

**Auroville Project Coordination Group  
GRANT PROPOSAL FORM**

*GENERAL INFORMATION*

**1. Project title:** Applied Research: Restorative Circles in Auroville

**2. Project duration:** starting November or December 2015, for 1 year  
(or whenever the grant becomes available)

**3. Project Summary:** This is a 1-year intense Applied Research project on bringing Restorative Justice and Restorative Circles (RC), ([www.restorativecircles.org](http://www.restorativecircles.org)) to Auroville. We will explore what an effective Justice System could look like here – one that reflects our ideals, but that is also effective and has the power to bring about constructive change, both on the individual and community levels. At present we are unable to implement decisions made by arbiters and others in positions of upholding the values of our community – and we see this as an indication that we do not yet have a consciously designed Justice System in Auroville. As RC is a process that engages the community as an essential part of resolving conflicts, we trust that it will offer a way forward and support a shift in how we hold space for conflict and transformation. This project will include research, teaching, sharing of information, large-scale community involvement and events, experiments, testimonials, etc.

**4. Total Cost of the project:** Rs.2,16,184

**5. Funding amount requested:** Rs.2,16,184

**6. Name and other (contact) details:**

1. Principal Project Holder:

L'aura Joy, Centre Field, 9442788016, [laura.joyful@gmail.com](mailto:laura.joyful@gmail.com)

2. Secondary Project Holders:

Janet Fearn, Arati, 262 2165, [janet@auroville.org.in](mailto:janet@auroville.org.in)

Anand Shanti, Creativity, 262 3314, [shanti@auroville.org.in](mailto:shanti@auroville.org.in)

3. Unit: Joy Living Learning, Centre Field, 262 2539, [joylivinglearning@gmail.com](mailto:joylivinglearning@gmail.com)

(support with basic running expenses, office and training supplies, website, etc)

4. Service: In collaboration with Koodam (Auroville's Conflict Resolution Service),  
Kailash, 262 3770, [koodam@auroville.org.in](mailto:koodam@auroville.org.in)

**7. Date of application:**

October 12, 2015

*BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

**8. Background:**

We have been exploring the practice of Restorative Circles (a holistic, community-based form of conflict resolution) in Auroville, on and off, since late 2010. L'aura Joy was trained in this practice in October 2010 in the United States and has been sharing it in

Auroville ever since – through weekly practice groups, regular workshops, several live Circles (holding space for real conflicts), public talks (once in Town Hall, twice at Unity Pavilion), 2 interviews on AV-Radio, 2 articles in AV-Today), and a few posts on Auronet.

We have been working in collaboration with Koodam (Auroville’s Conflict Resolution Service), and last year, Restorative Circles was added to the revised “Auroville’s Conflict Resolution Policy,” (developed by Koodam and the Auroville Council) as one of the options available to those in our community seeking conflict transformation support.

Until present, Aurovilians who have been working with and practicing RC are: L’aura (Centre Field), Janet (Arati), Shanti (Creativity), Yuval (Utility), Audrey (Creativity), Elisa (Working Committee), Ambre (Nilatangam), Taj and Jo (Swayam), Roland (AVI-France member), Rita (Centre Field), Christiane V (Samasti), Vikram (Gaia), Hamsini (Newcomer), Kumar (New Colors), Thera (Invocation), Matripasad (Auroville Council, Prayatna)

**9. Problem statement:** Conflict is a natural, inevitable part of living together, and Auroville is no exception. Elvira and Niva at Koodam have already done so much to bring about a shift in conflict resolution, and yet there is still a long way to go before we are really able, as a community, to deal with our conflicts in ways that are healthy, effective, sustainable and life-serving.

Restorative Circles is a form of conflict resolution, but it is also a consciousness – and a large part of integrating this work into our community involves a cultural shift around how we perceive conflict and how we can find co-creative, empowered ways of restoring harmony and trust amongst us. In order for this work to develop fully in Auroville, we need full-time ambassadors who are willing to do the research, the teaching and the experimenting. We need more people with conflict transformation skills, and more options and resources – and RC can provide for this, because in its nature, it involves the community and invites co-creative solutions and change to emerge.

