Please tune in and join us in a Youth Justice Work Group Learning Exchange with Sandra Rodrigues and Erica, the Restorative Justice Project with Impact Justice. This opportunity for a learning and peer exchange is scheduled for **July 2, 2020, 9:00-10:00 PST**. Please see below for Zoom access information.

A little background on Sandra and Erica. Sandra has nearly eight years of experience in restorative justice research, education, advocacy, circle-keeping, and resident-led, issue-based community organizing for RJ. In her role as Senior Program Specialist on the Restorative Justice Project at Impact Justice, she is the site lead for five of the seven counties throughout the country partnering with Impact Justice to implement community-based, pre-charge restorative justice diversion (RJD) programs. She is currently working on her master’s thesis on restorative justice in Latin America and among the Latinx diaspora in the United States.

Erica is a senior program associate for the Restorative Justice Project. In this role, she assists counties across the nation develop and launch restorative justice diversion programs that center the needs of the impacted people and communities. She came to Impact Justice with a deep desire to disrupt narratives that normalize the harm and disposability of Black and Brown bodies. To this end, she spent almost three years defending those incarcerated on death row in the U.S. South and working to challenge the racialized dehumanization that sustains the capital punishment apparatus with the Center for Death Penalty Litigation.

At its core, restorative justice is about relationships—how you create them, maintain them, and mend them. It’s based on the philosophy that we are all interconnected, that we live in relationship with one another, and that our actions impact each other. In the context of diversion, restorative justice honors the humanity and dignity of people by acknowledging that we are more than the worst thing we’ve ever done. With this in mind, RJD processes encourage constructive community-based responses to wrongdoing. The process brings together those who caused harm, those who have been harmed, and impacted community members to promote healing and accountability, while rebuilding relationships. Restorative justice recognizes wrongdoing as a harm done to people and communities. Using restorative justice, we seek to shift the punitive paradigm toward healing and accountability; engaging a non-binary distinction between “victim and offender.” Acknowledging that racist oppression ensures that
young people of color bear a disproportionate burden of dehumanizing and traumatic experiences, a non-binary approach to “victim and offender” is engaged while seeking to shift the punitive paradigm toward healing and accountability.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/93209475996?pwd=SFowTjFGWDZNcIcNYUkg0t4c3ZvZz09

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