Workers' Lives: Now vs. Next

Under Late-Stage Capitalism

• Workers are treated as a cost.

Human value is measured by productivity and profit margins.

• Insecurity and exhaustion are widespread.

Many face unstable jobs, long hours, low wages, and work that feels meaningless or disconnected from community.

• Systems are competitive and hierarchical.

Work environments prioritize profit, fueling stress, burnout, and alienation.

• Basic needs are tied to employment.

Healthcare, housing, and education are conditional, leaving people vulnerable.

• Workers lack control.

Decisions about their labor, well-being, and the future are made by distant owners or managers.

• Environmental harm is normalized.

Exploitation of land, labor, and life is justified by short-term profit.

Under the Next Generation Economy

Workers are seen as people.

Each person's dignity, creativity, and care matter more than output.

• Work is cooperative and meaningful.

Labor serves real community needs, supports personal growth, and builds connection.

• Basic needs are guaranteed.

No one must work to survive—people contribute from a place of security and purpose.

Power is shared.

Decisions are made democratically, giving every worker voice and agency.

• Care, sustainability, and creativity come first.

The economy supports health—human and ecological—rather than extraction.

Workers steward the future.

Resources are managed regeneratively to protect people and planet for generations to come.

Here's a **two-page summary** of your vision for a Human Development–Centered Economy:

What Humans Need to Thrive

Human beings are not commodities. We need conditions that support safety, connection, growth, purpose, and well-being to develop our full potential—not systems based on profit and control.

Core Human Needs for Development

1. Safety & Security

We need dependable access to food, water, shelter, rest, and freedom from violence and chronic stress.

2. Belonging & Connection

We thrive in loving, inclusive communities that offer intimacy, friendship, and cultural continuity.

3. Growth & Challenge

We grow through exploration, learning, creativity, feedback, and meaningful opportunities to try, fail, and succeed.

4. Autonomy & Contribution

We need freedom to shape our lives and opportunities to contribute to others and the world on our own terms.

5. Purpose & Transcendence

We seek meaning, spiritual connection, and a sense of participating in something greater than ourselves.

6. Internal Effort & External Support

While personal traits like resilience, curiosity, and motivation are essential, they can only flourish with strong environmental support—through access to care, role models, and safe, supportive surroundings.

When these elements are nurtured collectively, they lead not only to individual flourishing but to community transformation.

The Next Generation Economy: Designed for Human Development

This is an economy organized not around profit, but around people's growth, care, and ecological responsibility. Its structure meets universal needs while empowering individuals to live meaningful lives.

1. Universal Needs Infrastructure

Food, Water, and Waste Systems

Agroecology, regenerative farming, seed saving, and composting replace industrial agriculture. Clean water, ecological sanitation, and zero-waste systems ensure survival and sustainability.

• Shelter & Energy

Housing is a right, provided through cooperative models using bioregional materials and energy-efficient design. Renewable energy and community microgrids support local resilience.

Clothing & Material Commons

Clothing is produced and maintained through local fiber systems, ethical fashion, and repair cultures.

2. Safety, Health & Relationship Systems

• Healthcare for All

Preventative, herbal, and integrative medicine are normalized. Community wellness workers and midwifery are core.

Non-Carceral Public Safety

Restorative justice, mediation, and local emergency response networks replace policing and punishment.

Emotional & Relational Wellbeing

Rest, parks, play, and trauma-informed care are built into daily life and public systems.

3. Learning, Growth & Mastery Systems

• Liberatory Education

Peer-to-peer learning, mentorship, apprenticeships, and universal access create a lifelong learning ecosystem.

• Skills for Thriving

Intellectual, practical, creative, emotional, civic, and spiritual skills are all valued equally. Mastery includes body wisdom, community healing, problem-solving, and care.

Cultural and Legacy Contributions

Cultural memory, ecosystem restoration, intergenerational teaching, and regenerative innovation are celebrated.

4. Democratic Culture & Shared Governance

Participatory Planning

Federated councils and participatory budgeting let people shape public life. Urban planning centers accessibility, care, and community joy.

Celebration and Meaning

Festivals, public art, storytelling, grief rituals, and joy work are normalized. Recreation is a right, not a luxury.

