

Restorative Actions Across Borders

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Crossing borders



When dialogues are missing...



“Here we are!”



Hoping to reach Germany



Ad-hoc camps



Failed Citizenship



Restorative Actions Across Borders

How it started?

September, 2015 Circle group conversation with university students and professionals to explore what is needed, how and where to respond, based on restorative questions

- What happened for you?
- How have you and other been affected?
- What had been the hardest thing for you?
- What are your greatest fears or concerns?
- What are the main issues for you?
- What needs to happen next / what can we do?
- Where do you see your role?

At the IIRP training in Kortrijk (Be) Vidia Negrea, Eva Fahlstrom Borg,, Emanuela Biffi and Ian Marder: **Planning the 'Restorative Actions Without (RAWB) lather change to Restorative Actions Across Borders' (RAAB)**

Aim:

- provide a safe space to share feelings, concerns, stories, needs
- **Define roles and take actions in order to find peace and restore human dignity**

Main questions

- *Do we have a role in responding to this?*
- *What is our role as restorative practitioners?*
- *What we would like to achieve?*
- *What would be the barriers, difficulties or challenges?*
- *How can we support each other or work with each other?*
- *How can we measure our efficiency?*

The answers are in processes where we open to *people needs* and connect with those who have the same vision or needs so, we can develop **with** them.

Gain more experience with restorative circle discussions and see what are the needs and possibilities



Action:
 tomorrow - Rob's declaration
 organize RC about political
 decisions

- Target country
 - Professional
 R J / R P

Needs
 ① list, information, communication
 - educational component
 why, how, numbers
 - know the efforts
 - reaching out to other group
 - Sharing inspirational activities "every small thing matters"
 - knowledge of background and history (ec, political, social)

- Communities / NGO / Churches
 ? Together
 - Politician
 - International org. & agencies

Circles in US, Netherlands, Egypt



I. Needs of professionals

- Join forces to avoid duplications in rendering voluntary professional help needed in acute emergencies .
 - Share and collect relevant articles and information
 - **Share experiences and the lessons learned,**
- **Develop a variety of circle's script within a restorative framework suitable to the situation and needs of the groups**
- Trainings and face to face supervision (or Skype)
 - Hands-on-interventions and active fieldwork in the countries of origin, in camps, communities
 - Teach leaders (natural leaders) from the countries of origin, camps and hosting communities
 - Proposals for future interventions, integration, education

Exploring the potential of RP in Poelkapelle (Belgium)

- 1. Gain **more experience** with restorative circle and group discussions with staff, volunteers, refugees (habitants) and locals to **understand the needs and main trans-cultural differences and its implication on interventions.**
 - How to live together?
 - How to show our human face?
 - How to express our own needs?
 - How to balance the negative messages coming from media?
 - How does a common vision for the future can be developed?
 - What can be our role now and in the future?

Sharing personal stories

- https://youtu.be/MLdY_0eCdVc
- <http://www.langemark-poelkapelle.be/website/5161-www.html?branch=1&language=1>

II. Needs of the 'habitants'

Understand

Find peace with oneself and other

Be engaged

Have an active role in gaining positive experiences

Regain trust, hope, dignity





Circles discussion to plan activities within the camp WITH the habitants, not To them or For them.

Example: organizing and addressing the concerns of having **Iftar** together



III. Needs of the staff

Support and time to deal with all kind of tensions:

- Unaccompanied minors with behavioral problems
- Dealing with trauma
- Long procedure
- Crisis of being rejected
- Cultural differences
- Language barriers
- Fear & mistrust



IV. Needs of the local community: “we offer a lot of help For them, but They aren’t very interested”



Where are we now?

- Aug: new E-Forum article about RAAB- new people showing interest to connect
- September: Circle training in Poelkapelle with Stijn Deprez (Ligand) for the staff (habitants and locals excluded).
- October: interview for TOA Magazine (toa-servicebuero.de)
- November: Skype supervision with the team from Poelkapelle

Conclusion: “Circles works because they can provide the safe space for our needs”



Similarities of the needs expressed in different circle conversations :

- Need for safety (emotional and physical)
- Need for information, connection and relationships
- Need to be heard and receive support
- Need to be involved in decisions
- Need to be in control of ones own life
- Need for a better outcome and future

Lessons learned

- As RP practitioners we have to learn and hear the needs of all the stakeholders, in order to support the journey of:
 - Restoring the beliefs in self, in the relationships and in a common vision from now to future
 - Developing a new identity and citizenship
 - Building the foundation for safe communities
 - Building the bridge between the cultures (e.g.: individualistic vs. collectivistic values)

What can we do next?

What are the challenges?

What are the possibilities?

- **Need to learn how to connect, develop, innovate together**

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Thank you for your attention!