



In March 2002 I caught a burglar – Pete - in my house.

The next time we met was in Pentonville Prison at a Restorative Justice conference. Little did I know that that meeting was going to change both our lives for the better; but that meeting helped me understand the answer the question Why me? and to move on with my life. It also transformed Pete's life as he realised for the first time the real impact of his crimes.

Ever since that life-changing event I have been working with the Restorative Justice Consortium (RJC) to make sure that in future all victims of crime will have the same opportunity to take part in RJ that I did...

I know from my own experience that the Criminal Justice System does not represent victims of crime at all. Many of us and our loved ones suffer needlessly because of this. Working with other victims of crime who share my experience that RJ has given us a voice and a way forward, we have set up a group called Why me? - a question every victim has asked at one time or another. We have done this with the support of our Patron, Baroness Tessa Blackstone. We aim to:

- Give victims of crime and conflict who have benefited from Restorative Justice an opportunity to have their voices heard
- Raise awareness of RJ through speaking to the media, giving talks, and providing our own real life experiences as case studies showing the difference RJ makes
- Lobby for access to high quality RJ for all victims of crime who want it.

If you share in this vision please join in our work. There are many ways to be involved:

- Join Why me? as a supporter via our website [www.why-me.org](http://www.why-me.org);
- Donate funds to support our office costs and media work;
- If you can, offer to speak about your own experience of RJ in local or national media – we hope to provide media training for supporters who are happy to speak to the media though media requests handled by the RJC
- Join the Why me? Steering Group to help manage the development of the new organization - we meet monthly in London;
- Spread the word – anyone who shares our vision can join us as a supporter, so please let other potential supporters know about Why Me? and put them in touch with us.

We believe that all victims of crime and conflict should have the opportunity to benefit from RJ. As victims of crime we have a unique and powerful voice as advocates for the development of Restorative Justice; and the more people involved, the stronger our voice will be. If you would like to register your support for Why me? or simply get in touch, please email me at [info@why-me.org](mailto:info@why-me.org)

I look forward to hearing from you

Will Riley - Chair