

Treating Child Sexual Abuse in Family, Group and Clinical Settings



Authors, left to right: Ena Trotman Jemmott, Priya E. Maharaj, Adele D. Jones and Hazel Da Breo

Adele D. Jones • Ena Trotman Jemmott • Hazel Da Breo
Priya E. Maharaj

Treating Child Sexual Abuse in Family, Group and Clinical Settings

Culturally Intelligent Practice for Caribbean
and International Contexts

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Adele D. Jones
The University of Huddersfield
UK

Ena Trotman Jemmott
Florencena Consulting
Barbados

Hazel Da Breao
Sweet Water Foundation
St. George's, Grenada

Priya E. Maharaj
The Alpine Project
La Romaine, Trinidad and Tobago

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Acknowledgements

This is the third and final book in a series of three on child sexual abuse in the Caribbean: the first focused on research, theory and issues; the second described an integrated systems approach to prevention, and this book is all about practice in family, group and clinical settings. The four of us (Jones, Trotman Jemmott, Da Breo and Maharaj) have been working in this field for decades but came together 8 years ago when we had the opportunity to conduct the first comprehensive research into child sexual abuse within the Caribbean. Since then, our working partnership has grown from strength to strength, generating a body of work of which we are very proud. Alongside these three books, we have produced journal articles, developed and piloted interventions, spawned PhD studies, written numerous grant proposals, presented papers at regional and international conferences, contributed to public education campaigns and conducted training sessions across the region, all with the aim of advancing knowledge and skills in preventing gender-based violence and child sexual abuse in particular. Our work has been referenced by researchers and policy makers throughout the Caribbean and internationally too. To our certain knowledge, it has influenced research in Tanzania, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mali, Barbados, Jamaica, the Maldives, Antigua, Kenya and Colombia.

This all started in 2008 when, together with Sheron Burns, Ijahnya Christian, Jacqueline Sealy Burke, Cisne Pascal and Denise Tannis and led by Adele D. Jones, we conducted the study, 'Perceptions, Attitudes

and Opinions on Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean' (Jones and Trotman Jemmott 2009). Since the publication of our research findings, we have been relentless in making sure that the knowledge produced has been disseminated as widely as possible. In the process, we have met some remarkable women, men and children who have been willing to share their experiences with us. We have also come across many human rights activists in the region and have been humbled by their efforts. One such person is Trinidad-based artist Jaime Lee Loy, whose work has graced the covers of all three books and appears throughout this one and who joins us as a guest author for its final chapter.

We have many people to thank for supporting our work but without the strategic vision of UNICEF (Caribbean Area Office), which commissioned the original research, none of this would have happened. We therefore dedicate this book to UNICEF (Caribbean Area Office) and we thank them for their unending commitment to promoting the rights of children in the region.

Writing this series of books has not been without its emotional costs to us all, and we thank our friends and families for their dedicated support and encouragement. We also thank Dr. Debra Joseph for preparing the diagrams in the book.

Treating Child Sexual Abuse in Family, Group and Clinical Settings: Culturally Intelligent Practice for Caribbean and International Contexts is a book of six parts, each of which addresses specific aspects of the topic. We begin by focusing on the practitioner, although in truth the whole book is for the practitioner. This is the first book of its kind. It was written with Caribbean case studies and based on Caribbean realities, and we have assessed interventions and models of practice from a wide range of local and international sources for their relevance. Thus, while the book faces inwards in that it directly targets the everyday problems of the practitioner in his or her local context, it faces outwards at the same time, connecting the practitioner to an external world of potential solutions. As with books one and two, the theoretical threads that hold the whole together are the theories of intersectionality and ecological systems theory. Sexual abuse is never just a problem of the individual: structures of inequality and the intersection of the factors they give rise to help to explain why some children are more at risk of abuse than others and the

sub-systems in which lives are lived can compound risk and vulnerability or alternatively can be sources of support and change. This ethos permeates the approaches and interventions we describe in the book.

