



University of Massachusetts Boston

Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters

John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies

An international conference on

Rebuilding Sustainable Communities for children and their families after Disasters

November 16-19, 2008

Diane Levin



Professor Levin's keynote presentation is titled:

"Understanding the Impact of Disasters on Children and Helping Them Heal and Thrive Afterwards"

Diane Levin is a professor of education at Wheelock College. She has taught early childhood education and human development courses for over 25 years.

An internationally recognized expert, she helps professionals and parents understand and deal with the effects of violence, media, and commercial culture on children. She is the author or coauthor of eight books including: *From Conflict to Peace Building: Lessons from Early Childhood Programs Around the World*; *The War Play Dilemma: What Every Parent and Teacher Needs to Know*; *Teaching Young Children in Violent Times: Building a Peaceable Classroom*; and *Remote Control Childhood? Combating the Hazards of Media Culture*. Her newest book, *So Sexy So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood and What Parents Can Do to Protect Their Kids* was released in August 2008.

Levin has consulted for the ACT Against Violence Program at the American Psychological Association and for Consumer Report's annual toy review article. She co-wrote "The 'So Far' Guide for Helping Children and Youth Cope with the Deployment of a Parent in the Military Reserves" and has developed a violence prevention training course for childcare providers in the state of Maine. At Wheelock, she organizes an annual service-learning program in Northern Ireland which explores how to promote children's healing in communities affected by conflict and violence.

Levin has been an Advisor for four PBS Parents' web site guides, including "Understanding and Raising Girls," "Talking To Kids about War and Violence," and "The Parents Guide to School." She is a co-founder of the Campaign for a CommercialFree Childhood (CCFC), which works for an end to the commercial exploitation of children and Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment (TRUCE), which helps parents deal with the impact of media and commercial culture on their children.

For further information, please visit our conference website:

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