

## Considering Justice

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Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ) holds as its long-term goal the fostering of a way of life that is both just and compassionate. We work towards discerning, developing and encouraging responses that are creative, healing and empowering. Our concern is rooted in the Friends (Quaker) tradition of answering that of God in every person; we are clear that by creatively taking responsibility for one another and ourselves, we will transform both our communities and ourselves. We recognize that this challenging way of living is one that honours our relationship to Spirit, one another, and all of Creation.

We have produced these information sheets to share some of what we have learned through our lived experiences about the complicated responses to crime and harm that exist in Canada. Both the language and process of law enforcement, legal responses, and sentencing and incarceration are very complicated in Canada. We hope these resources challenge you to think carefully about this.

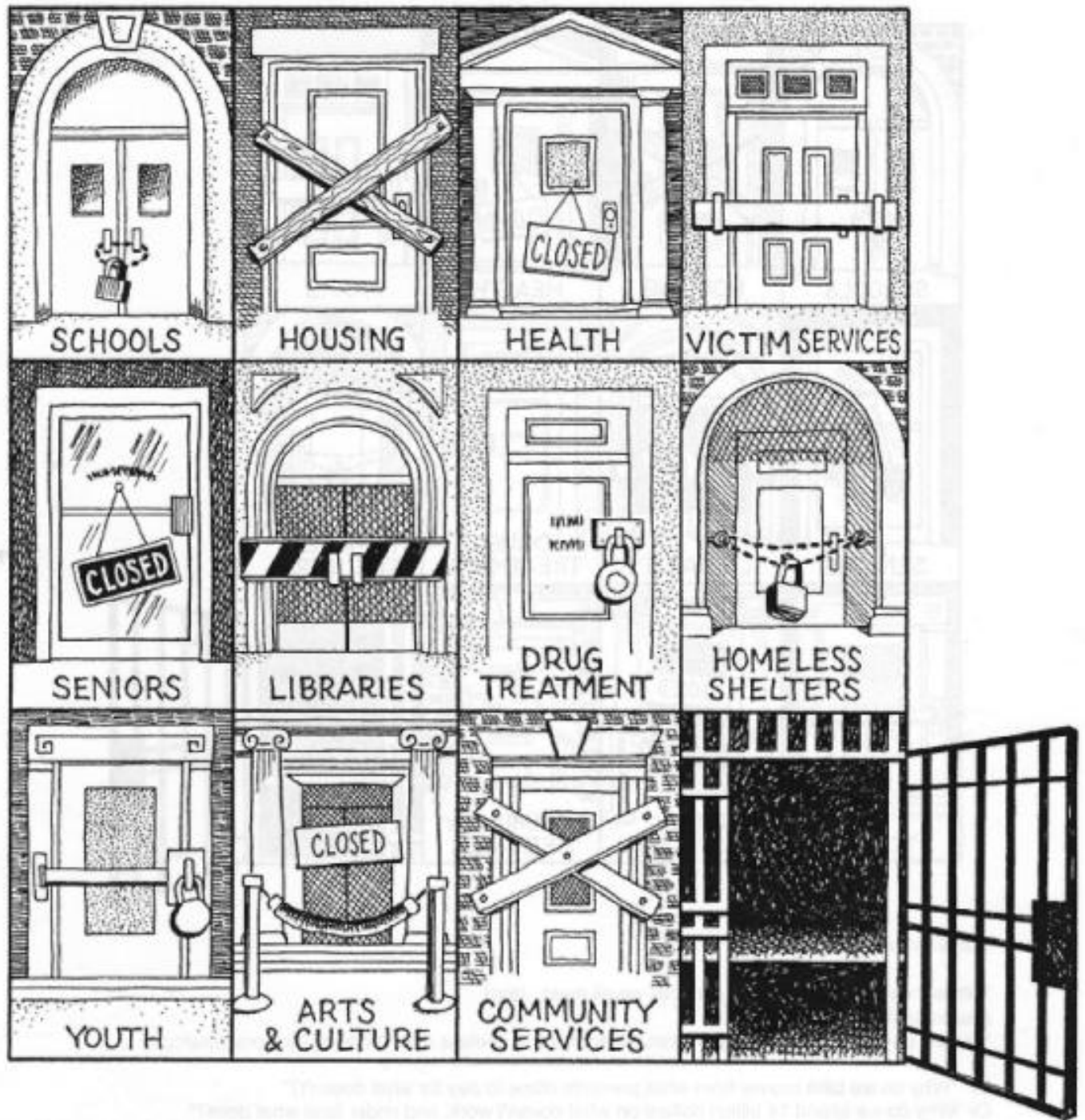
We also hope these resources will provoke thoughtful discourse on how we can better respond to the concerns for victims caused by crime, and developing responses that increase public safety. We invite you into these discussions connect with us on Twitter or Facebook, via email or over the phone.

Some questions and queries for reflection:

- Am I aware of experiences that have hurt me and make me vulnerable? Am I willing to be aware of these wounds as I move forward?
- Do I truly believe that *all* people deserve dignity, respect and compassion?
- How do I challenge behaviours that hurt others without in turn causing hurt?
- What have I learned from punishment I have experienced? What is punishment? Does it serve a useful purpose?
  - Am I willing to be vulnerable and reach out to those who I have harmed or who have hurt me? Am I willing to risk hurt or shame in order to heal our relationships?
  - As a person of faith, what do I do to make my communities safer? How do I help those who have been hurt by others? How can I encourage my faith communities to meet the needs of those who've been harmed by crime?
    - What are the consequences of turning over our neighbourhood conflicts and harms to experts & courts-of-law? What have we lost? What have we gained?
    - How do I contribute to chains of circumstances that result in hurtful acts?
    - What am I willing to do on behalf of others in the name of justice?



## "Closing Doors"



*Why do we take resources from what prevents harm  
to pay for what tempers our fear?*

