

Reading- from "Transcending: Reflections of Crime Victims"

By Howard Zehr

Restorative justice says that what really matters about crime is that harm has been done to people and their relationships.

Once that is acknowledged, two cardinal principles emerge, First, the ones harmed-victims and survivors- should be central to justice.

The starting point for justice would be the needs of victims, as the victims themselves define them.

Second, the question of offender accountability should focus on encouraging offenders to understand and, to the extent possible, take responsibility for that harm.