

*IIRP World Conference  
15-17 May 2019*



**DEALING WITH BULLYING AND CONFLICT  
WITH THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID**  
Learning from the Ruiselede prison community (B.)

*"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing  
and rightdoing there is a field.  
I'll meet you there"*

*Rumi (Persian poet, 13th century)*

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

2. RESTORING FREEDOM?

3. THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID

4. CASE STUDY – RUISELEDE PRISON

5. CORNERSTONES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

6. EXERCISE

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## INTRODUCTION

- cooperation between practice and science:
  - *prison of Ruiselede (near to Bruges, Belgium)*
  - *restorative pyramid ((Phd research J. Deklerck, 2005)*
- process of cultural and structural change towards a "restorative prison"
- "changing lenses": restorative prison? school? community? ...
  - *win for all*
  - *relationship with safety and security*
  - *relationship with reintegration in society*
- from "deprivation of freedom" to "restoring freedom": an existential learning process

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# EXISTENTIAL ETHICS

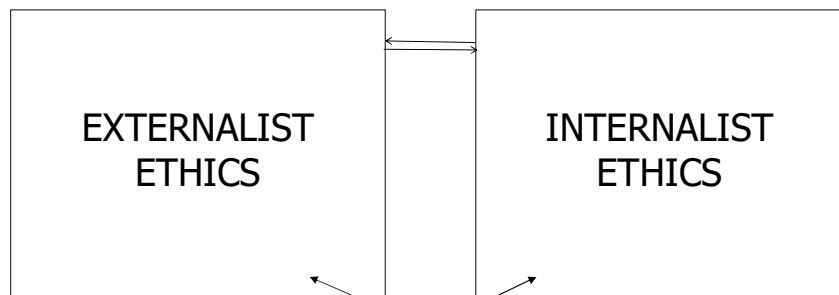
\* gesto de amor

\* winner publicity Cannes, 2006



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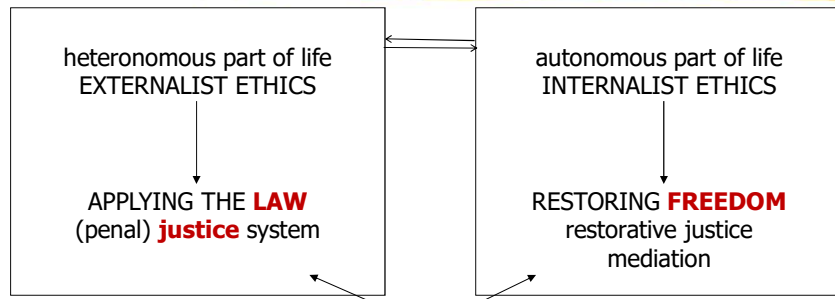
## ONE EXISTENTIAL ETHICS, TWO EXPRESSIONS



self regulating ethical power  
EXISTENTIAL ETHICAL ROOTS

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## A DOUBLE ANSWER TO CONFLICTS / CRIME



\* complementary relationship: different outcomes

\* subsidiarity: first 'freedom'

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## A DOUBLE ANSWER TO CONFLICTS / CRIME

\* restoring material, emotional, existential **FREEDOM**

. autonomous life sphere

. internalist ethics

\* doing **JUSTICE**

. heteronomous life sphere

. externalist ethics

-> MEDIATION AND RJ: restoring freedom

-> common source: **EXISTENTIAL ETHICS**

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## A DOUBLE ANSWER TO CONFLICTS / CRIME

- the redress of material, emotional and existential **freedom**: flow of life, human relations, internalist ethics
- doing **justice**: norms of society, punishment, externalist ethics
- common source: **existential ethics**
- always two answers
- these answers complement each other
- they cannot replace each other
- mediation, RJ, RP: restoring freedom

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## A DOUBLE ANSWER TO CONFLICT / CRIME

