

Bullycide: the New Face of Bullying Boys & Mean Girls

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Bullycide is a new term for the reality of what is happening in schools, online, and in our communities. Bullycide is a combination of bullying behaviors and suicide. Our children and youth are being bullied verbally, emotionally, mentally, and virtually to the point of suicide.

“Bullycide: the New Face of Bullying Boys & Mean Girls” is a comprehensive, interactive study of bullying, mean girls, the effects of violence on our youth today, depression, and ultimately, suicide. The statistics are alarming for teen suicide and depression, but bullycide is the most disquieting trend facing youth today. Many school districts and administrative staff pass bullying as a rite of passage or a “normal” occurrence in academic classrooms. The problem with bullying is that it has become more violent and more deadly. Not to mention what is happening online, in chat rooms, and social networks. The bottom line is that we need to be informed about bullying, understand the warning signs of abuse and suicide, and support laws and policies that protect our children and prosecute the bully.

The term “bullycide” was coined by journalist Neil Marr in the book *Bullycide: Death at Playtime* which was co-written by the late anti-bullying crusader Tim Field. Many other professionals and advocates of children and teens have joined the battle against bullying. Brenda High, along with other moms, wrote a compelling personal story of their journey, struggle, and loss to bullying. The book, *Bullycide in America: Moms speak out about the bullying/suicide connection* is one of many resources on this subject. This session unravel the behaviors, consequences, and results of bullying and violence while taking a deeper look at cyberbullying, depression, and suicide. Resources, handouts, and contacts will be provided on this subject as well as in our areas of teen stressors.

Speaker Information: Missy Wall is director of the Teen CONTACT program of CONTACT Crisis Line in Dallas, TX. She has been with CONTACT for the past 3 years working with schools, youth groups and community centers on issues of teen depression, suicide, bullying, mean girls, drug and alcohol abuse and others. She is responsible for the planning and implementation of outreach and programs for Dallas area youth and their families raising the awareness of the services of Teen CONTACT and educates them about teen-related issues. Missy has had more than 13 years of experience working with teens in a church setting, most recently as the Youth Missions Director and Middle School Director for Highland Park United Methodist Church. After completing undergraduate studies at Texas A & M University, Missy also completed two master’s degrees—one in divinity from Perkins School of Theology at SMU in Dallas and one in social work from University of Texas at Arlington.