

Case Statement

DRAFT JUNE 5, 2015

CENTRE FOR **JUSTICE &
RECONCILIATION**
A ministry of Prison Fellowship International

A photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue shirt, looking down and holding onto the red metal bars of a prison cell. The background is a solid teal color.

Restoring Justice Transforming Lives

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

When conflict and crime occur, we need both justice and reconciliation. Justice focuses on the norms or laws that were violated; reconciliation on the relationships involved. When justice is achieved, the victim has been vindicated, the offender has been held accountable, and the harm has been repaired to the extent possible. When reconciliation is accomplished, victims and offenders have established new, healthy and productive relationships that incorporate lessons learned in the aftermath of the wrongdoing.

Reconciliation is impossible without justice because wrongdoing and the resulting harm must be recognized and addressed by the parties. It is important that the truth about what took place, the consequences that followed, and the wrongfulness of the offender's behavior be understood and accepted. This facilitates healing for the victim and offender, and restoration of order and peace in society.

Justice is incomplete without reconciliation because it focuses on the relationship between victim and offender. This affiliation, if one existed prior to the crime, has been damaged. If the victim and offender did not know each other, the crime created a destructive bond of predator to prey. Reconciliation transforms that into a cooperative, mutually-beneficial and supportive association. It does so by establishing healthy relationships between the parties.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION AT PRISON FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Prison Fellowship International was founded in 1979 by Charles Colson to minister to prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families outside the United States. It is active in over 125 countries, working through chartered affiliates that employ hundreds of staff and engage with 45,000 volunteers.

In a very real sense, justice and reconciliation lie at the foundation of everything that Prison Fellowship International does. Our evangelization program **THE PRISONER'S JOURNEY** offers prisoners the opportunity to reconcile with themselves and with God even as they serve their sentences. Our **CHILDREN OF PRISONERS PROGRAM** seeks justice for children with an incarcerated parent, who suffer for no fault of their own, by providing protection and advocacy. Our affiliates work with both prisoners and their families to help them find justice and to reconcile.

Both justice and reconciliation are central to our vision at Prison Fellowship International. They are often achieved only in part, but we are convinced that pursuing them is an important part of our call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8) in the aftermath of crime.

Frank Lofaro
CEO, Prison Fellowship International

CENTRE FOR JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

INTRODUCTION

In 1996, Prison Fellowship International launched the Centre for Justice & Reconciliation to serve as its knowledge center on justice and reconciliation. The Centre very quickly began to help Prison Fellowship affiliates address the injustices they continually encounter in their criminal justice and prison systems.

Nearly twenty years later the Centre has a track record of accomplishments that provides a foundation for its next twenty years. The purpose of this case statement is to introduce the Centre to people who share our commitment to pursue justice and reconciliation and who may wish to join with us in that effort.

MISSION

The Centre helps PFI and its national affiliates advance biblical principles of justice and reconciliation in the criminal justice system.

Convinced that restorative justice is an important contemporary expression of those principles, PFI has given the Centre the following mission:

To develop and promote restorative justice in criminal justice systems around the world.

While operating from within the Christian tradition, the Centre finds common ground and joins in advocating for restorative justice with people from all backgrounds and traditions.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative justice is a global movement offering a new approach for responding to victims and offenders. It has several important features:

	It creates opportunities for offenders to reconcile themselves to their victims and communities.
	It gives victims the opportunity to tell their stories and shape the outcome of the justice process.
	It emphasizes accountability, making amends, and—if they want it—facilitated meetings between victims, offenders, and other interested persons.
	It respects the human rights of victims and offenders.
	It has been used for over 30 years in countries around the world with encouraging results.

THE NEED

In most countries, **criminal justice systems are in trouble**. Here are the facts:

11 MILLION men, women and children are held in prisons worldwide; most in overcrowded and deteriorated conditions.

Thirty percent of all prisoners **HAVE NOT YET BEEN TRIED**; in Asia and Africa some wait longer than the maximum sentence they could receive if they were found guilty.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ARE IGNORED except when needed as witnesses in criminal prosecutions. They receive little compensation or assistance during their recovery.

95% OF ALL PRISONERS WILL EVENTUALLY BE RELEASED; most will get in trouble again—more than half will be re-arrested within one year, and more than three-quarters within five years.

