

A RESTORATIVE RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

This document was developed over the course of three days through four sessions involving approximately 50 people.

<i>Whereas terrorism is...</i>	⇒	<i>VOMA believes...</i>	⇒	<i>VOMA will...</i>
<p>Intentionally and knowingly hurting non-combatants for the purpose of creating fear and acting outside a set of acceptable “rules” society holds.</p>		<p>People have a right to be safe.</p>		<p>Encourage discussion and diversity of opinion.</p>
<p><i>And the root causes of terrorism are...</i></p> <p>Grounded in a history of violence and war and based on social and economic oppression, injustice, and feelings that a set of double-standards are applied.</p> <p>Facilitated by opportunity and access to weapons and information on how to acquire them.</p> <p>Nurtured when individual or group causes are marginalized, discounted and people aren’t heard.</p>		<p>All people are equally valuable and worthy of respect.</p>		<p>Listen to our international members.</p>
<p><i>And its perpetrators/offenders are...</i></p> <p>Anybody who has a strong sense of passion for the political statement they are trying to make and believes that nothing else will work.</p> <p>Making a symbolic statement that is an expression of their life story.</p> <p>The person or persons that cross the line by escalating to physical violence.</p>		<p>Community is created through person to person relationships and we must work locally to build global responses.</p>		<p>Actively support victims and communities in their healing processes.</p>
<p><i>And its victims are...</i></p> <p>Anybody who has been made vulnerable to attack or has been made fearful of attack.</p> <p>People who can later become perpetrators.</p>		<p>Acts of terrorism shouldn’t be dealt with in isolation and that they reflect a component of a cycle of violence.</p>		<p>Advocate that restorative justice practices be used for resolution of Hate and Bias crimes.</p>
<p><i>The similarities between terrorism and interpersonal crime are...</i></p> <p>They both cause or instill fear.</p> <p>They both provoke a response of retribution.</p> <p>There is community interest in resolution.</p>		<p>Solutions generated from restorative justice practices evolve from the parties, cannot be imposed, and that each party involved has a piece of the answer.</p>		<p>Advocate for restorative justice legislation at all levels of government.</p>
<p><i>The differences are...</i></p> <p>Terrorism is not the end but the means to a goal.</p> <p>Terrorism has a more global political, religious, economic, or ideological purpose.</p>		<p>Restorative justice calls on and evokes the best of human ideals and values. It inspires us to evolve into better human beings and gain a broader understanding of each others’ histories, values, and beliefs.</p>		<p>On a global level, actively educate citizens and governments on restorative justice practices and principles.</p>
				<p>Work to create a forum and the space for bringing globally affected parties together.</p>
				<p>Connect our terrorism experience to other country’s successes and failures in addressing terrorism.</p>
				<p>Learn from other countries experiences in what works in eliminating root causes of terrorism.</p>
				<p>Support international efforts to identify an impartial international authority to facilitate restorative justice practices and principles.</p>