- What law was broken?
- Who broke it?
- How do we punish them?

*Criminal justice reform advocates say marijuana legalization must address the harms of the country's decades-long war on drugs campaign with expungement, resentencing and other restorative justice provisions.*

Restorative justice asks **holistic questions**:

- What harm was done and to whom?
- What needs have arisen because of that harm?
- Whose responsibility is it to meet those needs, and how?

**Chuck Schumer Introduces Federal Plan To Decriminalize Weed, Expunge Records Of Cannabis Offenders**

**Therefore, a restorative approach would NEVER penalise people for drug use alone  
Instead, we should prevent and repair the harm caused by the war on drugs.**

# Recommendations

- ✓ Offer restorative justice for all offences with victims (caused by problem drug use or not), including to resolve crime outside of court, during or following court, depending on people's needs.
- ✓ At minimum, we should decriminalise drug possession to prevent and reduce some of the harm directly caused by the war on drugs and its toxifying effects on policing.
- ✓ Provide reparation for communities and individuals harmed by the war on drugs and the police- and criminal justice-led approach.