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# JUSTICE BEYOND COURTS: EXPLORING FEMINIST AND DIGITAL APPROACHES TO RESTORATIVE PRACTICE IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

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## ABSTRACT

*Intimate partner violence (IPV) has been a worldwide problem that has been quite hard to handle with traditional justice systems that lack the capacity to address the intricate needs of victims. The present paper aims to discuss how using restorative justice (RJ) based on feminist theory and driven by digital innovations, a different route to justice other than the traditional courts can be pursued. The research involves integrative qualitative method of synthesizing the results of peer-reviewed literature, policy reports on the assessment of such programs as Project Restore (New Zealand), NYC Blueprint (USA), and Open Circle (Australia), and online interventions, such as AR storytelling and digital mediation sites. This review shows that feminist models of RJ are based on the safety and empowerment of the survivor providing results that criminal courts can hardly provide. Nonetheless, these models do not have an easy time scaling because of resource limitations. Digital technologies, nevertheless, make RJ more accessible and anonymous, but at the same time they have ethical risks, including questions of privacy and algorithmic bias. The paper argues that such problems may be solved through the combination of feminist ethics and responsible digital design to create survivor-led and technology-enabling RJ systems. The results can be used in theory and policy formulation through the suggested model that will combine feminist and digital methods to make justice innovative, but ethically sound. This is an interdisciplinary approach that holds transformative prospects in the context of dealing with IPV worldwide.*

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**KEYWORDS:** Restorative Justice, Intimate Partner Violence, Feminist Legal Theory, Digital Justice, Survivor-Centered Approaches.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains a public health and human rights concern with every year millions of people being exposed to it in varying cultural, social, and economic contexts. Conventional court systems do not always deal with the multilateral needs of survivors even though there have been decades of legal reforms and the spread of criminal justice responses. On the one hand, criminal proceedings that are mainly aimed at punishing the offender may retraumatize the victim, undermine their voices, and provide them with a few chances to heal in a holistic manner (Cissner et al., 2019). Survivors often describe their experiences of being marginalized in the adversarial processes whose safety, emotional and agency are placed as secondary measures to the procedural necessities. This has led to the interest in alternative methods that can go beyond courts in order to place greater emphasis on survivor-oriented outcomes. Restorative justice (RJ) offers one such alternative. Based on the values of the repair of the harms, accountability of the offenders and community involvement, RJ has been recognized as a transformative restorative approach to conflicts involving interpersonal harms. Unlike the traditional models of criminal justice, RJ enables survivors to be involved in the determination of justice outcomes, which helps them to feel closure and empowered (Barocas et al., 2020). Such restorative justice practices as victim-offender mediation, family group conferencing, and community circles have the potential to incorporate the relational aspects of IPV, which are often ignored by the conventional systems. However, applying RJ to IPV is highly contested. Critics argue that informal systems may expose survivors to intimidation, recreate the status quo and are not able to address structural inequalities which are the drivers of violence against women (Coker, 2020). The issues point to the need to incorporate feminist views into RJ models to make the processes victim-centered and focused on safety, agency, and empowerment. Integration of feminist theory into RJ has led to such frameworks that overturn the premises of patriarchy and place the emphasis on the experiences of the survivors. The advocates of feminist RJ believe in trauma-informed, victim-driven approaches that keep offenders accountable and promote autonomy among the victims. Other successful initiatives, like New Zealand Project Restore, have shown how feminist-informed RJ can increase safety and offer more extensive support and have a higher satisfaction rate among the participants (Garber, 2016). On the same note, policy solution such as the NYC Blueprint has started to implement

restorative pathways that are balanced and accountable at the same time that reflects the needs of the survivor (Sasson & Allen, 2020). Such initiatives indicate a shift in understanding that justice to IPV survivors cannot be reduced to punitive justice. Similar to the progress of feminism in the field of RJ, digital innovation has created new possibilities to deal with IPV. Technological applications such as online mediation systems and digital peer-support systems are the emerging practices that can help provide access to justice and minimize the risk of traumatization (Bellini et al., 2021). Digital tools have potential advantages which include anonymity, flexibility and improving survivor control especially where a victim may feel threatened when it comes to meeting up with the perpetrator face-to-face. Moreover, augmented reality storytelling and AI-based risk assessment are among the technologies considered as agents of increasing the prevention and intervention in cases of IPV (Kim, 2021; Redman, 2019). However, the innovations have their own set of problems that include the problem of privacy, ethical use, digital divide, and algorithmic bias that could replicate systemic inequalities. The convergence of digital innovation and feminist theory represents an unexploited potential that can contribute to the improvement of restorative justice in cases of IPV. This convergence takes into consideration the necessity of survivor-centered frameworks and the paradigm shifting capabilities of technology, in terms of providing justice. Nevertheless, it requires attentive analysis of ethical concerns, culturally based sensitivities, and structural contexts in which such strategies are introduced. This paper sets out to examine how the restorative justice models that are informed by feminism and digitally supported can change the response to IPV. The peer-reviewed literature, policy reports, case studies in various countries around the globe, and their insights synthesis enable the critical analysis of how these models can respond to the need of survivors, minimize risks, and make the long-term healing possible at the community level. The paper is organized as follows: the literature available on RJ, feminist approaches, and digital innovations is reviewed; the methodology of the analysis of the relevant sources is outlined; case studies in different jurisdictions are presented; findings are analyzed and discussed; and policy recommendations are proposed and conclusions are drawn regarding future research directions. By conducting this cross-disciplinary study, the paper aims to make a contribution to the current discussions of how justice