Guaranteeing Human Needs

What's Guaranteed

Food, housing, healthcare, education, digital access, care, mobility, sanitation, rest, clothing, and recreation.

How It's Delivered

- Local Resource Circles (LRCs) coordinate access based on need, not money.
- Commons-Based Infrastructure like community kitchens, co-ops, and tool libraries replace markets.
- Needs Passports (opt-in) offer decentralized, privacy-protecting coordination—not surveillance.

How It's Funded

Through public development grants, cooperative revenue, time contributions, and democratic budgeting—no one pays at the point of need.

Transition from Capitalism to Human Development Economy

1. Grow and Connect the Commons

Expand community kitchens, time banks, tool libraries, and learning spaces. Federate them for regional collaboration.

2. End Market Scarcity

Replace price-based access with sufficiency planning and ecological stewardship.

3. Use Restorative Practices

Swap prisons and punishment for accountability, healing, and transformation.

4. Redefine Labor

Work becomes voluntary contribution—not forced survival. Everyone is supported to learn, rest, and contribute with purpose.

5. Normalize Joy, Belonging, and Wholeness

Recreation, culture, rest, intimacy, and connection are treated as public goods essential to health and fulfillment.

In Summary

This is not about reforming capitalism—it's about replacing it with a system designed for human flourishing. A Human Development Economy centers:

- People over profit
- Ecology over extraction
- Care over coercion
- Learning over labor
- Belonging over competition

It is a future where every person is supported to become whole, every community is empowered to thrive, and every decision is made in service of life.

Labor Shift in a Human Development-Based Economy

In a Human Development–Centered Economy, labor is no longer about survival or profit—it becomes about **meaningful contribution**, **lifelong growth**, and **collective well-being**. This marks a radical transformation from extraction and coercion to care, creativity, and cooperation.

1. From Jobs to Roles of Contribution

Rather than jobs defined by market demand, people engage in **flexible**, **purpose-driven roles** that align with their interests and community needs. All forms of labor—including caregiving, mentoring, art, and ecosystem restoration—are valued and supported.

2. Lifelong Learning Becomes the Norm

Work and learning merge. People gain skills through **apprenticeships**, **collaborative projects**, **and peer mentorship**. Emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, and cooperative planning are essential workplace tools.

3. Local, Regenerative Work Structures

Worker–learner co-ops replace rigid hierarchies. Labor is rooted in **bioregional stewardship**—supporting food, shelter, energy, and mobility systems designed by and for the people. Digital labor serves real-world needs, not surveillance or profit.

4. Care Work at the Center

Caregiving, teaching, healing, and coordination are treated as **essential**, **high-status work**. Mutual aid, time banks, and recognition systems make care visible and well-resourced.

5. Flexible Time Rhythms

The 40-hour workweek disappears. Time is shaped by **natural cycles and human rhythms**, with built-in rest, reflection, and renewal.

6. Work for the Public Good, Not Private Gain

People contribute to projects that serve **community resilience and global well-being**—like teaching, storytelling, restoring ecosystems, or co-building housing. Roles rotate and adapt over time.

7. Motivation Through Belonging, Not Fear

People contribute because they **care**, **belong**, **and are trusted**—not because they'll suffer if they don't. Recognition celebrates creativity, healing, stewardship, and social impact—not competition.

From \rightarrow To

Old Model	New Model
Jobs for survival	Contributions for collective thriving
Extractive, profit-based labor	Regenerative, purpose-based labor
Time clocks & wage labor	Rhythmic cycles & time sovereignty
Competition & scarcity	Cooperation & abundance
Burnout & alienation	Belonging, growth & restoration

In essence: Labor becomes a tool for building life, not extracting value.

In a **Human Development–Centered Economy**, jobs evolve into **roles of contribution** that serve people, communities, and the planet—not profit or artificial demand. Many current jobs dissolve (e.g. advertising for harmful products, financial speculation, planned obsolescence industries), while **new roles emerge and old ones transform**.

