

# Volunteer Opportunity: Restorative Justice Georgia

Georgia Justice Project is launching **Restorative Justice Georgia** and seeking volunteers who want to be a part of this innovative new program. **Restorative Justice Georgia** will be the first program in Georgia to bring a restorative justice approach to address the harm of adult felony crimes. Several felony prosecutors in the metro Atlanta area have agreed to refer eligible cases to the program when the victim is interested in a facilitated dialogue with the person who has harmed them.

## I. What are the goals of Restorative Justice Georgia?

The goals of Restorative Justice Georgia are to promote paths that hold responsible parties accountable for harm, give a voice to those affected by harm, bring an opportunity for justice, change, and ultimately healing for survivors of harm and their communities.

## II. How can I learn more?

[Register here](#) to attend virtually and learn more about the volunteer opportunities. This online Restorative Justice Volunteer Information Session will take place on October 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM EST.

## III. What kinds of volunteer opportunities will be available?

- **Facilitators:** A volunteer facilitator works with the program manager to prepare all stakeholders in a crime to meet. They then bring together the victim of a crime, the party responsible for the harm, and a member of the community to share what happened, how people have been affected, and reach an agreement to repair the harm. **To be trained as a facilitator, you must attend trainings on both November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup>, 9AM-5PM.**
- **Community Members:** Community Members represent the voice of the community in a Restorative Justice Process. As people who are not directly involved in the situation, they help to identify the harm that was done to the larger community and discover ways that the responsible party can repair the harm. **To be trained as a community member, you must attend a training session on either October 21<sup>st</sup> or October 29<sup>th</sup>, 9AM-12PM.**

Training class size is limited, and we are seeking a diverse group of volunteers that reflect the community. This exciting opportunity will allow volunteers to be active changemakers in their communities.

*For more information, reach out to Erin Donohue-Koehler at [Erin@GJP.org](mailto:Erin@GJP.org) or 404-827-0027 ext 236.*



Rami El Gharib is the Restorative Justice Program Manager at Georgia Justice Project. He is a Lebanese Restorative Justice practitioner, who has facilitated adult and juvenile Restorative Justice processes in Colorado and Connecticut. He has trained schools on implementing Restorative Practices across Connecticut and California, and he has advanced policies that strengthen Restorative Justice across Colorado. Additionally, he is the founder of the Restorative Rainbow Alliance, which aims to introduce a LGBTQ+ lens into the field of Restorative Justice and has published the first LGBTQ+ focused facilitator code of conduct in the field of Restorative Justice. He has also taught a course on Advanced Restorative Justice facilitation for tribal probation officers in Wisconsin.

For 36 years, Georgia Justice Project (GJP) has served Georgians impacted by the criminal legal system.

**GJP approaches social change in three distinct ways.**

First, GJP's legal and social services span the entire criminal justice system: holistic criminal defense, reentry representation for incarcerated individuals, early termination of probation, criminal record clearing, and other reentry legal and social services – all provided free of charge to clients.

Second, GJP advocates for a better Georgia and our policy work has resulted in 22 changed Georgia laws.

Third, GJP works statewide to educate individuals and communities on criminal justice and reentry issues. Together these three approaches connect to achieve GJP's overall goals to lower the number of people under correctional control and reduce barriers to reentry.