	<i>CLASSICAL APPROACH</i> <b>JUSTICE</b>	<i>MEDIATION/RESTORATIVE JUSTICE</i> <b>FREEDOM</b>
<i>DELINQUENCY</i>	OFFENDER ORIENTED DEFINITION OF DISTANCE	RELATIONAL, CONTEXTUAL DEFINITION OF PROXIMITY
<i>ETHICS</i>	EXTERNALISTIC ETHICS ABSTRACT ETHICS OBJECTIVE ETHICS	INTERNALISTIC ETHICS PROCESS TYPE ETHICS SUBJECTIVE ETHICS
<i>APPROACH</i>	APPLYING RULES AND RIGHTS EXTERNAL ETHICAL REFERENCE	REPAIR AND ENLARGE FREEDOM INTERNAL ETHICAL REFERENCE
<i>JUSTICE</i>	JUDGEMENT/CLASSICAL JUSTICE SYSTEM	MEDIATION PROCESS/ RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
<i>SOCIETY</i>	INSTITUTIONS	INFORMAL NETWORKS

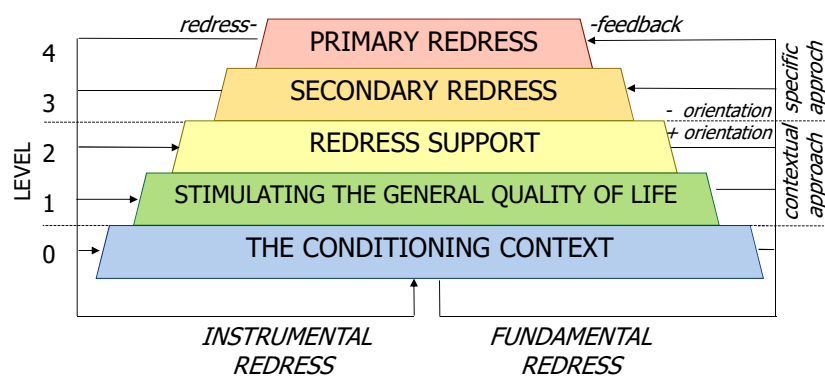
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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID framework for a fundamental redress



(Deklerck, 2005, IV, 277-288)

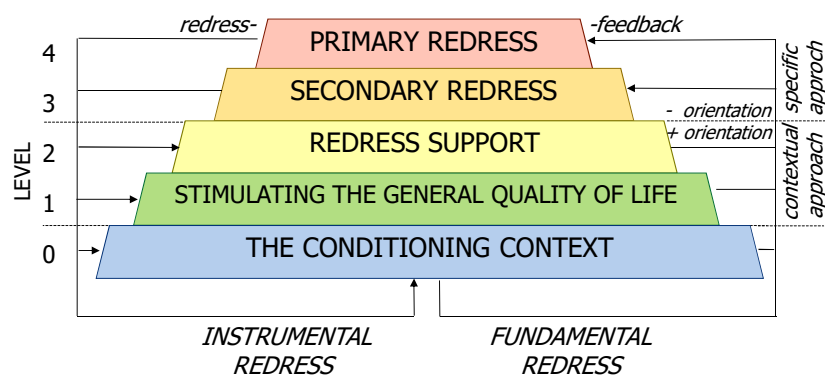
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## STARTING POINT

- a prison can be different
- redress as a central goal and starting point for the organization of prison
- imprisonment should be seen not as a 'goal' but as a 'means' for enlarging freedom
- prison as a supporting frame
- the 'restorative pyramid' as a framework

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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID framework for a fundamental redress



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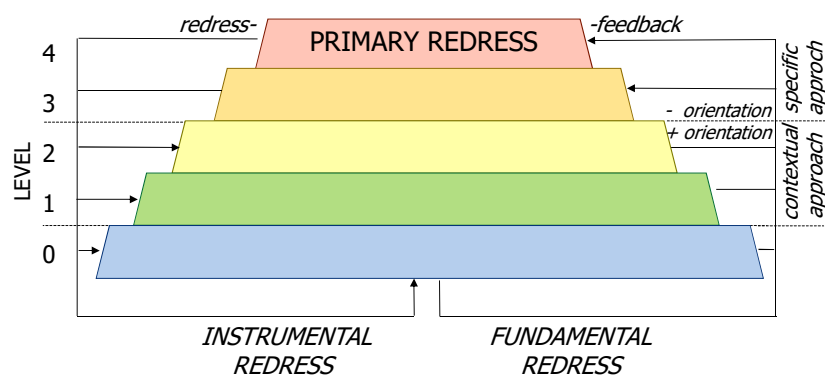
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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID framework for a fundamental redress (2)

- redress is far more than mediation or conflict management
- restorative work is also about the broader context
- a restorative culture can be a basic culture in prison, schools, organisations, business, neighbourhoods, ...
- the restorative pyramid:
  - enlarges and orientates: "thinking larger"
  - goes to the foundations of restorative work and society
  - incorporates the underlying aspects
  - brings order in the many possibilities

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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID framework for a fundamental redress



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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID

### level 4: primary redress -> facts

- "primary": focus on the conflict, the criminal act, the problem, ...