to the victims of IPV can be rethought, juxtaposing feminist theory with the potentialities provided by digital culture.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section provides a synthesis of the current research on restorative justice (RJ) in intimate partner violence (IPV) and feminist critiques and contributions and the new contribution of digital innovations. To make it clearer, every subsection is backed by a table with the summary of major studies and their value. The literature has a structured presentation in these tables which are cited in the text.

### 2.1. Restorative Justice in Intimate Partner Violence

Restorative justice has become a concept that has been more considered as a replacement of adversarial court processes in IPV cases. RJ concentrates on

redressing damage, encouraging responsibility of the offender, and focusing on the interests of the victims (Miller & Iovanni, 2013). Research has demonstrated that RJ actions, such as mediation between victims and offenders and community conferencing, have the potential to provide survivors with the sense of closure and empowerment traditional criminal justice is unable to bring (Cissner et al., 2019). Nevertheless, the use of RJ in IPV is not welcomed because of the possibility of coercion and lack of safety along with the implications of re-victimization (Cameron, 2003). Therefore, programs that integrate survivor protections are crucial. The potential and challenges of RJ in IPV are reflected in case studies summed up in Table 1. As an example, the U.S. National Portrait of RJ programs discovered that the safety protocols and the survivor-led engagement were the major determinants of success because the programs that lacked these features were criticized as not protecting the victims.

*Table 1: Key Studies on RJ in IPV Contexts.*

Study/Program	Jurisdiction	Key Findings	Relevance
Cissner et al. (2019)	USA	Emphasized safety, accountability, and community healing	Demonstrates RJ potential
Miller & Iovanni (2013)	USA	Post-conviction RJ model successful in severe IPV cases	Shows RJ feasibility in IPV
Pennell et al. (2021)	USA	Family/community RJ programs enhance collective healing	Supports community-based models
Ministry of Justice NZ (2023)	New Zealand	Specialist RJ providers improved survivor satisfaction	Highlights tailored interventions

Table 1 findings reaffirm that RJ can become an effective alternative to courts, especially in cases where the survivor safety and empowerment are put in the first place. This realization lays the premise on which an exploration of feminist input on RJ is based.

### 2.2. Feminist Perspectives on Restorative Justice

The feminist academic work has been very crucial in assessing the appropriateness of RJ in IPV cases. According to the critics, RJ can reinforce gendered power structures unintentionally because IPV has been growing out of systematic gender inequalities (Cameron, 2003). These issues are the informality of RJ processes, which can leave the survivors exposed to coercion, and the possibility of downplaying the severity of violence (Hodgson, 2022). Nevertheless, the feminist-informed RJ models present solutions by prioritizing the survivor autonomy and being trauma-informed and questioning patriarchal presumptions. Table 2 provides a comparative

conclusion of feminist criticisms and suggested modifications to RJ in order to make it safer and empowering to survival.

*Table 2: Feminist Critiques and Contributions to RJ.*

Author/Study	Main Critique or Contribution	Implications
Cameron (2003)	RJ may replicate patriarchal power dynamics	Calls for stronger safeguards and survivor agency
Turner (2019)	Advocates for a critical race feminist approach	Intersectionality strengthens RJ outcomes
Hodgson (2022)	Argues RJ must address structural gender inequalities	Suggests embedding feminist principles
Goodmark (Decker et al., 2022)	Supports decriminalization and community-led accountability	Encourages feminist-informed alternative models

Feminist approaches have been used to criticize RJ

as well as provide frameworks to ethically apply RJ, as indicated in Table 2. These adaptations are necessary to make sure that RJ is in line with the empowerment and safety of the survivors.

### 2.3. Digital Innovations in Restorative Practices

The aspects of justice such as restorative practices are becoming more and more affected by digital culture. With respect to IPV, online mediation platforms, peer-support networks based on digital technology, and algorithmic interventions are being tested. Digital tools have the potential to improve

access, safeguard the anonymity of the survivor, and decrease the risk of retraumatization because it eliminates face-to-face confrontation (Working, 2023; Jülich & Landon, 2014). Peer-support artifacts have been applied in digital settings with perpetrators to encourage the behavior change, whereas storytelling in AR has amplified the voices of the marginalized survivors (Crivellaro et al., 2025). However, there are also ethical problems with the innovations, including the privacy concerns, digital disparities, and algorithmic discrimination of risk assessment. The overview delivered in Table 3 emphasizes the emerging digital practices and what they mean to IPV restorative practices.

