

Introduction to Restorative Justice

A Better Response to Harm than Mass Incarceration

Connecting 4 Justice Conference 2024

Kathie Gourlay & Carolyn Madden, <https://friendsofrestorativejustice.org>
gourlay222@gmail.com & cgmadden@gmail.com

Purposes of r j – after harm or conflict to heal people and strengthen the relationship between those who caused harm and those who were harmed. It may involve the community, who often times has been harmed. It centers the person harmed.

Comparison of Current System with Restorative Justice

Retributive Model	Restorative Model
Crime is a violation of the law	Crime is a violation or a harm to people and relationships
The State is the victim	The person harmed is the victim.
The aim of justice is to establish blame and administer punishment.	The aim of justice is to identify obligations, meet needs, and promote healing.
Justice is a conflict between adversaries where one side wins and the other loses.	Justice involves the victims, offenders, and community in a dialogue to reach mutually agreed upon solutions.

Explore Further

Bucks County Bridge video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pgPN61eVQA> [35 minutes]

Danielle Sered video “Why Do We Need Restorative Justice?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N3LihLvfa0> [3 minutes]

<https://www.weareallcriminals.org/probation-officer-harassment-bullying-terroristic-threats-trespassing-criminal-damage-property/> and other people featured at weareallcriminals.org

Books

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson – Stories of how our system hurts people, especially the poor, black people, children, and those with intellectual disabilities.

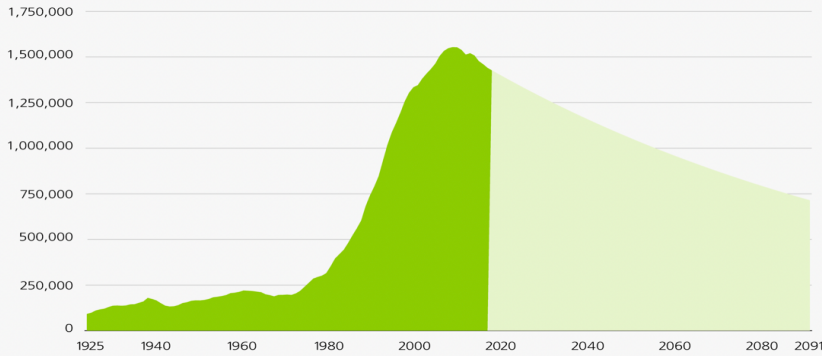
The Little Book of Restorative Justice or Changing Lenses by Howard Zehr

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander – She explains mass incarceration and its relationship to slavery and racism.

Until we Reckon by Danielle Sered – Explains the advantages of restorative justice. Also see her 3-minute video which link is above.

Why we Need Restorative Justice?

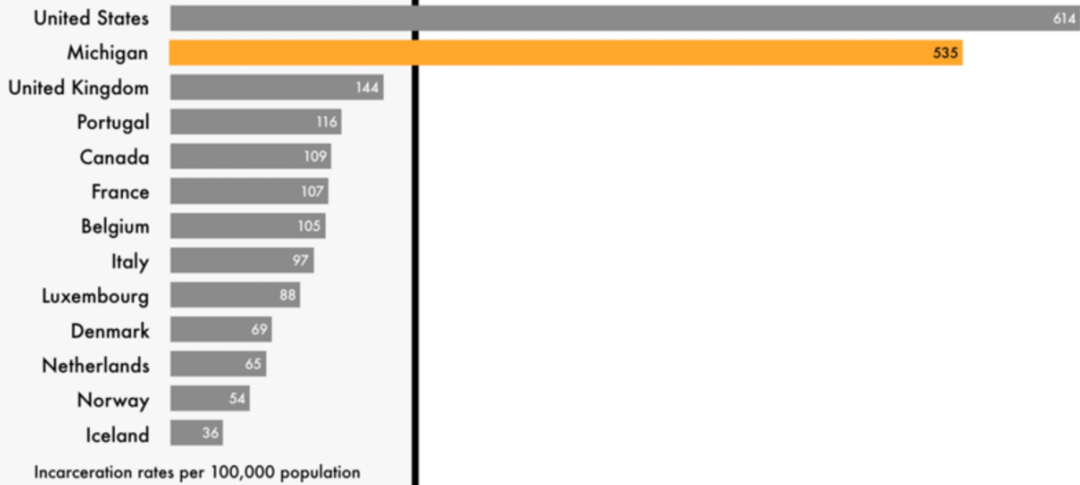
Table 1. Historical and projected U.S. federal and state prison population, based on 2009-2017 rate of decline



Sources of historical figures: Bureau of Justice Statistics (1982) "Prisoners 1925-81"; Bureau of Justice Statistics Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool; Bronson, J and Carson, E.A. (2019). Prisoners in 2017. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available at <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p17.pdf>

INCARCERATION RATES

COMPARING MICHIGAN AND FOUNDING NATO COUNTRIES



Source: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2024.html>

Race in Incarceration System

