



Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice  
Division 37 of the American Psychological Association

# **Ending Violence to Children in the United States: Changing Social Norms About the Hitting of Children**

**A Virtual Conference**

**Friday, October 14, 2022**

**9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**Sponsored by**

**American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children-New York**

**American Psychological Association Division 37 The Society for Child and  
Family Policy and Practice**

**National Initiative to End Corporal Punishment**

**The New York Foundling's Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection**

**New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children**

**&**

**Prevent Child Abuse New York**

**9:00 am – 9:05am**

Welcome: Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D., Executive Director of The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

**9:05am – 9:50am**

**No Hit Zones: Low-Cost, Low-Effort Interventions to Reduce the Hitting of Children in Our Communities**

**Workshop Description:** This workshop will discuss an intervention known as No Hit Zones, which are institutional policies that promote intervention by employee bystanders when parents hit, or threaten to hit, their children. No Hit Zones have been established in a variety of settings, including hospitals, courts, schools, and libraries. At this webinar, you will learn about research demonstrating why No Hit Zones are needed and how they have been shown to be effective in reducing behaviors and attitudes that lead to violence against children. You will also learn about the steps to effectively implement a No Hit Zone in your institution or community and where to find resources and support for doing so.

**Presenter:** Stacie LeBlanc, MEd, JD

**9:55 am - 10:40 am**

**What Do I Tell My Clients/Parents About Corporal Punishment That Will Make a Difference?**

**Workshop Description:** Many professionals who work with families struggle to find ways to effectively discuss with parents and other caregivers about the harmful effects of corporal punishment to children. In this workshop, an experienced Child Abuse Pediatrician and an experienced Child Psychologist will discuss common pitfalls and how to avoid them by using empathic language to advocate for the use of positive parenting rather than resorting to the use of physical discipline. There will be an opportunity for participants to share their own experiences as professionals who work with families.

**Presenters:** Jamie Hoffman-Rosenfeld, M.D. & Anne H. Meltzer, Psy.D.

**10:40 - 10:50:** Break

**10:50 am - 11:35 am**

**I Can Do What I Want with My Children: A Theological Examination of the Intersection of American Jurisprudence, Religion, and Corporal Punishment**

**Workshop Description:** This workshop will apply a theological lens to examine to the First Amendment clauses on religion and the raising of American children. Using legal examples from key, precedent-setting Federal and State supreme court cases, participants will explore the ethical boundaries of parenting and corporal punishment. Supreme Court cases such as "Reynolds vs. the United States" (1879), "Walker vs. Superior Court of California" (1988), and "Lundman vs. McKown" (1996) have established legal paradigms and constitutional principles that suggest parental rights and religious freedom are inextricably linked. This workshop will examine these legal theological presuppositions with the goal of identifying certain misperceptions, misinterpretations, and misapplications of these texts, while focusing on the promotion of child and family wellbeing.

**Presenter:** Darrell Armstrong, DDIV., MDIV., ED.S.-MFT

### **11:40 am - 12:25 pm**

#### **How to Talk About the Harms of Corporal Punishment with African-American Parents**

**Workshop Description:** This workshop will examine the ways in which corporal punishment is discussed and regarded in Black families and communities. It is designed to address the deeply-rooted cultural attachment to physical discipline as an appropriate and effective parenting tool. The workshop incorporates examples drawn from popular culture as well as African-American history, sociological studies, news media, social networking, religion, psychological research and personal testimonies. This workshop will connect the current conversations and controversies about physical discipline to the historical roots of plantation violence and post-slavery dynamics. Participants will gain new perspectives on the topic and increase their cultural awareness and sensitivity and learn best parenting practices that do not involve physical punishment.

**Presenter:** Stacey Patton, Ph.D.

### **12:30 pm - 1:00 pm**

**Panel Discussion:** Questions and Answers about the Corporal Punishment of Children

**Panel members:** Stacie LeBlanc, Med, JD; Jamie Hoffman-Rosenfeld, M.D.; Anne Meltzer, Psy.D.; Stacey Patton, Ph.D.

**Moderator:** Mary Pulido, Ph.D.

## **Speaker Bios**

**Darrell Armstrong, DDIV., MDIV., ED.S.-MFT**, is the Reverend at Shiloh Baptist Church (Trenton, NJ), which is a thriving multicultural and multigenerational community of faith that has been around since 1980. Reverend Armstrong is a civic leader, a grassroots community organizer, and a child welfare/family strength advocate who is committed to eradicating the individual and generational effects of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences). His policy training at Stanford University (BA in Public Policy), theological training at Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and therapeutic/clinical training at The College of New Jersey (Ed.S. in marriage & family therapy) have uniquely prepared him to be a respected voice in the national and international child welfare/family strengthening communities.