And very interestingly, in a recent Koodam meeting, both Elvira and Niva shared the learning they are having with a present conflict situation in Auroville. They see how their regular mediation form is not working, so to speak, and so much of what they are doing instead (that is different and unique because of the details of this particular case) actually resonates with the principles of RC, even though they say they do not yet have much understanding of its formal structure. They really encourage this project and see the need for a next step in Auroville.

**10. Project Team:**

**L’aura Joy** will be the main project leader. She was born and raised in Auroville, and life has lead her to work with nonviolence, peace and justice. She went to university to become a high school teacher and proceeded to teach for 6 years (3 in Canada, 3 in Auroville). But she somehow did not find this work as fulfilling as she had expected, so she quit teaching, not knowing what was coming next. She serendipitously ended up in a Nonviolent Communication workshop, and this was the beginning of a new passion for her. She has been working intensely in this field (communication, conflict transformation,

justice, community building and healing, decision-making and leadership) for the past 8.5 years.

**Janet (Arati)** and **Shanti (Creativity)**, who have both trained in RC and have been practicing since late 2010, will support at every step of the way. Janet has been in Auroville since the very beginning and is passionate about justice, governance and empowering our residents. Shanti is a trained psychotherapist and loves to work with individuals and groups, supporting them to find ways to live their truth and to feel fully alive.

The Practice Group members – **Yuval (Utility, Bamboo Centre, WELL)**, **Rita (Centre Field)**, **Matriprasad (AV Council)**, **Christiane V (Samasti)**, **Vikram (Gaia and Koodam)**, **Hamsini (Newcomer)** – will also support along the way, as they are already involved with RC in Auroville and they fully resonate with this project. **Elisa (Working Committee)** has also studied and practiced RC and would like to be a support person with this project. **Kati (Guest Services)** would like to support with the Film Festival we are planning. Others would be welcome to join at any point.

#### **11. Group approval of project:**

See support letters from the Auroville Council and Koodam at end of proposal.

#### **12. Other Sources of Funding:**

The Unit **Joy Living Learning** (which offers Nonviolent Communication and Restorative Circles workshops) will support with basic running expenses (office and training supplies, website, photocopies, tea, snacks, hall rental fees, etc). This is not included in the budget and funding amount requested.

We will likely have other expenses along the way – for example, we want to organize a “Peace and Restorative Justice Film Festival,” and we may need to buy some of the movies. However, we will see how to raise funds for these initiatives when the time comes.

### *PROJECT INFORMATION*

#### **13. Aims & objectives of project:**

- To co-create a Justice System in Auroville that reflects our values and is effective
- To continue to raise awareness in Auroville about RC
- To have a functioning Restorative System where people can call live Circles and a critical mass understands how the process works
- To train a large number of people and to have potential Facilitators across the community (in different neighbourhoods, Working Groups, schools, Units, Services, etc)
- To understand what is unique about Auroville and how to adapt RC to suit our needs and ideals
- To contribute to more ease and efficiency in resolving conflicts (increased goodwill, creativity, and inclusion instead of exclusion)
- To contribute towards a cultural shift in understanding conflict, its potential for transformation, and the need to take responsibility for our actions

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- To contribute to restoring trust, communication and harmony amongst Aurovilians
- To potentially be an example for other communities seeking to improve their peace and justice systems

### **14. Details of project intervention / description of activities:**

The main intention of this project is to explore how Auroville can move towards a Justice System that is true to its ideals and present-day needs. Because much of this work will be research-based and therefore emerge as it unfolds, we do not know exactly where it will lead us and how long it will take. From where we stand now, we can imagine carrying out activities such as the following (some of which are already taking place), and then seeing where the energy takes us. Although this is a 1-year project for the moment, in reality we see this work continuing for the next 5-10 years.

