

JUSTICE IN TRANSITION

Community restorative justice in Northern Ireland

Foreword by Professor Kieran McEvoy (Queen's University, Belfast)

'In a thoughtful, measured and persuasive fashion, Eriksson charts the development of these programmes, the tensions between community-based and state structures concerning the 'ownership' of justice, the role that the projects have played in transforming cultures of violence, and the theoretical insights to restorative justice more broadly which the Northern Ireland experience has to offer. . . I have every confidence that this book will become a key reference point in the literature on community, restorative and transitional justice and Dr Eriksson fully deserves every scholarly accolade which will follow.' – *Professor Kieran McEvoy (Queen's University, Belfast)*

'Anyone who worries that restorative justice is at risk of losing its edge and becoming yet another dull, institutionalised penal alternative should read this book immediately. The sophisticated, grassroots restorative justice projects in Northern Ireland have almost single-handedly eradicated paramilitary punishment beatings and may be restorative justice's greatest, but most unsung, achievement. Anna Eriksson's in-depth analysis of these projects and the controversies surrounding them brings the crucial story to life and should be widely read by scholars, students and policy-makers.' – *Dr Shadd Maruna (Queen's University, Belfast)*

This book provides a unique account of the high-profile community-based restorative justice projects in the Republican and Loyalist communities that have emerged with the ending of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Based on an extensive range of interviews with key players in the process, many of them former combatants, and unique access to the different community projects, this book tells a fascinating story.

At the same time the book explores the wider implications for restorative justice internationally, highlighting the important lessons for partnerships between police and community in other jurisdictions, particularly in the high-crime alienated neighbourhoods which exist in most western, as well as transitional, societies.

It also offers a critical analysis of the roles of both community and state and the tensions around the ownership of justice, and a critical, unromanticized assessment of the role of restorative justice in the community.

The author

Dr Anna Eriksson is Lecturer in Criminology at Monash University, Melbourne. Her research interests lie in the areas of restorative justice, crime prevention and comparative penology.