

Catherine O'Connell

Barbara Walshe

UNDERTAKING RESTORATIVE PROCESSES WITH PAST PUPILS OF JESUIT RUN SCHOOLS AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE JESUIT COMMUNITY

21st April 2021

We, Barbara Walshe and Catherine O'Connell have agreed to undertake restorative processes with past pupils adversely impacted by harm while attending schools under the care of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuit Community). The processes will be co-designed in consultation with these past pupils. We will also engage with members of the Jesuit community as part of this process in order to meet the information, disclosure and accountability needs of such past pupils. We have received commitment from the Jesuit Community that they will share their fullest knowledge of Joseph Marmion, and answer questions that are being asked by past pupils and that arise within the processes. Our biographies are attached at the end of this document.

Rationale

We offer a co-facilitation model to offer optimal, professional, high quality, trustworthy and authentic restorative consultations and facilitation services to all those impacted by harm that occurred while under the care of the Jesuit Community. Our working together ensures flexibility and maximum availability over the proposed period.

A restorative approach emphasises the importance of engaging with and giving a coherent voice to people who have not been heard, acknowledged or experienced any accountability for the harm that had happened to them. It also stresses the importance for those who have responsibility for the harm to be able to respond in a meaningful way. The approach recognises that anyone impacted by harm, directly or vicariously may have experienced distress, shame, humiliation, guilt or regret. For some, their lives will have been changed as a result.

We offer an approach that is relational, survivor-led, encourages listening, speaking and ensuring that all voices are heard. Our consultations will honour the dominant principles in restorative and transitional justice processes, namely personal agency, accountability, and, where possible, the repairing of harm. This approach has been recognised as valuable, inclusive and empowering.

Skills and Experience

We are both experienced facilitators, mediators, and conflict management coaches. We use a restorative approach in all our consultation processes whether they be large or small group meetings, one on one conversations, mediations, or restorative facilitations. Dialogue is our main method of engagement. This asks of those who engage in these processes to do so in an open, honest and meaningful way. Our practice is trauma sensitive. We are experienced in managing that risk and ensuring that participants have access to adequate supports.

Restorative processes all explore the following questions:

- What happened to cause the harm?
- Why did the harm happen and who caused it?
- What is most important about that?
- What are and were the impacts of the harm and to whom?
- What needs to happen to enable people to deal with the harm?
- How can one ensure that this harm does not occur again?

Dealing with the harm will have different meanings for people. We have learnt from our initial briefings that people have an urgent need for information about Joseph Marmion and are seeking acknowledgment, accountability and restitution. The process may offer a chance to make sense and meaning of what happened and to integrate the experience in a holistic way into one's own life.

Our Role:

We use a process called Restorative Dialogue that helps people to speak, listen, ask questions and seek answers that are relevant to them in their quest for the truth. Our objective is to provide a safe and respectful space to facilitate people to reach a place that enables them to move from the harm that has been caused. We have no power or right to make any decisions on any issues between anyone involved. We have an obligation to work on behalf of all involved and we cannot give legal advice to anyone. Some of the principles that this process is built on are:

Being Multi-Partial and Non-Judgmental

We are not neutral to the fact that harm has happened. However, it is not our role to make judgments about anyone. We are positively engaged with all parties to ensure that it will be a useful and positive process for everyone involved, despite whatever challenges may arise.

Self Determination

We have no investment in any particular outcome for any person or group. Our role is to provide the safety and space where engagement happens, and options are discussed and agreed between people and groups that have been directly involved in what happened.

Voluntariness

It is important that people engage on a voluntary basis. Restorative processes do not work otherwise.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed but we ask people to respect it. It must also be balanced against needs for transparency. To enable people to have the most open and honest conversations that they can have, we ask all to agree to the Chatham House Rule¹ which ensures that no person's story or words are attributed to them without their permission.

¹ When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

Methodology

We offer:

- To co-design processes with those who have been impacted by the harm
- Telephone conversations and use of email to make contact and organise meetings
- One on one conversations where necessary in person and on the phone
- Restorative meetings (in person or online) to encourage engagement and opinions in a safe space moderated by agreed ground rules to ensure that all voices are heard
- Engagement with the Jesuit Community on pertinent themes and issues arising at meetings
- Engagement with and between past pupils who experienced harm directly or indirectly
- Facilitating dialogues between members of the Jesuit Community and past pupils who have experienced harm in groups or between two people as desired and appropriate
- Facilitating identification of practical measures including financial restitution in recognition of the harm caused

Contact Details:

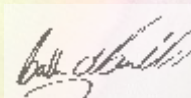
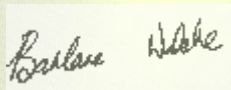
Catherine O'Connell: 42 Aughrim Street, Stoneybatter, Dublin 7, D07X3Y4
Barbara Walshe: Athgoe North, Newcastle, County Dublin D22FY51
Email: Catherine.oconnell@mu.ie, Barbarawalshe@live.com
Telephone: Catherine – 0879936237 – Barbara 086 8186639

Therapeutic Supports

The Jesuits are keen that you get any counselling and assistance that you require and have a number of suggested arrangements to make this as simple as possible. You need only mention that your case relates to Joseph Marmion. You can contact:

- You or your chosen therapist can contact safeguarding@jesuit.ie or finance@jesuit.ie (Accounts - Tom O'Brien) to put a funding arrangement in place for you to access therapeutic support.
- Dr Geraldine Richardson Psychotherapist 086-1011363 geraldine.richardson@ucd.ie
- Dermot Ronaldson at 086 2625343 and dermot.ronaldson@yahoo.com - He will be away till mid-August but will take phone calls to make bookings.
- Towards Healing 1800 303416 (independent service providing psychotherapists and counsellors internationally and nationally for people who have experienced abuse in religious settings)
- One in Four 01-6624070, info@oneinfour.ie One in Four provides therapy for people who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.

