**Supporting gamblers’ families in pacification paths: (travelling) passing through lies, manipulation and love bonds**
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Working with gamblers’ families we have seen a lot of suffering: wives, husbands, sisters, brothers, children who experience a mix of humiliation, shame, anger and incredulity. If gamblers accept the treatment, relatives’ pain often isn't over, because of the financial problems and the relational consequences of gambling. Furthermore, incredibly they seem to suffer more from lies and manipulation rather than the enormous economic problems. For families, lies and manipulation seem to be wounds impossible to heal, and also after a good therapy it is hard to close with the past and go on. During the most difficult periods, when gamblers were wasting money and lying, speaking led to fights and anger. The whole family passes through terrible times linked to speaking, due to the fear of their gambler relatives getting angry. Worried relatives learn that speaking is dangerous; gamblers learn that it’s better to interrupt arguments with manipulation, lies or by attacking
We planned and realized pacification paths, in order to support the whole families in the reconstruction of the relational damages caused by gambling.

We learned from restorative justice, Nelson Mandela and techniques exploited to support adoption, that a space for speaking about the wounds people have inflicted on each other can help a lot making peace, or at least to go on more peacefully and so improve the quality of life. This is very important for the families and also to prevent relapses.