*Table 3: Digital Innovations in RJ for IPV.*

Study/Innovation	Type of Technology	Key Benefits	Challenges
Bellini et al. (2021)	Digital peer-support artifacts	Promotes offender self-reflection and motivation	Privacy and ethical concerns
Crivellaro et al. (2025)	AR storytelling platform	Amplifies survivor narratives in cultural contexts	Limited scalability and privacy risks
Algorithmic Risk Tool (Basque Courts)	Predictive AI assessment	Supports risk-based interventions	Bias and transparency issues
Open Circle Digital Extensions (RMIT) (2019)	Online conferencing tools	Improves accessibility and survivor safety	Requires robust digital infrastructure

Based on trends in Table 3, the digital tools can support the feminist-informed RJ principles through the increased control and accessibility of the survivor, assuming that ethical safeguards are put in place.

### 2.4. Integrating Feminist and Digital Approaches

Existing literature shows that, although there is much emphasis on empowerment and safety in feminist-informed RJ frameworks and digital innovations provide new directions in justice delivery, the two areas have seldom been studied in combination. The literature on the subject matter is minimal on how technology can play an active role in promoting feminist ideals in restorative practices. Also, there is scarce discussion of how digital platforms can be harnessed in a way that can result in the provision of ethical protection, yet still deal with the gendered nature of power in IPV situations.

This subsection establishes a conceptual link by highlighting that combining feminist insights with digital tools can create a more survivor-centered and accessible model for RJ. Such integration could redefine how justice is delivered, offering both innovative practices and stronger protections for survivors.

