

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><i>And the root causes of terrorism are...</i> 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. Facilitated by opportunity and access to weapons and information on how to acquire them. Nurtured when individual or group causes are marginalized, discounted and people aren’t heard.</p> <p><i>And its perpetrators/offenders are...</i> Anybody who has a strong sense of passion for the political statement they are trying to make and believes that nothing else will work. Making a symbolic statement that is an expression of their life story. The person or persons that cross the line by escalating to physical violence.</p> <p><i>And its victims are...</i> Anybody who has been made vulnerable to attack or has been made fearful of attack. People who can later become perpetrators.</p> <p><i>The similarities between terrorism and interpersonal crime are...</i> They both cause or instill fear. They both provoke a response of retribution. There is community interest in resolution.</p> <p><i>The differences are...</i> Terrorism is not the end but the means to a goal. Terrorism has a more global political, religious, economic, or ideological purpose.</p>	⇒	<p>People have a right to be safe.</p> <p>All people are equally valuable and worthy of respect.</p> <p>Community is created through person to person relationships and we must work locally to build global responses.</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>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>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>Encourage discussion and diversity of opinion.</p> <p>Listen to our international members.</p> <p>Actively support victims and communities in their healing processes.</p> <p>Advocate that restorative justice practices be used for resolution of Hate and Bias crimes.</p> <p>Advocate for restorative justice legislation at all levels of government.</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>