Restorative Justice and the Criminal Legal System...

Can Restorative Justice Exist Within Our Criminal Legal System?
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Can Restorative Justice Exist Within Our Criminal Legal System?
Restorative Justice

To heal
Restorative Justice

To heal

To make whole

To repair a harm
An Ancient Practice, A Global Practice
4 Important Characteristics

- Voluntary Nature
- Safe/Protected Space*
- Free From Externally-Imposed Rules
- All Are Equal
The Criminal Legal System

The Bronx (An Example)
Top 5 Arraignment Charges in NYC
Top 5 Arraignment Charges in NYC

1. Misdemeanor assault
2. Theft of services (hopping train)
3. Misdemeanor drug possession
4. Petit larceny (petty theft)
5. Misdemeanor possession of MJ

Statistics from Crim Court of City of NY Annual Report 2014
Court date after court date after court date...

As of Jan. 2013:

- 4,755 pending felony cases
- 952 over 2 years old

Statistics from Crim Court of City of NY Annual Report 2014; N.Y.Times articles on Bronx backlog
Statistics from Crim Court of City of NY Annual Report 2014
Incarceration in the United States
INCARCERATION RATES
AMONG FOUNDING NATO MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Incarceration Rate (per 100,000 population)</th>
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<td>United States</td>
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Source: http://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/
What Is The Purpose of the Criminal Legal System?

To Punish
What Is The Purpose of the Criminal Legal System?

To Punish
Restorative Justice

- Voluntary
- Safe Space
- Free From Outside Rules
- All Are Equal

Criminal Legal System
A Tale of Two Systems
So What Do We Do?

Follow your heartbreak.
- Andrew Harvey
Freestanding Circles

Intentionally:

Independent

Community-based

Community-owned
It Is Possible
There can be no true restorative justice in our criminal legal system
But we can build our own restorative justice.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that can.
Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
- Margaret Mead

I want people to see their own power.
- Ai Wei Wei

Prezi created by Cynthia Pong, October 2015