North America **IMPRISONS A MUCH HIGHER PROPORTION OF ITS POPULATION** than the rest of the world.

In seven countries in the Americas, the **HOMICIDE RATE AMONG PRISONERS IS THREE TIMES HIGHER** than the homicide rate for the general population.

ONE OUT OF EIGHT persons convicted of crimes in Europe are foreign nationals.

In North America and Europe **IT COSTS MORE TO SEND A PERSON TO PRISON THAN TO COLLEGE**.

The rate of people with HIV, other sexually transmitted infections, Hepatitis B and C, and tuberculosis is **UP TO 50 TIMES HIGHER** in prison than in the community.

Restorative justice is a promising approach that has been effective in:

- Reducing costs,
- Lowering repeat offending rates,
- Reducing post-traumatic stress in victims of crime, and
- Increasing the number of cases brought to justice.

PFI has embraced restorative justice because it is a contemporary expression of biblical standards of justice, which focus on rescuing the oppressed (Is 10:1–3), reproving wrongdoers (Romans 13:3–5), repairing harm done to victims (Luke 19:1–9), and making things right (Romans 3:25–26).

DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTRE

During its nearly 20 years, the Centre has been an effective advocate for restorative justice reforms around the world. We have developed expertise around two significant prison-based programs, made inroads in changing the criminal justice policies of the United Nations and individual countries, and have established a highly-respected knowledge base concerning restorative justice. Following is more information about some of our achievements:

Sycamore Tree Project®

Sycamore Tree Project brings groups of victims into prisons to meet with groups of offenders who committed similar crimes. They discuss issues related to crime and its consequences over a period of eight weeks. The program is based on the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus, the corrupt tax collector who agreed to repay the people he had extorted.

The Centre developed the program for use by national Prison Fellowship affiliates. We offer a program manual and facilitator's guide for the sessions, and provide training when needed. **The program is now used regularly in 34 countries with over 3,500 victims and prisoners participating yearly.** Research studies in England and New Zealand concluded that it reduces the likelihood of recidivism by changing offender attitudes so they no longer view crime as acceptable. Research is underway to document the beneficial impact on the victims of crime who participate.

Communities of Restoration

Communities of Restoration are 24-hour, 7-day-a-week intensive prison regimes operated by national Prison Fellowship affiliates. They are designed to reduce offending behavior through character-focused, faith-based programming. They are based on an innovative methodology (called the "APAC Methodology") that was developed 40 years ago by Prison Fellowship Brazil. Prisoners volunteer to participate in a graduated program designed to help them experience and participate in responsible, giving, trust-filled relationships. **There are now 45 of these prisons in Brazil, operating successfully without any armed guards and with a high degree of community involvement.**

The Centre has helped national Prison Fellowship affiliates outside of Brazil develop APAC-based prison programs. We conducted a multi-year research project involving leaders of APAC and APAC replications to identify the replicable, core elements of the program. This project included a research study by Dr. Byron Johnson documenting APAC's low recidivism rates,¹ and resulted in a manual for national Prison Fellowship affiliates developing their own Communities of Restoration. **There are now 10 Prison Fellowship affiliates outside of Brazil running APAC-based programs.**

¹ Byron Johnson, "Assessing the Impact of Religious Programs and Prison Industry on Recidivism: An Exploratory Study". Texas Journal of Corrections, February 2002, 7–11.

United Nations Basic Principles on Restorative Justice

The Centre **played a central role in the development and adoption** of the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters. As a result of our work, and with the strong leadership of the Government of Canada, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Declaration of Basic Principles in 2002.

Rwanda Project

The Centre designed a programme to help Prison Fellowship Rwanda prepare prisoners accused of genocide to meet their victims, survivors, and community members during that country's *Gacaca* hearings. Nine months after PF Rwanda began offering this course in the prisons, the number of prisoners willing to confess their involvement in the genocide had increased from 5,000 to 40,000. **The Centre and PF Rwanda were credited by the government with helping their reconciliation process.** Today, PF Rwanda manages seven "reconciliation villages" in which perpetrators, survivors, and returned exiles live together in peace.