**Jamie Hoffman-Rosenfeld, M.D.** started her Child Abuse Pediatrics career about 25 years ago at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx, where she developed the Family Advocacy Program, running it for a decade before joining the Child Protection Team at Montefiore Hospital. Dr. Hoffman-Rosenfeld was the Medical Director of the Queens Child Advocacy Center for 13 years until she returned to her professional roots in the Bronx to serve as the co-medical Director of the Child Abuse Program at Montefiore and the Bronx Child Advocacy Center. Dr. Hoffman-Rosenfeld served as a consultant to NYC's CPS intra-agency Child Fatality Review. She is past-president and board member of the NY Chapter of APSAC. For four years, Dr. Hoffman-Rosenfeld served as co-chair of the Ray E. Helfer Society Conference Planning Committee. The education of professionals on topics related to Child Maltreatment is one of the most fulfilling aspects of her career.

**Stacie LeBlanc, MEd, JD**, is the immediate past president of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. She is the co-founder of The UP Institute, a think tank for upstream child abuse solutions providing consultation and training. She began her career as a child abuse prosecutor in Jefferson Parish more than 30 years ago. Ms. LeBlanc became the Chief of the Felony Child Abuse

Division, began the Family Violence Program, and helped open child advocacy centers in rural and urban parishes. She received the “Outstanding Prosecutor Award” from Victims and Citizens Against Crime for the unit’s 94% conviction rate and the prosecution of a 20-year-old child rape case, which garnered national media attention. Stacie LeBlanc is the Founding Director of the New Orleans Children’s Advocacy Center and Audrey Hepburn CARE Center, and two nonprofit programs for Children’s Hospital New Orleans which treat over 1,500 children annually. She serves on several state and national boards including as a member of the National Review Board for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Initiative to End Corporal Punishment, and as the Founder and First President of the Louisiana Alliance of Children’s Advocacy Centers.

**Anne H. Meltzer, Psy.D.**, is a forensic psychologist who is one of the leading experts in the New York area on child sexual abuse issues. Dr. Meltzer has evaluated over 1,000 children alleged to have been sexually abused and/or physically abused. These evaluations, which include thousands of interviews of both children and adults, are conducted primarily for Family Court matters in New York City and the greater New York area. She has testified in over 450 cases for both Family Court and Criminal/Supreme Court where she serves as an expert witness. In addition to testifying for prosecutors and child protective agencies, Dr. Meltzer has also testified for defense attorneys, law guardians, and individual families confronted with allegations of child abuse. Prior to being a forensic psychologist, Dr. Meltzer led parenting groups for drug-addicted parents in New York City. Dr. Meltzer has written articles and lectured extensively about forensic interviewing of children in abuse cases, child witnesses to domestic violence, testifying as an expert witness, and cultural competence in child interviewing.

**Stacey Patton, Ph.D.**, is an adoptee, child abuse survivor, and former foster youth turned award-winning author, journalist and child advocate. Her reporting on issues of child welfare, race relations, and higher education has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Al Jazeera*, BBC News, TheRoot.com, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, ForHarriet.com, and *Dame Magazine*. She has made appearances on CNN, MSNBC, Al Jazeera, FOX News, CBS, and Democracy Now. Dr. Patton has won numerous journalism awards and citations. As a nationally-recognized child advocate, Dr. Patton travels the country delivering keynotes and professional trainings focused on combating racial disparities in child abuse cases, criminal prosecutions for child abuse, foster care placements, the over-prescribing of psychotropic medications to children of color in foster care, the school- and foster care-to-prison pipelines, corporal punishment in public schools, diversion and restorative justice programs.

**Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D.**, is the Executive Director of The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the first child protection agency in the world. She has held senior management positions at the Child Protection Center of Montefiore Medical Center (a Child Advocacy Center), the Children’s Village, and at Covenant House/Under 21. Dr. Pulido’s protocol for crisis debriefing following child fatality and critical incidents is utilized throughout the New York City Child Protective Services system. Dr. Pulido is a member of the Medical Reserve Corps of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She serves on the national board of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and is President of the NYS Chapter of the APSAC Board and is Chair of their Public Policy Committee.

## Registration

**General Admission:** Free

**CE Credit:** 3.5 NY CE credits for psychology, social work, or mental health counseling are available for no charge.

CE credits will only be awarded to social workers, psychologists, and mental health counselors who are licensed in New York State.

Email [FontanaCenter@nyfoundling.org](mailto:FontanaCenter@nyfoundling.org) with your name, license number, and the type of credit you are requesting.

**Voluntary donations:** In lieu of a conference fee we are asking for volunteer contributions. Be part of the solution and become an ambassador to end the hitting of children

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**Please use the link to register:**

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