

LLM Restorative Justice



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Teaching and assessment (2014): Semester 1, Essay - 6,000 words

Module description:

Restorative Justice is an innovative approach that has been advanced in recent years as an alternative way of dealing with offending behaviour by making victims, offenders and communities the key participants in working out how to deal with the aftermath of crime. With emphasis upon repairing the harm that has been caused, notions of responsibility of the offender, restoration of the victim and reintegration of the offender back into the community are some of the central principles of restorative justice. Despite the growing interest in the theory of restorative justice and the increasing popularity world wide of restorative justice programmes, this topic is a subject of intense debate. The aim of the module is to explore some of the key aspects of restorative justice

theory and practice and will also focus upon the major issues within the debate. Although the emphasis will be on examples of restorative justice arrangements in England and Wales, where appropriate reference will be made to comparative material from other countries.

Seminar topics:

- Introduction to restorative justice and key restorative processes
- History and development of restorative justice
- Defining restorative justice: core values and critical issues
- Stakeholder participation: the role of the victim
- Stakeholder participation: the role of the offender, the community and the state
- Restorative justice: an alternative to punishment or an alternative punishment?
- Restorative justice conferencing for young offenders: case studies of New Zealand and Northern Ireland
- Restorative justice responses for young offenders in England and Wales
- Restorative justice and offences of sexual and domestic violence
- Restorative detention: the use of restorative justice in prisons
- Restorative justice after large-scale violence or oppression: examples of transitional justice