

# Building Bridges Project Conference

Supporting the victims of crime through restorative dialogue: in and outside prisons

Rome, November 19<sup>th</sup> - November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## Keynote speakers

**Dr. Martin Wright** (Former Director of the Howard League for Penal Reform and Policy Officer at Victim Support)

**Prof. Luciano Eusebi** Professor of Law University la Cattolica Milan

**Prof. Gerry Johnstone** (Professor of Law, University of Hull)

**Daniel Van Ness** (Vice President Programmes and Strategic Issues, Prison Fellowship International)

Building Bridges is a European Restorative Justice project focusing on building bridges between offenders and victims of crime. Over two years (2014-15) nine European partners developed, piloted and evaluated a programme which brings together groups of unrelated victims of crime and offenders (prisoners or ex-prisoners) for 'restorative dialogue' and learning.

We have organized this conference to introduce the program and to explore the potential of such programs to bring healing and justice to victims of crime and offenders throughout Europe and beyond. This conference seeks to encourage delegates to reflect on ways to bridge the gap between victim-support organizations and those organizations working primarily with offenders. Working together, these organizations can help their service users to understand each other and address some of their own concerns and emotional difficulties through restorative dialogues. Distinct from mediation or restorative justice, which brings together directly related victims and offenders, this conference opens up the debate on restorative dialogue between these broader groups of people, helping victims to better address their own fears, insecurities, and resentment, and helping to remove some of the barriers that inhibit their return to normal life. Challenges of fear and protectionism continue to strain relationships both between victim- and offender-organizations as well as between their service users. By building bridges between these two worlds we can begin to harness the power of restoration. The conference will explore the challenges involved in establishing and sustaining program of restorative dialogue in and around custodial settings.

The challenges – and potential solutions – will be explored from a range of perspectives including those of Prison Fellowships, restorative justice programme developers and facilitators, policy makers; practitioners working in the fields of criminal justice, prisons and other custodial institutions, and conflict resolution; and scholars and researchers.

The conference will include a number of keynote speeches in which leading figures in the world of restorative justice and victim support will discuss the programme in the context of wider developments in the fields of restorative justice and victim support.

## **Conference themes**

Restoration through victim - offender dialogues; restorative communities; civil society and restorative justice; victim support; victim empathy; offender empathy; tools for facilitators to guide victim-offender dialogues; start your own victim-offender program; preparation for mediation; unrelated victims and offender.

## **Who should attend**

Prison managers, prison staff, social workers, police, pastoral care and counselling, prison psychologists, mediators, community workers, victim offender mediation organisations, NGO's, churches, mosques, prison educators, victim support organisations, restorative justice organisations, governmental officers

## **How to Register and Accommodation**

**To book it please send a mail directly to this address:**

[buildingbridges@consorzioitineraria.it](mailto:buildingbridges@consorzioitineraria.it)

## **Venue**

Hotel [Bellambriana](#), Via Luca Passi, 6, Rome, 00166, Italy.

## **Transports and directions from and to the airport**

**From- to Fiumicino**

<http://www.rome-airport.info/in.html>

**From – To Ciampino**

<http://www.atral-lazio.com/en/ciampino/fsciampino>

<http://www.sitbusshuttle.com/en/ciampino/>

**From Termini to the Hotel**

**Take the Metro Line A towards Battistini direction, get off at Battistini station and outside take the bus 546 at the Bonifazi/battistini stop to Ago direction for 7 tops and get off in Via Luca Passi, Passi/ Crisafulli stop**

**Standard shuttle service from Monday to Friday 8.00-9.45/ 12.45-18.00 from the hotel to Battistini and back for free**

**Or book the shuttle to go directly to the Hotel sending an e-mail to:**

[buildingbridges@consorzioitineraria.it](mailto:buildingbridges@consorzioitineraria.it)



## **PROGRAM**

### **Day 1: November 19**

14:00: Welcome & Opening: Building Bridges Overview  
14:45 Keynote speaker 1: **Dr Martin Wright**  
15: 30: *Coffee break*  
16: 15 Keynote speaker 2: **Prof. Luciano Eusebi**  
17.15 : Closing

### **Day 2: November 20**

09:15: Opening – Introduction  
09:30 : Keynote speaker 3: **Prof. Gerry Johnstone**  
10:10 : Building Bridges project  
11:00: *Coffee Break*  
11:30: Workshops round 1  
13:00: *Lunch*  
14:00: Testimony of a prison director; Workshops round 2  
15:00: *Break*  
15:30: Round Up session: **Daniel Van Ness**  
16:00 : Closing of the conference: Thanks giving

