



**Restorative Justice for Cases of Sexual Assault: What restorative justice policies could
Singapore implement for university campus sexual assault cases?**

GL4102 TASK FORCE

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In 2019, an influx of campus sexual assault cases dominated Singapore's news headlines. While there were calls for harsher punishment, with universities implementing stricter guidelines and heavier penalties for cases of sexual assault, there are limitations to what the traditional justice system can offer for survivors of sexual assault. In response to these incidents, our project examines the feasibility of implementing restorative justice on Singaporean public university campuses in response to campus sexual assault.

Restorative justice is a framework that centres the survivor in cases of sexual assault, unlike the traditional justice system which is centred on punishment. Instead of referring to the parties involved as "victims" and "perpetrators", restorative justice uses the terms "survivor" and "responsible person" to grant agency and avoid stigmatising the people involved.

Restorative justice aims to give survivors a voice by allowing them to express their thoughts and feelings about the incident and have greater say over the process and consequences imposed on the responsible person. It also gives the responsible person a chance to be accountable for their actions and reduce the possibility of recidivism with support from the community.

In our report, we explore case studies of restorative justice programmes implemented around the world, including examples from Thailand, New Zealand and the United States. Drawing upon best practices from the field of restorative justice, as well as insights gleaned from primary research with undergraduate students and university personnel, we then devised a pilot programme called CIRCLE to be conducted in the National University of Singapore (NUS) in collaboration with the Victim Care Unit (VCU). We hope that CIRCLE can provide mutually beneficial outcomes for both survivors and responsible persons, and that the programme can lower recidivism rates for responsible persons.