Colombia Project

The Centre and Prison Fellowship Colombia **conducted the first national symposium on restorative justice for justice system officials in 2003**. This led to further interventions: Centre staff testified before Parliamentary committees, addressed the Colombian Senate, and provided training to prosecutors and judges on UN guidelines for using restorative justice. Prison Fellowship Colombia has pioneered use of the Sycamore Tree Project® in cases of homicide and adapted it further to facilitate implementation of peace agreements with paramilitary and guerrilla groups.

Restorative Justice Online Library

This website (www.restorativejustice.org) is highly regarded worldwide. It appears twice in the top three returns from Google searches on the subject and receives 450,000 visitors a year. It is updated on an ongoing basis, and features a blog with news of developments around the world, as well as reviews of books and other resources. The site has a substantial introductory section for those who are new to restorative justice, and **features the world's largest annotated bibliography of over 11,000 articles and books on restorative justice in a searchable database**. Sixty percent of its users are under age 35.

International Diploma in Restorative Justice

The Centre has collaborated with Queen's University in Canada to offer the International Diploma in Restorative Justice. This is a six-day intensive course designed for national Prison Fellowship affiliate staff and volunteers. It begins with restorative justice theory and principles, reviews processes and programs, and concludes with each student presenting a research paper. **A total of 162 students from 51 countries have taken the course.**

LEADERSHIP



DANIEL W. VAN NESS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dan Van Ness is a **world expert on restorative justice**. He has been part of Prison Fellowship for over 30 years, first with Prison Fellowship (USA), where he worked for 12 years and, since 1996, with Prison Fellowship International. In both positions he has directed efforts to reform overworked, underfunded, and ineffective criminal justice systems.

He **led the design team** that created the Sycamore Tree Project®, a victim-offender awareness program now running in prisons in 34 countries. He was a **principal architect** of the UN Declaration of Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters, which the Economic and Social Council endorsed in 2002. He was invited as an Expert to United Nations meetings in 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2006 and addressed the 2005 UN Crime Congress in Bangkok. He is **general editor of** www.restorativejustice.org, the Centre's highly-regarded website.

In 2013, he received the John W. Byrd Pioneer **Award for Community and Restorative Justice** from the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice.

Dan has **written and edited several books**, including Restoring Justice: An Introduction to Restorative Justice, 5th Edition (co-authored with Karen Heetderks Strong, 2014), the Handbook of Restorative Justice (co-edited with Gerry Johnstone, 2007), and the Gold Medallion winning Crime and Its Victims (1985). He has **presented papers at 25 universities** around the world, including Cambridge, Harvard, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Tübingen University, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (Colombia), and Victoria University (New Zealand).

Since 2000, Van Ness has **taught a biennial intensive course on Restorative Justice** at Pepperdine University Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. He is a member of the International Advisory Board of Restorative Justice: An International Journal.

Van Ness received his BA from Wheaton College, his JD from DePaul University College of Law, and his LLM from Georgetown University Law Center.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Centre's Executive Director has created an International Advisory Council to increase the Centre's ability to achieve its mission. Members serve as advisors, ambassadors and advocates to assist the Centre in accomplishing its objectives. Their role is to bring diverse perspectives, experiences and credibility to **strengthen the Centre's communication, advocacy, fundraising, and program development and evaluation efforts**.

Membership on the International Advisory Council is by invitation. Members serve two-year renewable terms. The Council meets virtually on a periodic basis.

Members being selected.

OUR 2020 VISION

The Centre will be 20 years old in 2016. As the leadership of Prison Fellowship International looks forward to the next 20 years, has embraced an exciting new vision for the Centre's work. This will require significant strategic expansion and reach to achieve substantially greater scale and scope of impact around the world.

In the next five years, we are **determined to make major strides in our work and achievements** in each of three major areas of activity (programs, public policy advocacy and education). Prison Fellowship International will require new resources and investment in the Centre's work to achieve these aggressive yet attainable objectives.

Our vision is that by 2020 we will have accomplished the following objectives:

1. START 100,000 CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS AROUND THE WORLD ABOUT CRIME AND JUSTICE.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT. Meetings between victims and offenders benefit both. This is true when victims meet their own offenders and even when they meet with someone else's. Studies show that these conversations **reduce offenders' commitment to criminal lifestyles and help crime victims recover from the trauma of victimization**. When conducted as part of the criminal justice process and between victims and their own offenders, they **increase satisfaction of both parties that justice was done**.

