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Restorative justice is a viable option for addressing hate crime new research shows

Today, Race on the Agenda (ROTA) releases its report "Restoring relationships: addressing hate crime through restorative justice". The research identifies case studies whereby hate crime is addressed successfully by community-based restorative justice programmes such as mediation. Statutory criminal justice agencies seem to be unaware of restorative justice, but when partnerships are formed between them and community-based organisations the results are encouraging.

ROTA's project is supported by a range of funders concerned with the worrying levels of hate crime in London, namely City Parochial Foundation, Safer London Foundation and Commission for Racial Equality. ROTA is carrying out the project in partnership with other organisations from the voluntary sector such as Independent Academic Research Studies and Southwark Mediation Centre.

"To win the battle against hate crime and its consequences there must be a break down of the stereotypes, attitudes and world views that foster it in the first place. The current criminal justice system does not allow the facilitation of dialogue which appears to be one of the means for combating hate crime. Restorative justice is one form of this dialogue" Dr. Theo Gavrielides, ROTA's Head of Policy said.

ROTA's report will be followed up with fieldwork using restorative justice practices that address hate crime in London and training of statutory criminal justice agencies on restorative justice principles.
Ends.

Note to Editors:

For more information on:

Race On The Agenda www.rota.org.uk

Independent Academic Research Studies www.iars.org.uk

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City Parochial Foundation www.cityparochial.org.uk/

Safer London Foundation www.saferlondonfoundation.org/

Commission for Racial Equality www.cre.gov.uk/