



Meet
Hilda Graham
Keynote Speaker
Program Developer
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Hilda Graham works with individuals, groups and agencies to improve the quality of life and safety for children and youth, adults, organizations and communities. She is an internationally and nationally renowned expert on school and campus safety, law enforcement partnerships, school and workplace bullying, and diversity/culturally fluency. Hilda skilfully addresses the themes of partnerships, team building, collaboration and cultural pluralism. She is known and appreciated for her unique approach to cultural fluency, an approach she honed for the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Policing. Hilda is a gifted communicator and strategist who opens the doors of difficult topics and circumstances with ease respect and success. She is a master of the art of presenting and training which makes her programs practical, confidence-inspiring, and memorable

Recent participant comments regarding Hilda's presentations include:

"An excellent and extraordinary presenter... passionate and honest."

"She opens minds with her approach to training."

"Hilda is an excellent storyteller... thought-provoking and inspirational."

"Her presentation was eye-opening and heartfelt."

"Hilda is an excellent instructor. She is joy to listen to..."

"One of the most vibrant, energetic and articulate speakers I have ever heard...she's a gem."

"Hilda is awesome...she has no peer."

"She opens doors that many of us are afraid to open."

"A fact-filled, enjoyable presentation..."

Selected Achievements

- **In response to school community efforts to prevent and respond to school bullying;** designed and delivered training agendas and materials addressing the phenomenon of school bullying. Stressed the goal of creating "bully resistant" schools and students. Highlighted the importance of assuming local guardianship of the bullying problem, applying situational prevention strategies and using a problem solving approach to determine core issues and causes of bullying problems.
- **In response to safety needs of the European Council of International Schools;** designed and delivered a school safety program strand for the 2008 European Council of International Schools annual conference, Nice, France. Presented the topics of: bullying, cyber-bullying, school site safety assessment and schools as targets of violence and terror.
- **In response to workplace bullying:** developed *Bullying In the Workplace* presentations for staff members, leaders and managers within state education offices, districts and for the private university setting
- **In response to Virginia Tech;** designed and delivered *Let's Talk: Opening Critical Stakeholder Dialogues to Improve Campus Safety*, a national college and university safety training program to prepare campus leaders, law enforcement, security forces, and community stakeholders to prevent and respond to high-profile acts of violence and manage daily campus safety concerns and challenges.



- **In response to 9/11;** designed and delivered *What If? Preparing Schools for Terrorism*, a national training program for school law enforcement officers and their school community safety partners to prevent and respond to domestic and international acts of terrorism, acts of school violence and natural disasters.
- **In response to the community policing initiative;** developed a unique diversity training approach and module for school law enforcement officers and their school partners as part of the *Keeping Our Kids Safe* training program. Module was consistently ranked as one of highest valued sessions of the training program.

What Gives Life to the Subject of Bullying

Bullying is a subject with life because there are stories to tell about the lives of ordinary people involved in bullying relationships based on physical, emotional and social abuse. Bullying has the power to shape, change—and even end lives. While there may be many names for bullying across the world, there are no geographical or cultural boundaries around human experiences of pain, fear, desperation, or anger. Neither are there boundaries around the human experiences of wielding personal and social power in relationships. Any discussion of bullying inevitably brings up real-life accounts of harassment, intimidation, coercion, exclusion, physical assault, and even murder or suicide. Such conversations can easily lead us to ask of our own lives, “Am I a bully? Have I been bullied? Have I stood by while it happened? Where do I now stand?”

Bullying can happen in any relationship setting. It happens in families, schools, marriages, workplaces and throughout the larger community, wherever relationships are shared. Teachers, neighbors, parents, siblings, spouses, doctors, caregivers, supervisors, bosses, ministers, police officers, political leaders and military personnel are just some of the kinds of people who can be bullies, targets or bystanders.

Bullying relationships are dynamic. They have a past, they live in the present and they have the potential to threaten the future. Some bullying experiences become vivid lifetime memories. Some of those who are bullied become bullies. Both bullies and targets reflect upon and can reframe the meaning and outcomes of their experiences.

Bullying has an emotional life. There can be feelings and expressions of fear, humiliation, despair, frustration and anger for those who are bullied and devious satisfaction and empowerment for those who bully.

Bullying has a mental life. There can be thoughts of insignificance and inferiority for those who are bullied and thoughts of superiority, entitlement and sometimes righteousness for those who bully.

Bullying has a physical life. There can be physical harm, injury and pain for those who are targets. And sometimes there is death, as the result of a bullying act or as the choice of suicide. There can be acts of physical assault, coercion and intimidation by the bully.

Bullying has a social life. There can be circumstances of exclusion and isolation for those who are targets. Bullies can be envied, exalted, admired and followed, or despised and hated.

Bullying has a technological life. There can be, alongside the technological marvels of the modern age, innovative opportunities for intentional harm-doing. Our computers, cell phones, video games, MP3 players, Twitter, Youtube and other social networking sites, blogs, gaming communities, etc. all offer the opportunity to expand the reach of the bully.