



**THE MELISSA INSTITUTE**  
For Violence Prevention and Treatment  
**MELISSAINSTITUTE.ORG**



# THE MELISSA INSTITUTE 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Gun Violence Prevention: What We Know and What We Need to Know

**Virtual Conference**  
**Friday, May 3, 2024**  
**9 a.m.-5 p.m. EST**

**Presentations by:**

**Nilo Cuervo, Esq.**  
**Rev. Charles Dinkins, MDiv, MBA**  
**Wayne Rawlins, M.S.**  
**Jaclyn Schildkraut, Ph.D.**  
**Alex R. Piquero, Ph.D.**  
**Nick Wilson, MPP**

Register now by scanning the QR code or visiting  
<https://melissainstitute.org/28thannualconference/>



# **The Melissa Institute 28th Annual Conference:** **Gun Violence Prevention: What We Know and What We Need to Know**

**Join us on Zoom on Friday, May 3, 2024 9 a.m.-5 p.m. EST**

## **About the Conference:**

We are honored to bring together experts, researchers, advocates, and professionals from diverse fields to engage in crucial discussions surrounding one of the most pressing public health issues of our time. The pervasive impact of gun violence on individuals, families, and communities necessitates a comprehensive exploration of our current understanding, effective prevention strategies, and avenues for further research. This conference serves as a platform for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and the collective pursuit of innovative solutions.

## **Learning Objectives:**

Participant will be able to:

1. Explore Current Research and Trends: Delve into the latest research on gun violence, examining trends, patterns, and contributing factors to deepen our collective understanding.
2. Evaluate Prevention Strategies: Assess the effectiveness of existing prevention strategies, legislative approaches, and community-based initiatives aimed at curbing gun violence.
3. Identify Gaps in Knowledge: Acknowledge the existing gaps in our understanding of gun violence and identify areas that require further research and exploration.
4. Foster Collaboration: Facilitate connections and partnerships among attendees, fostering collaboration between professionals, researchers, policymakers, and advocates in the shared goal of reducing gun violence.

## **Target Audience:**

Teachers, administrators, school counselors, psychologists, social workers, family mediators, mental health workers, marriage and family therapists, social services agency personnel, juvenile and family-court judges, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, nurses, pediatricians, primary care doctors and physicians.

**FREE General Registration**  
**Continuing Education Credits**  
**\$60 CE and CME**  
**\$99 CLE**





# **The Melissa Institute 28th Annual Conference:** **Gun Violence Prevention: What We Know and What We Need to Know**

**9:00 a.m.** Welcome and Opening Remarks

*Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D., Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor Miami-Dade County*

**9:10 a.m.** \*Keynote Address: Current Landscape of Gun Violence in America: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities, *Alex R. Piquero, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Sociology & Criminology, Arts & Sciences Distinguished Scholar, University of Miami*

## **Legislative and Law Enforcement Approaches**

**10:00 a.m.** \*Trigger Points: Unpacking the Nexus Between Gun Legislation, Homicide Rates, and Violence Prevention, *Nick Wilson, MPP., Senior Director, Center for American Progress*

**10:50 a.m.** \*Policy Approaches to Gun Violence Prevention in Miami-Dade County, *Nilo Cuervo, Esq., Deputy Chief Assistant, Division Chief - Gun Violence Unit, Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office*

**11:25 a.m.** Panel Discussion: *Nick Wilson, MPP, Nilo Cuervo, Esq., and Michael Haggard, Esq. Moderator: Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D.*

**12:00 p.m.** Lunch Break

**1:00 pm** Suzanne L. Keeley Community Service Award Recognition to Sandy Hook Promise, *Lynn Aptman, M.Ed., Co-Founder and Board President, The Melissa Institute*

## **Community-Based Strategies for Gun Violence Prevention in Miami-Dade County**

**1:15 p.m.** \*The Effectiveness and the Promise of Group Violence Interventions and Hospital-Based Violence Interventions, *Wayne Rawlins, M.S., President, Ummah Futures International*

**2:00 p.m.** \*Community-Based Strategies for Gun Violence Prevention in Miami-Dade County, *Rev. Charles Dinkins, MDiv, MBA, Founder & President, Hosanna Community Foundation, Inc.*

**2:45 p.m.** Panel Discussion: *Wayne Rawlins, M.S., Rev. Charles Dinkins, MDiv, MBA Moderator: Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D.*

