



# Change

Empowerment & Restoration

**Covid-19  
wave of  
violence against  
women shows  
EU countries  
still lack proper  
safeguards**



## C4C Website & Social Media Channels

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0QX008WHiJB14zP3a4E8Zw>



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[www.achance4change.eu](http://www.achance4change.eu)

### OPEN LETTER:

## The Decriminalisation of Rape & Restorative Justice



On the 17th of December 2020, RJ4ALL wrote an open letter towards the Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon Robert Buckland, MP for South Swindon since 2010. The letter with title The Decriminalisation of Rape & Restorative Justice is presented below:  
“We write on behalf of the Restorative Justice for All International Institute (RJ4All), a charitable NGO with a mission to advance community cohesion and human rights. Since

our inception, RJ4All has carried out numerous Violence Against Women (VAW) programmes, and through the evidence that we have collected we wish to add our support to the views and findings of the recent Report on the Decriminalisation of Rape as well as other academic evidences on the matter including our own such as:

- Gavrielides, T. (2019). Collapsing the criminal labels of domestic violence: A social and restorative justice approach, London: RJ4All Publications.
- Gavrielides, T. (2018). Human Rights and Restorative Justice, London: RJ4All Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-00-3.
- Gavrielides, T. (2018). Equality Matters for Restorative Justice, London: RJ4All



## The Partnership



# “When state agencies fail so fundamentally it becomes critical for Government to take action. Legislation is needed.”

Publications. ISBN 978-1-911634-03-4.

- Gavrielides, T. (2015). “Is Restorative Justice appropriate for Domestic Violence cases?”, *Social Work Review*, XIV, nr. 4/2015, pp. 105-121
- Gavrielides, T. and V. Artinopoulou (2012). “Violence against women and restorative justice”, *Asian Journal of Criminology*, Volume 8, Issue 1, pp 25-40 ISSN 1871-0131.
- Gavrielides, T. (2017). “Structured & Unstructured Restorative Justice: The case of violence against women” in Halder, D. and Jaishankar, K. (Eds). *Therapeutic Jurisprudence and Overcoming Violence Against Women*, Pensilvania: IGI Global Publications. RJ4All has often pointed out its concerns in relation to the proper functioning of the criminal justice system and its various agencies. We are particularly concerned in relation to carrying out consistently their legal functions in relation to the investigation and prosecution of rape. Protestations have been made to the

contrary, but figures and the testimony of survivors do not lie. We have long advocated for the empowerment of survivors to represent their own needs and reach their own outcomes through restorative justice. In the current situation the Criminal Justice agencies (the CJS) actually prevent this from happening – they do not deliver just or positive outcomes and as currently constituted they fail victims of rape in particular. We are also currently carrying out a VAW EU funded programme <https://www.achance4change.eu/> which we would be keen to present to you. When state agencies fail so fundamentally it becomes critical for Government to take action. Legislation is needed. A Victim’s Law has been years in the waiting and RJ4All has expressed its concerns on a number of occasions. We refer you to some examples of the evidences we have presented on the matter:

- Gavrielides, T. (2017). “Collapsing the



by Suzy Hazelwood, published photo on pexels.com

labels “victim” and “offender” in the Victims’ Directive & the paradox of Restorative Justice”. Vol 6 *International Journal of Restorative Justice*, p. 368-381.

- Gavrielides, T. (2015). “The Victims’ Directive and What Victims Want from Restorative Justice”, *Victims and Offenders Journal*, DOI 10.1080/15564886.2014.982778

The time has come to legalise victims’ rights. The Victims’ Code is not enforceable and is not complied with. The role of the Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses (V.C.) needs to be enhanced as a matter of urgency and in line with the recent report into the “Constitutional Powers of the Victims’ Commissioner for England and Wales.” We advocate for the following measures:

- Legal Representation for victims: There is a pressing need for victims to have access to proper legal representation, both in cases of public interest and to enforce victim legislation and regulation. The status of the victim in court as a merely a witness for the Crown is archaic. Ask any woman who has been raped whether she regards herself as not being a legal “party to the proceedings?”
- Right of Address: We advocate for the law to be changed so that victims have the right of address in court, especially in certain circumstances



## “...the right of address in court...”

where their character and evidence are challenged as being perjured, or where the allegations made against them may place them at risk.

- Civil prosecutions: As an interim solution, victims should be enabled to pursue those cases set aside by Police and CPS in the civil courts. Victims should have the ability to bring their case to court, and to a conclusion, in a timely manner.
- The Role of the Victims’ Commissioner should be enhanced in line with the recent report into the “Constitutional Powers of the Victims’ Commissioner

for England and Wales.” Especially in relation to powers to enforce compliance with relevant regulations and also to receive and direct complaints.

- The role of restorative justice as an educational and prevention tool will need to be revisited with genuine intentions. We have evidence to believe that previous government attempts to promote restorative justice were based on the wrong premise following false assumptions and promises. A wider and more inclusive engagement with restorative justice practitioners working

in the community and not only through top down institutions will need to take place. We will continue to use our research and community-based projects to empower and protect victims. RJ4All would be keen to engage with your Department to take these recommendations forward.

Best wishes,  
Ben Lyon  
Chair of the Board  
Dr. Professor Theo Gavrielides  
Founder & Director RJ4ALL  
Gabrielle Brown  
Board Member





## Bullying and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace



On the 25th of November which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women reminds us of a long-standing problem faced by women around the world. Violence against women is a serious violation of her human rights.

In view of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Committee on Labor, Welfare and Social Security of the 4th House of Young Representatives organized an online discussion on "Bullying, Bullying and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace".

Violence against women has many faces. It is not only physical and sexual, there are many forms of abuse such as verbal / psychological, financial etc

as well as various types of violence (companion / marital and domestic, sexual harassment, trafficking, etc.), which mainly affect women .

It is important for women who experience any form of violence not to hesitate or be afraid to speak out. It is imperative that they call for help immediately. Especially this difficult period we are going through with the coronavirus pandemic with the inclusion and restriction of movement. According to data provided by SPAVO to the public from the beginning of the disease until today, we have had a rapid increase in incidents of violence against women.

Zero tolerance and acceptance towards any form of violence!

Message from the Committee on Labor, Welfare and Social Security of the 4th House of Youth Representatives of Cyprus. [See the discussion \(in Greek\)](#)



On the 16th of December OTI participated in the General Assembly of Anna Lindh Foundation Cyprus Network and as a new member of the network we presented current projects of the organisation and of course, Theo Mavrosavva, International Projects Manager of OTI and Communications Officer of C4C, presented in the discussion the outcomes of the project and invited the network to participate in the piloting of the self-assessment tool that was launched recently and invited them to follow also the future e-courses . Many organisations want to engage in the project as it develops.

## A Chance for Change: Empowerment & Restoration

[www.achance4change.eu](http://www.achance4change.eu)

KA205 - Strategic Partnership for Youth

2019-1-UK01-KA205-061341