Here's a breakdown of the kinds of jobs/contribution roles that would exist:

1. Learning & Mentorship

- Learning Guides support personalized, project-based learning across ages
- Circle Facilitators host peer-to-peer learning spaces and community wisdom circles
- Skill Weavers help people match passions with learning pathways and real-world contributions
- Apprenticeship Coordinators link learners to regenerative trade mentors
- Public Storytellers / Cultural Historians preserve and share intergenerational and indigenous knowledge

2. Care & Wellbeing

- Community Health Stewards coordinate local healing and wellness circles
- Elder Companions provide presence, help, and learning companionship for older adults
- **Child Development Partners** work with families and children to support holistic growth
- Restorative Justice Practitioners mediate conflict and rebuild relationships
- Trauma-Informed Facilitators help communities heal and build resilience
- Movement, Art, and Play Guides support embodiment, expression, and joy as core health practices

3. Land & Resource Stewards

- Urban and Rural Food Growers cultivate food in permaculture and agroecology systems
- Commons Caretakers maintain shared kitchens, gardens, tool libraries, and gathering spaces
- Water and Soil Keepers manage ecosystem regeneration through community science and observation
- Waste-to-Resource Designers transform local waste streams into useful materials
- Local Energy Coordinators support cooperative, decentralized renewable energy systems

4. Makers, Fixers, and Builders

- Repair Circle Coordinators teach and organize fixing events for clothing, electronics, tools
- Modular Housing Designers build ecologically safe, reusable, and community-adaptable housing
- **Tool Librarians** manage shared tools and train others in their use
- Regenerative Infrastructure Builders construct earthworks, public spaces, off-grid utilities

5. Systems Designers & Process Facilitators

 Community Process Guides – help groups make decisions, resolve conflict, and plan collectively

- Resource Allocation Stewards ensure that needs and surpluses flow fairly across a bioregion
- Time Bank Coordinators maintain time-sharing systems for skill and care exchanges
- Policy Circle Hosts help communities co-create their own agreements and evolving practices
- Accessibility Advocates ensure all systems work for neurodivergent, disabled, and marginalized folks

6. Culture, Creativity, and Meaning

- Artists in Residence (Commons-Based) create and facilitate cultural expression
- Community Festival Coordinators design rituals, celebrations, and shared moments
 of meaning
- **Life Story Weavers** help people archive, reflect on, and share their personal and family histories
- Play Designers create games and simulations that build skills, insight, and relationships
- Rites of Passage Facilitators support youth, parents, elders through life transitions with care and ceremony

7. Network Connectors & Global Stewards

- Circle-to-Circle Liaisons connect local cooperatives, learning circles, and care teams across regions
- **Translators / Code Switchers** bridge language, culture, and modality differences between diverse groups
- Disaster Response Weavers mobilize community response in ecological or social crises

- Peacebuilders / Cross-Cultural Mediators support understanding, trust, and healing across boundaries
- Digital Commons Curators manage knowledge repositories and open-source resources for all

Examples of Retooled Roles (formerly capitalist-aligned):

Marketer Community Messenger or Public Educator (spreading helpful info, not selling)

Real Estate Agent Housing Circle Steward (helping match people to available shared housing)

Corporate Manager Cooperative Facilitator

Factory Worker Commons-Based Artisan or Circular Economy Technician

Social Media Cultural Connector or Public Wisdom Curator Influencer

Summary: In a Human Development Economy...

Work becomes:

- Meaningful aligned with your gifts and passions
- **Shared** rooted in community interdependence
- Fluid evolving as your skills, seasons, and needs change
- Regenerative healing to people, place, and planet

No one works to survive. Everyone contributes to thrive.

Transition Plan

Goal (2-Year Horizon)

In exactly two years, millions of working-class people, essential workers, artists, youth, and elders voluntarily pause participation in the capitalist economy for one month—and collectively shift into systems that meet human needs, not profit.

YEAR 1: FOUNDATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Time = 0 (Right Now)

Year 1 Months 0-3: Spark the Vision

Name the movement clearly:

Shelter in Place Month: A Peaceful Pause. A People's Reset.

Release core starter materials:

- Vision Statement
- FAQ: Why, How, and Safety
- Support Protocols and Risk Reduction Tools

Map and connect aligned networks:

• Unions, co-ops, mutual aid, climate justice orgs, tenant unions, teachers, tech workers, anti-surveillance groups.

Launch the cultural wave:

• Art, memes, music, videos, theater → frame it as liberation, not collapse.