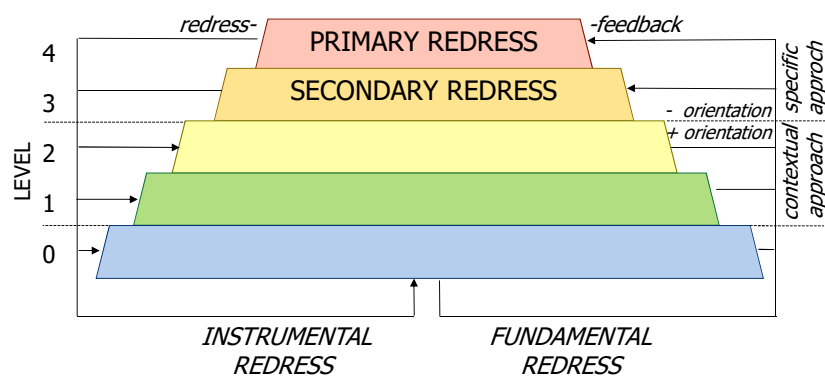
#### EXAMPLES:

- "say sorry", a handshake, "forgotten and forgiven"
- mediation, group conferencing, ...
- financial compensation
- ritual, alone or with the parties involved:
  - *a drawing becomes a paper boat that drifts away on the river or a ball of paper for the fire*
  - *poem, bringing flowers, sending a card, writing letter to the other party,*
  - *burn the object of the offense, tear-up photos, burning a candle, a prayer or confession, washing and purifying*
- make concrete arrangements about how to proceed

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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID

### framework for a fundamental redress



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## DE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID

### level 3: secondary redress -> person, flow of life

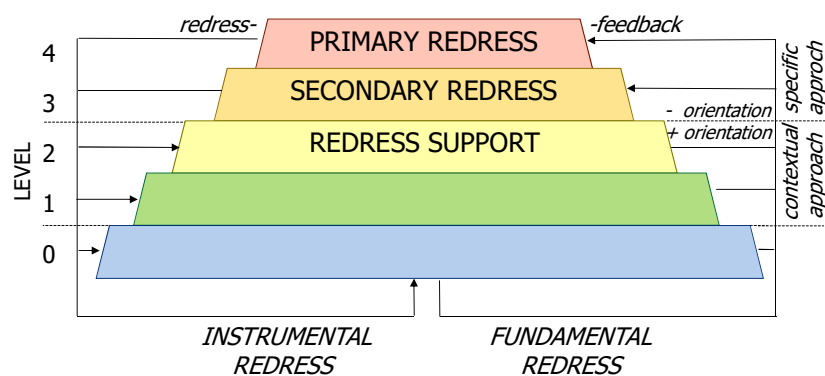
- "secondary":
  - *facts are no longer the central focus, but the larger background*
  - *focus on the "person", his social network, the larger circumstances*
- stop in one's flow of life: material, emotional and existential redress
- no chronological order between 'primary' and 'secondary' redress

#### EXAMPLES

- working on distorted relationships, deprivation, poverty, social reintegration, debt mediation
- working on problematic family relationships and negative group dynamics
- therapy, assistance, withdrawal of alcohol and drugs,
- learning to cope with aggression, fear, frustration, authority, ...

