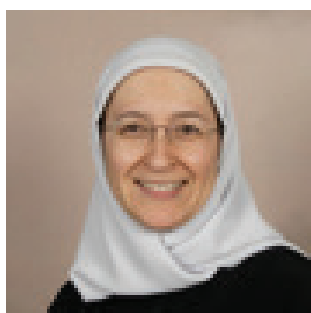




Creating Paths of Resiliency for Underserved Domestic Violence Survivors

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services ■ October 10-11, 2019

Speaker Bios

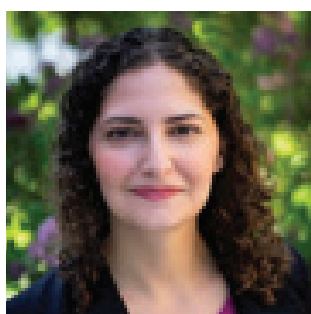


Salma Elkadi Abugideiri

Salma Elkadi Abugideiri is a founding board member of the Peaceful Families Project, an organization dedicated to educating Muslim community leaders and members about domestic violence. Salma provides educational workshops and develops resources related to mental health issues and domestic violence among Muslims, as well as workshops on healthy relationships. She is a contributing author to several books including ***“Counseling Muslims: Handbook of Mental Health Issues & Interventions”***; and ***“Change from Within: Diverse Perspectives on Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities”***. She has co-authored a brief guide for helping professionals entitled ***“What Islam Says About Domestic Violence”***.

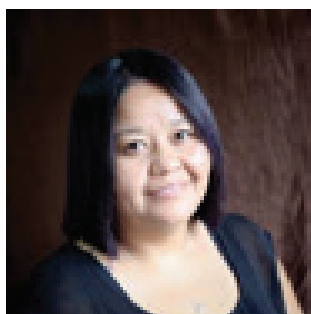
She has also co-authored ***“Before You Tie the Knot: A Guide for Couples”***.

Salma is a licensed professional counselor in private practice in northern Virginia. She provides individual and family therapy for a wide range of mental health and relationship issues. She has worked extensively with Middle Eastern and Muslim families.



Cynthia Amodeo

Cynthia Amodeo is a licensed mental health counselor who specializes in the intersection of domestic violence and disabilities. Her current role is Barrier Free Living’s Chief Program Officer where she oversees all programming in the agency including Freedom House, Secret Garden, and Barrier Free Living Apartments. She began as a children’s counselor at Freedom House, and has since held several leadership positions in the agency including Coordinator of Family Services, Director of Family Services, and Director of Social Services. Mrs. Amodeo regularly presents at Domestic Violence and Trauma conferences nationally to spread awareness of how domestic violence affects people with disabilities. Mrs. Amodeo received her Master of Education and Master of Arts from Teacher’s College, Columbia University in 2006.



Isela Arras

Isela Arras, is the Deputy Director of Programs at the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Isela oversees a Data Quality, Housing, AmeriCorps, Certification, Meaningful Access, and SUD projects that exist to support the Coalition’s 15 member programs. Since joining KCADV in 2002, she has served as liaison and resource to KCADV’s member programs that are working with immigrant and refugee women and their children in order to increase accessibility to domestic violence services to immigrant communities. Increasing overall accessibility to domestic violence services by underserved communities and culturally-specific groups is a key priority in her position.



Jacqueline Cosse



Jacqueline Cosse (Jackie) is a clinically-trained social worker who has worked with survivors of intimate partner violence and gender-based violence for the last eight years. She comes to her work as a trainer with a background in restorative justice and intimate partner violence, and has provided dynamic support to LGBT people labeled as defendants through her work at The Legal Aid Society, as well as specialized therapy for young queer and trans people of color. Jackie's graduate research: **"Deconstructing Latinx Racial Paradigms: Cross-Cultural Constructions of Race and their Impact on Dominican-American Racial Identity"**, closely

examines reductive American understandings of Latinidad and their subsequent impact on Latinx mental health. Jackie's practice draws from her history of community organizing against racial injustice, and she holds a deep commitment to uplifting and empowering the narratives of [queer and trans] survivors of color.