### **Proposed Activities and Time-Line: Nov 2015-Dec 2016**

#### **Ongoing Activities (throughout the year)**

##### **RC Team Meeting (1 per week)**

- dialogue about next steps, brainstorm, feedback, plan, implement

##### **Koodam Colleague Dialogue (1 per month)**

- review “where we are now” and how the project is unfolding
- dialogue about present concerns/agenda items and next steps

##### **Attend Koodam Monthly Meeting (1 per month)**

- stay in touch with larger Koodam community and conflict transformation facilitators
- share and exchange ideas, talk about next steps, peer support and collaborate

##### **Restorative Circles Workshop (1 every 6 weeks)**

- open to everyone, 2-day format

##### **Restorative Circles Practice Group (approx. 2 per month)**

- open to anyone who has attended an RC workshop, ½-day format, participants can attend as many or as few practice sessions as they like
- deepen our understanding and training in RC, continue to explore this tool within our group of RC practitioners and facilitators
- dialogue about justice in Auroville

##### **Cooperation with Participatory Governance Initiatives (when applicable)**

- reach each out to cooperate with the various existing and upcoming platforms for participatory governance (for example, Residents’ Assembly Service, Active Residents’ Assembly, etc)

##### **Information Meetings (or General Meetings) on “Justice in Auroville” (1 every 2 or 3 months)**

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- What is justice?
- What kind of a Justice System do we want in Auroville?
- Do we want an “authority” to have the power to enforce outcomes? If not, what alternative do we want to build?
- How do we want to resolve our conflicts?
- How can we do so while staying true to Auroville’s ideals? How do we encourage our fellow community members to take responsibility for their actions, and how to hold each other accountable without creating more separation (punishment, public shunning, leave-India-notices, etc?)?
- How do we restore trust and safety in our community, especially when trust has been severely broken (violence, theft, etc)?

### **Conversation Cafés (1 every 2 or 3 months)**

- share RC-related inspirational movie, poem, story, etc
- dialogue and share ideas, next steps
- compile points and bring them to Team Meeting and Koodam Meetings

### **Open Office (2 slots per month)**

- offer weekly public hours at La Terrace, so that people can come and ask questions, share ideas, give constructive feedback, etc
- prepare live presentations (short video recording, role-plays, exercises, etc) to foster more community connection and raise awareness around conflict and justice

### **Training and Information Material (ongoing)**

- develop and compile information material (for training or public circulation, News & Notes, etc)
- develop training material in different media (video, theatre, poetry, cartoons, AVRradio, etc)
- design flyers and pamphlets, etc that describe the RC process and translate them into some of the main languages, especially Tamil

### **Articles for News & Notes and/or AuroNet (1 per month)**

- write articles about justice, Koodam’s services, etc
- publish any reports (findings from questionnaires, mid-year and end-of-year reports, etc)

### **Blog (1 per month)**

- share learnings, celebrations, challenges

### **Self-Care, Study and Empathy (ongoing)**

- get empathy and support from local, national and international network of RC practitioners
- continue to study and explore this craft
- stay connected to international RC-forum, engage, share, ask questions, learn

### **Ongoing Offers (scheduled upon request)**

**Facilitate Live Circles (with testimonials, when possible)**

- be available to hold space and work through live conflicts (as a conflict resolution option)
- encourage RC learners to co-facilitate with more experienced Facilitators
- ask participants for written feedback about the experience
- if and when appropriate, get testimonials from participants that can be shared with the community at large (News & Notes, AuroNet, etc)
- if and when appropriate, possibly video record Circles (for training material and general information for our community)\*
  - o \*obviously, this is extremely sensitive and would only be done with mutual agreement, care and respect

**RC Workshops for Specific Groups**

- be available to offer trainings designed particularly for any interested residential communities, Working Groups, Services, schools, etc