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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID framework for a fundamental redress



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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID

### level 2: redress

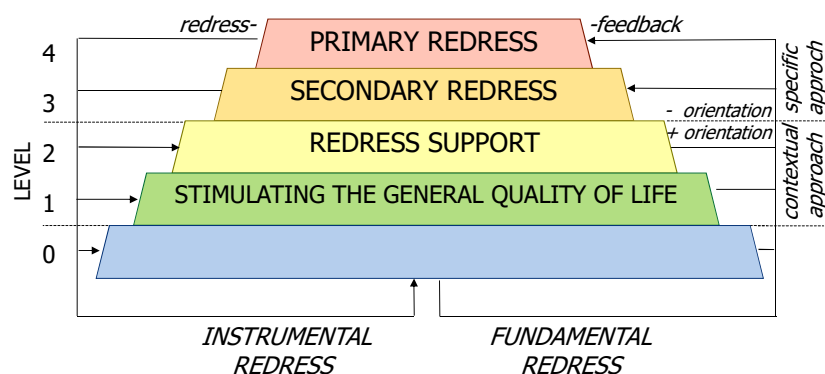
- positive orientation: initiatives with a non problematic focus, with a positive ambition, from the restorative perspective
- should help those involved to function better with themselves, their social and family environment
- aimed at improving the quality of life: problems and redress of level 3 and 4 as a background for choices on this level

- **EXAMPLES**

training social skills, learning working skills, learning to work in structured settings, learning to apply, relaxation and autogenic training, communication training or relationship building, differences between man and woman, sexuality, interculturality and diversity, learning to speak in groups, non-violent resilience, assertiveness training, ...

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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID framework for a fundamental redress



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# THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID

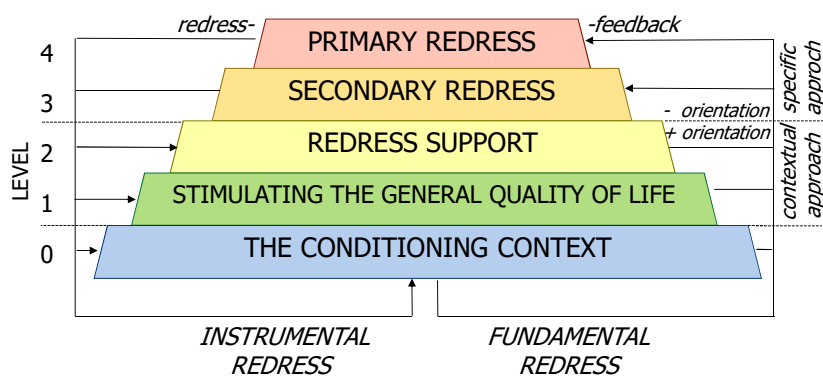
## level 1: stimulating the general quality of life

- improving daily life: learning to live
- Foundation for initiatives on level 4, 3 and 2 (more specific skills and competences)
- the basis of "the good life"
- 10 orthopedagogical basic forms of human dialogue (W. Ter Horst, 1988):
  - *eat, drink, talk, touch, care, learn, play, work, celebrate, travel*
  - *seems obvious, but is often absent or tricky in the prison context (and the former home situation of many prisoners)*

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# THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID

## framework for a fundamental redress



(Deklerck, 2005, IV, 277-288)

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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID further explanation (1)

- *four + one levels:*
  - level 4: repairing the damage      problem oriented: - orientation
  - level 3: 'personal' redress      problem oriented: - orientation
  - level 2: specific context      positively oriented: + orientation
  - level 1: general context      positively oriented: + orientation
- *level 0:* conditioning context: broader society, has an impact on restorative (policy) possibilities:  
eg. the openness to restorative practice, personnel framework, safety discourse, regional and central politics, larger sociological developments
- *redress feedback:* levels learn from each other and adjust:  
eg. therapeutic needs (3) from restorative encounters (4);  
restorative support needs (2) from 'flow of life'-stories (3)

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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID further explanation (2)

- ⌘ instrumental and fundamental redress:
  - . *vertical spit of the restorative pyramid*
  - . *on all levels: 1 till. 4*
  - . *level 3 & 4: redress*
  - . *level 1 & 2: redress as la larger learning- and developmental process*
- ⌘ instrumental redress and learning:  
*bv. job, administration, housing, computer, languages, etc.*
- ⌘ fundamental or existential redress and learning:  
*bv. meaning of life, relations, friendship, man-woman, children, healing, etc.*

