2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Resilient Families, Safer Communities



WHO WE ARE

A LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

- Born from lived experiences with extremism,
 Parents for Peace emerged as a lifeline for families, individuals, and communities in crisis.
- By addressing extremism as a public health issue, we shift the narrative from blame to understanding, focusing on prevention, recovery, and resilience.
- Guided by compassion and evidence-based practices, we empower individuals and families to break free from the cycles of hate and violence.
- Our work builds bridges within families, across communities, and between individuals, fostering the connections necessary for long-term healing and positive change.



My son joined Antifa and The Youth Liberation Front his freshman year in high school. He was arrested multiple times for violent assaults tied to his involvement in these groups.

He ran away from home multiple times and became involved with drug and alcohol abuse. When he was still a teenager he was recruited online to fight with a Syrian militia group.

He trained and fought in Syria for three years. Parents for Peace was by my side every day that he was gone.

We were not sure that he would make it home alive, but due to the expert intervention that Parents for Peace provided to me and my family we were able to bring him home.

He is now rehabilitated and works as an EMT, and enjoys spending time with his friends and girlfriend. He visits his family often, we talk frequently throughout every week, and he's always eager to spend time with us and to help out as needed. I believe that our family could not have achieved this success without the expert and intensive intervention that we received through Parents for Peace.

They provided hope and guidance to us when we were at our most isolated and terrified. They educated us, cared for us, and supported us.

OUR STORY



KATIE RIORDAN, HTTPS://WWW.WKNOFM.ORG/

Parents for Peace was founded by the Bledsoes, a Memphis family whose son and brother, Carlos, was radicalized and carried out a deadly act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

In the aftermath, the Bledsoes turned their pain into action, working to prevent other families from experiencing the same trauma. Their mission: to ensure that no other family has to endure the heartbreak of losing a loved one to extremism.

Parents for Peace maintains the nation's first and only free, confidential consultation resource 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.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

2024 was a year of rising threats and critical interventions. In the wake of October 7, we witnessed a surge in antisemitism, ideological extremism, and targeted violence, particularly in schools and universities. These institutions—once spaces of learning—became battlegrounds for radicalized movements, with students caught between escalating rhetoric, harassment, and, in some cases, outright violence.

The numbers tell a stark story. **Our Helpline inquiries rose 71% in the final quarter of 2024, reflecting the growing crisis in extremism and antisemitism**:

- 74% of cases involved individuals under 25, the prime target for extremist recruiters.
- 82% of cases included antisemitic components, highlighting how deeply hate-based ideologies have embedded themselves across movements.
- We conducted more than 700 intervention sessions, and offramped 12 successful cases showing disengagement.

While we take pride in these interventions, reactive efforts are not enough. Families are coming to us in crisis, watching their children radicalize—whether in reaction to or because of rigid ideological frameworks that fuel division instead of resilience. Extremists are seizing this moment, exploiting grievance, polarization, and institutional failure to draw young people into their ranks.

Meanwhile, as DEI programs fade, no comprehensive strategy has emerged to counter the rise in hate-based radicalization. Schools remain ill-equipped to recognize or respond to these threats. Research by our newest member, Dr. Bar-Halpern documents young Jewish students suffering from PTSD due to bullying, underscoring the urgency of proactive solutions.

That's why in 2025, in addition to our helpline and intervention services we are adding an urgent focus on prevention—launching educator workshops to help schools identify early warning signs, disrupt recruitment, and foster resilience before harm occurs

This past year also marked a turning point in local and national recognition of our work:

- We were invited to Congress to speak alongside Dr. Haidt, elevating the conversation on radicalization and mental health.
- We addressed 200 U.S. mayors, leading to direct invitations to train local leaders in cities like Beverly Hills (CAM Initiative).

- We partnered with Harvard Medical School to present on the mental health dimensions of radicalization, reaching over 400 attendees in person and online.
- Our expert analysis was featured in the Financial Times and WBUR.

Yet despite these successes, our financial reality remains fragile. To scale our intervention and prevention programs, we must secure sustainable, non-federal funding—ensuring our ability to act swiftly, remain independent, and meet the growing needs of the communities we serve.

Your support makes this work possible. Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are building a future where radicalization is met with resilience, not violence.

Myrieme Nadri-Churchill

Executive Director, Parents for Peace



MYRIEME NADRI-CHURCHILL (M.ED): THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PARENTS FOR PEACE, AND THE FOUNDER OF THE FIRST U.S. HELPLINE TO SUPPORT FAMILIES CONFRONTING EXTREMISM

MYRIEME NADRI-CHURCHILL: A LIFE COMMITTED TO UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING VIOLENCE

Growing up in Morocco, Myrieme Churchill experienced firsthand the cycles of violence and control within both her family and society. Determined to make meaning out of senseless suffering, she dedicated her life to answering three questions: Where does violence come from? Who is behind it? And how can it be prevented?

