

RPI Newsletter – 1st September 2026



Hello everyone,

And hoping this finds all our readers well as we move from summer mode into that “back to school” phase of the year and all that that entails. We truly have a bumper edition this month with, first and foremost, details of our upcoming conference next month and how you can register. In addition to this we also feature a number of other fantastic events and training. Read on for details of:

- National Conference
- RP + Complementary Models Event (Narrative 4 and Collaborative and Proactive Solutions)
- RP + Active Bystander Approaches - another lens on our restorative outlook
- New National Framework on Restorative Justice
- Cool It! - Young Person Anti-Violence Programme report
- Brand New Irish RP Podcast from the 2J's (Jenn and Joe)
- and other upcoming RPI CoP and Book Club dates

It's all happening this month, but pride of place has to go to the conference launch.

RPI National Conference 17th October, Maynooth University



After a three year gap, RPI is delighted to announce the resumption of our National Conference. With the theme of “Safe Spaces, Healing Places: Intersecting Trauma Awareness, Wellbeing and Restorative Practices” we will gather in Maynooth University next month with an incredible line up of individual workshops and also our keynote speaker, Joe Brummer. Joe is one of, if not, the leading experts in trauma-informed RP in the world today. He has written two books on the topic and appeared on numerous podcasts, as well as now having his own [podcast](#), and is sure to set the stage for an amazing day of conversation, connection and the ongoing building of our community.

In addition to Joe, there will also be a number of breakout sessions and workshops with contributors covering such diverse topics as education, resolving conflict in communities using restorative dialogue circles, restorative healing circles to respond to victims/survivors of trauma and abuse, complementary

models to RP, and many, many more. The day kicks off at 8:45am and ticket prices include lunch and tea/coffee. Further details of the day's schedule and how to register can be obtained by clicking on the [Eventbrite link](#). This is sure to be a day to remember and we call on anyone and everyone with an interest in RP and bringing change into our community to come along and soak up the inspiration.



RP + Complementary Models (Narrative 4 and CPS) - 23rd September 7pm



COMPLEMENTARY MODELS TO RP - NARRATIVE 4 AND CPS

Online event: 23rd September 7-8pm

Join in this conversation to learn about two models that are 100% complementary to what RP is and does. Learn from Rachel Gleeson, Director N4 Ireland and Ruth Eadie, Certified CPS practitioner and see how they can add to your restorative offering

Click on link in post to register

NARRATIVE 4
Share Today. Change Tomorrow.

Collaborative & Proactive Solutions
THIS IS HOW PROBLEMS GET SOLVED

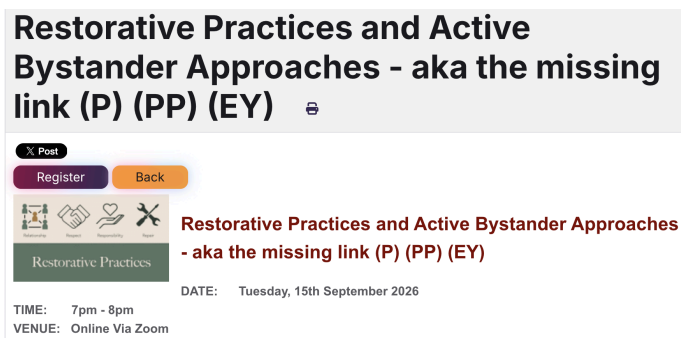
LIVES IN THE BALANCE

On 23rd September at 7pm RPI continues its series of investigating complementary models to restorative practices. Having previously explored how the Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) overlaps with RP, this time we explore how both Narrative 4, a story-exchange model, and CPS (Collaborative and Proactive Solutions) can really add to our restorative awareness and practice.

We will have presentations by Rachel Gleeson, Director of N4 Ireland, on the Narrative 4 approach and Ruth Eadie, a primary school principal at Gaelscoil Shliabh Rua and the country's first certified CPS provider working in education.

This promises to be a stimulating conversation of exploration and learning between all these complementary models and approaches, which all ultimately serve the same purpose - to create more empathy and a better world for future generations. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions on the night and a recording will be available for anyone who signs up. Registration via zoom on this [link](#).

