

# Local scholar on review team for United Nations handbook

Bethlehem: Paul McCold, a founding faculty member of the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP), a graduate school based in Bethlehem, Pa., was one of the international experts who reviewed the “Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes,” just published by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes Criminal Justice Reform Unit.

Dr. McCold is also the chair of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a United Nations working group that has been instrumental in helping to bring restorative justice to the attention of that world organi-

zation.

The handbook is an introduction to the theory and practice of restorative justice and a guide for nations and practitioners that wish to implement restorative justice.

Restorative justice, processes that involve victims, offenders and their family and friends in determining how best to repair the harm of offending and criminal behavior, is a form of restorative practices, an emerging social science that enables people to restore and build community in an increasingly disconnected world.

The handbook is “a major roadmap for criminal justice reform,” said McCold.



**PAUL McCOLD**

“Besides explicit and consistent terms and definitions, it provides inspiration and exam-

ples of current restorative justice programs from a variety of countries and cultures.”

The publication of the Handbook, added McCold, “elevates restorative justice to the level of United Nations basic principles on the conduct for law enforcement officials, the independence of the judiciary, treatment of prisoners, administration of juvenile justice, and justice for victims of crime.”

McCold was a member of an international experts group, which reviewed a draft of the handbook last January at United Nations Headquarters, in Vienna, Austria.

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The IIRP has been very active in implementing restorative justice in Bucks County, facilitating restorative justice conferences (such as the conference following the arson of Mood's Covered Bridge, in East Rockhill Township).

Visit [iirp.org](http://iirp.org) or call 610-807-9221 for information on classes.