



Providing training and keynote presentations to human service and criminal justice groups.

Helga Luest is recognized expert in the field of violence and trauma. She is the founder of Witness Justice and is a survivor of violence.

In 1993, while on travel with her mother, Luest's rental car was pushed off a highway in Southern Florida. Two assailants nearly beat her to death, leaving her 3 mm from being quadriplegic, with massive physical injuries. Luest's story was featured on Forensic Files, Good Morning America, Larry King Live, Final Justice with Erin Brockovich, Discovery Health and more. In 2001 when her offender's sentence was vacated on a technicality, Luest was pulled into the criminal justice system again to ensure the sentence would be upheld. Shortly after, Luest started Witness Justice, a national nonprofit organization with a particular focus on addressing gaps in services experienced by survivors of violence and trauma.

In 2008, a different chapter of her story became front page news – this time because her then-husband threatened to kill her and then violently smashed their home apart looking for his gun. Even as a national advocate, Luest wasn't immune to the many ways family and civil court not only fail domestic violence and child abuse victims, but also how those in the system would discriminate against her because of her profession and trauma history.

Luest gives an empowering keynote that inspires audiences to take that final step in the healing process – to turn the dark cloud of violence and trauma and reshape it into something positive.

Trainer

Helga Luest is an award-winning trainer and educator in topics including: Victimization, Causes of Violence, Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care, Human Trafficking, Cultural Competency in Human Services, Advocacy for Social Change, Community Collaboration, the Healing Process, Campus and Teen Dating Violence and more.

Her presentations range from workshop and panel discussions to intensive, certified, day long experiences for professionals. Luest developed curriculum hosted on TrainingForums.org, an e-learning facility supported by the Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Luest has trained policymakers, federal agency officials, regional and county behavioral health professionals, victim service providers, judges, court professionals, survivors and the general public. Luest holds a BS in Marketing from American University and an MIM in International Management from the University of Maryland University College. She is certified in women's self defense and private investigation and is a safety expert called on regularly by news agencies and publications including *Glamour* magazine.



witness justice

For more information contact:

Witness Justice

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Presentations to hundreds of groups including:

- Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families
- Behavioral Healthcare Professionals of Ventura County, CA
- Council on Foundations
- Forensic Sciences Academy of New York City
- Mental Health Association in New Jersey
- National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
- National Symposium on Human Trafficking
- Office for Victims of Crime/USDJ
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/DHHS
- United States Congress



Conference Presentation on Trauma and Crime Victims, Dare to Transform Conference, National Center for Trauma-Informed Care, July 2008



Briefing Testimony on Veterans, Trauma and Family Safety, United States Congress, November 2008



Panel Conference Presentation on Women, Violence and Trauma, Mental Health Association of New Jersey at Fairleigh Dickinson University, June 2010

Awards and Accomplishments:

- Facilitated the creation of the U.S. Congressional Trauma Caucus and Advisory Group, 2011
- Successfully advocated for SAMHSA to include consumer and survivor voice and leadership in their strategic initiatives, 2010
- Ambassador's Award from the New Jersey Governor's Association on Mental Health Stigma, 2010
- Golden Bell Leadership Award from the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, 2010
- Telly Award, 1998, 2002 and two in 2010
- Silver Addy® Award, 2009
- Volvo for Life Award, 2005 and 2007
- Baltimore Ravens Community Quarterback Award, 2005
- Golden Web Award, 2002
- Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government's Hammer Award, 1999
- Runner's World "Superstar," 1999
- Silver Inkwell Award of Merit from the International Association of Business Communicators, 1998
- Thoth Award from the Public Relations Society of America, 1998
- Marathon Runner