

LETTER TO VOMA

We are writing to express our solidarity with you as colleagues in the aftermath of the recent terrorist actions in your country.

We recognise that many people in the Restorative Justice movement will be facing the consequences of these acts either in their own lives or as practitioners. We feel for those of you who may have lost a relative or friend. We recognise the stress that working with those who have experienced traumatic bereavement can cause.

These acts have understandably unleashed feelings and motives which we in the Restorative Justice movement acknowledge, dealing as we do, with the consequences of crime and victimisation. We also recognise that we need to prevent this extreme violence from becoming the cause of yet further and perhaps even more lasting harm to other individuals and communities, undermining the peace of nations.

The Restorative Justice message is one that may expose the messenger to criticism and rejection. Those who are able to speak it at times like these perform an invaluable task for their country and the human community. It is in this spirit that the European Forum endorses the Communique of the Fifth International Conference on Restorative Justice which encourages a restorative response to these acts.

These are crimes which have touched many countries and traditions simultaneously. Few events have brought the world community together in such a tragic way. We hope that the processes of grieving will bring about healing for some people. We wish you well in any work you are undertaking in response to this event. We hope, too, that we in the Restorative Justice movement can play a part in shaping the responses of our different communities to these acts.

We write this in the sincere belief that justice according to due process and restorative principles must prevail, and in the hope that peace may flourish among the peoples of the world.