**November – December 2015**

**Some of the Ongoing Activities and Offers (see above)**

- workshops, practice groups, Koodam meetings, RC Team meetings, etc

**Live Feedback from RC Community**

- send questionnaire to all those who have already (i) studied RC with us over the past 5 years, (ii) attended a public RC talk with us, (iii) been a participant in a live Circle
- get feedback regarding what works with RC, what does not work, what is needed, how we can improve our justice system, etc
- see if anyone else would like to join this project and in what capacity

**Live Feedback from Larger Community**

- send questionnaire to entire community regarding conflict and justice, what works, what does not work, how it could be different, etc

**Explore ARA (Active Residents Assembly)**

- an initiative by the Governance Action Group (from the Auroville Retreat workshop)
- join group, attend first meeting on November 5
- explore collaboration and possibilities of bringing RC and justice forward through this platform

**Engage with “Temporary Feedback Review Committee” (from Participatory Selection Process)**

- explore possible ways to support healing and reintegration of Aurovilians who would like to be in Working Groups, but whose names are rejected, because the community has given (sometimes repeated) negative feedback about them
- explore ways to rebuilding trust between these individuals and the larger community (like a “peace and reconciliation” process)

### **RC Workshops Requested**

- with colleagues at Koodam (on Nov 19)
- with students, teachers and parents at “The Learning Community” school (on November 21)
- some members from Creativity Community want to strengthen RC in their community (they have already used it) and they want our support with this (date to be fixed)

### **Review Tamil-Aurovilian Questionnaire and Feedback**

- some years ago, Koodam developed a questionnaire for Tamil Aurovilians regarding conflict resolution
- review their answers to this questionnaire and explore possible next steps

### **Research The Mother’s 12 Qualities as a Guide to Justice in Auroville**

- engage with Aurovilians who have already studied the 12 Qualities in depth
- explore possible links to and guidance for building our future justice system

### **January – February – March 2016**

#### **Ongoing Activities and Offers (see above)**

#### **Engage with the Auroville Council**

- explore how the Auroville Council could empower its role in conflict resolution (in situations where Koodam is not the right method) as an “internal authority”
- explore whether the Auroville Council could bring in more of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother’s writings, as guidance for resolving conflicts and living in Auroville together

#### **Connect with Residential Communities, Working Groups, Services, schools, Newcomer Orientation Program, etc**

- engage with present-RC-learners and see if they would like to bring RC to their communities or groups
- offer RC training and dialogue about justice, and get community members’ feedback about what is not working and how we can move forward

#### **Other Support Bodies**

- brainstorm about what other support bodies could benefit our justice system (for example, a Council of Elders, Co-Counselling, support groups, etc)

#### **Review Real Cases**

- review real conflict cases in Auroville where RC, or aspects of RC, was used
- explore what can be learned from these cases and how we can do things differently

#### **Engaging Cross-Culturally**

- meet with Niva (Koodam) and explore ideas for how we could engage with Tamil community

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- support Niva to initiate a cross-cultural women's circle

### **Youth Link**

- explore possible collaboration with Youth Link
- get their opinions about conflict and justice

### **RC Facilitators' Intensive (in March)**

- 5-day intensive training for those interested in becoming Facilitators, or for anyone else wanting to go deeper into RC

### **April – May – June 2016**

#### **Ongoing Activities and Offers (see above)**

#### **RC "Live"**

- explore possibilities for offering "live RC experiences" in a fish-bowl format (for public viewing at Unity Pavilion, for example)
- explore options for filming our own RC moments (in practice groups, live Circles, etc), so that we can share this publicly with the community

#### **Connect with Schools**

- write our schools to see whether they would be interested in incorporating RC into their programs in the coming school year

#### **6-Month Evaluation**

- review and assess our RC project
- get feedback from RC colleagues, Koodam, Auroville Council, general community
- questionnaires, what worked, did not work, best moments, etc
- publish results on AuroNet

### **July – August – September 2016**

#### **Ongoing Activities and Offers (see above)**

#### **"Peace and Restorative Justice" Film Festival**

- start planning for Film Festival (*likely to happen in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter*)
- research and find inspiring movies, documentaries on this theme
- host dialogue and discussions after the movies