Signatures:



BARBARA WALSHE BIOGRAPHY



Barbara is an experienced Restorative Justice Facilitator and an accredited Mediator. She has a Masters in Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation from Trinity College Dublin (Belfast based) and worked for many years in the field of peacebuilding and restorative justice at local, national and international level. She sees a growing need amongst human beings and communities to reflect on, and address, the effects of harm on victims, offenders, and the communities they live in. She has facilitated difficult conversations among faith-based groups, religious leaders, families and individuals, victims, survivors and perpetrators.

2013: Barbara supported a consultation process involving women who suffered in the Magdalen Laundries to have a voice within the Quirke Report.

2013/14: She worked with former Supreme Court Justice, Janine Geske, then director of a Restorative Justice initiative at Marquette University, Milwaukee, United States. While there, she co-facilitated victim-offender dialogues and restorative circles processes in a youth offender detention centre, a Women's Prison, and a maximum-security prison in Wisconsin (<http://eprints.maynoothuniversity.ie/4670/>).

2014: Barbara project managed a three-year collaborative study, 'Sexual Trauma and Abuse and Restorative and Transformative Possibilities', on behalf of Facing Forward in conjunction with Dr Marie Keenan from the Department of Applied Social Science, UCD. The comprehensive study included interviews with a range of victims, offenders and other stakeholders, and its publication caused widespread debate when it was launched in December 2014 on the use of restorative justice in sensitive cases.

April 2018: Consultation on the Options and the Appropriate Course of Action available to Government in relation to the site of the former Mother and Baby Home, Tuam, Co. Galway. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/be933f-consultation-on-the-options-and-appropriate-courses-of-action-availa/>

2019/2020 Consultations with Survivors of Institutional Abuse on Themes and Issues to be addressed by a Survivor-Led Consultation Group. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/04d235-consultations-with-survivors-of-institutional-abuse-on-themes-and-is/>

Barbara is an occasional lecturer at Queens University Belfast, University of Cambridge, Trinity College Dublin (Belfast-based), and Marquette University in Milwaukee, US. She has attended over 500 hours of training by Mark Umbreit, Marian Liebmann, Kristel Buntinx and Ken Cloke and Janine Geske.

She is chair of the Board at the Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation www.glenree.ie

CATHERINE O'CONNELL BIOGRAPHY



Catherine is an experienced and accredited Restorative Dialogue facilitator and mediator. She is a trainer in MII certified mediation programmes and restorative justice and practice programmes. She is a CINERGY™ conflict management coach and trainer.

From 2014 to 2020 Catherine has been a lecturer in restorative practice, mediation and conflict management coaching at the Edward Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention at Maynooth University. She has been engaged in various peace building projects run by the Edward Kennedy Institute.

Catherine provides restorative facilitation, mediation and coaching in workplace, community and family settings. She develops bespoke training in Conflict Management and Communications skills for leaders, groups and organisations. In late 2020 she developed and delivered online training in Restorative Justice for the European Forum for Restorative Justice in Restorative Justice.

Catherine is on the management committee of Facing Forward, an organisation made up of volunteers which promotes the use and need for Restorative Justice in our society. She co-presented a workshop for the International Institute of Restorative Practice Conference in May 2017. She was a researcher in the three year seminal collaborative research project between Facing Forward and Dr Marie Keenan entitled [“Sexual Trauma and Abuse: Restorative and Transformative Possibilities”](#).

Catherine has written [“Building Bridges”](#), (O'Connell, C., 2014), an article about her experience of taking part in a Restorative Justice Initiative in Green Bay Maximum Security Prison Wisconsin for the 'Journal of Mediation and Applied Conflict Analysis' published online by Maynooth University.

In 2018, alongside her colleague Barbara Walshe, she undertook a consultation on the [‘Options and Appropriate Courses of action available to Government in relation to the site of the former Mother and Baby Home, Tuam County Galway’ \(April 2018\)](#).

In 2019, 2020 and 2021, again with Barbara Walshe, she worked and is working with survivors of Institutional abuse on [the themes and issues they wished to consult with Government on to explore the, as yet, unmet needs of survivors and how they could be best met](#).

She and Barbara are facilitating a survivor led group and the Department of Education to identify mutually acceptable means of meeting these needs. This resulted in the group presenting a proposal to the Minister for Education and her advisors in December 2020.

Currently Catherine is a PhD candidate with Maynooth University exploring the extent to which using restorative approaches in an organisation can impact the conflict management practices and quality of relationships experienced by people working there.

Associations that Catherine belongs to includes Mediator's Institute of Ireland (Certified Mediator and Trainer in Mediation), Mediation beyond Borders, The Association of Conflict Resolution (US), the Restorative Justice Council (U.K) and the European Forum for Restorative Justice. She is a member of and is on the steering committee of Restorative Practices Ireland (RPI).