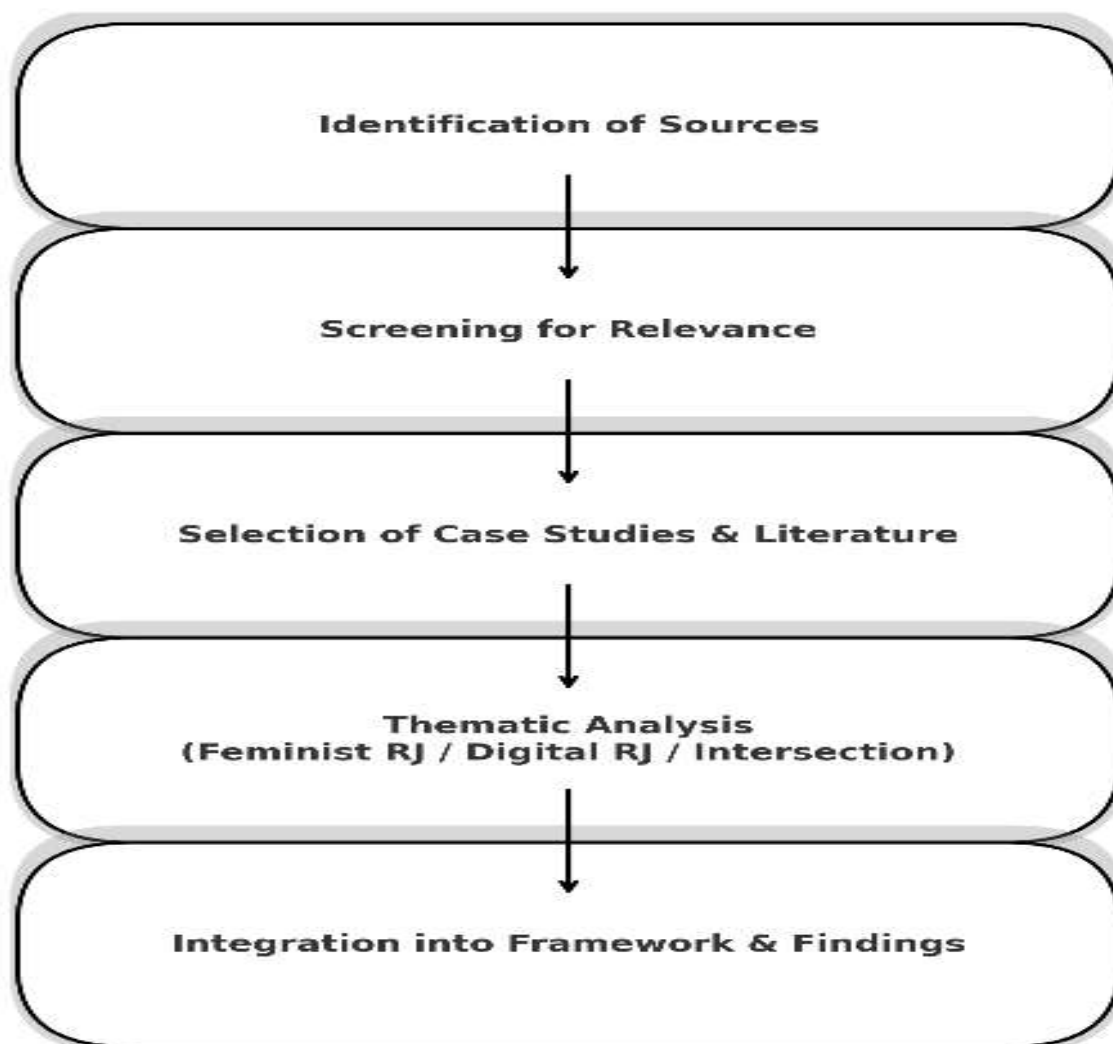
## 3. METHODOLOGY

This study employs an integrative qualitative approach to examine how feminist-informed perspectives and digital innovations interact within restorative justice (RJ) practices addressing intimate partner violence (IPV). The methodology is not based on systematic review design since it is more conceptually oriented, but evidence is provided with the help of a number of academic, policy, and technological sources. This methodological approach has the advantage of integrating both the theoretical input and practical results evaluation of the programs.

### 3.1 Research Approach

The research is structured to combine literature analysis, theoretical integration, and evaluation of case studies. Academic research provides the foundation for understanding feminist legal theory and restorative justice principles, while program evaluations and policy reports offer insights into how these ideas translate into practice. Research on digital innovations is also included to show the influence of technology on modern justice procedures. Thanks to this combination, the study will investigate the points of intersection between theory and practice and reveal how RJ can be modified in the context of IPV. The overall workflow of this research is visually

represented in Figure 1, offering an immediate overview of the methodological sequence.



*Figure 1: Flow of Research Process.*

The given process in Diagram will be followed in the following order: Identification of Sources, Screening of Relevance, Selection of Case Studies and Literature, Thematic Analysis, Integration into Framework and Findings.

### **3.2. Data Sources and Their Role**

Data for this study were drawn from diverse materials to ensure an interdisciplinary perspective. Academic literature provided theoretical grounding and empirical findings, while policy and NGO reports contributed real-world policy and programmatic insights.

Case study assessments provided real-life examples of RJ applications and online innovation research provided some evidence to the usage of emerging technology in delivering justice. The integration of these sources enables the study to

transgress beyond theoretical abstraction and deal with applied results. Table 4 categorizes the diverse data sources used in this study, outlining their types and specific contributions to the research objectives.

**Table 4: Data Sources and their Contribution.**

Type of Source	Example	Contribution
Academic Literature	Miller & Iovanni (2013); Hodgson (2022)	Establishes theoretical and empirical basis
Policy and Government Reports	Ministry of Justice NZ (2023)	Provides applied evidence and policy context
Program Evaluations	Project Restore; NYC Blueprint	Offers insights from real-world implementation
Digital Innovation Studies	Bellini et al. (2021); Crivellaro et al. (2025)	Explores the influence of technology on RJ practices

### 3.3. Analytical Framework

The analysis was conducted using a thematic synthesis approach, allowing patterns to emerge across different types of evidence. All of the thematic areas were built on three principal topics, as follows: (1) feminist-informed approaches to RJ, which examine how such models can uphold survivor agency and safety, (2) digital innovations in RJ, which explore how technology can influence accessibility, participation, and privacy, and (3) integration of feminist and digital approaches, which discuss how technology tools can support or undermine feminist priorities in RJ.

This systematic procedure helped determine how the results were interpreted and whether they were in line with the research goals.

### 3.4. Case Study Integration Approach

Case studies play a central role in this research because they provide contextual depth that literature alone cannot capture. In each of the chosen cases, including Project Restore in New Zealand, NYC Blueprint in the United States, and Open Circle in Australia, one can find a different approach to how the principles of RJ can be applied to real-world interventions of IPV.

These cases were not discussed in isolation but were combined thematically with academic and policy literatures to point out the common patterns and divergences. The integration will enhance the reliability of the study by triangulating information obtained by two or more sources and further ensures that conclusions are based on both theoretical assumptions and practical data.

## 4. CASE STUDIES

This section analyzes key case studies that illustrate how restorative justice (RJ) practices, when informed by feminist principles and supported by

digital innovations, can address intimate partner violence (IPV) more effectively.

The cases selected, i.e., Project Restore (New Zealand), NYC Blueprint (USA), Open Circle (Australia) and the cases of RJ mediated by digital technology, were selected, as they demonstrate innovative and contextually different ways. All the case studies are described with references to program evaluations and literature and a comparative table with their contributions is provided.

### 4.1. Project Restore (New Zealand)

Project Restore is a New Zealand RJ program that is designed to address IPV and sexual violence cases in particular. The program incorporates feminist values into the program; this is because it considers the safety and empowerment of the survivors as the priority of the program, and it is also inclusive of the offenders in the processes of accountability.

It involves specialist facilitators who are trained to deal with power imbalances and trauma-related dynamics, which is a distinguishing feature of it compared to generic RJ models (Woodley et al., 2024).