### **October – November – December 2016**

#### **Ongoing Activities and Offers (see above)**

#### **RC Facilitators' Intensive**

- 5-day intensive training for those interested in becoming Facilitators, or for anyone else wanting to go deeper into RC

### **End-of-Year Evaluation**

- review and assess our RC project
- get feedback from RC colleagues, Koodam, Auroville Council, general community
- questionnaires, what worked, did not work, best moments, etc
- recommendations for next steps
- publish results on AuroNet

### **15. Beneficiaries:**

- Anyone in Auroville interested in learning about RC will benefit.
- Those already interested in RC will be able to learn more and hopefully contribute with their understanding and knowledge and support a larger shift towards Restorative Justice in Auroville.
- Those impacted by conflict might want to call a Circle as a means to work through their conflicts.
- “The Learning Community” (the teachers, parents and students) has expressed interest to learn RC, so they will benefit.
- Working Groups and neighbourhoods might benefit, if they are interested to learn more or to make use of RC in their groups.
- Koodam will benefit, as hopefully more and more people will learn the skills to handle conflict with more ease (either as Facilitators themselves, or just as good-willing participants in conflict resolution processes).

We are not expecting to buy any assets or large equipment. Any material assembled will be made public (for example, movies or articles).

### **16. What is the link to other Auroville activities?**

Elvira and Niva set up Koodam in order to support Auroville to deal with its conflicts in a healthy, constructive manner, while still being in alignment with Auroville’s ideals. Recently Koodam, in collaboration with the Auroville Council, revised the “Conflict Resolution Policy,” and RC features as one of the recommended options (along with Mediation and Arbitration) to take if we are struggling to solve our conflicts. But for RC to be fully effective on a community-level, we need to explore it in more depth and to understand our resistance (both as human beings in general, but also as Aurovilians aspiring to build a city of human unity) to using processes such as these.

Auroville has transformed a lot in the past 1.5 years, with the Residents’ Assembly Service taking a leading role in empowering community members to show up, voice concerns, and take responsibility and be part of the change we are all longing for. There is so much more community participation, transparency, inclusion and good-will, and the Working Committee, Auroville Council, and Residents’ Assembly Service are really leading the way. RC naturally complements this quality of community co-creation, and there is so much community talk about Auroville still needing skills and resources for conflict transformation, meeting facilitation, decision making, etc. The skills, framework and consciousness behind RC speak to all of these.

Elvira and Niva are available to mediate conflicts and facilitate dialogue between members of the community. They have also trained several Aurovilians, and one has joined the team as a new mediator. Koodam welcomes individuals from the community to join in and support the co-creation of safe spaces where people can bring their challenges and be heard and supported to find constructive ways of moving forward. Elvira and Niva also work in collaboration with other Working Groups in Auroville to develop policies and guidelines in the field of conflict transformation and dispute resolution.

In addition to continuing the present services that Koodam offers, we need to start questioning our very system and re-evaluate how we want to respond to justice as a larger community. The next step needed is to take a deeper and wider look at our present situation in Auroville, which is complex and does not always allow for an easy resolution to our challenges. Restorative Circles, in its design and nature, is a process that works on several levels, and it aims at bringing about a shift on a systemic level. It invites us to re-evaluate how we think about conflict, how we can invite people to take responsibility for their actions, and how we can support healing and rebuilding trust in our communities. It is a process that includes all layers of the community, and it invites us to co-create a Justice System that works for us. On a practical level, Restorative Circles also offer large-scale training, additional skills for conflict transformation, a large pool of available Facilitators, willingness amongst community members to participate in Circles if called upon, and increased awareness about the importance of consciously choosing a justice system for the growth and development of a community.

**17. Is the Auroville community waiting for the results of this project? What are indications of this?**

Yes!

