

# Now YOU can have a voice...

*Karla was used to being bullied, called names and taunted by the others. But when lies started going around Facebook she felt really threatened... a friend finally persuaded her to report the abuse.*



**6 months later...**

**I was scared  
what would  
happen**

**you made  
me feel  
worthless**

**I was  
desperate**

*Karla was nervous about the RJ meeting, but she knew that she wouldn't be alone this time, and she wanted to understand why she had been picked on. Did they realise how they made her feel? It seemed like just a game to them...*

*"It was a difficult thing to do, but I really wanted to tell her how badly she'd hurt me..."*

*I felt such relief afterwards"*

Rj can be offered where a crime has been committed and the offender has been caught. It is voluntary, and both sides have to agree to it.

**If you, or someone you know, has been affected by bullying that has become threatening don't keep it to yourself!**

find out more...



RJ uk



A PROJECT OF WHY ME?  
CHARITY REG NO 1137123

# What would YOU say?

At an RJ meeting Sami finally confronts the boy who assaulted her, leaving her afraid to go out on her own. Now she wants answers, she wants her life back...



## Previously...



Sami didn't know where to turn... She felt scared and unsafe but her friends said she should speak out, and with their help she was able to report it. Facing him at the RJ meeting was tough, but she was prepared and had good support.

**"At last I feel I can move on"**

**100 hours community service for attack on school girl**  
... was found guilty and sentenced to 100 hours of community service.  
... the court heard how Smith had been involved in a local group of who had targeted local schools.  
... the judge commended the courage of the girl for going forward and reporting the assault.  
... it had had a profound effect on her and was a source of support for members of the family and the wider community.

RJ 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 impact of a crime or harmful act. It can be a face to face meeting, or a written exchange.

**If you, or someone you know, has been affected by bullying that has become threatening don't keep it to yourself!**



find out more...  RJ uk

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## **How does RJ work?**

If you have been affected by crime your views and feelings are important. RJ gives you the chance to get your views and feelings heard, so you have a voice in the process.

RJ can be arranged through your victim liaison officer who will explain the different options available to you. These can range from receiving a letter of apology, to a face to face meeting which could involve all the people affected by the crime getting together. You can bring family or someone else you're close to to the meeting to support you in giving your views. If you don't want to be there someone else might be able to represent you.

## **Why get involved?**

Taking part in the RJ process gives you the chance to:

- tell your side of the story
- get your questions answered, especially questions about your safety
- help the person who has committed the crime understand the effects of what they have done
- encourage them not to do it again
- get the person who has hurt you to make amends for what they've done
- have a say in what happens next
- feel better about what you have gone through.

The RJ process is voluntary for everyone involved, so you can withdraw, or change your mind, at any time. In the same way, the person who has committed the crime may also withdraw or change their mind; if this happens you will be informed and advised about what happens next.

**restorative** = something that revives health, strength, or well-being

**justice** = just or fair treatment in law or society