Form the Global Coordination Hub (federated):

• Working Circles: Organizing, Food Systems, Education, Mutual Aid, Digital Infrastructure

Begin Building Alternatives

- Grow the Commons: Tool libraries, kitchens, learning spaces, time banks, care webs
- Join or Build Co-ops: Shift labor, consumption, and savings to collective models

- Start Local Circles of Care: Link contribution, healing, learning, and belonging
- Host Study Circles: Learn about mutual aid, neuroeducation, post-capitalism
- Launch Proof Projects: Create visible, working examples of new systems

Goal: Build living, functioning examples of the next economy—now.

Weeks 2-12: Connect and Coordinate

- Federate local projects: Link growers with cooks, fix-it crews with tool libraries, etc.
- Map resources and needs: Create neighborhood or bioregional resource-flow maps
- Build trust-based exchange networks: Skill/time trades, non-cash contribution circles
- Organize joyfully: Potlucks, music, rituals, games—celebration is the strategy

Goal: Create visible, joyful systems that feel better than capitalism.

Year 1 Months 4-9: Train, Teach, Organize

Launch 100+ Local Community Councils to anchor the transition

Global Education Campaigns:

- How the economy works (wages, extraction, false scarcity)
- How to live beyond it (co-ops, barter, land-based skills)

Host Global Teach-Ins:

- Reclaiming the Economy
- History of Strikes and Uprisings
- Mutual Aid as Governance

Launch Training Programs:

- Restorative Justice
- Community Food Sovereignty
- Peer-to-Peer Healing

- Local Energy Systems
- Nonviolent Defense & De-escalation

Goal: Mass political and practical education to unlock readiness.

Year 1 Months 10–12: Test and Prototype

Run Trial Events:

- One-Day "Stay Home Solidarity" demos
- 72-Hour Neighborhood Self-Governance Trials

Publish Success Stories: Build trust through lived examples

Goal: Practice, de-risk, and inspire confidence in real-world alternatives.

YEAR 2: ESCALATION AND TRANSITION

Year 2 Months 13-18: Expand and Fortify

Scale Local Infrastructure:

- Food/medicine hubs
- Transportation and mobility pools
- Child care and emergency health collectives

Recruit Essential Workers:

• Nurses, janitors, grocery workers, farmers, logistics staff, etc.

Form Community Defense Circles:

- Legal and media safety
- Anti-surveillance and digital sovereignty
- Restorative conflict response

Goal: Harden the foundations for a durable, caring parallel system.

Year 2 Months 19–22: Countdown Campaign

Launch media blitz:

- "12 Months to the Pause"
- "6 Months to the Shift"
- "100 Days of Readiness"

Host Global People's Congresses: Coordinate across cities, movements, sectors

Outreach to Bridge-Builders in Dominant Systems:

- Military veterans
- Public-sector unions
- Disillusioned small business owners
- Sympathetic teachers, clergy, low-wage tech workers

Goal: Build broad alignment and prepare to hold the line.

Months 23-24: Lock In & Launch

- Finalize city-by-city mutual aid maps and safe zones
- Activate offline communication plans in case of media shutdowns
- Organize cultural festivals + distributed press conferences
- Launch the "Stand Down Pledge" for Essential Workers: "We work for people, not profit. After the pause, we return only to meet human needs."

Start the 72-Hour Global Countdown:

- Livestreams
- Podcasts
- Posters and Zines
- Word of Mouth
- Local Signal Chains

Goal: Mobilize millions. Begin the one-month global transition. The pause becomes the portal.

Year 3 Month 1: DURING SHELTER IN PLACE MONTH:

- Activate care webs, food systems, and mutual aid delivery.
- Create pop-up schools, clinics, art spaces, meditation centers.
- Continue broadcasting live updates, poetry, and people's stories.
- Document everything—create the living archive of the revolution.

Y3, M1, WEEK 1: Shelter in Place Month Begins

What happens:

- Millions of working-class people and allies stay home.
- No one clocks in. Streets go quiet. Offices and factories sit still.
- Digital and physical networks help people coordinate mutual aid, food sharing, and local care teams.
- Communities check in on the most vulnerable (elderly, disabled, unhoused).

Psychological shift:

- Workers realize how quickly the machine stops without them.
- Initial fear ("Will I be punished?") gives way to empowerment ("We are the economy").

