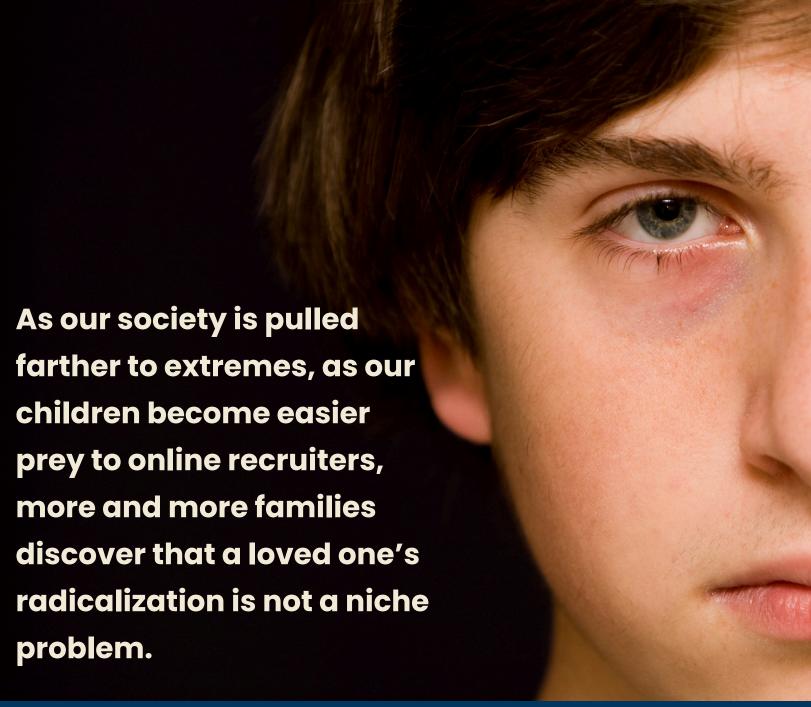
2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Resilient Families,
Safer Communities



PARENTS FOR PEACE

Parents For Peace breaks the cycle of extremism by building resilience. Our flagship helpline empowers families to address the radicalization of a loved one. Leveraging insights from our work with affected families and individuals, we also contribute to efforts to educate key stakeholders to proactively counter extremism as a public health issue.

IS YOUR LOVED ONE ...?

- Withdrawing from family and friends?
- Secretive about online activities?
- Constantly redirecting conversations to new beliefs or ideology?
- Drastically changing appearance or behavior according to new belief? (e.g. tattoos, clothing, haircut, diet)
- Experiencing significant changes in mood? (e.g. irritability or depression)

WHAT MIGHT BE GOINGON

Extreme beliefs seduce impressionable young minds by the promise of:

- An accepting community (while turning them against their own family and society.)
- Freedom (while subjecting them to rigid and arbitrary rules.)
- Certainty and purpose (through a simplistic black-and-white thinking.)
- A clear and sharp sense of right and wrong (while blinding them to how their own actions affect others.)
- A thrilling adventure to fight "evil" (but doing so through harmful and unlawful means.)

IF LEFT UNCHECKED, SOME EXTREME BELIEFS AND BEHAVIORS MAY LEAD TO SEVERE, POTENTIALLY VIOLENT OUTCOMES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, THEIR FAMILY, AND SOCIETY.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

I would recommend Parents for Peace to anyone who's struggling.

Emmy, a concerned mother

Parents for Peace (P4P) maintains the nation's first and only free, confidential helpline for families struggling with the radicalization of a loved one. Since its establishment in 2017, our helpline has coached hundreds of families and individuals across North America struggling with different ideologies, from white supremacy and the far right to the far left and Anti-Fa, and from Islamism to Eco-Terrorism.

If you are concerned about a loved one's extreme beliefs or behaviors, call our **free** and **confidential** helpline at 844-49-PEACE (844-497-3223) or email us at help@parents4peace.org.



We operate our helpline Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Eastern).

In case of emergency, please contact 911 or 988 immediately.



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LEADERSHIP



Dear Friends,

Our civil rights are meant to protect and empower us as citizens. However, these same rights can be exploited by ideologies and groups to prey on the vulnerable: idealistic adolescents, isolated individuals, and those with mental health challenges.

Such ideologies offer a false sense of identity, community, and purpose, leading their followers down destructive paths that result in isolation, alienation, and sometimes illegal actions. This harsh reality was painfully experienced by the founding families of Parents for Peace (P4P), whose children were drawn into extremism, resulting in acts of terrorism, arrests, or deaths overseas.