## **School-Based Gun Violence Prevention**

**3:15 p.m.** \*Mass Shootings in Schools: Lessons from Tragedy and Opportunities for Prevention and Response, *Jaclyn Schildkraut, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Regional Gun Violence Research Consortium at the Rockefeller Institute of Government*

**4:00 p.m.** Panel Discussion: *Jaclyn Schildkraut, Ph.D., Leena Augimeri, Ph.D. Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D. & Judy Schaechter, M.D. Moderator: Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D.*

**4:30 p.m. - 5:00 pm:** Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments

# The Melissa Institute 28th Annual Conference: Gun Violence Prevention: What We Know and What We Need to Know

## Presenters:



### **Nilo Cuervo, Esq.**

#### **Policy Approaches to Gun Violence Prevention in Miami-Dade County**

Deputy Chief Assistant Nilo Cuervo joined the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office in 2014 and currently supervises several felony divisions, Felony Domestic Crimes Unit, Misdemeanor Domestic Crimes Unit, Community Outreach Division, and the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative. He works with police, local leaders, and the County's Anti-Violence Initiative to build relationships within these impacted communities, deter criminal activity, and respond to contact shootings. He has special interest in developing community bonds and working closely with other agencies that has led to participating with councils, and commission groups throughout the county. Prior to joining the State Attorney's Office, Mr. Cuervo served as an Assistant Attorney General at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia.



### **Rev. Charles Dinkins, MDiv, MBA,**

#### **Community-Based Strategies for Gun Violence Prevention in Miami-Dade County**

Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins brings over three decades of preaching and community ministry experience, focusing on aiding inner-city youth and families. As the Founder/President and CEO of Hosanna Community Foundation since 1995, he has transformed it from a church youth group to a thriving outreach program, annually assisting hundreds of families. Through his leadership, Hosanna Community Foundation Inc. supports various research efforts and coalitions, including the Urban Partnership of Miami-Dade County Coalition and the Liberty City Protecting Youth Partnership. Rev. Dinkins employs evidence-based models and serves as Chair for multiple youth-focused initiatives in Miami-Dade County. His prevention approach emphasizes providing consistent social, academic, and family support to youth, complemented by environmental strategies, aiming to build resilience and ensure positive outcomes. Rev. Dinkins holds a Master of Ministry, Master of Public Administration, and Bachelor of Science in Marketing. He proudly serves as the senior pastor at Hosanna Community Baptist Church in Miami, Florida.



### **Wayne Rawlins, M.S.**

#### **The Effectiveness and the Promise of Group Violence Interventions and Hospital-Based Violence Interventions**

Wayne E. Rawlins, President of Ummah Futures International, is a strategic planning consultant who has assisted rural and urban communities nationwide in developing, implementing and evaluating successful community revitalization strategies. Rawlins is the Project Manager for Miami-Dade County's Anti-Violence Initiative, a four-year \$7 million strategy, that includes "Group Violence Intervention" and the nationally acclaimed "Walking One Stop," which has shifted the paradigm on how services are delivered to Miami-Dade's most challenged neighborhoods by bringing a one-stop victim services center to the doorstep of residents traumatized by gun violence. He also serves as the Director of the South Florida Reentry Task Force. He served as the lead executive consultant for Project Safe Neighborhoods (2003-2012), a law enforcement and human services coalition that included scores of federal, state and local criminal justice agencies and more than 150 social and economic service providers all working together to reduce gun and gang violence in the Southern District of Florida.



### **Jaclyn Schildkraut, Ph.D.**

#### **Mass Shootings in Schools: Lessons from Tragedy and Opportunities for Prevention and Response**

Jaclyn Schildkraut, PhD is the Executive Director of the Regional Gun Violence Research Consortium at the Rockefeller Institute of Government. Prior to this appointment, she served as an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego. Her research interests include mass/school shootings, school safety, violence prevention, and media effects. She is the co-author/editor of six books, including Mass Shootings: Media, Myths, and Realities (Praeger, 2016), Columbine, 20 Years Later and Beyond: Lessons from Tragedy (Praeger, 2019), and Lockdown Drills: Connecting Research and Best Practices for School Administrators, Teachers, and Parents (MIT Press, 2022). Dr. Schildkraut has published more than 50 book chapters, research articles, and policy briefs assessing different facets of school and mass shootings. A nationally recognized expert on mass shootings and school safety, her research is regularly cited by the local, national, and international media.