For over 30 years, Myrieme has pursued these questions as a trauma survivor, social worker, psychotherapist, and now as the founder of the only U.S. helpline for families concerned about radicalization.

Her work is driven by a core belief: radicalization is not inevitable—with the right support, individuals can be guided away from extremism, and families can play a key role in breaking the cycle of violence.



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

OUR EXPERT
INTERVENTION TEAM

At Parents for Peace, we don't just study extremism—we intervene, support, and heal. Our team of former extremists, counterterrorism experts, and trauma specialists brings unparalleled insight into how recruitment works—and how to stop it. This firsthand expertise, combined with evidence–based strategies, allows us to break cycles of hate, restore trust, and prevent future violence.



Kevin Lambert, LMSW: a crisis counselor, military veteran, and expert in behavioral health and targeted violence prevention.



Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern, an Israeliborn trauma specialist and Harvard Medical School lecturer, has been at the forefront of trauma response for communities facing antisemitic threats.

OUR EXPERT INTERVENTION TEAM



Mubin Shaikh, a former jihadist turned counterterrorism expert, helped disrupt the Toronto 18 terror plot and now advises on deradicalization strategies.



Arno Michaelis, a former neo-Nazi, now works directly to counter white nationalist recruitment.



Allizandra Herberhold, MSW, an Exit Interventionist specializing in Behavioral Threat Assessment, psychiatric crisis care, and deradicalization, with lived experience in white supremacist extremism.

WEDELIVER RESULTS

OF FAMILIES WHO COMPLETED AN EXIT INTERVIEW IN 2024 REPORTED SATISFACTION WITH OUR INTERVENTIONS.

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.

2024 AT A GLANCE

715

Total Coaching Sessions provided

Involving 92 intimate bystanders (family members and close peers)

28

indviduals of concern

EACH DISENGAGEMENT REPRESENTS A POTENTIAL CRISIS AVERTED.



INDVIDUALS OF CONCERN
SUCCESSFULLY DISENGAGED IN
2024

HELPLINE PROGRAMS IN 2024



428 Indirect Coaching Sessions (63%)

– Supporting families when the individual of concern is ABSENT. (2023: 457 sessions)

58%
INCREASE compared to last year

249 Direct Coaching Sessions (37%) –
Supporting families when the
individual of concern is PRESENT.
(2023: 158 sessions, a 58% increase)

362%
INCREASE



37 Peer Support Group Sessions for Parents (2023: 8 sessions, a 362% increase)

compared to last year

BUILDING BRIDGES TO RECOVERY: THE FIRST EXIT PEER SPECIALIST TRAINING

This year, we, in collaboration with Georgia State University, hosted our inaugural Exit Peer Specialist Training—a groundbreaking initiative aimed at equipping professionals with the tools to support individuals disengaging from violent extremism.

This comprehensive program covered the realities of extremist involvement, its lasting consequences, pathways to recovery and reintegration, and best practices for working with former extremists. By fostering expertise in intervention and peer support, this training represents a critical step in strengthening community-based solutions to counter radicalization and promote lasting change.





FOCUS GROUPS: ENHANCING OUR IMPACT

This year, we conducted four focus groups via Zoom bringing together 31 participants across key stakeholder groups: victims, families, frontline professionals, and former extremists. These discussions provided critical insights into the challenges and needs of those affected by extremism.

The findings, compiled in a comprehensive report, are shaping our programming and outreach to better serve those on the frontlines of extremism prevention. This initiative was a key deliverable under our TVTP 2023 grant from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which supports efforts to raise awareness and enhance prevention strategies in vulnerable communities.





A NEW LOOK FOR OUR WEBSITE IN 2024

This year, we launched a revamped website to better support families and frontline professionals. With a bold new design, streamlined resources, and engaging content, our site makes it easier than ever to access help, learn from experts, and stay informed on the fight against extremism.





Latest from Parents for Peace



Parents for Peace Contributes Expertise to Groundbreaking Texas DPS Conference on Targeted Violence

Targeted Vi Prevention

tonuory 15, 2025

Parents for Peace joined national

experts at the Texas DPS Targeted

//iolence Prevention Conference,

nighlighting how online radicalization

uels extremism and how proactive

intervention can prevent future

Fight Against
Extremism
Jonuary 7, 2025
Adecade after the Charlid
attack, we reflect on the o
against extremism and th

January 7, 2025

A decade after the Charlie Hebdo attack, we reflect on the ongoing fight against extremism and the urgent need for prevention, intervention, and resilience in defending freedom of expression.

Remembering Charlie

Hebdo: A Decade of

Resilience and the



Love Wins: Arno Michaelis' Journey from Hate to Healing November 20, 2024 Arno Michaelis once lived a life fueled

by hate, immersed in the violent ideologies of neo-Nazism. Today, his story serves as a beacon of hope and transformation.