Instead of retreating in shame, these families united to create P4P in 2016 as a confidential resource to prevent others from experiencing similar pain. Over the years, our direct work with families and individuals has given us valuable insights into addressing extremism—a problem now at epidemic levels in our society.

Despite these challenges, there is hope. Our efforts have made a significant impact, providing critical support to families, fostering resilience, and promoting healthier communities. Your continued support is essential to expanding our reach and deepening our impact. Together, we can create a safer and healthier world.

In what follows, you will read about our achievements in 2023. Thank you for being part of this vital journey.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Myrieme Nadri-Churchill Executive Director

TIMELINE

2016

Founding

An African American family from Tennessee decides to build a support group for families struggling with the radicalization of a loved one.

2017

Helpline

Seeing the need for a more proactive approach, P4P founded the confidential helpline.

2022

National Recognition

Awarded federal funding to create and pilot a peer exit specialist curriculum with Dr. John Horgan at Georgia State University

2023

Exponential Growth

Awarded a federal grant to raise awareness, standardize, and make interventions more efficient and effective

2024

THE YEAR OF SCALING



Inaugural parent gathering, September 2016

HELPLINE PROGRAMS



• Family Coaching Sessions: We provide free, confidential support to families troubled by a loved one's extreme beliefs. Our experienced team helps families understand and effectively address these concerns, promoting a supportive environment for all involved.



• Individual Coaching Sessions: Our unique team includes former extremists who now use their experiences for good. They offer personalized support and mentorship to individuals at risk, helping them transition to a healthier, more positive lifestyle away from extremist influences.



• Educational Support Groups: We host secure, confidential groups where families can develop crucial skills discussed in coaching. These groups also foster strong community ties, allowing participants to share experiences and combat feelings of isolation and stigma together.

OUR TEAM MYRIEME NADRI-CHURCHILL

HELPLINE FOUNDER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

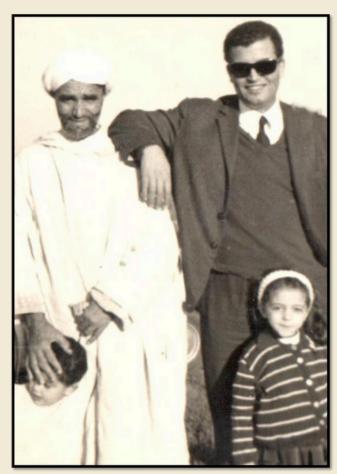
"When I tell people what I do for a living, they often give me a puzzled look that only means, "Why?"



Myrieme grew up in an unhappy family in an unhappy society, with a violent father serving a violent regime.

So she set it as her life mission to make meaning out of senseless suffering, asking herself "Where does violence come from?" "Who's behind these monstrous acts?" but also "What can I do to prevent or mitigate them?"

Over the past 30 years, she's been pursuing those questions as a trauma survivor, as a social worker, as a coach, as a psychotherapist, and for the past seven years, as the founder of America's only helpline for families concerned with the radicalization of a loved one.



Myrieme with her father and grandfather in Morocco in 1970's.

OUR TEAM

MUBIN SHAIKH

P4P PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST COUNTER-EXTREMISM EXPERT

"Every day I rode on the bus past the synagogue downtown and all I could think about was how I was going to blow up the building...A few years ago, I stood on the stage in that same synagogue and shared the story of my journey from hate to solidarity."





Mubin Shaikh draws on his transformative journey away from extremism to support families and individuals grappling with radical beliefs.

After deradicalizing, he returned to Canada as an undercover operative for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, where he played a pivotal role in preventing a major terrorist plot. His contributions are commemorated in a permanent exhibit at the New International Spy Museum in Washington D.C. (See the picture to the left)

A devout Sunni Muslim, Mubin places humanity above religiosity, dedicating his life to peace and understanding.

OUR TEAM ARNO MICHAELIS

PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

"Forgiveness is a sublime example of humanity that I explore at every opportunity, because it was the unconditional forgiveness I was given by people who I once claimed to hate that demonstrated the way from there to here."



Arno Michaelis harnesses his profound personal transformation to guide others away from violent extremism. Once the lead singer of a Neo-Nazi metal band, his life took a dramatic turn with the birth of his daughter, leading him from hate to hope.

Today, as a speaker, filmmaker, and author of My Life After Hate and co-author of The Gift of Our Wounds, Arno uses his narrative to encourage empathy and understanding. His work at Parents for Peace focuses on helping individuals reject violence by seeing themselves in others and finding common humanity.