### **Alex R. Piquero, Ph.D.**

#### **Keynote Address: Current Landscape of Gun Violence in America: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities**

Alexis R. Piquero is Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology and Arts & Sciences Distinguished Professor at the University of Miami. A nationally and internationally recognized expert in criminal careers, criminal justice policy, and quantitative research methods, he previously served as Editor of Journal of Quantitative Criminology (with former BJS Director James Lynch and then with Cathy Spatz Widom) as well as Justice Evaluation Journal. One of the most highly cited criminologists in the world, Piquero is Fellow of both the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. In 2019, he received the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Bruce Smith, Sr. Award for outstanding contributions to criminal justice and in 2020 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Division of Developmental & Life-Course Criminology of the American Society of Criminology. Over the course of his career, Piquero has served on several National Academy of Sciences Panels, including Evaluating the National Institute of Justice and Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics. In 2015, he was appointed by US Attorney General Eric Holder to serve on the Office of Justice Programs Science Advisory Board.



### **Nick Wilson, MPP.**

#### **Trigger Points: Unpacking the Nexus Between Gun Legislation, Homicide Rates, and Violence Prevention**

Nick Wilson is the senior director for Gun Violence Prevention at American Progress, where he leads the organization's efforts to reduce gun violence and shrink the footprint of the criminal justice system while improving public health and safety. Before joining American Progress, Wilson was the associate director of Policy, Planning, and Coordination at the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement. In addition to researching gun violence at nonprofits in Los Angeles and New York, he was the executive director of States United to Prevent Gun Violence and the Maine Gun Safety Coalition. He earned a degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles and a master's in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

## Panelists:



Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D.



Leena Augimeri, Ph.D.



Michael Haggard, Esq.



Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.



Judy Schaechter, M.D.



# **The Melissa Institute 28th Annual Conference:** **Gun Violence Prevention: What We Know and What We Need to Know**

**FREE general registration**  
**\$60/\$99 fee for Continuing Education Credits**

## **Continuing Education (CE) Information:**

CE Broker Course: 20-1182678

*All credits require additional steps during registration and after the course, including a pre-training survey, a \$60/\$99 fee, and a post-evaluation form.*

**PSYCHOLOGISTS:** 6 continuing education credits for Psychologists. (\$60)

The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention & Treatment is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention & Treatment maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS:** 6 continuing education credits for School Psychologists. (\$60)

**FLORIDA BOARD OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING:** 6 continuing education credits for mental health professionals including LCSW, LMHC, and LMFT. (\$60)

**EDUCATORS:** 6 master plan points will be awarded to participants who have completed a follow-up activity and have preregistered online with M-DCPS.

**LAWYERS:** 7 CLE credits through the Florida Bar Association. (\$99)

**MEDIATORS:** Eligible for up to 6 CME hours for certified mediators. Mediators are required to self-report those hours applicable to their areas of certification at the time of their renewal. (\$60)

**MEDICAL PERSONNEL:** This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Baptist Health South Florida and The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment. Baptist Health South Florida is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. (\$60)

Baptist Health South Florida designates this live activity for a maximum of 6 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity."

This activity has been approved for 6 credit hour, CE Broker Course #20-1189240, by the Florida Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine.

This activity has also been approved for 6 credits for Nursing and Nurse Practitioners. Baptist Health South Florida CE Broker Provider #50-182.

*\*Upon request, The Melissa Institute will provide a certificate of completion that can be self-reported to other state boards. We cannot guarantee that it will be accepted by other boards for approval.*

**IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE:** None of the planners and presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s)\* to disclose with ineligible companies\* whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. Financial relationships are relevant if the educational content an individual can control is related to the business lines or products of the ineligible company.

# The Melissa Institute 28th Annual Conference: Gun Violence Prevention: What We Know and What We Need to Know

The Melissa Institute is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the study and prevention of violence through education, community service, research support and consultation. Our mission is to prevent violence and promote safer communities through education and application of research-based knowledge.

On May 5, 1995, Melissa Aptman was murdered in St. Louis. A Miami native, she was just two weeks away from graduating with her bachelor's degree from Washington University.

One year after her death, Melissa's family, friends and violence prevention experts established The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment to honor her memory and make a difference by working to prevent violence and assist victims.



**Without the participation, expertise and leadership of our volunteer boards, the Institute could not accomplish its goals. These include the Board of Directors, the Scientific Board and the Honorary Board.**

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