Emily M. Douglas, Ph.D.



Emily M. Douglas, Ph.D., is a full professor and head of the Department of Social Science & Policy Studies at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. In 2016-2017 she was a Congressional fellow with the Society for Research in Child Development and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology. Prior to this, Dr. Douglas was on the faculty in the School of Social Work at Bridgewater State University for one decade and she completed a post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Murray Straus at the University of New Hampshire. Her areas of expertise address child and family well-being, and programs and policies that promote positive outcomes. Specifically, her areas of expertise include: fatal child maltreatment, the child welfare system, partner violence and help-seeking, corporal punishment, and divorced families. Her research on male targets of female partner violence, which she conducts with Dr. Denise Hines (George Mason University), has been funded by the National Institutes of Health. Her latest book is: **"Child Maltreatment Fatalities in the United States: Four Decades of Policy, Programs, and Professional Responses"**. Dr. Douglas has given invited testimony for the U.S. Commission on the Elimination of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities, has spoken multiple times at the Massachusetts State House, and has served on a governor-appointed committee in the State of Maine. Dr. Douglas was the founder/director of the National Research Conference on Child and Family Programs and Policy which was held for five summers from 2008-2012. Dr. Douglas is the author/co-author of four books on family policy issues and 50+ peer-reviewed publications.



Paige Flink



Paige Flink is the CEO of The Family Place, the largest family violence service organization in North Texas. Paige has been a vocal advocate for ending family violence since she joined the organization in 1991. Paige has been instrumental in changing public perception and the North Texas community's response to domestic violence. A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Paige serves on the City of Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, and the Real Estate Council Community Fund Advisory Board.

She has received local and national recognition for her work on behalf of victims, including the Peace Award from the Sunshine Lady Foundation, the Women's Advocacy Award from Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, the Texas Women's Foundation Maura Award, the Mosaic Family Champion of Human Rights, and the Non Profit CEO of the Year Award presented by the Center for Nonprofit Management.

Paige's national work against family violence includes serving on the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families' Family Violence Prevention Advisory Panel and leading the Youth Services Panel for the Decade for Change Summit, an effort of the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Paige regularly addresses the Texas Legislature and is a frequent contributor to local print, radio and television news broadcasts on family violence and victims' rights issues. She is a participant in the OpEd Project through the Texas Women's University Public Voices Through Leadership Institute.

Dr. Jacqueline Gray



Dr. Jacqueline Gray, a Choctaw/Cherokee Research Associate Professor and Associate Director at the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota, is also the Director of the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NIEJI) at the Center for Rural Health at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. NIEJI has been funded since the fall of 2011 to address the issues of Elder Abuse in Indian Country. In addition, Dr. Gray is the Director of the NIEJI Innovation grant that is working with 16 tribes expanding their elder abuse prevention, intervention, and awareness approaches. NIEJI Innovation is assisting tribes with data collection to determine the types and frequency of different types of elder abuse in their communities. Dr. Gray has worked addressing health, mental health and health disparities across Indian Country and internationally working with Māori suicide prevention. She was a participant in the White House Conference on Aging in 2015 to address elder justice issues. Dr. Gray has worked with tribes across the U.S. for over 35 years. She received her doctorate from Oklahoma State University in 1998 and has been at the University of North Dakota since 1999.



Gretta Gardner



Gretta Gardner, Esq., is the Deputy Director for Ujima, Inc.: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community, a project of the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Ms. Gardner's career as a legal advisor for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking was inspired by her early work as a prosecutor in the Domestic Violence Unit of the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office. She has worked for two decades to help shape guidelines, policies, and procedures that jurisdictions can use to end intimate partner violence and best practices for prevention and intervention in

legal systems and community-based programs.