Disruptions:

- Corporate media panics, labeling the movement chaos or terrorism.
- Government urges people to return to work, but many refuse.
- Essential systems (healthcare, utilities, etc.) are stabilized by local volunteers and radical unions.

Y3, M1, WEEK 2: Reconnection & Organizing

What happens:

- Neighborhoods organize general assemblies or councils (online or in person).
- Former "employees" begin identifying what their real skills are and how to meet collective needs.
- People practice shared meals, skill swaps, community education, and care circles.
- Artists, writers, and educators emerge to help people process and document what's happening.

Distribution of responsibility:

- Not everyone does everything. People choose based on ability, desire, and community needs.
- Retired people, students, and caregivers become central coordinators.

Narrative shift:

- People begin imagining not going back to the old system.
- "Normal" no longer feels desirable.

Y3, M1, WEEK 3: The Gift Back — Reclaiming Essential Goods

What happens:

- Communities calmly visit grocery stores, warehouses, and distribution centers.
- No panic or looting—goods are redistributed based on need, not wealth.
- People create local pop-up distribution hubs, food share points, and medical supply depots.

Essential workers shift roles:

- Delivery drivers, stockers, nurses, and cooks now work for the commons, not for corporations.
- People volunteer to help. Some rotate in for cooking, sanitation, logistics.

Economic breakdown:

- Major corporations and landlords begin to panic—profits dry up.
- Billionaires and upper management have no levers to pull—there's no one left to manage.

Y3, M1, WEEK 4: Reclaim the Means — A New System Emerges

What happens:

- Workers return—not as employees, but as caretakers of production.
- Factories, farms, energy plants, and logistics systems are restarted based on community need, not profit.
- Wasteful production (fast fashion, weapons, luxury junk) halts permanently.
- Renewable energy, food systems, water purification, housing repairs, and childcare are prioritized.

Structures form:

- Cooperatives, councils, and neighborhood circles begin forming federated bodies.
- Digital platforms are used for decentralized coordination—no bosses, only facilitators.

Opposition attempts:

- Old power tries to reassert itself—private security, frozen assets, misinformation campaigns.
- But with supply chains, workers, and public trust gone, they are largely ignored or peacefully disarmed.

Why This Works

- It targets the dependence capitalism has on labor and logistics.
- It's nonviolent, widely accessible, and hard to criminalize en masse.
- It models the new system while withdrawing from the old.
- It is spiritually empowering—not just a protest, but a liberation.

Year 3, Months 2 - 12 AFTER SHELTER IN PLACE MONTH

- Shift from resistance to redesign.
- Formalize federations of neighborhoods, cities, cooperatives, and councils.
- Begin transferring systems and services permanently out of private control.
- Codify community governance, land trusts, new public institutions.

Year 3–5: Replace Core Economic Functions

What to do:

- Commons-Based Resource Systems: Convert privately-owned infrastructure (farmland, buildings, tools) into shared stewardship systems through gifting, trusts, or landback movements.
- Cooperative Education Systems: Establish free lifelong learning systems rooted in inquiry, purpose, and contribution.
- Care & Wellbeing Networks: Universalize access to holistic health through community care and distributed health stewardship.
- Local Contribution Ledgers: Track effort, impact, and need using systems rooted in trust, not transactions.
- Democratize resource distribution: Make budgeting participatory and responsive to community-defined needs.

Goal: Shift core societal functions into non-capitalist, regenerative control.

Year 6-9: Cultural Shift & System Scale-Up

What to do:

- Mass storytelling and cultural reprogramming: Normalize the new story through art, music, media, schools, and spiritual life.
- Rebuild public systems from below: Replace extractive state and corporate institutions with federated networks of regenerative systems.
- Policy alignment from the inside: Work with local and national governments (where possible) to legally support the commons and participatory governance.

• Global solidarity networks: Connect bioregions across the planet to share knowledge, seeds, strategies, and mutual aid.

Goal: Normalize the new way of life and make it irreversible.

Guiding Principles for the Transition:

- Start where you are. No one can do it all—begin with what feels alive and doable.
- Build dual power. Don't fight the old; grow the new alongside it until it's stronger.
- Move at the speed of trust. Relationships are infrastructure.
- Design for dignity, not efficiency. Human development is the purpose—not scale, not profit, not speed.
- Make it joyful. Joy is revolutionary fuel.

