

Restorative Justice: Starting at the roots

July 20, 2021

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KENNEDY
HUMAN
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IMPACT/JUSTICE
Restorative Justice Project

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Learning Objectives

- Understand Restorative Justice philosophy and values
- Draw connections between Restorative Justice and Human Rights Education

“Justice is what love looks like in public”

-Dr. Cornel West

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Please go to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and enter code: rfk

Think about your “ideal” vision of community.

What is there?

Who do you see?

How do you feel?

What is happening?

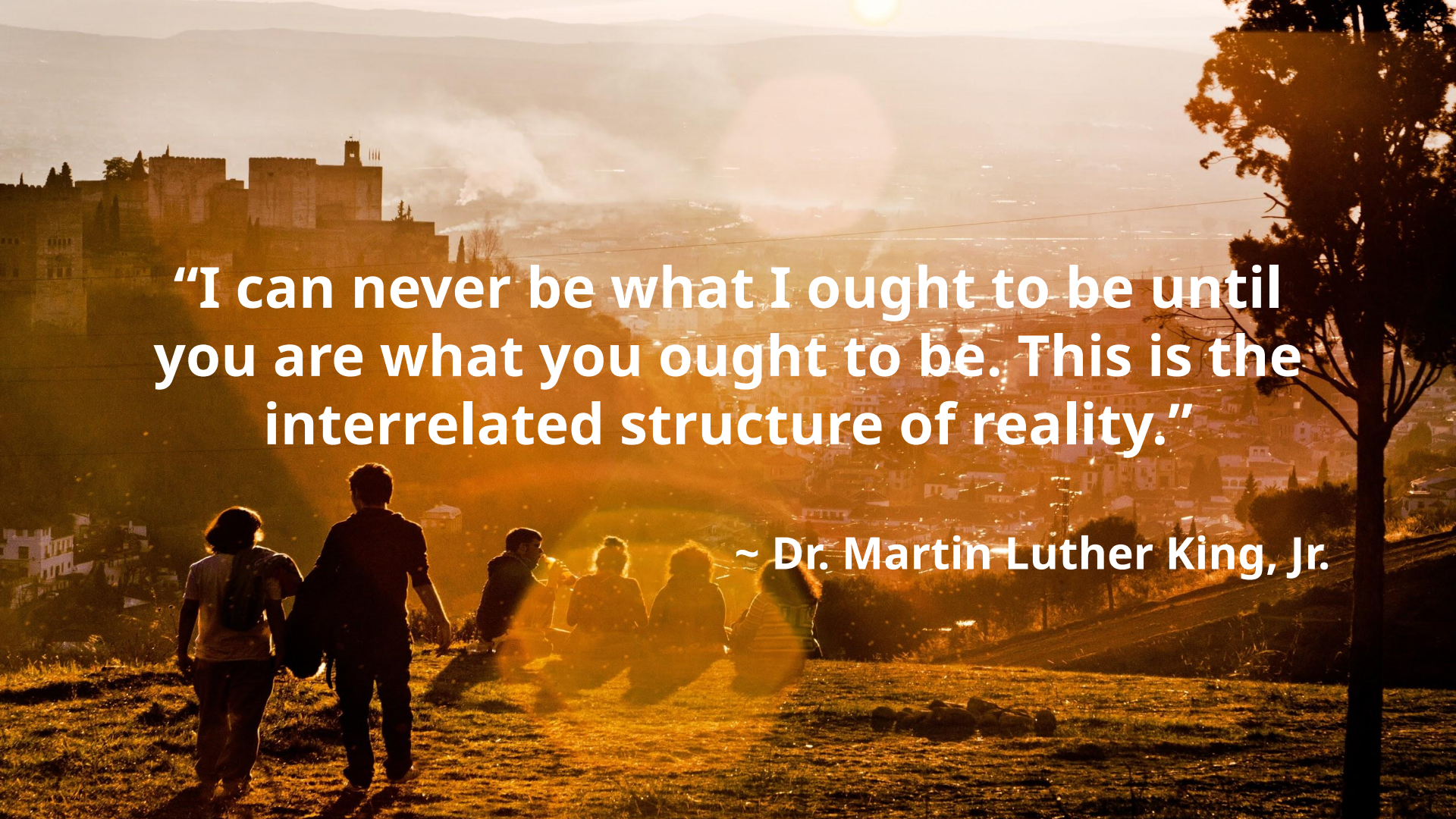
Ubuntu





Grounding Values

- **Relationship and interconnectedness**
- **Power *with* approach**
- **Collective wisdom**
- **Dignity**

A group of people is walking away from the camera on a grassy hill. In the background, a city is visible, with a large, prominent building on a hillside. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset, with the sun low on the horizon and its rays creating a hazy atmosphere. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

“I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.”

