

## COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS



RESTORATIVE CIRCLES FOR SUPPORT & ACTIVISM

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### ABOUT RESTORATIVE ACTION ALLIANCE

- Through education, litigation and legislative advocacy, Restorative Action Alliance helps build safer communities which invest in primary prevention of sexual harm, meaningfully hold those accountable who cause harm, and safeguard the civil liberties of all.
- Together, we can create effective solutions to end sexual harm and gender-based violence, encourage restorative accountability, and abolish unconstitutional public registration schemes. We will never accept injustice against one as "justice" for another.



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### CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

The Restorative Action Alliance Peer Support Circle Program is designed to hold space and provide pro-social peer connections for those impacted by either sexual harm or post-conviction registries, as well as the individuals who love and support them.



Circles are held in a virtual format and are formed based on shared lived experience.



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### RESTORATIVE PEER SUPPORT CIRCLES

Restorative practices and circle processes are utilized to bring people together to create a safe space for connection, community building, learning, and healing. They are but are not therapy or case management.

Circle Keepers are trained in restorative practice and circle care, and engage as equal participants in the group.



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### HISTORY & VALUE OF CIRCLE PRACTICE

- Restorative practices & circles echo ancient & indigenous practices employed in cultures all over the world, from Native American and First Nation Canadian to African, Asian, Celtic, Hebrew, Arab and many others.
- Restorative Practices help build healthy, empathetic communities, increase social capital, decrease anti-social behavior, can repair harm, restore relationships.



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### ABOUT CIRCLE PRACTICE

- A healing circle is a social structure that has helped people come together in a collaborative dialogue and action since the beginning of time.
- Our ancestors came to the campfire to cook, keep themselves warm & safe, to tell stories and to establish rules of behavior and governance that supported community and connection.
- Circle enables us to discover our collective wisdom.



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### CIRCLE ROLES



**Circle Member**  
Participates Fully  
Keeps Circle To Values



**Circle Keeper**  
Equal Participant  
Keeps Fire Going



**Guardian**  
Makes Sure Rim is  
Safe, Re-centers to Group  
Agreements when Needed

Based on "The Circle Way" Ann Linea & Christina Baldwin




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### THE MAGIC IS IN THE MECHANICS



the container of circle, can hold many things - from deep truth, to accountability, hope uncertainty, innovation, differences, despair curiosity, discomfort, joy, celebration and so much more.




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### THE FOUR RELATIONAL ELEMENTS OF CIRCLE

- Getting Acquainted
- Developing Plans/Sense of Unity
- Setting Intent/Content
- Building Understanding/Trust

Based on "The Medicine Wheel"




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### THE COMPONENTS OF CIRCLE

Circles are built on the idea that we are all intertwined, wired for connection, that every person holds value and we can learn from each other.

- Welcome
- Agreements
- Talking Piece/Object
- Opening
- Heart Sharing
- Harvesting
- Closing



RESTORATIVE  
Justice

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### SHARED AGREEMENTS - CIRCLE

RESTORATIVE  
Justice



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### WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY THEY EXPERIENCE IN CIRCLE?

- Deeper connections due to circle format
- Increased ability to consider differing opinions
- Increased ability to interrogate reactions and self-reflect
- Confidence, encouragement and support to make their voice heard through advocacy



RAA Circle Participant Survey 2023

RESTORATIVE  
Justice

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### WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY THEY EXPERIENCE IN CIRCLE?

- Reduced feelings of isolation and shame
- A safe space
- Feeling better equipped to navigate the challenges of the registry or survivorship
- Improved listening skills



RAA Circle Participant Survey 2023



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### QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS



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### LET'S CONNECT! PRACTICE CIRCLE GROUPS



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