



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 20+ years of experience addressing the questions, emotions, and fears that arise in the aftermath of suicide.

Joanne has consulted with workplaces of all sizes and types, from hedge funds to hair salons, Fortune 200 companies to consulates, law firms to hospitals, professional associations to military units to universities, strategizing effective crisis response and conducting on-site psychoeducational presentations to educate and support management, staff, and administrators and provide pragmatic, concrete answers to the common real-world questions around this stigmatized and often frightening subject.

A former corporate attorney at a leading law firm and the survivor of her own brother's suicide, Joanne co-chairs the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's Lived Experience Committee and was a founding co-lead of SAMHSA's National Survivors of Suicide Loss Task Force. A Professional Career Suicidologist with the American Association of Suicidology, she is a member of their Workplace Committee and Survivors of Suicide Loss Task Force.

Joanne is a seasoned guest lecturer, including at the United Nations, on Capitol Hill, and for the American Psychiatric Association, American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and International Association for Suicide Prevention. 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 and social work departments of major medical centers. She has been a featured speaker for the New York State School Boards and Funeral Directors Associations, and has 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 is the former longtime Senior Director for Public Affairs and Postvention for the world's largest nonprofit dedicated to the issue (the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention) where she created the most well-respected, far-reaching array of programs and resources in the field, including International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (which now takes place annually in 300 cities on 6 continents); a toolkit utilized by schools across the country facing real-time crises; a primer explaining suicide to children; and national support group facilitator and outreach training programs attended by thousands of individuals across the country over two decades.

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

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