OUR TEAM

MATTHEW SCHUMACHER

CLINCIAL DIRECTOR

"Parents for Peace offers opportunities that the decades-long Global War on Terror never did—embracing the principle of 'First, do no harm' while working with a small, elite group of highly talented and motivated professionals. No task force or special forces unit can match what our team accomplishes every single day."

Dr. Matthew Schumacher leverages his extensive background in national security and military psychology as an exit interventionist at Parents for Peace. Formerly a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy with multiple deployments to Iraq, Africa, and Afghanistan, he has worked closely with special operations forces and the intelligence community. His expertise includes military psychology, disaster psychological response, and managing psychiatric emergencies. At Parents for Peace, Dr. Schumacher applies his deep knowledge to assist individuals transitioning away from extremist ideologies.

Before joining Parents for Peace, Dr. Schumacher served as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where he taught and supervised in areas such as deployment psychology and crisis response. His academic achievements include a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Northern Illinois University, focused on military suicide prevention. Dr. Schumacher began his career in psychiatry research at Stanford School of Medicine, exploring emergency clinical trials for bipolar disorders.





OUR TEAM

KEVIN LAMBERT

PROGRAM DIRECTOR EXIT INTERVENTIONIST

We guide families and individuals away from extreme beliefs and behaviors through connection."



Kevin Lambert, based in Baltimore, Maryland, serves as the Program Director at Parents for Peace. Since joining the organization in 2021, he has skillfully overseen the helpline, interventions, support groups, and internship programs.

Prior to this role, Kevin was deeply involved in crisis intervention, working as a crisis counselor with the Baltimore Child and Adolescent Response System (BCARS). His commitment to social work earned him the 2022 Amy Cohen-Callow Award of Excellence from the University of Maryland.

Additionally, Kevin brings a unique perspective to his work at Parents for Peace, having served in the United States Air Force, further enriching his approach to program management and crisis response.

HELPLINE: IN NUMBERS

759 Interventions: A 59% increase from last year, aiding over 45 families in reconnecting with their loved ones.

New cases onboarded; expanding our reach and hope to 23 additional families.

Local Resources: Connecting families with essential resources from mental health to job training.

Education Support Group Sessions: Cultivating a community for families to share, learn, and support each other.

VIGNETTES

Charlottesville Marcher: A mother called about her son, who had marched at the infamous Charlottesville rally ("The Jews will not replace us!"). He had both a history of substance abuse and access to the family's firearms. P4P guided an intervention that secured the weapons and opened a family discussion about their son's sense of alienation. The son stopped drinking, admitted he was exhausted by toxic hatred, and began his road to recovery.



Antifa Warrior: A mother contacted us regarding her son, who had a past involvement in Antifa movements and faced multiple arrests. Later, he joined a Marxist militia abroad. P4P utilized peer supporters to establish a connection with him and assisted the mother in maintaining engagement during phone conversations. Consequently, he returned and smoothly transitioned to civilian life.



Teenage Jihadist: A Muslim American family from the Northeast sought help from P4P after their 15-year-old son was found communicating online with a terrorist group about building bombs. Initially referred to a local mosque by the FBI, the family found the extremist pull too strong and the situation worsened with their son's increasing antigay and antisemitic comments. Despite attempts with a specialized therapist, it wasn't until they connected with P4P in 2020 that they began to see progress. P4P's holistic approach, involving the entire family, gradually loosened the grip of extremism on their son.



PARTNERS



Leveraging insights from our work with affected families and individuals, we contribute to efforts to educate key stakeholders to proactively counter extremism as a public health issue. April 27, 2023
Executive Director Myrieme
Churchill attends Arnold
Schwarzenegger's Terminating
Hate conference at the University
of Southern California (USC) with
counterterrorism expert, Erroll
Southers, .





I was fascinated to learn about the work you do at Parents for Peace and the many ways you help families prevent and deal with their loved ones falling into extremism.... I am grateful that smart leaders like you are working tirelessly to address antisemitism, extremism and hatred in all its forms.

GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER



June 26, 2023
Executive Director Myrieme
Churchill attends a round
table on children's mental
health and social media
hosted by Congressman
Jake Auchincloss (D-MA,
4th district).



"With antisemitism rapidly increasing throughout the country, and specifically Massachusetts, the work Myrieme is doing is more crucial than ever. Nadri-Churchill's unusual combination of intervention and coaching experience shaped the unique methodology of the Parents for Peace helpline. She has helped hundreds of American families successfully intervene to rescue loved ones falling into extremism."

CONGRESSMAN JAKE AUCHINCLOSS [Press Release]

In March 2024, Myrieme was invited by the Congressman as his guest during President Biden's the State of the Union Address.



