

Hello, readers. I want to tell you about a Project (BUILDING BRIDGES) where I have been involved in. This programme is promoted for all people who are related with the crime: offenders, victims, relatives, community members, etc....

First, I want to speak about what it is and tell you more, how my thoughts, feelings and conclusions are once it has finished. The programme is based on Restorative Justice that differentiates three important items:

The first one is the aftercare once the crime has been done.

The second one spotlights the obligation of the offenders to repair the damage caused, helping victims that you have hurt.

In third place, as I said before, it seeks to implicate all those persons who have been affected by crime.

Mates, in this programme I have met wonderful persons. At the beginning, I thought that facing victims of a crime would be madness; I thought that they would give me a bad look and that everything would go wrong. All this was really far from reality. I have felt how this great people have been touched by my story, I have left my feelings and beliefs (that I thought I did not have) to come out.

All of us are equals, the only difference is that I have made mistakes that I have shared and I am trying to minimize them. With all this, I am trying to get that my own victims feel better so that I could feel better myself too; because, the feeling of welfare and peacefulness is awesome.

The fact of having met these persons has revived inside of me the feeling of regret, and what most have surprised me is how people are able to forgive an offender after being suffered the consequences of a crime. During the seven sessions of the programme, I have felt different mood swings. I felt blue, preoccupied and very guilty.

As the sessions passed, I have been feeling better, happier, motivated and all this thanks to the closeness of these persons. We have talk about our issues, we have worked as a team and the truth is that nowadays I feel really good.

I want to encourage you all to participate in the programme which I can guarantee is very enriching. Once you had finished it, you could draw conclusions. Ask the educator of the prison ward.

I want to thank everyone who made this possible and to allow me to participate. Thank you.

By: F.J. Herrero