

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND THE YAQUI NATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Yaqui people have experienced historical, systemic, and structural violence related to race and ethnicity. Currently, they are seeking to heal historical trauma through their Indigenous ceremonies and transnational networks. Employing an interdisciplinary theoretical framework, this article examines how the Yaqui Nation of Southern California (YNSC) is pursuing restorative justice as a way to overcome the intergenerational trauma that Yaquis have faced, especially during the last century. Restorative justice as a means of healing has been deeply explored by some scholars from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples.

INTRODUCTION

In the past decades, restorative justice has included a Western framework emphasizing crime and criminal justice. Only some studies include critical theory as part of the analysis.¹ A critical approach must contemplate the root causes of injustice to redress and heal the effects of crimes, harms, or offences inflicted on the victims and their communities. Likewise, critical lenses are required to examine the effect colonial processes have had through their systemic violation of Indigenous rights. It is also necessary to contemplate all the involved mechanisms—such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, religion, and so forth—to restore the peace in communities affected by injustices.² Finally, restorative justice is necessary to heal historical trauma.³ The healing disciplines come from religious beliefs and religious practices. These practices are related to the Creator, all sacred resources, and all living creatures within the physical, social, spiritual, and other spheres of life. In Indigenous

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