

What would YOU say?



Sami confronts the boy who assaulted her, leaving her afraid to go out. She wants answers.

Previously...



“I feel ashamed, and too scared of what might happen to tell anyone”

six months ago...

Sami didn't know where to turn... but her friends said she should speak out, and with their support she was able to report it. She didn't want it to happen to anyone else.

Now she was going to face him at an RJ meeting. Although there would be someone with her, she was scared...



Young people aged 10-18 are more likely to be victims of crime than any other group



“I realised that it was him that had the problem, I actually felt sorry for him”

the meeting

At first she was angry with him, she wanted to tell him that now she was afraid going out alone, how she had needed counselling, how her whole family was affected...

As the meeting went on he told her about his life, and how getting caught had really made him realise he had to change things. He said he wished he could turn the clock back.



85% felt that their RJ meeting was helpful and they felt better afterwards

Ben's story

Ben was cycling through the park when he saw three boys coming towards him on bmx bikes.

He was chased and pulled off his bike, his bag was stolen with his school work, phone and keys. He was badly bruised and became fearful of going out on his bike.

A few weeks later he was offered an opportunity to have an RJ meeting with one of them.



“Getting some answers really helped me get over it”



As few as 15% of violent crimes against young people are reported

Alex's story

"It started with name calling, there was a group at school who wouldn't leave me alone.

Then I started getting texts, and rumours were going round Facebook, I was really scared"

Alex finally reported the abuse after getting death threats. An RJ meeting was offered to Alex following the court case.



"After the meeting I just didn't feel so angry any more"



Over 50% lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils have experienced homophobic bullying

2012 Survey of 1600 pupils by Stonewall

RJ explained

RJ (restorative justice) is a way of dealing with crime that takes the experience and feelings of the victim into account.

It is an opportunity to explain the full impact of crime and get some answers. It can be a face to face meeting, or a written exchange.

It is voluntary, and both sides have to agree to meet. There is always an experienced person present, and a friend or family member can be there as well.

“It was hard reporting it, at first I wanted to keep it to myself”

“I didn’t want it to happen to someone else”

“RJ gave me a voice, I felt much stronger afterwards”

“I got more support than I expected”



RJ helps the offender too, studies show that it reduces repeat offences

Help & support



Find RJ uk on Facebook

Info and help to report a crime:

www.youandco.org.uk

General advice, info and help :

www.childline.org.uk or call

0800 111 free & confidential, anytime



**Don't keep it to
yourself!**