1. RC is part of the newly passed “Conflict Resolution Policy,” and by nature, it needs to be explored a lot more before we can use it effectively as a community.
2. Elvira and Niva at Koodam want RC to be more widely available to the community and they encourage this project. It is not sustainable to have just a handful of mediators to take care of all of Auroville’s conflicts.
3. Please see attached letters (at end of this document), indicating that this is a valuable project and that several interested Aurovilians are wanting to see the results.

**18. How will the project be implemented?**

If this proposal is accepted and L’aura receives an Auroville Maintenance for 1 year, she will work full-time on this project. Janet and Shanti will be her primary support team, and others will support when they feel called. Most of the activities (listed in #14 above) will be ongoing, weekly and monthly.

**19. Evaluation:**

During this project, we will be in constant dialogue and interaction with the community, so informal feedback and evaluation will unfold in an organic, live way, and this will be the foundation for our work and research.

We will have a 6-month and 12-month review within our team (RC practitioners and Koodam), and we will also invite the Auroville Council and larger community to take

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part in our evaluation. We will share the results publicly on our blog. The format is yet to be decided, but we will likely look at what worked well, what did not work and recommendations for next steps. We will include questions such as the following:

- Did the activities take place?
- How many Aurovilians engaged with the different events (gender, age, nationality, workplace, etc)?
- Did the activities meet their intention?
  - o to raise awareness about justice in Auroville
  - o to begin community dialogue about creating an appropriate Justice System in Auroville
  - o to train more Aurovilians in the skills of conflict transformation
  - o to begin to implement the use of RC as part of Koodam's options and to raise awareness about how the process works
- How did/does the community respond to this project?
  - o written feedback and questionnaires
  - o testimonials from those who used RC as a conflict transformation option
  - o did the project contribute to healing and reconciliation for any unresolved issues?
- Are we any closer to having an effective Justice System in place...?

### 20. Budget Table (NB EXCEL spreadsheet is a separate file)

### 21. Budget Table Explained

<i>No.</i>	<i>Item Name</i>	<i>Intended use (by whom, for what purpose)</i>
1	<i>Auroville Maintenance</i>	<p><i>For L'aura, for 1 year, so that she can dedicate her time to this project fully. Koodam endorses this project and hopes to see it funded.</i></p> <p><i>At present, the Auroville City Services Maintenance is Rs.16,230/month (cash and in-kind), hence L'aura's request matches this amount.</i></p> <p><i>L'aura has recently applied to the Budget Coordination Committee for a Maintenance, but she has not received a response yet.</i></p>

**22. Name of project holder(s) responsible for information given in this application (including budget request) AND who will submit a final report (and progress reports or updates as specified by the donors) for any and all grant(s) received for this project.**

L'aura Joy, Janet Fearn, Anand Shanti

**Supporting Letters (connected to #11 and #17 above)**

**1. From Elvira and Niva at Koodam**

Oct 12/15

Dear all at PCG,

greetings from Koodam!

We would like to support L'aura in her endeavour to run a one year applied research project on restorative circles in Auroville.

It's more than two years now that Koodam is working to facilitate a change in how we embrace and work with conflict in Auroville. Tools like mediation, meeting facilitation and arbitration are taking root in our realities and are continuously maturing towards our ideals.

One of the biggest needs we see today in Auroville's conflict landscape is for a process that enables a wider participation of the community in certain conflicts. A process that empowers the larger collective to form and commit to "resolutions", as opposed to seeking for an authority to impose the implementation of solutions where they can't be carried by the "parties" for one reason or the other.

RC seems like a perfect element to join our Auroville toolbox for conflict resolution, and L'aura's research is the very next step needed to build this element in a meaningful and sustainable way.

We strongly believe that L'aura has the needed knowledge and skills to conduct such a research and we are sure that Auroville as a whole will benefit from her work.

Please feel free to get in touch with us if there are any questions or any way we can support this project become reality.