15th Sept RP + Active Bystander Approaches - another lens on our RP outlook



Restorative Practices and Active Bystander Approaches - aka the missing link (P) (PP) (EY)

Register Back

Restorative Practices

DATE: Tuesday, 15th September 2026

TIME: 7pm - 8pm

VENUE: Online Via Zoom

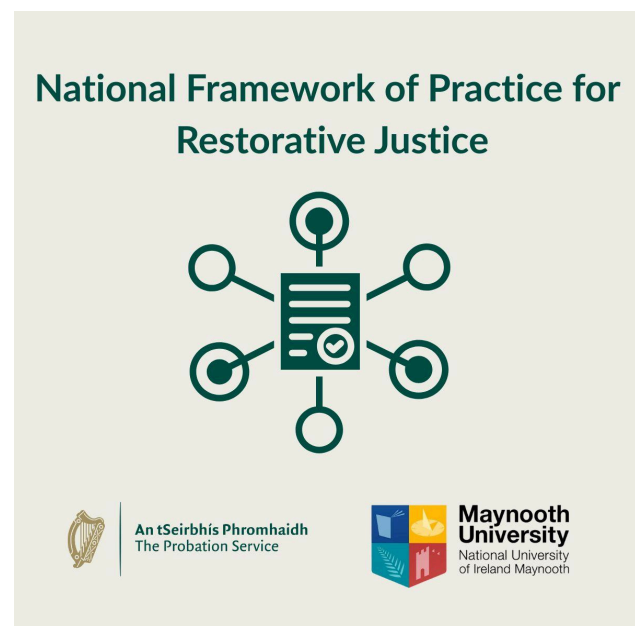


On the similar theme of complementary models, here is another great opportunity for people to expand their awareness this month, via Clare Education Support Centre. Learn in this webinar (15th Sept 7-8pm) about the wonderful addition to your school climate that Active Bystander approaches can bring. There isn't always an opportunity (or even a need) to ask "what happened?" Sometimes we need another lens, sometimes we need to look beyond the "victim" and the "offender" to the untapped resource that is the rest of our community. Active Bystander approaches can intervene in harm in a number of subtle ways, but it's much more than that as Graham Goulden will explain. If

you like Restorative Practices (which you obviously do if you're reading this), then you will love active bystander approaches.

A little about Graham. He is an international speaker on active bystander approaches, leadership and violence prevention trainer. For thirty years he was a Scottish police officer, with the last eight years spent as a key member of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and is a passionate advocate of the bystander approach. He also writes a must-read weekly [blog](#) through his social media accounts. Sign up for this 1 hour webinar [here](#).

New National Framework on Restorative Justice



The Probation Service has commenced a landmark project to develop Ireland's first national Framework of Practice for Restorative Justice. The project, which began in June, 2026, will be delivered over a six-month period through School of Law and Criminology Maynooth University, following a competitive tendering process.

This pioneering initiative represents a significant milestone in the development of restorative justice in Ireland. For the first time, a comprehensive Framework will set out best practice standards for the professional delivery of restorative justice in criminal justice settings in Ireland. The Framework will be owned by the Probation

Service upon completion and will serve as a foundational resource for restorative justice practitioners, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), policymakers, and the wider criminal justice and victim support sectors.

Restorative justice within the criminal justice system offers harm-doers a chance to understand the effects of their actions and address the harm caused to victims, families, and communities. It also gives victims a process by which they can have a voice, seek answers to their questions and express how they have been affected by their experience. The development of a dedicated Framework of Practice will strengthen the delivery of these services, enhance practitioner confidence, and improve outcomes for all participants.

Fíona Ní Chinnéide, Deputy Director, Prisons and Reintegration, The Probation Service said: "Restorative justice is a key component of the criminal justice system delivered in communities, for the benefit of communities. This Framework is an integral component of the Probation Service's Restorative Justice Action Plan as we expand the rollout of restorative justice, while ensuring the delivery of a consistent service that is informed by participants and practitioners."

Dr. Ian Marder, Associate Professor in Criminology at Maynooth University, added: “The development of a framework for the use of restorative justice in Irish criminal justice is indicative of a maturing field. As countries seek to make restorative justice a mainstream part of criminal justice, frameworks can illustrate what high-quality restorative justice looks like.”

The Framework is expected to be completed in December 2026. Following its development, the Probation Service will work with stakeholders across the justice sector to support its implementation and ensure it becomes an integral part of restorative justice practice in Ireland.



We did have a short write up last month on this wonderful initiative but, since then, we received this lovely report from one of the facilitators involved, so we are returning with a more in depth account. This comes c/o Nicola Reeves. Over to you Nicola:

“I was very privileged to be involved in developing the Cool It! programme with Claire Casey from CDI from May '25 to June '26, which was featured in last month's newsletter. Claire had received funding from Daphne Child to create a programme to address violence among 8 to 12-year-olds and I jumped at the chance to be involved. We began with advisory sessions involving young people. We invited local SCPs (school completion projects) and Foróige to bring along some of their pupils and members to join us for a selection of activities. They gave us useful feedback for me to use when writing the programme. Some years previously, James Bowes and Jean Gilmore had developed a programme for CDI which they then delivered to young people in Oberstown Detention Centre. This gave me a model to follow, and I used the same structure of Respect as an acronym, while adapting the activities to the younger age group. Based on the word Respect, over the 8 sessions I planned to address Respect, Empathy, Safety, Personal Accountability, Equality, Connection, Trust and finish with a Wrap-up session. This was to be piloted in 4 separate locations during the school year.