# Keynote Speakers' Profiles

## Martin Wright

The Restorative Justice Council [reports](#) (note the link below for a free download of Wright's "Toward a Restorative Society"): In recognition of his outstanding contribution to restorative justice, Martin Wright, was presented the European Restorative Justice Award by the European Forum for Restorative Justice. Dr Wright is a founding member of the Restorative Justice Council, seminal restorative justice author and practicing restorative justice facilitator. A leading penal reformer in the UK Martin Wright is a former Director of the Howard League for Penal Reform and Policy Officer at Victim Support. His academic titles include Librarian of the Cambridge Institute of Criminology, Senior Research Fellow, De Montfort University, Leceister and Honorary Fellow of the Institute for Conflict Resolution, Bulgaria.

Martin's publications include *Justice for Victims and Offenders* (1996), *Restoring Respect for Justice: A Symposium* (1999), *Making Good: Prisons, Punishment and Beyond* (2008) and most recently [Towards a Restorative Society: a problem-solving response to harm](#) (2010) published by the RJC (available for download [here](#)).

Not content with contributing academically and through his advocacy, Martin trained as restorative justice facilitator and is an active volunteer mediator for CALM mediation service and Lambeth Mediation Service.

The RJC welcomes this recognition of Martin Wright's outstanding contribution to restorative justice and joins the restorative movement in thanking him for his many years of dedication to its principles, practice and development.

via [News / Restorative Justice Council](#).

## Luciano Eusebi

He is professor of Criminal Law at the Faculty of Law at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, where he teaches Criminal Law II.

In his writings he has deepened, especially issues relating to the theory of punishment and reform the sentencing system, the elements of guiltiness and, in general, the theory of the crime. He has devoted several studies on the relationship between problems in penal and religious perspective. Also it paid constant attention through numerous essays, questions of bio-legal sphere.

He is a member, in the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, the University Pastoral Council at the Milan office (as delegate of the Dean), the Board of the Centre "Federico Stella 'criminal justice and criminal policy (CSGP), the Scientific Committee of the Center University of Bioethics, the directors of the Research Center "Educating for legality"

He lecturer to teach Criminal Law I-II at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

He was a member, in the years 2006-2008, the Commission for the reform of Penal Code chaired by the lawyer Giuliano Pisapia and, in the years 2002-2006, the National Committee for Bioethics.

## Gerry Johnstone

joined the Law School in 1989, after completing a PhD at the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Criminology and the Social and Philosophical Study of Law. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2000 and Reader in 2002 and appointed Professor of Law in 2003. He served the Law School as Head of Department (2003-2006) and has twice served the Law School as Research Director (2000-2002, 2009-2013). He is the Founding Director of the University's [MA in Restorative Justice](#)<sup>2</sup> which is taught in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences.

Professor Johnstone has served as an external examiner for law courses at a number of Universities including Birkbeck College (University of London), Brunel University, King's College London, and University of Strathclyde. He is currently an external examiner at the University of Leicester and the University of Ulster.

Johnstone is a member of the editorial team of [Restorative Justice: an International Journal](#)<sup>4</sup> which commenced publication (by Hart publishing) in 2013. He is a member of the European Forum for Restorative Justice and the European Society of Criminology. He has worked as a consultant for Belgian Science Policy and the Council of Europe's Working Group on Penological Cooperation. He is a regular contributor to debates about the nature and purpose of legal education and has published journal articles and book chapters on this subject.

## Daniel Van Ness

Dan Van Ness has been immersed in criminal justice issues for 30 years, as a lawyer, restorative justice advocate, and teacher. After six years' poverty law practice on the West Side of Chicago, he worked with a national justice reform organization lobbying for changes in sentencing and victim rights issues. His interest in restorative justice began in 1982 when he met Howard Zehr and Mark Umbreit while promoting expansion of community corrections in Indiana. Dan has worked with Prison Fellowship International's Centre for Justice and Reconciliation since 1996. Dan was a primary architect of the United Nations of Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters. He is the author of articles, papers, and several books on restorative justice, the most recent of which are *Restoring Justice*, 3rd edition (co-authored with Karen Heetderks Strong) and *Handbook of Restorative Justice* (co-edited with Gerry Johnstone).

### With the further Participation and Intervention of

- Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson of the Vatican department for justice and peace
- Dr. Cosimo Maria Ferri – secretary for Justice ministry
- Dr. Giacinto Siciliano Director of the maximum security Prison of Milan "Opera"