READ MORE »



LOAD MORE

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

This year, we strengthened our digital presence to connect with more families, educators, and professionals through Instagram and social media. By sharing powerful stories, expert insights, and timely updates, we're raising awareness about extremism prevention and providing accessible resources for those in need.





MARKETING IMPACT IN 2024

7,500 WEBSITE VISITORS

WITH A STEADY INCREASE IN TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

BO/O
EMAIL SUBSCRIBER
GROWTH OVER THE PAST
YEAR (TOTAL OF 2,838)

6.2%

ENGAGEMENT RATE IN SOCIAL MEDIA,
MORE THAN 3X THE NONPROFIT AVERAGE.

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT: TVTP GRANT AWARDED TO STRENGTHEN PREVENTION

We are honored to have been awarded a **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) grant for the third consecutive year.** This continued support reflects the effectiveness of our work and reinforces our commitment to expanding prevention efforts, addressing the root causes of radicalization, and building resilience in underserved communities.

With this funding, we will strengthen our intervention services, enhance education for key stakeholders, and develop innovative strategies to counter targeted violence. We are grateful for this ongoing partnership and look forward to continuing our mission to create safer, stronger communities.



EXCELLENCE IN ACCOUNTABILITY: A FOURSTAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

We are proud to announce that we have earned a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, the highest distinction awarded for financial health, accountability, and transparency. This recognition reflects our commitment to ethical stewardship and responsible financial management.



FROM THE FRONTLINES TO THE STATE OF THE UNION: RECOGNIZING LEADERSHIP IN PREVENTION

"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.

ADDRESSING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & RADICALIZATION IN CONGRESS

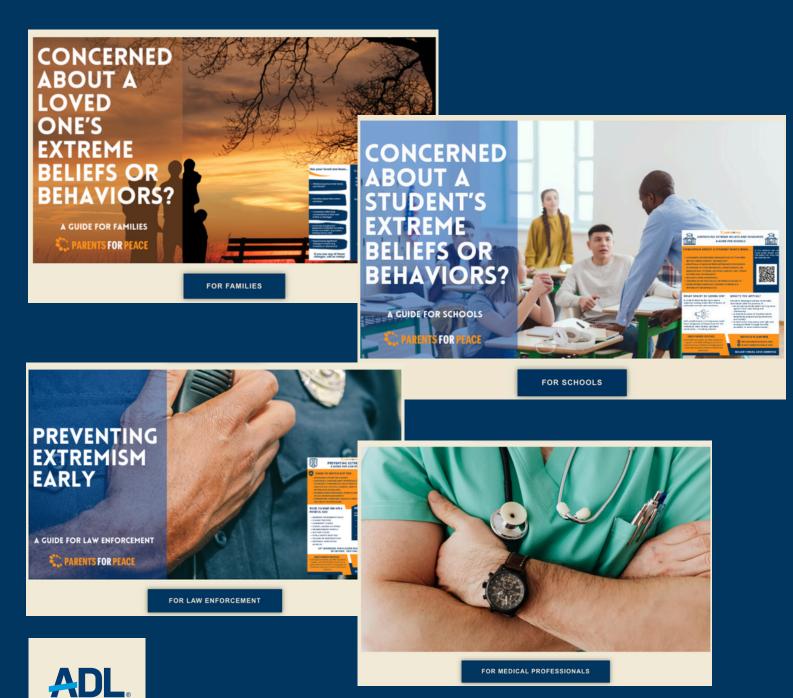
Our Executive Director, Myrieme Nadri-Churchill, had the honor of presenting at the Dads Caucus in Congress, sharing a panel with esteemed researcher Jonathan Haidt and Representatives Jake Auchincloss, Jimmy Gomez, and Seth Magaziner.

This vital discussion focused on the mental health crisis facing our youth, exacerbated by irresponsible social media practices. As Haidt's research highlights, social media algorithms are steering vulnerable teens toward harmful ideologies, making online radicalization a growing public health threat. It's time for greater accountability from tech platforms and proactive intervention to protect young people.



NEW FLYERS

In 2024, we launched a new set of flyers tailored for families, educators, law enforcement, and medical professionals—providing clear, accessible guidance on recognizing and addressing extremist influences. These materials are designed to empower frontline professionals and loved ones with the tools they need to intervene early, foster resilience, and support individuals at risk.



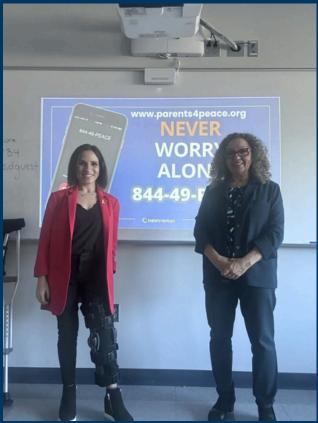
EMPOWERING SCHOOLS

Parents for Peace engaged with educators and school leaders across Massachusetts, equipping them with tools to recognize and counter extremist influence.

