

Restorative Justice

Sociology

A justice model built on repair rather than punishment, and what trials show.

Retributive

- The offence is against the state
- Asks which law was broken, by whom
- Outcome is a proportionate penalty
- Victim is a witness to the case
- Professionals hold the process

Restorative

- The offence is a harm to people
- Asks who was harmed and what they need
- Outcome is agreed repair
- Victim participates directly
- Braithwaite: shaming that reintegrates

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Trials generally report high victim satisfaction and small to modest effects on reoffending.

Educational reference, not legal advice. Suitability varies by offence; there are serious concerns about pressure on victims.