Constitution of the Next Generation Economy

Adopted by the People, for the Thriving of All Life

Preamble

We, the people of Earth, in recognition of our shared humanity, interdependence with all life, and responsibility to future generations, establish this Constitution of the Next Generation Economy. We affirm that the purpose of an economy is to nurture human development, restore ecological balance, and ensure dignity, freedom, and care for all.

We replace systems of extraction, exploitation, and profit-driven rule with a regenerative system rooted in stewardship, contribution, and shared purpose.

Article I: Purpose of the Economy

- 1. The economy shall serve human and planetary well-being above all.
- 2. The organizing principle of economic activity shall be human development, not profit.
- 3. All structures of production, exchange, and distribution shall align with the flourishing of individuals, communities, and ecosystems.

Article II: Rights and Guarantees

- 1. Every person has the right to:
 - o Safe shelter and nourishment
 - Purposeful work and creative expression
 - Lifelong learning and development
 - Rest, care, and community belonging
 - Participation in decisions that affect their lives
- 2. These rights are unconditional and inalienable, not dependent on wealth, status, or labor
- 3. The rights of ecosystems, nonhuman life, and future generations shall be protected equally under this Constitution.

Article III: Commons and Stewardship

1. Land, water, air, seeds, energy, knowledge, and infrastructure shall be managed as commons, not commodities.

- 2. No individual or corporation may own the Earth or its life-sustaining systems.
- 3. Stewardship Councils, elected and recallable, shall be entrusted to care for commons in accordance with ecological wisdom and community will.

Article IV: Circles of Contribution and Care

- 1. The core economic unit shall be the Circle: a group of people organized around meeting shared needs and purposes.
- 2. Circles of food, health, education, repair, governance, and cultural life shall form the basis of local economies.
- 3. Participation in Circles is voluntary and based on capacity, consent, and shared agreements.
- 4. Resource access is granted through contribution, not payment.

Article V: Governance and Law

- 1. All economic decisions shall be made through participatory, transparent, and distributed processes.
- 2. Nested Councils (local to planetary) shall coordinate governance through consent-based deliberation.
- 3. All laws shall be living documents subject to revision, feedback, and sunsetting.
- 4. Any individual entrusted with power may be recalled at any time through community process.

Article VI: Justice and Harm Repair

- 1. Justice shall be rooted in restoration, not punishment.
- 2. All harms shall be addressed through truth-telling, accountability, and community-led healing.
- 3. There shall be no private prisons, no incarceration for profit, and no punishment without repair.
- 4. Care Stewards, not police, shall be trained and supported to respond to crisis, conflict, and trauma.

Article VII: Learning and Human Development

1. Education shall be free, lifelong, and oriented toward personal growth and collective contribution.

- 2. Learning shall occur in community, through mentorship, inquiry, and real-world application.
- 3. There shall be no gatekeeping by degrees, certifications, or standardized testing.

Article VIII: Ecological Integrity

- 1. All economic activity shall respect planetary boundaries and contribute to ecological regeneration.
- 2. Each bioregion shall determine ecological limits, and all circles must operate within them.
- 3. Projects or activities that violate ecological integrity may be halted by community process.

Article IX: Transition and Implementation

- 1. All systems of profit-driven extraction shall be peacefully phased out over time.
- 2. Transition shall begin with Shelter in Place Month: a collective pause from corporate labor and return to community provisioning.
- 3. No one shall be left behind in the transition; all people shall be resourced to participate.

Article X: Revision and Renewal

- 1. This Constitution is a living document.
- 2. It shall be reviewed and revised every decade by a planetary council of stewards and learners.
- 3. Amendments may be proposed by any Circle and must pass through consent of local, regional, and planetary councils.

Ratified by the People, on behalf of all life, now and yet to come.

Core Principles of Restorative Justice

1. Harm is a Violation of People and Relationships, Not Just a Rule

- Justice focuses on the real human impact of harm.
- Shift from "what rule was broken?" to "who was hurt, what do they need, and who is responsible?"