With love and appreciation for your work,

elvira and Niva on behalf of Koodam

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**2. From the Auroville Council**

Nov 3/15

Dear PCG,

The AVC supports L'aura's proposal for an applied research project on restorative justice and restorative circles in Auroville.

In our cooperation with Koodam to improve Auroville's approach to working with conflict we experience that tools like facilitation, mediation and arbitration are

contributing to a real shift.

And yet we see a big need for more processes, especially to create a platform for people whose focus is on receiving justice. We see that in Auroville the classic path of an authority that rules and imposes justice doesn't work.

Restorative Justice and Restorative Circles seems like a very interesting addition to what is already happening and we would like to explore how it can be integrated.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions.

AVC

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### **3. From the RC Practice Group**

Oct 10/15

Dear PCG,

We support L'aura Joy in her application to PCG, because we have experienced the depth and possibility of Restorative Circles – in workshops, ongoing practice groups and/or in live Circles.

Among the people working in conflict resolution in Auroville – including those working in Koodam – there's resonance that the next step needed is to expand into Restorative Circles. To do this, we need someone who can dedicate him/herself full-time to dive deeply into this work.

It's obvious that we have a long way to go to creating a justice system that works in Auroville, because people still hold onto longstanding unresolved conflicts and we're often not able to enforce the recommendations or consequences proposed by those working on particular cases. The punitive justice system does not correspond to the values of Auroville – and Restorative Circles does.

We need a cultural shift towards empowering more and more people in our community to resolve our own conflicts, and RC empowers us in this direction. Before that happens, we need to understand our resistance to this shift, and we fully trust L'aura as the person with the skills and the interest for this project.

Love,

Shanti, Rita, Janet, Matriprasad, Christiane, Yuval, Vikram, Hamsini  
RC practice group

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### **4. From Elisa (Working Committee)**

Oct 10/15

Dear L'aura,

I think it is a great idea to dedicate your time and energy to the restorative circles and spread it in Auroville wherever it is asked for. I totally support your project and deeply see the role of RC to support our communication and willingness to interact with each other with a different quality of presence, awareness and openness which builds the tissue of our connectiveness and togetherness.

With love and gratitude,  
Elisa

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### **5. From Dariya (Sve-Dame)**

Oct 9/15

I find there is an urgency in Av. for extending a community based system that can hold and support individuals and groups in disagreements and pain.

I see it as a super challenging project, yet trust that in time our ripeness to find solutions that are bigger than our personal interests, is emerging.

In spite of my limited experience with restorative circles and NVC, I can FULLY support L'aura's willingness in attempting to contribute to this next steps.

Witnessing her holding space and teaching, I completely trust her competence and impartiality required for holding such delicate spaces.

I hope the monetary support comes forth for this initiative.

sincerely  
dariya

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### **6. From Rita (Centre Field)**

Oct 9/15

Dear L'aura,

The magnanimity of restorative justice and nvc will accept me as I am ....)

The preconceptions (a concept I picked up from one of your workshops) ..... I am confronted by them, all the time, these days, and it is delightful to find me 'wrong' :-)

With love, gratitude and wonder  
Rita

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### **7. From Kati (Guest Services)**

Oct 10/15

"I know L'aura as a very dedicated RC (restorative circle) and NVC (nonviolent communication) practitioner and teacher. With all her heart she is committed to conflict resolution and restorative justice as a constructive way for individuals and the community. Her knowledge of these methods is profound and as an excellent trainer she is able to assist and inspire others on their path to nonviolently resolve conflicts. Thus I gladly support her project of a year of RC research because I am convinced it is for the best of our community; her deeper insights and sharings will open new doors for justice in Auroville. I will also be happy to be part of this process."  
love, kati

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## **8. From Vikram (Koodam and The Learning Community)**

Oct 11/15

My two cents about RC in AV

After having been involved with mediation and conflict resolution with Koodam over the last 1 year in Auroville, I understand the complexity of the various layers (cultural) that are involved in conflicting situations here. Personally I feel that punitive justice and retributive justice, even though it is being applied after trying out all the other possibilities (mediation, arbitration, therapies, community intervention, working groups), is not conducive or even feasible for Auroville in the long-run. The implementation or the enforcement of an outcome from either a mediation or arbitration is practically the biggest challenge (except in extreme circumstances). Also the search is always on for some kind of tools that would take us closer to the idea of "natural justice." I have had trouble over the years trying to understand that term even though I have a feel-good factor about it.