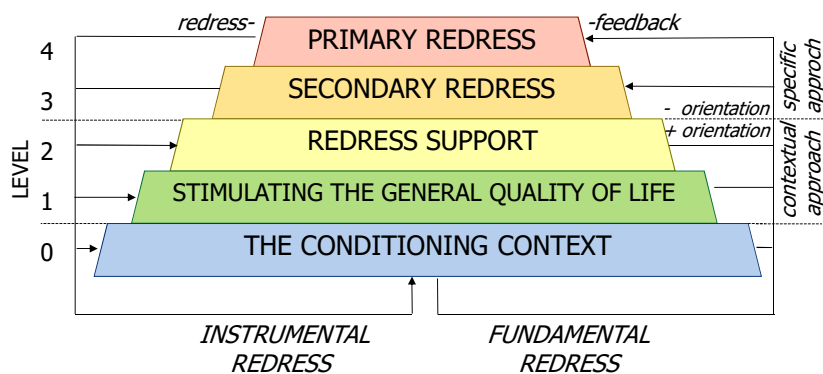
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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID further explanation (3)

- integral approach
- family, school, education, organisations, prison are the framework for those processes
- existential (re-)integration as starting point and final goal:
  - *outside: society, social environment, ...*
  - *inside: myself, personal development*

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## THE RESTORATIVE PYRAMID framework for a fundamental redress



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## FUNDAMENTAL REDRESS or: growing in existential freedom

*REDRESS, ... expresses itself in a growing **freedom** on a material, psychic and existential level, which can be reduced as a consequence of the delinquent act in a different degree within the different parties involved.*

*FUNDAMENTAL REDRESS, ... means that as many elements as possible, which have lead to the delinquent act, such as experiences of victimisation of the offender, aggression provoking attitudes of the victim, and/or criminogenetic factors in the **environment**, are taken into account, in order to contribute to a deeper, existential redress, which means to be connected (again) and fully with ones flow of life.*

Definition: Deklerck, diss. doct. criminology, KU Leuven, 2005, IV, 241-242

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## FUNDAMENTAL REDRESS or: growing in existential freedom (2)

- large definition:
  - *not reduced to 'restorative justice',*
  - *not reduced to mediation or specific restorative practices*
- in essence: redress of freedom
- facts, person and environment
- integration of micro, meso, macro
- sociological and psychological perspective
- integration of punishment

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## INTRODUCTION



- CAW Noord-West-Vlaanderen – Generic Social Work Center
- Social work services for prisoners and their families



Bruges



Ruiselede





## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE Prisons in Belgium

- 35 prisons – 17 Flanders
- 10.305 inmates (January 2019)
- Ruiselede: Atypical - small prison farm with open regime



## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE description of the prison

- Who lives here?
  - 60 inmates – 250 cows
  - Profile: low risk of escape, 60% drug related crimes and 20% sex crimes
- Who works here?
  - Federal justice department: 54,5 FTE prison staff: prison officers, social work, management and administration
  - NGO, financed by the Flemish Public Administration: social work, education, pre-therapy, sport, work...: 5,78 FTE



## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE Characteristics of the prison 1

- Focus on "rehabilitation and education"
- 5 pillars:
  - *Work*
  - *Drug & medication free*



## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE Characteristics of the prison 2

- *Communal living*



## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE

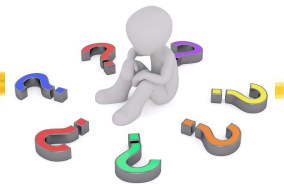
### Characteristics of the prison 3



- *Family & social network*
- *Innovative projects*

## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE

### the bullying project 1



- Autumn 2017: multiple bullying incidents
- Shared concern amongst staff, prisoners and visitors
- How can we address this effectively?
- The traditional/punitive approach doesn't help contain the problem
- The restorative pyramid: framework for a restorative approach

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## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE the bullying project 2: Framework



- January 2018: work group established
- Aim: developing an anti-bullying policy for dealing with bullying in a restorative way
- Profile of the participants:



- *Acknowledgement of the problem*
- *Enthusiastic*
- *Motivated*
- *Diversity*

## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE the bullying project 3: The process