To date no one has attempted to learn what societal responses victims and offenders think are important to include in the aftermath of crime after they have had the opportunity to talk together. As the two parties most directly impacted by crime, their opinions are relevant to and urgently needed by political and civic leaders.

HOW WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS. We will redesign Sycamore Tree Project® as a comprehensive portfolio of programs designed to bring offenders to meet with victims of crime. In some instances these will be meetings of victims with their own offenders; in others the meetings will be between unrelated victims and offenders.

There are currently 34 national ministries using Sycamore Tree Project on a regular basis. We will **double the number of national affiliates running the program and significantly expand the scale at which they operate the program** by entering into contractually-based joint ventures that identify specific targets and clearly-identified resources and outcomes. We call these "program partnerships" and Sycamore Tree Project will join the Children of Prisoners Program and The Prisoner's Journey as one of the three program partnerships of Prison Fellowship International.

At the conclusion of each victim-offender meeting the parties will fill out a short survey identifying what they think is required in the aftermath of crime to build peaceful communities. This information will be collected and shared nationally, regionally and globally. By 2020 we will have collected this information from at least 200,000 victims and offenders.

2. LAUNCH 30 REFORM PROJECTS WITH NATIONAL AFFILIATES TO IMPROVE THEIR COUNTRIES' JUSTICE SYSTEMS.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT. As noted earlier, virtually every country struggles to manage overcrowded court dockets and prisons. The work of our national affiliates brings them into direct contact with the unjust results on a daily basis. Prisons are expensive but are often also unsanitary breeding grounds for disease. Too many prisoners sentenced to a period of imprisonment return to society with a life sentence due to tuberculosis, HIV or Hepatitis. In many countries a majority of prisoners have not yet been tried and may wait longer for trial than the longest sentence they could receive if found guilty. Prisons are places of violence and corruption. It is no wonder that repeat offending rates are so high for released prisoners.

National affiliates carry out much of their work inside prisons, so the injustices are apparent and disturbing. In a survey conducted two years ago, **79% of national affiliates reported that they had intervened in the past year to address those conditions in some way**. Typically these involved bringing food or material services to prisoners on an occasional basis but in a few instances like the Rwanda and Colombia projects mentioned before, these involved multi-year, organized efforts for systemic change.

HOW WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS. Our experience over the past twenty years has equipped us to pursue reform projects with national affiliates in at least four ways:

a. Communities of Restoration. We will coordinate with PF Brazil to promote the APAC methodology as the governing philosophy for PF affiliates' Communities of Restoration. This will include creating and distributing an introduction to the APAC methodology, a guide to adapting it to different cultural and religious contexts, a volunteer training course, and a triennial symposium for PF affiliates operating APAC-based Communities of Restoration. We will enter into **agreements with five national affiliates to help them establish Communities of Restoration** based on the APAC methodology.

b. Victim Assistance. We will work with PF Germany's new victim support program to help them develop and expand the program as a model that could be replicated by other PFI national affiliates. We will enter into **agreements with ten national affiliates to launch victim support programs** in their countries.

c. Restorative Solutions to Excessive Remand Length. We will design and test ways that restorative justice approaches can be used to secure early release of remand prisoners who otherwise would wait excessive times for trial. This is a significant problem in Africa and Asia, and we will enter into **agreements with ten national affiliates to implement these reforms**.

d. Nationwide Post-Conflict Reconciliation. We will adapt the successful prisoner and community training program used by PF Rwanda so that it can be used in other countries facing a transition from civil war or severe internal conflict. We will assist **Prison Fellowship affiliates in five countries to implement post-conflict reconciliation programs** by 2020.

e. United Nations and Other Intergovernmental Organizations. We will **identify and access 50 opportunities for technical assistance, training, and funding** for PF national affiliates from agencies of the United Nations, European Union, African Union, Organization of American States, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and Caribbean Community as well as the World Bank and regional development banks.

