



RECOVERING FROM GENOCIDAL TRAUMA

An Information and Practice Guide for
Working with Holocaust Survivors

Myra Giberovitch

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Since the Second World War people have become aware of the trauma associated with genocide and other crimes against humanity. Today, assisting mass atrocity survivors, especially as they age, poses a serious challenge for service providers around the world. *Recovering from Genocidal Trauma* is a comprehensive guide to understanding Holocaust survivors and responding to their needs. In it, Myra Giberovitch documents her twenty-five years of working with Holocaust survivors as a professional social worker, researcher, educator, community leader, and daughter of Auschwitz survivors. With copious personal and practical examples, this book lays out a strengths-based practice philosophy that guides the reader in how to understand the survivor experience, develop service models and programs, and employ individual and group interventions to empower survivors. This book is essential for anyone who studies, interacts, lives, or works with survivors of mass atrocity.

"The life work of Myra Giberovitch finds expression in this valuable work infused with wisdom and insight. Myra is a professional (social work) and a daughter of parents who survived Auschwitz, Gross Rosen and Dachau. Raised by survivor-parents within a community of survivors, she knows of what she speaks. And thankfully she speaks not only of the damage inflicted through relentless and prolonged cruelty but also of the courage and strength demonstrated by so many Holocaust survivors in reclaiming a life of normality. In fact, she demonstrates that suffering and coping can indeed exist side by side and that understanding and respectful listening can be helpful to those who live life daily in the shadow of a tragic past. This astonishing work reflects a vast experience and provides a framework for those who work with ageing Holocaust survivors as well as victims of contemporary genocides. It is a gift."

-Robert Krell, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of British Columbia and Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association

Myra Giberovitch, M.S.W., P.S.W. is an adjunct teaching professor and field placement supervisor in the School of Social Work at McGill University. She is also the founder of Services for Holocaust Survivors at the Cummings Centre in Montreal.

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