2. Justice Involves Healing, Not Punishment

- Goal: Repair harm rather than punish.
- Healing addresses needs of:
 - The harmed person
 - The person who caused harm
 - The wider community

3. Those Most Affected Have the Greatest Voice

- Justice is participatory, not imposed from above.
- Central role for harmed parties, responsible parties, and community members—not just authorities.

4. Accountability Means Responsibility and Making Things Right

- Accountability must be voluntary, not forced.
- Requires acknowledgment of harm, understanding impact, and taking steps to repair.

5. All Voices Matter; No One is Disposable

- Everyone's dignity is respected, including those who caused harm.
- No shaming, exile, or dehumanization.

6. Healing Happens in Community

• Harm ripples through community, so healing is collective.

• Community supports witnessing, healing, and reintegration.

7. Conflict is an Opportunity for Growth

- Conflict is a chance to deepen understanding and connection.
- Restorative justice develops skills to prevent future harm.

8. Processes Must Be Voluntary and Informed

• Participation must be by choice, not coercion.

9. Processes Are Culturally Grounded and Context-Aware

- RJ respects cultural, historical, and social realities.
- Practices often draw from Indigenous wisdom, avoiding appropriation.

10. Equity and Power Dynamics are Explicitly Addressed

- Restorative processes confront power imbalances and systemic injustice.
- Commitment to anti-oppression and structural change is essential.

11. Relationships Are Central

- Focus on restoring trust, integrity, and connection.
- Strong relationships are both the means and outcomes of justice.

Restorative Justice as Infrastructure, Not Intervention

- RJ becomes the default way to address harm and conflict, embedded across society.
- Moves beyond courts and punishment to healing, transformation, and reintegration.

Concrete steps:

• Embed conflict circles in schools, workplaces, neighborhoods.

- Train facilitators in trauma-informed, culturally sensitive RJ.
- Establish public care councils for mediation and reintegration.
- Teach conflict literacy and emotional skills from early childhood.

Harm is a Signal, Not a Crime

- Harm is seen as ruptured relationships due to unmet needs, trauma, or systemic injustice—not just rule-breaking.
- Convene restorative circles including harmed persons, those responsible, and affected community.
- Share experiences, feelings, and needs to create collaborative repair plans.

Concrete steps:

- Develop protocols for convening restorative circles.
- Train community members in facilitating sharing and repair agreements.
- Create accessible spaces for healing conversations.

Justice as Relationship Repair

- Capitalism severs relationships through punitive measures; RJ invites dialogue and growth.
- Supports both harmed and responsible parties in emotional repair and rebuilding trust.
- Repair plans can include:
 - Community service contributing to healing
 - Skill-building/unlearning harmful behavior
 - Restitution through contribution, not money
 - Mentorship or therapy
 - Public storytelling or truth-telling

Concrete steps:

- Design community service opportunities tied to healing goals.
- Establish mentorship and peer support networks.
- Develop guidelines for public truth-telling forums.

Restorative Practices in Every Sphere

Education:

- Youth co-facilitate circles and community agreements.
- Schools use circles to build trust; suspensions replaced with repair.

Workplaces and Co-ops:

- Use restorative conflict protocols before disciplinary actions.
- "Prevention circles" to surface tensions early.
- Focus on accountability and skill-building instead of firing.

Housing and Neighborhoods:

- Tenants and stewards co-create agreements.
- Address harm relationally, avoiding eviction threats.

Bioregional Assemblies:

- Use truth and reconciliation to address systemic harms (e.g. land theft).
- Include structural repair such as land return.

Concrete steps:

- Implement restorative protocols across sectors.
- Train facilitators in schools, workplaces, and communities.

Develop restorative housing agreements and processes.

Restorative Justice as Cultural Norm

- RJ is a lifelong learning practice.
- Elders, children, and neurodivergent people valued as facilitators and truth-holders.
- Use collective memory and storytelling for healing and naming harm.

Important shift: Justice is not imposed—it is co-created and lived as part of community development.

Concrete steps:

- Integrate RJ education into curricula at all levels.
- Host community storytelling events focused on healing.
- Support intergenerational facilitation programs.

Summary: Restorative Justice Is...

Not About But Instead Blame Responsibility Rules Relationships Punishmen Repair t Isolation Belonging Shame Healing

Participation

Authority