FEDERAL GRANTS

2022 Department of Homeland Security

To develop and pilot a peer exit support curriculum in collaboration with Dr. John Horgan at Georgia State University. (\$749,546.000)





John Horgan is a Distinguished University Professor at Georgia State University's Department of Psychology. He is a leading expert on terrorist psychology and has authored several notable books, including The Psychology of Terrorism and Walking Away from Terrorism.

2023 Department of Homeland Security

To raise societal awareness, about extremism, standardize the helpline operations, and make interventions more efficient and effective (\$832.000)



DRAPER RICHARD KAPLAN'S FOUNDATION



To grow and scale operations over three years, and participate in the Massachusetts model of targeted violence prevention using public health approach.

ANTIDEFAMATION LEAGUE

To create pamphlets for various stakeholders like school administrators, parents, students, and law enforcement





A GUIDE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

RATENTS FOR PEACE

Visit

https://www.parents4peace.org/pamphlets/ to downlod and distribute our pamphlets.

RESEARCH PARTNERS





Jessica Stern, Ph.D. is a research professor at Boston University's Pardee School of Global Studies and a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Her work focuses on terrorism, counterterrorism, and radicalization. Dr. Stern has served on the National Security Council staff and advised U.S. government agencies on security and terrorism. She is an author of several books on terrorism and has contributed to numerous publications. Dr. Stern holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University and a Master's degree from MIT.



Megan K. McBride, Ph.D. is a research analyst at CNA's Countering Threats and Challenges Program and a postdoctoral fellow at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She is also a visiting postdoctoral fellow at Harvard School of Public Health, part-time faculty at Boston College, and an expert in terrorism, radicalization, religious and ideological violence, and the theory of religion. Dr. McBride previously held positions as a postdoctoral fellow at the U.S. Naval War College and a Middle East intelligence analyst with the NSA. She holds a Ph.D. from Brown University and an M.A. in Government from Johns Hopkins University.

THE NATIONAL OPINION RESEARCH CENTER THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



To examine P4P's policies, procedures, and data collection methods to create a plan for a more thorough assessment

RAND

To understand radicalization and deradicalization, resulting in multiple research papers.





RESEARCH BRIEF

What Do Former Extremists and Their Families Say About Radicalization and Deradicalization in America?

MORE PARTNERS • • •



Strong Cities Network















Amid rising hate, Mass. group provides lifeline for children on verge of extremism

Pandemic isolation provided a fertile climate for online groups to lure vulnerable kids toward radical ideology, experts say.

The Boston Globe / Apr 3, 2023

The Boston Globe



Through helpline, group works to counter extremism before it grows

Extremism is a very human disease. It is a harmful, addictive response to grievances; we have seen its roots in underlying The Boston Blobe

page 19



Stopping Groups That Recruit | Video | Exploring Hate

"Parents for Peace" teaches families to recognize signs of radicalization and how to help loved ones before it's too late.

Exploring Hate /



Extremism is a disease. Why don't we treat it like one?

Ten years after the tragedy at the Boston Marathon, our society sees extremism primarily as a moral and political issue, writes Myrieme Churchill. We are more preoccupied with showing our outrage than...

₩BUR/Apr 11, 2023



FINANCIALS



Year	Revenue	Expenses
2018	\$201,740	\$188,744
2019	\$305,200	\$237,519
2020	\$289,262	\$201,481
2021	\$266,460	\$187,523
2022	\$532,000	\$378,000
2023	\$1,052,350	\$782,466
2024E	\$1,504,486	\$1,478,149

E = Expected



OUR TEAM

Myrieme Nadri-Churchill

Executive Director

Diána Hughes

Senior Director of Strategy and **Operations**

Matthew Schumacher

Exit Interventionist.

Kevin Lambert

Director of Programs

Claire Nelson

Executive Assistant

Isabella Castro

Helpline Co-Ordinator

Arno Michaelis

Intervention Specialist

Mubin Shaikh

Emergency Management Response Operations, Canadian Red Cross -Certified peer supporter Intervention Specialist

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Aloke Chakravarty

Former Us Attornev

Tamara Meyer

Founder And President Of Workwell

GET INVOLVED

SPREAD THE WORD

Download or distribute our pamphlets. Visit https://www.parents4peace.org/pamphlets/ or scan the QR code:





DONATE

Parents For Peace is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization, so your donation is tax-deductible. Visit https://www.parents4peace.org/donate/ or scan the QR code to donate. Thank you for your support!



VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in volunteering or applying for an internship, send an email with a cover letter and resume to info@parents4peace.org



1-844-49-PEACE



help@parents4peace.org



@parentsforpeace