Recently I attended a workshop with L'aura on Restorative Justice. It was an amazing eye-opener, because it opened up the possibility of how the whole community can get involved and hold conflicts and learn to understand and take responsibility for their actions without being crucified for their actions ("mistakes").

The group during the workshop did practice circles with currently "real" AV situations. The way L'aura understands Auroville's complexity and facilitates the circle is quite amazing. I for one definitely feel that L'aura should continue to explore RC, adding to what Koodam already offers (mediation, arbitration, and therapies) in Auroville. There is something about Restorative Justice that resonates with harmony more than division. I say "something," because RC is still in its infant years in Auroville and it needs to grow, and we need to learn and record how it works in AV. RC will contribute to AV's peace and justice systems. I also feel that we need to shift our cultural ideas around conflict.

Since I work with "The Learning Community," we're also finalizing a time when RC workshops could be held in the school by L'aura. Understanding conflict as something that is not negative, but as something that is a ground for emergence, is critical in dealing with conflict situations. Auroville would be well served if there are workshops and study material that cater to this understanding from the school level itself, so that it could be a part of our lives.

I fully support L'aura's proposal for a grant from PCG. I wish her all the best and will continue to offer my support in which every way possible with RC in Auroville.

Peace and Love, Vikram (Gaia)

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**9. From Sandhya (TerraSoul / Windarra Farm)**

Oct 12/15

I fully support L'aura Joy's intend to commit fully for 1 year to Auroville. Her knowledge in the field of Non Violent Communication and Restorative Circles (RC's) is outstanding not only in Auroville. With her great ability to teach and guide whole groups through a process of deep listening and understanding, she could contribute a lot to enhance peace within our community. Together with Koodam we would have a strong force to do important steps towards a society capable to handle conflicts in a mature and fruitful way. Personally I am connected to L'aura's work since almost 6 years. I experienced her as an excellent teacher and I learned a lot from her. I appreciated her impartial input and help during times of conflict.

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**10. From Hamsini (Newcomer)**

Oct 12/15

I think it's a divine inspiration to start RC in a big scale.  
I think you are the perfect in AV to do so and i would like to be involve in this beautiful adventure that is using light to untie the knots in conflictual's situation in a space that allows for mutual trust.

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**Name of Funds applying for:**

SDZ [ ]

Micro-Projects [ ]

M-P Women Development [ ]

M-P Informal Education [ ]

M-P Youth [ ]

M-P Innovative Start-ups [ ]

FWE [ ]

MT&D Programme [ ]

Other [ ] \_\_\_\_\_

**VERY IMPORTANT Please note**

If you have received funding for a project through the Project Coordination Group in previous years, please confirm with us that you submitted the report for that project to us before making a new application for a different project.

**Reports are required for all projects that receive funding.**

The type of report, due date or frequency of reporting depends on the specifications of the donor. **A final report is a minimum requirement.**

The Foundation for World Education has a specific final report format available from [pcg@auroville.org.in](mailto:pcg@auroville.org.in) on request. Stichting De Zaaier requires progress reports every six months AND a final report upon completion of the project or once project funds have been spent: SDZ report format available from [pcg@auroville.org.in](mailto:pcg@auroville.org.in) on request.

In general, reports describe what was done during the project period, what role a particular grant played in relation to other funds received and, what is being done to follow-up on the project. A financial statement explaining how funds were spent is part of every report.

**Please also note** that all funds from all donors are sent to the Auroville Unity Fund and all withdrawals and expenditures for any project or activity are to follow the Auroville Unity Fund accounting procedures.