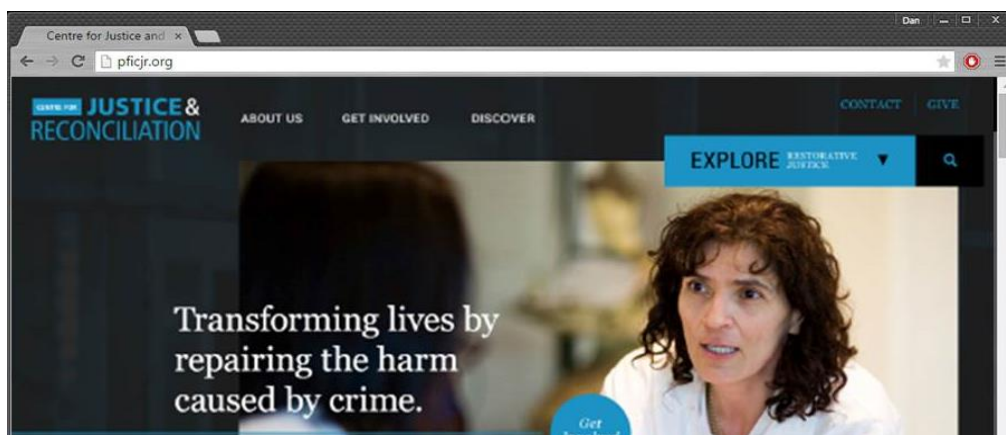
3. EDUCATE AND MOTIVATE THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE LEADERS.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT. Many of the early pioneers of the restorative justice movement are stepping back from leadership. As the movement grows, diversifies and becomes professionalized, it is important that **new leaders are raised up who are committed to the principles and values of restorative justice.** This will not happen by accident.

Furthermore, much of the early impetus for restorative justice came from Christian faith communities. It has appropriately broadened beyond that core, but **there is much that Christian traditions still have to offer to the movement.** Therefore it is important to intentionally identify and train new leaders from within the Christian tradition.

HOW WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS. We want to expand three key assets of the Centre – its online presence, restorative justice courses and 125 national affiliates – and add a fourth by affiliating with a university so that we are able to **reach young leaders around the world to educate, mobilize and motivate them toward action.**

a. RestorativeJustice.org. We will expand and promote the restorative justice resources on www.restorativejustice.org so that by 2020 it receives **2 million sessions from 1.5 million users.**



b. Online Courses. We will design, develop, and market online courses on restorative justice principles and practices, so that **2,050 students have enrolled** by 2020.

c. International Internships. We will create an internship program offering opportunities for people to participate in **restorative justice programs in 40 countries** by 2020. We will market and manage the internship program so that 200 people will have served as interns by 2020.

d. University Affiliation. We will create a formal linkage with a compatible university with a history of applying educational learning to social justice issues.

OPPORTUNITY

THE FINANCIALS

This expanded activity requires additional resources. The following table shows the budget (in US dollars) for the Centre during the next five years:

Activity	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
Sycamore Tree Project						
Redesign, produce materials, test	30,000					30,000
Train and oversee affiliates	3,000	15,000	17,000	22,000	13,000	70,000
Distributions to participating affiliates	60,000	197,500	300,875	354,625	369,000	1,282,000
Communities of Restoration						
Triennial symposium		10,000			10,000	20,000
Train and oversee affiliates		10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	50,000
National Public Policy Advocacy						
Design and test remand project	20,000	20,000				40,000
Expand remand project		10,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	120,000
Reconciliation projects		10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	50,000
United Nations Advocacy						
Represent PFI at meetings in NY and Vienna	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	27,500
Represent PFI at Crime Congress					10,000	10,000
Help affiliates access training, TA, grants	3,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	43,000
Education						
Create and market courses	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	100,000
Expand website	10,000	20,000	15,000	30,000	15,000	90,000
Internship program	10,000	14,000	26,000	38,000	50,000	133,000
Annual Lecture Series	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
Labor	225,000	295,000	295,000	295,000	295,000	1,405,000
Overhead	99,125	161,750	187,344	212,531	220,625	880,125
TOTAL	495,625	808,750	936,719	1,062,656	1,103,125	4,400,625

INVESTING IN JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Prison Fellowship International has a bold vision to demonstrate the potential that biblical, restorative justice brings to troubled justice and prison systems around the world. We seek Kingdom-minded individuals, churches, and funding institutions who have an interest in helping the Centre for Justice & Reconciliation promote justice that restores. We invite you to partner with us.

HOW TO RESPOND

For more information about the Centre please contact us at this address:

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