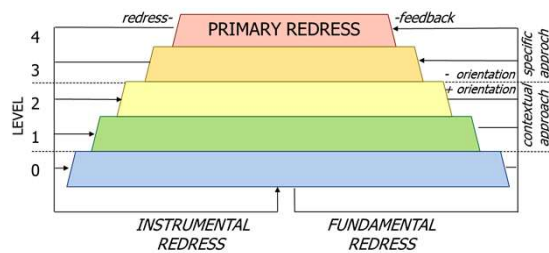
- At the beginning: monthly meetings (3)
- Establishing ground rules
  - *Open and learning environment*
  - *Freedom of speech*
  - *Commitment*
- Provide clear information
  - *On the subject (bullying)*
  - *Theoretical frameworks – The restorative pyramid*



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## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE the bullying project 4

- Goal: developing a working method to deal with bullying
- Starting at the top of the pyramid – 4<sup>th</sup> level



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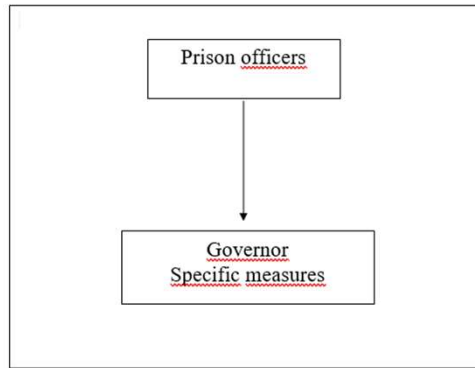
## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE the bullying project 5

- The restorative approach based on
  - *Accountability*
  - *Involvement*
  - *Support*
  - *Repairing harm*
  - *Justice*
- How?
  - Case studies
  - Focus on learning from and with each other



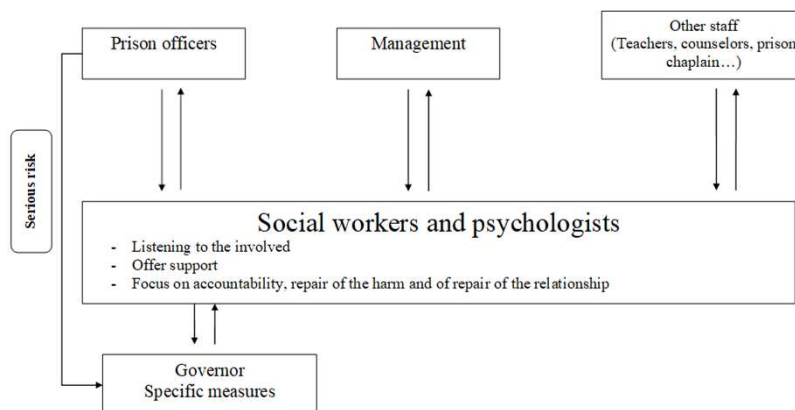
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## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE the bullying project 6: How it was



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## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE the bullying project 7: New flow chart



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CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE  
the bullying project 8: Where are we now?

- Meetings every 6 to 8 weeks
- Implementing flow chart - Case studies
- Wider communication
- What about the other levels of the pyramid?



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## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE cornerstones for implementation

1. Starting point is shared concern, problem, question, dilemma...
2. Ensure the support of the management in your organization
3. Engage all the stakeholders and don't forget the critical thinkers.
4. Ground rules to establish an open and learning environment
5. Provide knowledge: background information concerning the topic, theoretical frameworks – explain the restorative pyramid

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## CASE STUDY - RUISELEDE cornerstones for implementation

6. Restorative pyramid: choose the level based on the needs
7. Be specific - small successes: applicable and visible in practice.
8. Don't force the process, seize opportunities to address other levels of the pyramid
9. Ensure continuity
10. Don't give up, even when it gets tough. It is worth it!



*Good Luck*

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## **EXERCISE:** the restorative pyramid in your environment?

- Start **individually** to fill in the blanco pyramid:
  - choose your environment: job, school, centre, neighbourhood, club, ...
    - *what are you already doing at the different levels? (left half)*
    - *what don't you do, but could you do? (right half)*
  - try to write one or more ideas on every level
- Form a **group of 3 persons**:
  - every one presents his "home work"
  - share experiences and learn from each other
  - complete, adapt your "home work"
  - active participation of every group member
- Back to **plenary**: we share our experiences

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## MORE INFORMATION?

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