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Esther Giller, MA

SUMMARY

Esther Giller is founder and President of Sidran Institute, a unique nonprofit organization of international scope devoted exclusively to education and information about psychological trauma, extreme stress, and dissociative experiences. She has led Sidran in the development of a broad range of programs and projects to benefit people with trauma-generated mental health problems, as well as to educate professional and para-professional caregivers, and the public.



Ms. Giller is particularly interested in and skilled at collaborative projects that bring diverse partners together to create programs to fill gaps in knowledge and expertise. She has developed innovative, collaborative projects to address trauma in settings as diverse as state psychiatric hospitals, corrections facilities, and faith communities.

Under her direction, Sidran has become known for providing information and referrals about specialized trauma treatment, education and training of multi-disciplinary audiences, advocacy and mutual support programming, and ground-breaking publications. She directs all publications projects, including acquisition and development of books, videotapes, and training materials.

EMPLOYMENT

1987–Present **Director, Sidran Institute for Traumatic Stress Education and Advocacy** (see above)

Writer and editor (see Publications)

1976–1987 **Johns Hopkins University Press**

Prior to establishing the Sidran Institute, Ms. Giller worked for eleven years in university press publishing, in editorial and marketing capacities. She developed and supervised University Press Sales Consortium of 15 presses. She was also Assistant Editor of *The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower: The War Years*, a multi-volume documentary history project published by The Johns Hopkins University Press.

PUBLICATIONS

Editor, *Multiple Personality Disorder from the Inside Out*, Sidran Press, 1991

Editor, *Child Protective Services: A System in Crisis*, National Resource Center on Child Sexual Abuse, 1992;

Editor, *Enhancing Child Sexual Abuse Services to Minority Cultures*, National Resource Center on Child Sexual Abuse, 1992;

Executive Editor, *Risking Connection*, Sidran Press, 2000

Coauthor, *Risking Connection in Faith Communities*, 2005

Numerous articles for lay readers about the psychological effects of traumatic stress, published in professional journals, association and organizational newsletters, and web

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, Ms. Giller has been frequently sought out by national, regional, and local print and broadcast media. She has been interviewed and quoted about trauma reactions in Time and Newsweek magazines, National Public Radio-NYC, MSNBC, CBS Health-Watch and many others.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

She is a frequent speaker at meetings of violence prevention, medical and mental health care professionals. Recent presentations have included the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies, NYS-OMH Key Connection: Clinical Training Conference on Trauma Services, and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Response Teams (SANE-SART) National Training Conference.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

2004-present — The Shofar Coalition. A collaborative, multidisciplinary, community-wide effort for public and professional education to address the physical, emotional and spiritual impact of trauma on survivors of family abuse in the Greater Baltimore Jewish community. Funded by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

2003-2006—Spirituality and Victim services: A Collaborative Response to Crime Victims in Urban Areas. In collaboration with Maryland Crime victims' Resource Center, with competitive funding from the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime. A community building project in Baltimore City to successfully link victim assistance programs and faith communities.

2001—Risking Connection in Faith Communities. An interfaith project developed in partnership with the National Conference of Vietnam Veteran Ministers and funded by The Carpenter Foundation, teaches the Risking Connection approach to clergy and lay leaders of diverse faith communities.

2000—2003 PTSD Alliance. A public education collaborative consisting of Sidran Institute, ACOG, ADAA and ISTSS, and funded through an unrestricted educational grant by Pfizer, Inc. This project provides general education about PTSD for survivors of traumatic experiences, their families and frontline service providers.

1998-present--Risking Connection: A Training Curriculum for Working with Survivors of Childhood Abuse. Partially funded by the State Departments of Mental Health in Maine and New York. Ms. Giller's concept was to develop, in collaboration with trauma survivors, curricula and training materials based on proven trauma theory to enable staff in state and community mental health settings to draw on cutting edge clinical practice to provide appropriate, sensitive and effective services to survivors of childhood abuse trauma.

1999-present--Trauma in Corrections Settings. In collaboration with the state of Maryland, and as partner in SAMHSA's Women, Co-occurring Disorders and Violence, TAMAR Project, Ms. Giller and Sidran staff have developed training programs and educational materials for addressing the psychological needs of incarcerated trauma survivors, and the corrections staff who work with them.

AWARDS

Recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award, International Society for the Study of Dissociation, 1992.

Recipient of the Media Achievement Award, International Society for the Study of Dissociation, 1994.

Award of Special Merit for Nonprofit Innovation, Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management, 1995. For Model **Low-Cost Trauma Clinic.**

M E M B E R S H I P S A N D B O A R D S

Active member of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, and the International Society for the Study of Dissociation .

In addition, Ms. Giller has served as consultant or board member to many organizations and publications, including NASMHPD (National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors) National Trauma Experts Group, The Chesapeake Institute (a nonprofit child sexual abuse research and treatment facility in metropolitan Washington, D.C.), and *Moving Forward: A Newsjournal for Survivors of Childhood Abuse*. She also served on the executive council of the International Society for the Study of Dissociation from 1993-1996.

Ms. Giller has served on invited national experts' boards convened by federal agencies, including: SAMHSA, Center for Mental Health Services, National Workgroup on Women, Violence and the Mental Health System: Dare to Act, 2004

HRSA, Bureau of Primary Health Care National Workgroup on Responding to Faith Communities Affected by Arson, 2001-02.SAMHSA, CMHS National Workgroup on Self-inflicted Violence, 1998.

NASMHPD (National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors) SAMHSA, CMHS National Workgroup on Responding to the Needs of Trauma Survivors in the Public Mental Health System, 1998

Ms. Giller is a founding board member of the PTSD Alliance, a public education coalition that, in addition to Sidran, includes the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Anxiety Disorders Association of America, and the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. This alliance was funded by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer, Inc.

EDUCATION

M.A., American Civilization and Women's Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 1976.

B. A., Johns Hopkins University, 1974.