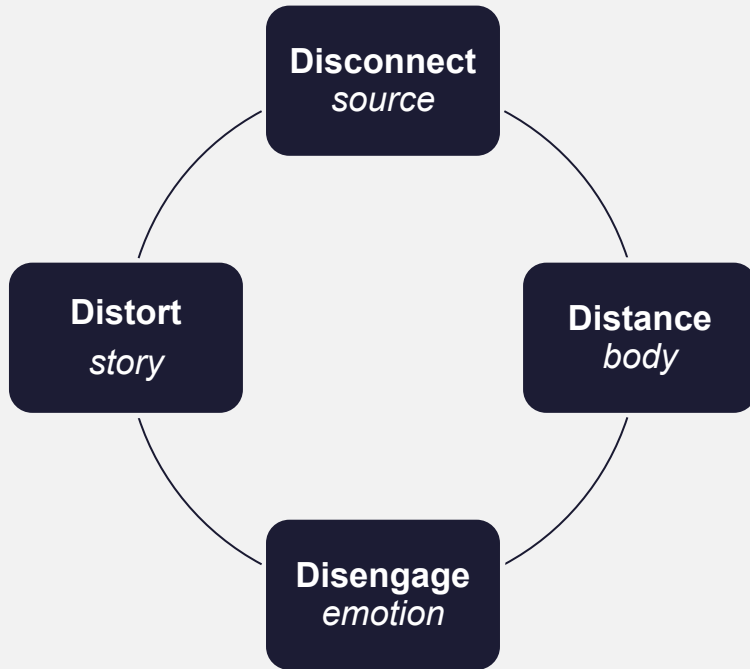
~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Shared Humanity and Human Rights

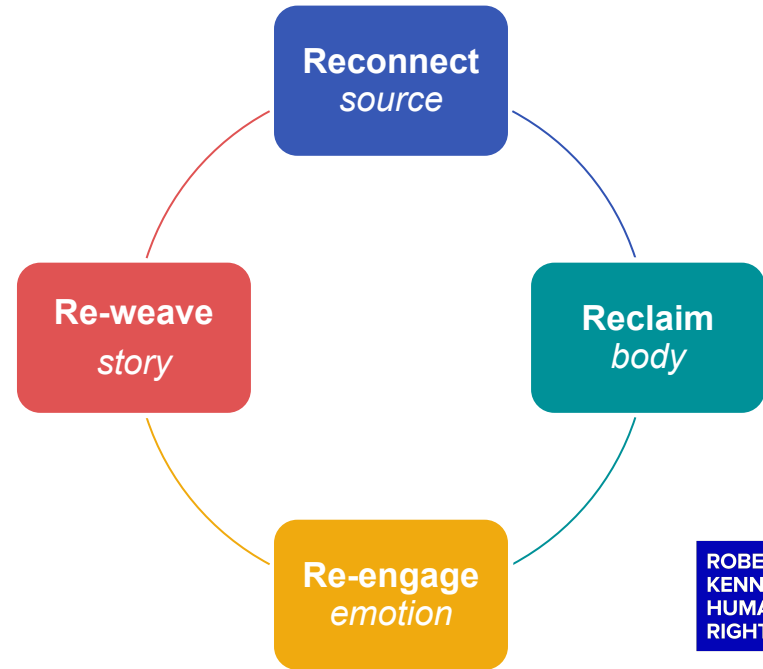
“Human Rights” are the rights a person has simply because they are a human being.

- **Built upon shared values of dignity, equality, and respect**
- **Essential to the development of individuals and communities**
- **Foundational for peace and justice**