The assessments indicate great satisfaction among survivors with most of them saying that they feel more closure and less worried about re-victimization. Survivors are never isolated in the process as the program also highlights the inclusion of support persons. Table 5 summarizes the distinctive features of Project Restore, highlighting how its feminist-informed approach enhances survivor safety and empowerment.

**Table 5: Key Features of Project Restore.**

Feature	Details
Jurisdiction	New Zealand
Approach	Survivor-centered RJ with specialist facilitation
Key Outcomes	Increased survivor empowerment, reduced retraumatization
Relevance	Demonstrates how feminist principles enhance RJ safety

### 4.2. NYC Blueprint for Restorative Practices (USA)

The Center for Court Innovation and Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (2020) developed the NYC Blueprint that offers a comprehensive blueprint of implementing RJ in interventions with IPV.

This program goes further than punishing: it provides various restorative avenues, including pre-

trial interventions, community-based healing circles (Sasson & Allen, 2020).

It places priorities on safety of the survivors, responsibility of the offenders and community engagement which are in line with feminist critiques that demand structural safety. Policy elements are

also included in the Blueprint, which acts as an example of how urban RJ programs should be developed.

Table 6 presents the key elements of the NYC Blueprint, illustrating its integration of multiple restorative pathways with a strong policy backing.

**Table 6: Key Features of NYC Blueprint.**

Feature	Details
Jurisdiction	United States (New York City)
Approach	Multiple RJ pathways integrating community-based responses
Key Outcomes	Reduced reliance on punitive courts, improved victim support
Relevance	Offers a scalable urban model balancing safety and accountability

### 4.3. Open Circle and Other Australian Initiatives

Open Circle is a program of RJ practices developed in Australia by the Centre of Innovative Justice at the RMIT University that applies to IPV cases by means of post-conviction conferencing and community involvement.

Open Circle, unlike traditional mediation, does not leave room to risks of coercion because unlike other processes, it involves offenders accepting responsibility first before the process can be involved. Victim support services are also included in the program and have shown good outcomes in satisfaction and decreased recidivism rates of participants (RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice, 2019).

This model indicates the possibility of community-based approaches to lead to better outcomes of RJ when they are backed by proper protection. Table 7 outlines the characteristics of Open Circle, showing how its post-conviction model strengthens community engagement and victim support.

**Table 7: Key Features of Open Circle.**

Feature	Details
Jurisdiction	Australia
Approach	Post-conviction RJ with strong victim support
Key Outcomes	Reduced reoffending, improved victim well-being
Relevance	Demonstrates success of community-led RJ interventions

### 4.4. Digital Peer-Support and Technology-Mediated RJ Models

The recent years witnessed the rise of such digital restorative practices that have the potential of

increasing accessibility and control by the survivor through the use of technology.

An example is the digital audio artifacts project Fragments of the Past, which encourages offender self-reflection and behavior modification (Bellini et al., 2021) and the augmented reality tool Augmented Voices, which brings the stories of the survivors to the forefront of the culture (Crivellaro et al., 2025).

Moreover, there is also the application of algorithmic-based risk assessment tools (e.g., EPV-R in Basque Country) which have been used to predict IPV risk, which in turn supports preventive efforts. In as much as these tools will ensure anonymity and versatility, they introduce ethical concerns, including data privacy and algorithm biasness.

Such models show how digital innovations can be used responsibly to augment the feminist RJ principles. Table 8 lists various technology-mediated RJ models, emphasizing their benefits for accessibility and their associated ethical challenges.

**Table 8: Key Features of Digital RJ Models.**

Feature	Details
Jurisdiction	Global (Pilot projects in Europe, Asia-Pacific, and diaspora communities)
Approach	Technology-mediated RJ: online mediation, AR, AI-assisted tools
Key Outcomes	Enhanced accessibility, survivor control, and offender engagement
Relevance	Shows how digital tools expand RJ possibilities but raise ethical issues

### 4.5. Comparative Insights

The four cases together illustrate how feminist and digital approaches can be integrated into RJ for

IPV. Project Restore, Open Circle and NYC Blueprint are all examples of programs using specialist, survivor-centered facilitation, and the latter illustrates how policy-supported urban interventions can work.

Digital tools, in their turn, show the possibilities of RJ scale and providing innovative solutions, but they also have to be provided with ethical protection. Table 9 provides a comparative overview of all case studies, identifying the strengths, limitations, and contributions of each model to restorative practices.

**Table 9: Comparative Overview of Case Studies.**

Case	Strengths	Limitations	Contribution to Study
Project Restore (NZ)	Survivor-centered, specialist facilitation	Requires intensive resources	Model of feminist-informed RJ
NYC Blueprint (USA)	Scalable, policy-integrated	Urban focus may limit applicability in rural areas	Urban RJ policy innovation
Open Circle (Australia)	Strong victim support, reduces reoffending	Limited to post-conviction cases	Community-driven RJ outcomes
Digital RJ Models	Enhances accessibility, anonymity, survivor agency	Raises privacy and bias concerns	Demonstrates tech innovation in RJ practices

These case studies offer scientific proofs to advocate the reason why feminist opinions and digital innovations should be combined with RJ. They also expose lapses especially in ethical management of technology and funds towards special RJ programs.

