

## > About Sacro

**Sacro's mission is to reduce conflict and offending and to make communities safer.**

Sacro provides a range of Criminal Justice, Community Mediation and Youth Justice services to reduce conflict and offending. These include services to enhance community safety and to address the harm caused by crime, drawing on restorative justice principles.

Sacro services are based on research evidence, user feedback, international standards of good practice and a commitment to development and innovation.

Sacro works with a broad range of people, including those harmed by crime and those responsible for that harm. Where appropriate, it works in partnership with local authorities and other service delivery agencies who share its values.

To find out more about Sacro and the valuable services it provides, please visit our website at:

[www.sacro.org.uk](http://www.sacro.org.uk)



If you would like a translated version of this leaflet, please phone 0131 624 7270 or e-mail [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) quoting reference EDI/388. This leaflet can also be made available in large print or Braille.

In order to make Sacro's services as widely available as possible, we have made every reasonable effort to facilitate easy access to all of our premises for disabled service users. Where this is not possible, we will arrange a suitable, alternative venue.



23 Dalmeny Street is wheelchair accessible.

Bu broşürün çevirisini istiyorsanız, lütfen 0131 624 7270'ı telefonla arayın veya [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) eposta gönderip EDI/388 dosya numarasını söyleyin.

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچہ کا ترجمہ درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی 0131 624 7270 پر ٹیلیفون کریں یا [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) پر ای میل بھیجیں اور ریفرنس نمبر EDI/388 کا حوالہ دیں۔

欲索取這單張的翻譯版本，請電 0131 624 7270，或電郵 [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk)，並說明檔案編號 EDI/388。

إذا كنت تريد نسخة مترجمة من هذه المنشورة الرجاء الاتصال برقم الهاتف **0131 624 7270** أو أرسل بريداً إلكترونياً إلى العنوان [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) واذكر الإشارة رقم **EDI/388**

এই পুস্তিকার অনুবাদ যদি আপনি পেতে চান তাহলে 0131 624 7270 নম্বরে ফোন করে অথবা ই-মেইল করে রেফারেন্স নম্বর EDI/388 উল্লেখ করবেন

Jeśli potrzebne jest tłumaczenie w polskiej wersji językowej, bardzo prosimy o kontakt pod numerem 0131 624 7270 lub drogą e-mailową [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) podając numer referencyjny EDI/388.

If you are uncertain about anything you have read in this leaflet or require further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Sacro at:

### **Edinburgh & Midlothian Restorative Justice Services**

23 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh EH6 8PG

Tel: 0131 622 7500

Fax: 0131 622 7525

Email: [info@lothianrj.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@lothianrj.sacro.org.uk)

Web: [www.sacro.org.uk](http://www.sacro.org.uk)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

© Sacro 2011. Printed on 100% recycled, totally chlorine-free paper.

Leaflet ref: EDI/388

Sacro is a company limited by guarantee. Company registration No. SC86651. Registered charity No. SC016293

# Restorative Justice Services

DIVERSION FROM PROSECUTION





# What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice focuses on what needs to happen to address the harm caused by crime. It does this by enabling communication about the crime to take place safely between the person harmed (the victim) and the person responsible for the harm (the offender). The communication can be direct (face-to-face) or indirect (using a trained facilitator as a 'go-between'). Participation is voluntary. People who have participated in this service have said that their needs have been met in a way that may not have been possible through the court process.

## > What do we offer the person harmed?

We offer the person harmed by crime an opportunity to:

- Ask questions and get answers
- Say how they feel about what happened
- Receive an apology and an offer of amends for the harm done
- Feel safe again.

## > What do we offer the person responsible for the harm?

We offer the person responsible an opportunity to:

- Understand how people have been affected by the crime
- Take personal responsibility for the harm caused
- Take steps to address the harm caused
- Make positive changes so as not to repeat the crime.

## > How are cases selected?

The Procurator Fiscal is responsible for prosecuting cases in court. S/he selects cases considered appropriate for our service.

The court case is then delayed until the outcome of restorative justice is known. If an agreement is reached between the person harmed and the person responsible, it is likely that the Procurator Fiscal will not prosecute the person responsible for the harm.

## > How does it work?

The Procurator Fiscal's Office will make the first contact with you by letter. Sacro will then contact you. You have the opportunity to choose whether to use this Sacro service and decide an agreed way forward, or you can opt for the case to be returned to the Procurator Fiscal for further attention. You can withdraw from the service at any time.

## > What do facilitators do?

We help both the person harmed by the crime and the person responsible for the harm to talk about what happened and find an agreed way forward as an alternative to prosecution. All information is confidential to the service.

## > What if an agreement is broken?

If an agreement is broken and cannot be mended, the case is returned to the Procurator Fiscal for further attention.

It is important to remember that the Procurator Fiscal has the final say in whether or not a case is prosecuted. If you have any doubts about your legal position please contact a solicitor for advice.

If you have any questions or comments about Sacro's Restorative Justice Service please contact us at the address overleaf. Sacro operates a complaints procedure; details are available on request.