



Joanne L. Harpel, MPhil, CT, JD, President of Coping After Suicide, LLC, is an international authority on suicide bereavement and postvention response. She is Certified in Thanatology (death, dying, and bereavement) and has over 20 years' experience addressing the questions, emotions, and complexities that arise in the aftermath of suicide.

Joanne has extensive experience training clergy, chaplains, and spiritual care providers, including for the National Chaplain Training Center of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, the HealthCare Chaplaincy Network, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the Ruderman Foundation. She is the co-creator of "*What Clergy Need to Know About Mental Illness*," the nation's first-ever program to educate clergy on the neuroscience underlying mental illness, piloted through a grant from UJA-Federation of New York. She has presented a wide range of community, congregational, and youth programming, and has consulted on dozens of sermons, eulogies, memorial services, and crisis support.

Her work has been recognized with the two most prestigious awards available in the field: the American Association of Suicidology's Survivor of the Year Award and the International Association for Suicide Prevention's Farberow Award.

Joanne has spoken on suicide bereavement and aftercare at the United Nations, on Capitol Hill, and for the American Psychiatric Association, American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Northern Ireland National Health Service, Bereaved Parents of the USA, and New York State School Boards and Funeral Directors Associations. She's trained the chaplains of the U.S. Army and Veterans Administration; the psychologists affiliated with the South Korea National Police Agency; the crisis response team of a large public university; and the psychiatry, pediatrics, nursing, and social work departments of major medical centers. Over two decades she's collaborated with hundreds of organizations, including the NIMH, WHO, Columbia University Schools of Social Work and Journalism, the University of Melbourne, HBO, and Sesame Street.

Joanne was a founding co-lead of SAMHSA's National Survivors of Suicide Loss Task Force, which created national guidelines on responding to grief, trauma, and distress after a suicide. She co-chairs the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's Lived Experience Committee and serves on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Lived Experience Committee. A Professional Career Suicidologist with the American Association of Suicidology, she is also a professional member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling and the National Alliance for Children's Grief.

A former attorney, Joanne served on the national board of directors of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention before being recruited to join their senior management team as their first-ever Senior Director for Public Affairs and Postvention. While at AFSP she created the most well-respected, far-reaching array of programs, initiatives, and resources in the field, including International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (an annual event in 300 cities on 6 continents); an online postvention toolkit for schools; national support group facilitator and outreach training programs attended by thousands of people; and a primer on how to explain suicide to children.

A *cum laude* graduate of Amherst College, she also holds graduate degrees from Cambridge University and the NYU School of Law. She lost her brother Stephen to suicide in 1993.

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