Ms. Gardner is Core Faculty for Establishing Expertise as an Expert Witness with the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; sits on the Board of Trustees for Garrison Forest School; is licensed to practice law in DC, MD, TX, and the Supreme Court of the United States; is a certified mediator, and belongs to a multitude of local, state, and national committees that address violence against women and their children.

Kae Greenberg



Kae Greenberg currently works as a staff attorney in Philadelphia in the Housing Unit at Community Legal Services. His practice focuses on providing legal representation to indigent tenants facing eviction and helping them maintain their housing. In particular he serves several times a week as the "Lawyer of the Day" through the Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Project. He was previously an Assistant Defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, where, while representing clients in misdemeanor and felony trials, he also tried to improve the services offered to transgender clients. Beyond his work in direct services at the Defenders, he also presented in many different forums about trans legal issues. Prior to joining the Defenders, he was a Conwell Fellow at Women Against Abuse, where he assisted in the representation of survivors of intimate partner violence. While at Women Against Abuse he was a member of the LGBT Coalition, which was a group of representatives of organizations in Philadelphia that work with survivors of intimate partner violence focused on improving services to LGBT clients. Among other honors, Kae was a Beasley Scholar at Temple University Beasley School of Law, from which he graduated in 2011. The seeds for his paper, "**Still Hidden in the Closet: Trans Women and Domestic Violence**," published in the Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice, were sown during his semester abroad at the University of Ottawa, Common Law Section, where he studied the defense of survivors of intimate partner violence under Professors Elizabeth Sheehy and (now Senator) Kim Pate. He is currently a member of the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission for LGBT Affairs, where he assisted in redrafting the policy that governs the interactions between the Philadelphia Police and Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Individuals. His chapter, "**Best Practices in Policing, in the book Transgender Intimate Partner Violence**" is forthcoming from NYU Press.



Denise Hines

Denise Hines, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work, College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University. Dr. Hines’ expertise includes the causes, consequences, and prevention of family violence and sexual assault, with a particular focus on under-recognized victims of violence, such as heterosexual men and sexual minorities. As the former director of the Massachusetts Family Impact Seminars, she also has a specialization in translating university-based research for policymakers.

Dr. Hines’ work on male victims of family violence has been supported by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, while her interpersonal violence prevention work has been supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education. The CAVE program that she co-founded in 2009, while a faculty member at Clark University, quickly became recognized as a national model campus sexual assault prevention program.

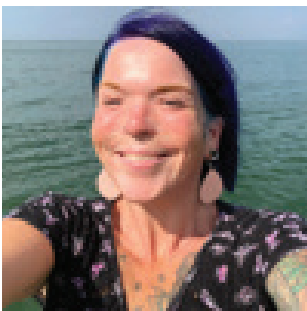
Dr. Hines is the author of over 60 peer-reviewed articles and two books on issues of family violence, one of which (**“Family Violence in the United States”**) is currently under contract with Sage for its third edition. She was the 2013 Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the University of Central Lancashire in England. She has spoken about her work in front of various audiences, including state coalitions against domestic violence, the Massachusetts State legislature, the White House domestic policy staff, staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Canadian Parliament.

Najma Johnson

Najma Johnson, MA, is currently the Executive Director at DAWN. Najma earned their BA in Deaf Studies and MA in Mental Health Counseling at Gallaudet University. Najma co-founded Together All in Solidarity (TAS), an umbrella anti-violence community collaboration that functions as a network for marginalized communities within the Deaf Community. Najma has worked exclusively with DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Deaf, Hard of Hearing sex workers who experienced multiple violence based on their hearing status and other identities, and domestic violence and sexual violence survivors who have experienced cultural challenges that arise from seeking Deaf services due to intersectional identities. Prior to coming to Washington, DC, Najma provided trauma-informed therapeutic work with SAFE in Austin, Texas. [Pronouns: they, them, theirs].

Jose Juan Lara, Jr.

