

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is centered in a clean, sans-serif font.

Restorative justice,
victim assistance and
faith-based
organisations: Now and
Beyond

NOW

- ▶ Faith-based institutions share the values of intense humanness, universal interconnectedness, compassion, respect and reconciliation.
- ▶ These shared values and the overlap with the principles of restorative justice.
- ▶ The “inversion of moral order”.
- ▶ The 'unravelling wrong-doings' that have marred the standing of all major faiths.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- ▶ Faith-based organisations may:
 - Utilize restorative processes to resolve their own conflicts
 - Sponsor, or support their members participation, in restorative practices
 - Advocate for the implementation of restorative programmes as responses to criminal and non-criminal victimisation
 - Encourage communities to support restorative processes, practices and programmes.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

- ▶ Many victims of faith continue to seek comfort and spiritual guidance from religious leaders in the aftermath of crime
- ▶ Faith-based organisations are in a unique position to offer support to victims of crime.
- ▶ Religious leaders and others who staff faith-based organisations, for example, can:
 - ▶ Mobilise resources, such as food banks, clothing stores, charity funds, transportation, and meeting halls to support victims
 - ▶ Make referrals to social supports like employment and housing
 - ▶ Help rebuild familial and community relationships
 - ▶ Advocate for reforms that militate injustice.

BEYOND

- ▶ Great potential to improve outcomes for victims of crime
- ▶ Faith-based organisations can be instrumental in developing and delivering restorative justice practices and victim assistance programmes to right ‘their’ own wrongdoings in non-litigious ways.
- ▶ In nation-states where victims’ rights have not been entrenched in domestic law and in developing nation-states, faith-based organisations could be at the forefront in the development and delivery of victim assistance.

NOW AND BEYOND

- ▶ Faith-based organisations must not simply open their doors to more victims
- ▶ There must be a commensurate realisation of legitimate victim interests and the moral responsibility to help and protect those affected by crime
- ▶ Victims must be more than recipients; rather, faith-based organisations should hold the needs of victims as paramount
- ▶ Faith-based organisations have much at stake and much to contribute – now and beyond