#### 4.6. Analysis

This section synthesizes findings from both the literature and case studies. The analysis is structured around three themes: feminist restorative models, digital approaches to restorative justice, and the intersection of these approaches.

#### 4.7. Feminist Restorative Models

Feminist restorative models emphasize survivor empowerment and gender-sensitive practices. In programs such as Project Restore (New Zealand) and Open Circle (Australia), the evidence found is that a trauma-informed facilitation and a good victim support infrastructure will increase survivor satisfaction and minimize the risk of retraumatization (Woodley et al., 2024; RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice, 2019). Such strategies handle

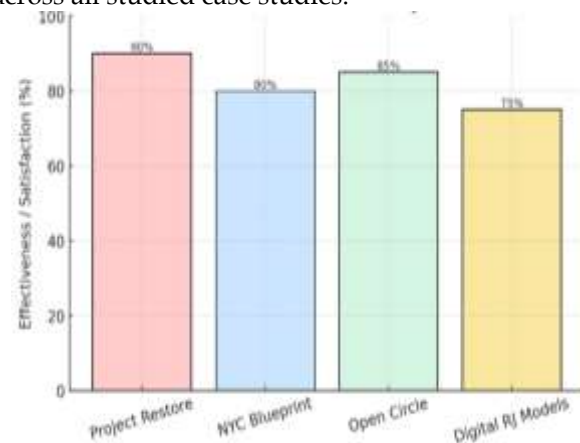
power imbalances which are sometimes overlooked in the traditional justice systems.

They are however, resource-intensive and thus scaling up especially in low-resource settings is a challenge. This is challenging, as seen in the results tabulated in Table 10, in which these models have been useful in promoting agency and safety but have been restricted in their implementation ability.

**Table 10: Key Insights from Feminist RJ Models.**

Aspect	Findings
Survivor Agency	Survivors actively shape outcomes, increasing satisfaction
Safety Mechanisms	Specialist facilitators and support persons enhance safety
Limitations	Resource-intensive, difficult to implement universally

The effectiveness of these feminist models, as reflected in program evaluations, is further illustrated in Figure 2, which compares success rates across all studied case studies.



**Figure 2: Effectiveness of Case Study Models**

#### 4.8. Digital Approaches to Restorative Justice

Digital approaches to RJ introduce scalability and anonymity, enabling survivors to engage in justice processes with reduced risk of retraumatization. The online mediation and peer-support interventions such as Fragments of the Past (Bellini et al., 2021) are adaptable to attend. In much the same way, AR storytelling initiatives (Crivellaro et al., 2025) center the voices of survivors within cultures. Ethical concerns such as data privacy, algorithms bias, and the lack of digital infrastructure in certain communities are problems that digital RJ presents despite the mentioned advantages. The conclusions that have been drawn in Table 11 demonstrate that technology is a two-edged sword that both addresses the issue of accessibility and creates new points of weakness.

**Table 11: Key Insights from Digital RJ Approaches.**



Aspect	Benefits	Challenges
Accessibility	Online tools reduce geographical barriers	Unequal digital access limits inclusion
Anonymity	Protects survivors from face-to-face exposure	Data security and privacy risks
Innovation	Tech features enhance engagement	Ethical concerns over algorithmic bias

In order to better see the difference between digital and feminist RJ models in different aspects, including accessibility, safety and scalability, Figure 3 provides a comparison of the advantages of both approaches.

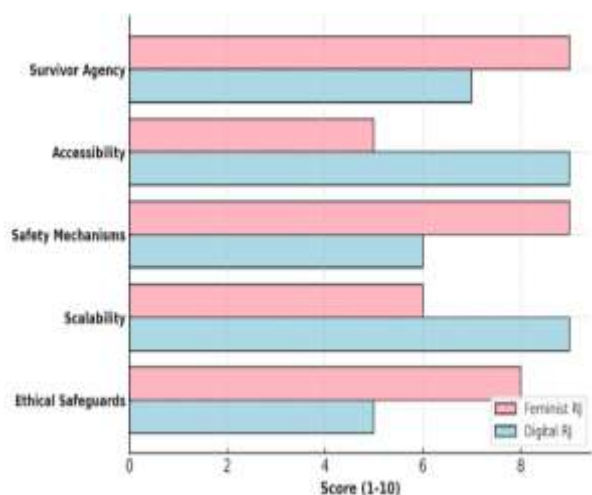


Figure 3: Comparative Analysis of Feminist RJ Vs Digital RJ.