Jose Juan Lara, Jr., M.S., has been in the movement against gender violence since 1999 and has facilitated workshops at national, state, and local conferences on crisis intervention, systems advocacy, cultural responsiveness and language access. In his current position at Casa de Esperanza/National Latin@ Network, Jose Juan manages three projects that provide training and technical assistance to court systems, Latin@ serving and culturally specific organizations. Jose Juan’s professional experience includes legal advocacy, training development, organizational assessment, and non-profit board leadership and a consultant for Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center.



Rose Larson

Rose Larson is culturally Deaf and native American sign language user who is registered advocate in state of Ohio. She has been with Deaf World Against Violence Everywhere (DWAVE) since September, 2011, first as an advocate and outreach coordinator/assistant director. Now she serves as executive director. Prior to Rose’s employment at DWAVE, she volunteered as DWAVE’s Board of Trustees for several years and worked with Deaf people with disabilities for 11 years.



Marian Miller

Combining popular education, community organizing, and healing-centered practice, **Marian Miller** trains service providers across New York City on how we as a community can best support criminalized survivors of intimate partner violence. Before joining STEPS to End Family Violence, Marian worked with JustLeadershipUSA doing policy work and training at the intersection of gender-based violence and criminalization, and has supported people awaiting sentencing, while incarcerated, and after they've been released from prison for nearly ten years. Marian utilizes urban farming, artistic expression, and storytelling to work towards a world where individuals and communities are nourished, fulfilled, and free of violence.

Katie Moffitt

Katie Moffitt has an MSW from VCU and has worked in the field for 9 years. She has worked as a clinician, survivor advocate, adjunct professor, and preventionist across the state. Katie is currently one of the UPLC Coaches at the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Alyssa Murray

Alyssa Murray is a Domestic Violence Program Specialist with the Virginia Department of Social Services. She has worked in the fields of domestic violence, public health, homelessness and education over the last 25 years. Her first experience working with survivors was at the White Buffalo Calf Woman Society located on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, the home of the Sicangu Oyate Lakota Nation.

Outside of work, Alyssa is a poet, a mom to two teenagers, and a human companion to two hound dogs. She works with the immigrant community in Richmond and is writing a children's book about two of her role models, Irene Morgan and Elizabeth Van Lew.

You can contact Alyssa at alyssa.murray@dss.virginia.gov



Jeremy NeVilles-Sorell

Jeremy NeVilles-Sorell has worked in the field of domestic violence since 1994 on issues affecting children who have experienced domestic violence, supervised visitation, batterer's intervention, and providing training and education. He worked for four years coordinating the Duluth Family Visitation Center serving families with a history of domestic violence and dealing with visits and exchanges of children between parents. Jeremy also worked for four years as the Children's Program Coordinator at Women's Transitional Housing Coalition in Duluth, Minnesota, providing activities and groups for children who have witnessed violence. He joined the staff of Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project in 1998, a national program to assist American Indian Tribes and Alaskan Native Villages to develop responses to violence against Indian women through training and technical assistance. He has held various titles with Mending the Sacred Hoop from team leader, program coordinator, co-director, and is currently the Training and Resources Director. He was faculty for the IHS-ACF Health Domestic Violence Project for its duration: 2002-2009. This project worked with more than 100 Indian, Tribal and Urban health care facilities as well as domestic violence (DV) advocacy programs across the United States to improve the health care responses to domestic violence. From 2017 - 2019 he served on the Men of Color as Crime Victims Expert Working Group for the OVC National Resource Center for Reaching Victims. In 2015 he began working with Wica Agli and in March of 2019 assumed the position of Director of the National Native Coalition of Men's Programs. He has conducted groups with teenage boys and girls on domestic violence, facilitated groups for Native men who have battered, been an advocate for male victims, developed curricula for engaging men in violence prevention, and organized community education events. Jeremy has been a speaker and consultant for many national, state, and local programs on youth issues, community education, working with men, and worked on public policy reform. He remains involved with community groups and local educational efforts to raise awareness engage and promote non-violent lifestyles for men.



