

**Forgiveness in criminal law
through
incorporating restorative mediation**

Jacques Claessen



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This monograph is dedicated to
Herman Thomas Bianchi (Rotterdam 1924 – Leeuwarden 2015),
who served as a Professor of Criminology at the *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*.
He was an important pioneer in the field of restorative justice
and continues to be a major source of inspiration to me.

‘If everyone took an eye for an eye, the whole world would be blind.’
Mahatma Gandhi

‘Courageous people do not fear forgiving, for the sake of peace.’
Nelson Mandela

‘Our prime purpose in this life is to help others.
And if you can’t help them, at least don’t hurt them.’
the XIVth Dalai Lama

‘Forgiveness is surely the greatest gift we can give to others, because it is the most
costly.
Yet at the same time, it is what makes us most like God.’
Pope Francis

‘Treat those who are good with goodness,
and also those who are not good with goodness.
Thus goodness is attained.’
Lao Tzu

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