Our first course was with 6th class in Tallaght Community National School and Jean Gilmore was able to join me and teacher Keeva in the classroom. Her wisdom and experience were a great support to me as we took the programme live for the first time. As a post-primary teacher originally, this was my

first time with full primary classes, and it was great fun! I then delivered Cool It! to 5th class in Holy Rosary Primary School and to 3rd class in Scoil Santáin as well as to a Foróige youth group in Killinarden. At each session I learnt a lot about what worked and what didn't, and I had valuable on the spot feedback from the young people as well as constant support from the adults in the rooms. At the end the young people and their adults were asked to complete an evaluation.



When the last session was finished I set about using all that learning and feedback to revise the programme and Claire sent it off to a graphic designer to be turned into the lovely document available [here](#). We launched Cool It! on 17th June 2026 in the company of 60 of our participants and you can read about that [here](#). I feel very grateful to have been part of developing Cool It! along with Claire and I hope that it will be used widely to support young people to Stay Cool! when faced with conflict”.

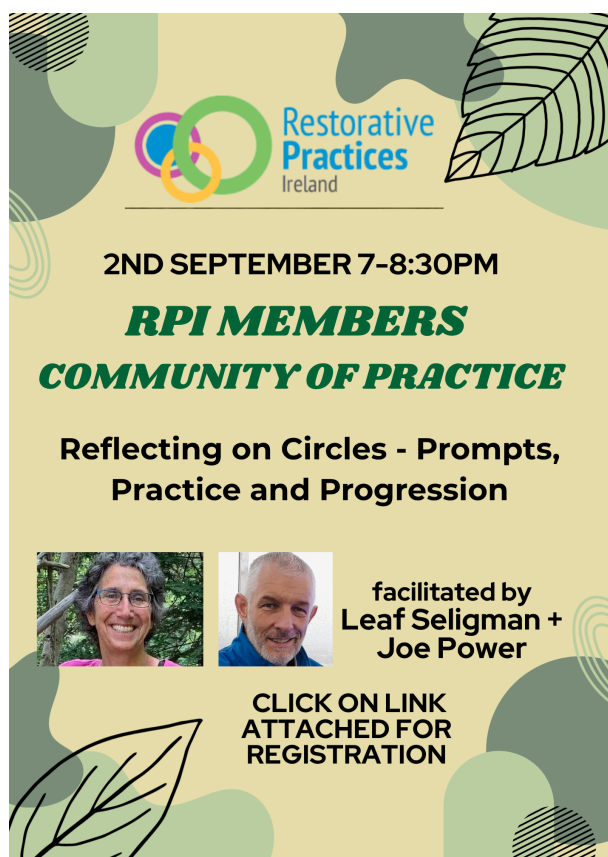
Here, here, say all of us in RPI. Well done Nicola and all concerned.

New Irish RP Podcast - Unwrapping RP



This month also sees the release of a new RP podcast by the 2J's, aka Jenn and Joe, aka Jenn Little and Joe Power. After writing an [e-Book](#) on RP and hosting a regular [webinar series](#) through Clare Education Centre, this is the latest venture from these prolific practitioners. We will hear more from them next month but, if you want to dive in, here is the link to their new podcast, [Unwrapping Restorative](#), where the first three episodes are already there for viewing. Each episode features an interview with an Irish practitioner, so you never know who might turn up.

Upcoming RPI Events/CoP's/Book Club details



In other news RPI is continuing with our monthly Community of Practice gatherings online (members only), with the next one coming up on Wednesday 2nd September (7-8:30pm).

This session will offer an opportunity to reflect on the use of circles, explore effective prompts, share experiences from practice, and consider how circle work can develop and progress over time and will provide a supportive space for learning, reflection and connection with fellow RPI members.

Please click on [this link](#) to register.

And finally the ever popular book club has its next gathering on 7th September (7-8:15pm). You don't need to read a full book for this (or to even be an RPI member) in case you're wondering. Discussions centre around short articles, podcasts, videos or a specific aspect of RP. Details here can be found by emailing judith.lardner@gmail.com. This month's article

is on the topic of "Framing — something to say about mistakes".

Finally, anyone looking for information on possible training available, check out

- CDI <https://www.cdi.ie/our-programmes/restorative-practices/> (schools and non-school)
- restorativeliving.ie (schools and non-schools)
- [OIDE](#) (formally PDST) schools only
- **Local Education Support Centre** (schools only)
- **Connect RP** (schools only)

That's all for now Folks. As always, please remember to send in information, photos, updates and events you may be running and we'll spread the word for you. Also, do get in touch via info@restorativepracticesireland.ie or on LinkedIn if you would like to get involved in RPI activities as a volunteer. Membership can also be obtained by signing up at this [link](#).

Best wishes, Joe Power, newsletter editor powerjoseph1@gmail.com 087-2879679