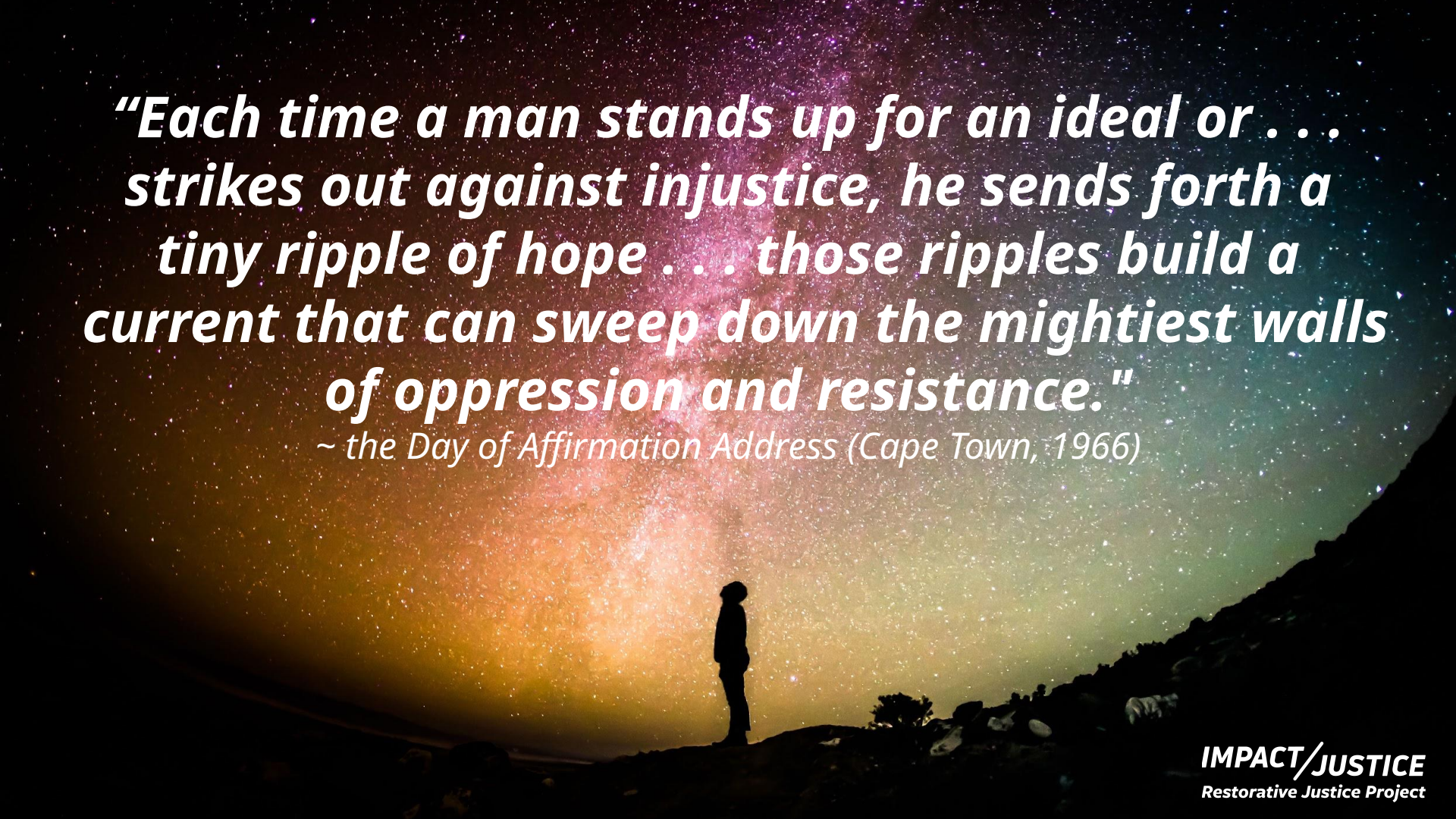
Practices of Oppression



Practices of Liberation



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"Each time a man stands up for an ideal or . . . strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope . . . those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

~ the Day of Affirmation Address (Cape Town, 1966)



Roots of Restorative Justice

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Layers to Restorative Justice



- Building community is the foundation (takes time)
- Then create space to address harm
- Then move toward reparative agreements and healing

Current Approach

- What law/rule was broken?
- Who broke it?
- How should they be punished?

Restorative Justice Approach

- Who has been harmed?
- What do they need?
- Whose obligation is it to meet those needs?





**PARADIGM
SHIFT**

Understanding Harm & Wrongdoing

Harm and wrongdoing are a violation of people and interpersonal relationships.



Violations create obligations.



The central obligation is to, as much as possible, do right by the people you've harmed.

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Questions?



Takeaways

- Restorative justice is not simply a program, it's a paradigm shift
- Connection/relationship is foundational to restorative justice
- Build comfort in curiosity

Offering

- Over the next week, pay attention to the interactions and relationships in your lives:
 - When are your reactions punitive? When are your reactions restorative? With whom?



Thank you!

We'll see you during our next Session on
July 27th

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