#### 4.9. Intersection of Feminist and Digital Approaches

The combination of feminist and digital approaches forms a revolutionary potential of RJ. Feminist theories can guarantee the protection of ethics as well as digital technologies can offer the means of extending the reach and empowering survivors. Together, they can facilitate survivor-led digital justice that achieves a balance between empowerment and efficiency of the technology.

Nevertheless, moral issues, including privacy, cultural, and avoidance of algorithmic bias, should be incorporated into the digital platform to be in line with feminist values. The intersection of these two approaches is represented in Figure 4, and how the two approaches are mutually strengthening to form a whole framework.

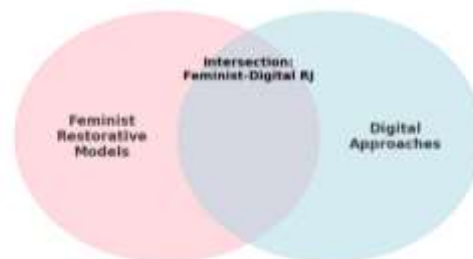


Figure 4: Intersection Of Feminist And Digital RJ Approaches.

Table 12 provides the analytical comparison of themes, where each approach brings forth distinct advantages and what integration can deliver.

Table 12: Analytical Comparison of Themes.

Theme	Strengths	Limitations	Potential for Integration
Feminist RJ Models	Survivor-centered, trauma-informed	Resource-heavy, context-specific	Provides ethical foundation for digital tools
Digital RJ Approaches	Accessible, scalable, innovative	Privacy risks, digital divide	Operationalizes feminist goals through technology
Feminist-Digital Integration	Combines ethics with technology for survivor-led justice	Requires strong ethical frameworks	Enables innovation while safeguarding survivor needs

This analysis demonstrates that feminist-informed RJ supplies the ethical framework necessary for addressing IPV, while digital RJ introduces tools for accessibility and scalability. The combination of these two methods can transform the practices of justice and establish a model that is innovative and ethically justified at the same time.

#### 4.10. Policy And Practice Implications

The findings of this study hold significant implications for policymakers, justice practitioners, and technology developers aiming to integrate restorative justice (RJ) into responses to intimate partner violence (IPV). In order to work effectively, it should be an integration of feminist moral premises, balanced digital innovation, and models that can be scaled and adapted to various jurisdictions.

#### 4.11. Strengthening Feminist Foundations In RJ

Policies must prioritize survivor-centered design and trauma-informed approaches. Governments ought to sponsor special training of RJ facilitators so that they are empowered to handle power imbalances. Legal systems must also include specific provisions that promote the agency of the victims, which means that the survivors should be able to manage their engagement in RJ procedures. Table 13 demonstrates, these policies help in entrenching feminist values in RJ work.

**Table 13: Policy Recommendations for Feminist RJ.**

Policy Focus	Recommendation
Legal Frameworks	Mandate trauma-informed and survivor-led RJ procedures
Resource Allocation	Provide funding for specialist facilitators and victim support
Victim Safety	Integrate mandatory risk assessments before RJ sessions

#### 4.12. Integrating Digital Technologies Ethically

While digital tools expand access to RJ, their use must be governed by ethical guidelines. The policies should demand privacy safeguarding, algorithmic decision-making transparency, and the reduction of the digital divide. Developers should work closely with feminist academicians and advocates of rape survivors to make technology comply with a victim-centered orientation. The policy considerations in Table 14 describe the ways of integrating technology in a responsible manner.

**Table 14: Guidelines For Ethical Digital Integration.**

Digital Dimension	Policy Recommendation
Privacy & Security	Enforce data protection standards in online RJ platforms
Algorithmic Transparency	Require audits for bias in risk assessment tools
Accessibility	Provide subsidized digital access for marginalized groups

#### 4.13. Scaling Feminist-Digital RJ Models Globally

RJ models ought to be culturally and legally contextualized in order to be implemented globally. The international bodies can contribute to the development of cross-border standards without interfering with the local practices (Government of Canada, 2016). This scaling should be supported by training programs of practitioners and digital literacy campaigns of survivors. Table 15 shows how to scale integrated feminist-digital RJ models to the global level.

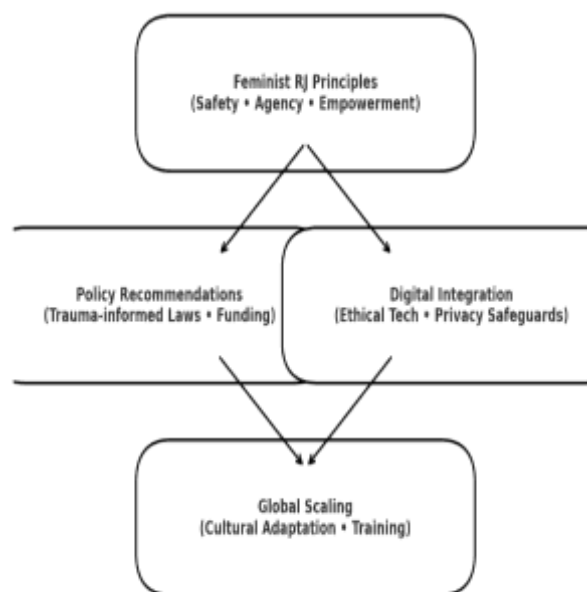
**Table 15: Strategies For Global Scaling.**