The book is unique in that we use the term ‘practitioner’ in a deliberately inclusive way. We hope the book will appeal as much to those who share our commitment to tackling child sexual abuse but may have had little training as it does to the highly trained professional. We are reminded here of a strategy used by the government of Grenada following Hurricane Ivan in 2004, in which training in counselling was made available to professionals and interested lay persons alike (albeit at different levels). The extent of trauma arising from the devastation of this natural disaster was so great that it would have been impossible to provide professional support to everyone, but by increasing the number of people with counselling skills, a greater percentage of the population could be helped. Child sexual abuse in the region is a disaster too, though this is man-made. By increasing knowledge and skills in tackling child sexual abuse wherever the problem emerges and whoever the practitioner is who confronts it, we will extend help to a larger percentage of victims, to their families and to the perpetrators of their abuse.

The three books in this series on child sexual abuse in the Caribbean, of which this is the final volume, have all featured on their front covers the work of Jaime Lee Loy, an artist from Trinidad who uses her work to challenge violence against women and children.

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Notes on Contributors

Adele D. Jones PhD is professor of social work and former Director of the Centre for Applied Child, Family and Youth Research, at the School of Human and Health Sciences in the University of Huddersfield, UK. Previously a lecturer in social work at the University of the West Indies (UWI) (Trinidad), Professor Jones specialises in international children's rights and gender-based violence and is the author of numerous publications on global issues affecting children: abuse, residential care, migration, parental imprisonment, child refugees, gender and HIV-AIDS. Dr. Jones has led over 24 externally funded research projects, including a €2.8 million, four-country, EU-funded study on the impact on children of parental imprisonment, and together with Dr. Ena Trotman Jemmott was principal investigator for the UNICEF-commissioned research into child sexual abuse in six Caribbean countries, 'Perceptions, Attitudes and Opinions of Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean' (Jones and Trotman Jemmott, 2009).

Ena Trotman Jemmott PhD is a chartered organisational psychologist with a long history of work in the UK with children and families, including work as a health visitor and director of community nursing services. Dr. Trotman Jemmott also has substantial experience in research, policy and programme development in child protection services in the Caribbean, extending to programme support to UK Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic. Her many contributions include strengthening the social services infrastructural needs for the legal reform of family law and domestic violence within the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and Turks and Caicos Islands. She was also a principal investigator in the six-island study of child sexual abuse in the Eastern Caribbean

(see above). Her PhD examined social workers' and police officers' responses to child sexual abuse in Barbados. She is also one of the authors of the other two books in this series.

Hazel Da Breo PhD is a psychotherapist and Director of the Sweet Water Foundation, Grenada. This non-governmental organisation is dedicated to ending sexual violence to women and children in the Caribbean. The Sweet Water Foundation provides training, interventions, research and treatments for victims and perpetrators of sexual violence. Previously clinical supervisor for several community-based programmes at the Legal Aid and Counselling Clinic in Grenada, Dr. Da Breo also provides consultancy to several UN agencies, including UN Women, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Program and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization in the areas of child protection and intimate partner violence. She is also one of the authors in the other two books in this series.

Priya E. Maharaj PhD, is a clinical and developmental psychologist formerly at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI (Trinidad and Tobago), where she taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Maharaj has been involved in several research projects at UWI, including *Sondai*—a multifaceted social work response to HIV-AIDS—and she was also a member of the research team for the study of child sexual abuse in the Eastern Caribbean (Jones and Trotman Jemmott, 2009). Her PhD examined the impact of physical and sexual abuse on children in residential care in Trinidad. She is also one of the authors in the other two books in this series; she is currently in private practice.

Jaime Lee Loy is an artist and writer based in Trinidad. An honours graduate of literature and visual arts at UWI and a postgraduate scholar of an MPhil in Literature, Jaime has exhibited in Trinidad, London, the USA and Scotland and has travelled on fellowships for workshops, exhibitions and residencies to places such as Vermont, Connecticut, Scotland and London. Jaime is founder of Trinidad Home Studio, whose mission is to provide creative services, such as writing, video and photography, for projects affiliated with the arts, education, culture, humanitarian work, not-for-profit organisations and family. She has produced documentaries and videos, including the feature 'Bury Your Mother' (which was named after her short story published in *Trinidad Noir* and which won special mention for the best locally produced film at a local film festival in 2009). Her videos have been included in both local and international film festivals.

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