Through distributing educational materials at the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization Conference and leading training sessions for 50+ professionals in the North Middlesex and Lunenburg School Districts, we emphasized the vital role schools play in fostering resilience and belonging.

By partnering with dedicated educators, we're strengthening protective factors, promoting early intervention, and ensuring that schools remain safe havens for students at risk.





EXPANDING OUR REACH AT HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

In 2024, Parents for Peace took the stage at Harvard Medical School, presenting on extremism as a public health issue to a diverse audience of medical professionals, researchers, and students. With 260 attendees in person and 160 joining online, the event underscored the growing recognition of the role healthcare professionals play in preventing radicalization. This engagement at one of the world's leading medical institutions reinforced our commitment to bridging public health and security, equipping frontline professionals with the tools to identify and intervene before harm occurs.*



*The photo from the 2025 event.

PRESS & MEDIA MENTIONS





Arno Michaelis speaks at the Virginia Summit Against Antisemitism, in Norfolk, Virginia, June 3, 2024. Photo: Brian Callan / Thirty

Three Photography.

'Love Wins': A Former Neo-Nazi Skinhead Reflects on Path of Overcoming Hate

November 19, 2024

FINANCIAL TIMES

Weaponised autism and the extremist threat facing children

PRESS & MEDIA MENTIONS

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I work with families in the grips of radicalization. We need each other to prevent extremism

July 18, 2024 By Myrieme Churchill







PRESS & MEDIA MENTIONS



News and Features

A Memphis Family is Behind a National Helpline Designed to Break Through Extremism of All Kinds

WKNO | By Katie Riordan Published July 5, 2024 at 7:11 PM CDT









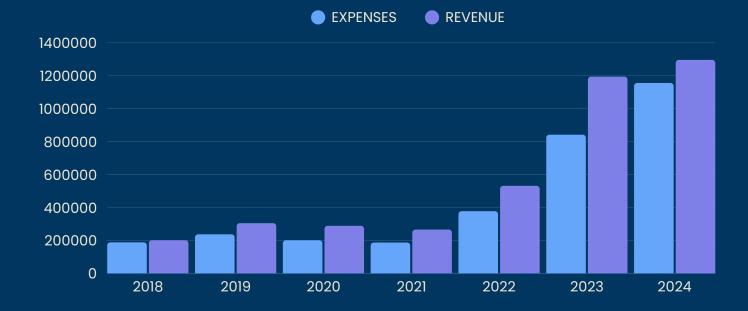
Katie Riordan

Monica Holley and her father, Melvin Bledsoe, co-founded Parents for Peace to help others recognize signs of radicalization and provide services to overcome it.

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	\$1,194,789	\$842,334
2024	\$1,296,408.39	\$1,156,447.81*



^{*}The following revenue and expense figures for FY24 are unaudited and based on the company's internal accounting records.

OUR TEAM



Myrieme Nadri-Churchill

Executive Director Exit Interventionist



Arno Michaelis

Exit Interventionist



Mubin Shaikh Exit Interventionist



Kevin Lambert

Director Of Programs Exit Interventionist



Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern

Director Of Trauma Services & Training



Isabella Castro

Helpline Coordinator



Allizandra Herberhold

Exit Interventionist



Erin Yingst

Director Of Grants & Administration



Claire Nelson

Executive Assistant



Amara Kassam

Interventionist Analyst



Chloe Mihaleto

Financial Assistant

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Shan Soe-Lin

Board Chair Managing Director at Pharos Global Health Advisors

George Selim Chief of Staff/SVP, Public Affairs

Muhammad Fraser-Rahim

Assistant Professor The Citadel

Melvin Bledsoe

Founder & President

Monica Haley

Founder

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Ron Schouten

Professor Of Psychiatry At Harvard University

Peter Hecht

Co-Founder And Ceo At Cyclerion

Shanna Batten Aguirre Senior Justice Advisor At U.S. Department Of State

Darryl Davis American R&B And Blues Musician And **Activist**

Clare AllelyProfessor Of Forensic Psychology At The
University Of Salford In England

Aloke Chakravarty

Former Us Attorney

Tamara Meyer

Founder And President Of Workwell

Chin Rodger

Advocate & Speaker

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 taxdeductible. 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



IN THEIR OWN WORDS: THE FAMILIES WE SUPPORT

"There is nothing like Parents for Peace out there."

"Everyone I've interacted with at Parents for Peace from end to end has been so professional and supportive, the support has truly meant the world to me."

"A top-rate organization, dealing with an extremely complex and still-evolving issue."