

## Do I have to do this?

No, you have a right, under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, to information about this meeting and how you can take part. If you don't want it – it doesn't happen. If you want to meet, we will support you all the way.

## What is the point of it?

Research has shown it can help reduce fear of crime, post-traumatic stress and may even stop it happening again to someone else.

Why me? is a charity which encourages and helps victims of crime to take part in Restorative Justice meetings. Why me? believes that Restorative Justice meetings restore a sense of control through a better understanding of why it happened.

## Where and when would it take place?

Discuss this with the facilitator who can advise you on locations and times. The facilitator can also explain how the meeting would be handled before you make up your mind.

## What about safety?

Safety is the facilitator's top priority. This meeting may not be easy, but a risk assessment will ensure it is safe for you.

*“I got home and felt completely different about the house. It's home again and I don't have to be scared”*

Margaret Foxley, burglary victim

## Contact your Why me? Restorative Justice Facilitator



**Why me?** promotes the right of everyone who has suffered as a result of a crime to have their chance to talk about what happened with the offender.

Contact [ask@why-me.org](mailto:ask@why-me.org) or visit [www.why-me.org](http://www.why-me.org)

Why me? 7-14 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YR  
Telephone: 020 3096 7708 Email: [info@why-me.org](mailto:info@why-me.org)  
[www.why-me.org](http://www.why-me.org)

Charity registration: 1137123 Company no: 6992709  
Registered in England. Limited by guarantee.

Registered office as above.

**Imagine** the person who has caused you harm is sitting opposite...

What would **you** say?

Restorative Justice for victims

*Why me?*

## Picture it...

You are in a room with some people sitting on chairs.

There is a person called a facilitator who makes sure the meeting is safe and respectful.

The person who offended against you is there.

You could have a friend or relative with you.

### Who would you like with you?

The facilitator introduces everyone and asks the offender to describe what happened.

You listen to what they have to say.

You may need to ask some questions to help you understand better what happened.

Think of some questions. You could make a note below or on another piece of paper.

### What do you want to ask the offender?

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The facilitator will ask the offender,

***“Who was affected by the crime?”***

The facilitator will then ask the offender,

***“How were people affected by the crime?”***

The offender may have an answer but you will know best how the crime affected you.

The facilitator will then ask you some questions. They could be:

*“Describe how you first became aware of what happened?”*

*“What were you thinking at the time?”*

*“How did you feel at the time?”*

*“How do you feel now?”*

*“What is most difficult for you about what happened?”*

*“Who else was affected?”*

The offender listens to what you have to say.

### What do you want the offender to know about what happened to you?

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### What do you think the offender will say in reply to you?

Now that you have been listened to, the facilitator will ask the offender what they now think about what they did.

Next, the facilitator will ask you:

*“What would make things better for you?”*

**What would you say?**

**What do you need?**

**What would you like to come out of the meeting?**

**What could stop it happening again?**

Everyone in the room could come up with ideas to deal with what happened and for the future.

If promises are made, the facilitator will write them down and create an Outcome Agreement.

**That’s it! You have just imagined yourself through a Restorative Justice meeting.**

*Do you think you could ask those questions to the offender?*

*Do you think you could say these things to the offender?*

If so, the facilitator can try to make it happen for you by asking the offender if they will meet you.

However serious the crime, this meeting can provide answers and some peace of mind for victims of crime.

### Do I have to do this?

No, the victim has a right to ask for this meeting under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime but no one will force you to meet. The meeting will have no impact on your sentence. If you agree to meet, we will support you all the way.

### What is the point of it?

Research shows it can help reduce fear of crime, post-traumatic stress in some victims and has helped some offenders who want to stop offending.

Why me? is a charity which encourages and helps victims of crime take part in Restorative Justice meetings.

### Where and when would it take place?

Discuss this with the facilitator who can advise you on locations and times. The facilitator can also explain how your meeting would be handled before you make up your mind.

### What about safety?

Safety is the facilitator's top priority. This meeting may not be easy, but a risk assessment will ensure it is safe for you.

*"I felt that what he was saying was coming from the heart rather than what he would say in court. I could hear about what he actually felt about the situation, we also managed to get our point of view across to him"*

Burglary victim

### Contact your Why me? Restorative Justice Facilitator



**Why me?** promotes the right of everyone who has suffered as a result of a crime to have their chance to talk about what happened with the offender.

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**Imagine** the person who was the victim of your offence is sitting opposite...



Restorative Justice for people who have offended

*Why me?*

## Picture it...

You are in a room with some people sitting on chairs.

There is a person called a facilitator who makes sure the meeting is safe and respectful.

The person who you offended against is there.

You could have a friend or relative with you.

## Who would you like with you?

The facilitator introduces everyone and asks you to **describe what happened**.

The victim of your crime listens to what you have to say.

The victim may not know everything about what happened and may need to ask you some questions.

Think of some questions you could be asked. You could make a note below or on another piece of paper.

## What will the victim ask you?

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The facilitator will ask you,

**“Who was affected by the crime?”**

Then,

**“How were people affected by the crime?”**

## What will you say?

The facilitator will then ask the victim...

- ◆ To describe how they first became aware of what happened.
- ◆ What they were thinking at the time.
- ◆ How did they feel at the time?
- ◆ How do they feel now?
- ◆ What has been most difficult for them about what happened?
- ◆ Who else was affected?

## What will the victim say about the crime to you?

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You listen to what he or she says in reply.

After you have heard what the victim says, you will be asked, **“How do you feel about what you did now?”**

## What would you say to the victim now?

Next, the facilitator will ask the victim, “What would make things better for you?”

## What do you think the victim will say?

- What could you do to make things better?
- What could come out of the meeting?
- What could stop you from doing the same again?

Everyone in the room could come up with ideas to deal with what happened and for the future.

If promises are made, the facilitator will write them down and create an Outcome Agreement.

## That’s it! You have just imagined yourself through a Restorative Justice meeting.

**Do you think you could answer those questions from the victim?**

**Do you think you could listen to what the victim has to say?**

**Would you like an opportunity to make things better?**

If so, the facilitator can try to make it happen for you by asking the victim if they will meet you.

However serious the crime, this meeting can provide answers and some peace of mind for everyone affected by it.