



North Carolina Task Force
for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice

Resolution: In Support of Increased Access to Victim Offender Dialogue

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper established the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice (TREC) in June 2020 and extended its term in November 2022 to “develop and help implement solutions that will eliminate disparate outcomes in the criminal justice system for communities of color;” and

WHEREAS, the Task Force adopted one hundred and twenty-five (125) recommendations to reimagine public safety, improve policing practices, enhance accountability, strengthen the law enforcement profession, eliminate racial disparities in the courts, and promote racial equity post-conviction; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 273, extending the work of the Task Force through 2024, directed the Task Force to identify next steps for advancing recommendations concerning violence prevention initiatives, including restorative justice programs and practices; and

WHEREAS, TREC Recommendation 61 explains that Restorative Justice focuses on healing and accountability through reconciliation among the victim, offender, and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, Restorative Justice allows the person harmed and the person responsible for the harm to communicate and address the impacts of the crime; and

WHEREAS, TREC Recommendation 61 recommends establishing and funding Restorative Justice programs in local communities across the state, including during incarceration; and

WHEREAS, TREC Recommendation 110 calls for providing Restorative Justice programming at every correctional unit and for every custody level; and

WHEREAS, Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) is a post-conviction dialogue rooted in restorative practices that is confidential, facilitated, victim-initiated, and victim-centered; and

WHEREAS, Victim Offender Dialogue is an opportunity for the victim to discuss the crime with the person who caused harm, receive answers to questions, express their feelings and the impact of the crime, and move toward restoration and healing to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS, Victim Offender Dialogue requires the person who caused harm to willingly participate in dialogue with the victim and take responsibility for the harm caused; and

The logo features a dark blue rectangular background with two white horizontal lines. Two orange circles are positioned above and below the lines. The text "North Carolina Task Force" is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, and "for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice" is in a smaller, white, italicized sans-serif font below it.

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WHEREAS, Restorative Justice initiatives such as Victim Offender Dialogue have the potential to empower victims, reduce recidivism, and improve emotional well-being for all participants; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (DAC) recently hosted two Victim Offender Dialogues in May and July of 2023, and

WHEREAS, participants in these initial Victim Offender Dialogues shared positive feedback regarding their experiences; and

WHEREAS, DAC is currently developing a policy to facilitate Victim Offender Dialogue sessions within North Carolina correctional institutions and for people on community supervision; and

WHEREAS, the 20 Essential Principles of Victim-Centered VOD, adopted by the non-profit organization Just Alternatives, reflect best practices for Victim Offender Dialogue; and

WHEREAS, DAC intends to incorporate the 20 Essential Principles of Victim-Centered VOD into its policies governing Victim Offender Dialogues; and

WHEREAS, TREC believes that increased access to Victim Offender Dialogue has the potential to help repair harm, meet the needs of victims, affirm the humanity of people who caused harm, and promote public safety; and

WHEREAS, DAC intends to develop training for its officers and other professionals on Victim Offender Dialogue; and

WHEREAS, TREC recognizes that structural inequality can undermine equal access to government programs; and

WHEREAS, TREC therefore supports the development of an equitable outreach strategy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice fully supports the creation of a statewide Victim Offender Dialogue program within the Department of Adult Correction that promotes equal access to Victim Offender Dialogue throughout all North Carolina correctional facilities and community supervision programs.