

EXPANDING THE SYSTEMIC LENS IN THE PARENT PEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (PPLP)

By Stephanie Bachmann Mattei

Inbal Kashtan envisioned and launched the Parent Peer Leadership Program in 2006. Her dream was to transform our society's basic assumptions about parenting, so that all parents who choose to might participate in raising a generation of young people who increasingly have the skills our world needs to thrive, to live interdependently, and to make peace.

Unfortunately, Inbal was only able to personally carry this dream for one year, as she was then diagnosed with cancer.

Since then, hundreds of people from all over the world, parents, grandparents, people who work with parents, teachers, other caregivers of youth, including many CNVC certified trainers, have taken part in this program, co-led by certified trainers Stephanie Bachmann Mattei and Ingrid Bauer.

As I write this letter, the world's attention is on two major world conflicts and there are over 30 wars going on at this time. With all the trauma, violence, wars and famine, and massive migration that are happening right now humanity is aching for change and parenting can be a powerful tool for social change!

VISION AND MISSION for PPLP

Imagine a world in which children grow up in families where connection and trust are prioritized; where they learn the language of feelings and needs along with their mother tongue; where they see modeled for them a process for resolving conflicts nonviolently; and where their self-connection is nurtured so they grow up acting out of joyful choice instead of guilt, shame, obligation, fear of consequences or desire for reward.

This is what we would like to have happen for children around our planet, to meet their needs, and to meet our needs for hope about the possibility of creating a world where everyone's needs matter. Child-rearing practices are a vitally important facet of the cycle of socialization in every culture. The ways we raise our children arise from and affect our view of human beings, our social systems, and the challenges we face as a

species. By transforming our parenting, we can embody the values we want in our world and contribute to our collective ability to live peacefully, together, within the means of the planet.

As parents, we can choose to use power to *support* children's learning and growth rather than to *control* what they do. We can make decisions *with* our children instead of *for* them. We can model the willingness to humbly acknowledge impacts alongside tenderness for intentions. We can model compassion for and awareness of the dignity of human beings across all the ways that humans have been divided.

Imagine all parents having sufficient access to resources, understanding of historical and intergenerational trauma, and systemic support, so they can have the capacity to raise their children as a pathway to a world where all needs truly matter, no exceptions. Imagine all parents supported to examine and transform internalized patriarchal narratives, to recognize and lovingly release implicit biases, and to shift to the power-with paradigm as a way of ending the cycle of passing trauma to the next generation.

This is what we, in the PPLP, want to contribute to creating. That is why we explore challenging topics related to power differences both in the adult/child relationship and beyond, in the humans/nature, dominant/ "minority" cultures, and in the context of the long-lasting impacts of colonization. This wider systemic lens, including learning about dynamics of power and privilege, supports all of us to raise new generations that have eyes and words for addressing and transforming narratives, relationships, institutions, and systems that contribute to violence in the world.

Our commitment in the PPLP is to empower parents and those working with youth to concretely contribute to social change. We deeply long to support a flow of learning, energy, and contribution in relation to the role of parents and adults in creating a world that works for all.

In response to this understanding of the role of parenting, the PPLP aims to:

- Contribute to meeting parents' needs for support, connection, understanding, acceptance, growth, hope, inspiration
- Support parents' ability to nurture a generation of people who grow up within an environment of deep commitment to transformation of the patriarchal legacy of scarcity, separation, and powerlessness from which all forms of individual and systemic violence arise, into a peaceful paradigm of flow, togetherness, and choice where all have sufficient access to resources to attend to their needs

For more information about the program and to register please visit

<https://www.nvc-pplp.com/>

Financial accessibility and our [Note for BIPOC](#)

FREE PREVIEW Sessions: for PPLP 2024
You are invited to a 75 minutes zoom call

December 4th, 2023, 7:00 pm Eastern Time

Register [HERE](#) in advance for this meeting:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

December 18th 2023, 12 noon Eastern Time

Register [HERE](#) in advance for this meeting:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For converting the Eastern Time Zone to yours please click [HERE](#)