Jules Perkél

Jules Perkél, LCSW has been practicing domestic violence counseling and trauma informed psychotherapy at Secret Garden, Barrier Free Living's community-based domestic violence program since 2011. She specializes in working with survivors who have disabilities in addition to complex and acute traumas. With the collaborative nature of social work roles in the program, Jules worked in partnership with the Queens Family Justice Center, as part of the New York City Family Justice Center Initiative of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence in addition to other community based organizations. She transitioned into Program Director of Secret Garden, and still maintains a caseload of clients in addition to clinically

supervising staff. Jules completed the two-year trauma studies program at the Institute of Contemporary Psychotherapy in 2014 and has been trained and certified in the use of EMDR. She also completed her studies at the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies in the one-year program in 2019 and is currently completing Level 1 in Internal Family Systems (IFS). Jules received her MSW from Columbia University.

Brooke Taylor

Brooke Taylor is a tireless advocate for social justice in all forms. For over a decade, they have worked toward equality for marginalized people who experience violence, discrimination, poverty, incarceration, food insecurity, and unemployment. As an active member of the Richmond community, Brooke works closely with various organizations, particularly those at the intersection of faith and justice. Brooke earned a Bachelor's degree from Howard University and Graduate degrees from The School of Theology at Virginia Union University (MDiv, MACE). Brooke serves as a UPLC Coach with the Action Alliance, guiding twenty agencies through an intentional process of examining organizational practices as it relates to reaching communities of survivors that have been historically underserved.



Susheela Varky

Susheela Varky has been involved in the public interest arena for over 29 years. In DC, she gained national and local experience in housing and women's issues at organizations such as McAuley Institute, The National Housing Trust and Women Empowered Against Violence. In 1998, she joined the national drafting committee of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and helped write VAWA's original housing provisions. Since moving to Richmond in 2003, Ms. Varky has worked for Legal Information Network for Cancer, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia and is currently the Domestic and Sexual Violence Attorney at Virginia Poverty Law Center.

At the Court, Ms. Varky worked with other state agencies to improve domestic violence protective order policies and procedures in six diverse localities in Virginia. Since September 2007, Ms. Varky has continued her work in the domestic and sexual violence arena as a staff attorney for Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC), the statewide support organization for local legal aid offices in Virginia, collaborating with state and local stakeholders, conducting trainings, engaging in advocacy, providing legal consultations and taking compelling domestic violence- or sexual violence immigration-related cases through VPLC's Legal Assistance to Victim-Immigrants of Domestic Abuse (LA VIDA) Project. In addition to these responsibilities, Ms. Varky leads VPLC's Center for Family Advocacy, where she oversees team members' work on family law, immigration, child welfare and elder law issues.

Ms. Varky received her B.A. from Tufts University in 1986 and her J.D. from the Washington College of Law at The American University in 1993. She is licensed in VA, DC and in PA and lives in Richmond, VA.



Bernadine Waller

Bernadine Waller is a doctoral candidate and Adjunct Professor at Adelphi University School of Social Work. She was recently awarded an R36 from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to complete her dissertation research designed to develop a theory that explains how African American survivors of intimate partner violence navigate their psychosocial barriers during help seeking. Ms. Waller has partnered with the government in Barbados to conduct an evaluation of their UN Women-developed batterer intervention program, Partnership for Peace. She is also a TEDx presenter and former journalist who is

now a New York State-licensed therapist. She specializes in providing culturally-congruent interventions to trauma survivors, specifically assisting members of the African American, Afro Caribbean and Latinx communities who have experience gender-based violence. Prior to transitioning to higher education, Ms. Waller was a marketing consultant, as well as a Leadership and Diversity facilitator with a Fortune 100 financial services organization where she mentored senior vice presidents and travelled the country training leaders.



Ruth Anne Young, M.Ed.

Ruth Anne Young has been providing professional development training with the Abuse in Later Life Program at the Virginia Center on Aging for over 6 years. Prior to coming to the Virginia Center on Aging she was the Program Manager for ElderFriends, a friendly visiting program for older adults at Family Lifeline, and she previously established the first volunteer program at a newly created shelter.