Strategy	Implementation Measure
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Cultural Adaptation	Customize RJ processes to fit local norms and values
Practitioner Training	Develop international training modules on feminist-digital RJ
International Collaboration	Foster partnerships between governments, NGOs, and tech developers

#### 4.14. Framework for Policy and Practice Integration

The diagram in Figure 5 allows visualizing the relationship between feminist values, ethical digital integration, and world-scale strategies as part of an objective to introduce RJ into IPV proceedings.



**Figure 5: Framework for Policy and Practice Integration.**

## 5. DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that restorative justice (RJ) with its feminist principles and digital technologies can be transformative in the context of intimate partner violence (IPV). The analyzed case studies in this paper demonstrate that the survivor-focused frameworks (Project Restore and Open Circle) enable the empowerment of victims, as they are more focused on safety and autonomy, which aligns with the findings of Ehret (2020) regarding the necessity of justice principles that should be based on experiences of survivors. Such a connection implies that feminist-informed RJ practice is not just an addition to the current system of law but a paradigm change to the model of justice that serves the victims.

The review of the literature and the examples of innovations such as AR-based storytelling and peer-support platforms have shown how the integration

of digital tools in RJ opens the potential of expanding the accessibility of the justice processes to go beyond the geographical and logistical barriers. This conclusion echoes the arguments expressed by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Sherwood, 2022), who remarked that more and more survivors strive to find more flexible means of access that can reduce retraumatization. However, the ethical dilemmas highlighted, especially, the issue of privacy and the potential of the algorithmic bias point to the conclusion that the integration of technology in RJ should be approached with caution, bearing high ethical principles. All these observations prove the topicality of Crivellaro et al. (2025), who emphasized the dual character of technology as a facilitator and a possible threat to the justice outcomes. The integrated reading of feminist and digital approaches also highlights the idea that their convergence can lead to the development of both ethically-sound and technologically-responsive models of survivor-led approaches. Nonetheless, this integration should be done with caution in terms of policy design, a position which Decker et al. (2022) have also taken by stating that the definitions of justice among the survivors can include both restorative or transformative aspects. In order to close this gap, the framework, which is proposed in this paper, provides a pragmatic roadmap on how the policy development process can be aligned towards feminist ethics and digital innovation.

In spite of these positive findings, the study does have its limitations. It is based on secondary data and program evaluations that might not show the full picture of what it is like to be a survivor in other cultures. Also, the majority of the evaluated programs are of Western jurisdiction, and there is no insight into how feminist-digital RJ models could operate in the Global South. These restrictions are reminiscent of the position made by Turner (2019) who paid attention to the importance of intersectional and contextual approaches to restorative practices. The present studies should be expanded in future by conducting a longitudinal study on the consequences of digital RJ intervention methods, especially in culturally diverse contexts. The consideration of the role of the artificial intelligence in justice processes and how the bias can be reduced without compromising the safety of survivors is also needed. The investigation of these dimensions will not only improve the current

practices but also feed the debate on ethical and innovative systems of justice in the world. This paper affirms that feminist and digital methods need not be mutually exclusive and instead, a considerate combination of the two could reorient justice to IPV survivors. By incorporating feminist ethics into technological construction and by making sure that the policies are survivor-centered, the new generation of RJ models can be a step closer to the social impact that both scholars and practitioners envisioned.

## 6. CONCLUSION

This paper focused on how the values of feminism-based thinking and digital technologies can change the restorative justice (RJ) of intimate partner violence (IPV) survivors. The analysis has shown that feminist RJ models, including Project Restore and Open Circle, are very promising in terms of increasing the empowerment and safety of survivors because they focus on trauma-informed facilitation and agency. Nonetheless, these models have been found to be scalable issues as they are resource intensive. Algorithms as a risk-assessment, digital justice through online mediation systems, AR-storytelling, and online forms of exclusion are all digital modes of dispensing justice that present more access and adaptability in the conveyance of justice but bring about ethical dilemmas of privacy, discrimination, and digital marginalisation. The results indicate that feminist ethics combined with the use of digital tools can be one of the ways to enhance the RJ responses. Technology used in a way that is congruent with survivor-centered values has the ability to increase participation without decreasing protection against retraumatization. This integration must involve strong policies, ethical guidelines and cultural adaptation strategies that will help make the innovations beneficial to all survivors within any social-economic or geographical context. The research has implications in the area of academic and policy discourse as it suggests a model where feminist values and digitalization co-evolve to define the future forms of RJ. This intersection does not only increase the survivor-centered justice but also promotes interdisciplinary approaches to the problem of IPV, making it more ethical, accessible, and socially effective.

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