

Lisa Goldblatt Grace, LICSW, MPH

Strategic Advisor | Policy Advocate | Nonprofit Executive

Professional Summary:

- Visionary nonprofit leader with 20+ years advancing policy and systems change for equity and justice.
- Founder & CEO of a nationally recognized, survivor-led organization with proven impact model.
- Deep expertise in bridging direct service with policy and systems reform and driving strategic coalitions.
- Innovative design thinker, including visioning, architecting solutions, and engineering systems, with a demonstrated commitment to marginalized youth and families.
- Skilled in fundraising, board development, public speaking, and managing complex cross-sector initiatives.

Policy & Advocacy Highlights:

- Co-authored and led advocacy for Massachusetts' first anti-trafficking legislation (2011)
- Senior Advisor to U.S. Office on Trafficking in Persons on national child trafficking strategy
- Co-led development of MA Governor's 5-year strategic plan on human trafficking
- Appointee to multiple statewide and national task force
- Frequent speaker and author on nonprofit leadership, systems change, and youth justice

Career Experience

Independent Consultant | April 2025-present

- Provide strategic advising, facilitation, training, technical assistance, and curriculum development to governmental and non-governmental organizations regarding marginalized youth and families.

Senior Advisor | January-July 2025

U.S. Office on Trafficking in Persons: Washington, D.C.

- Advise nationally on child trafficking policy, strategy and best practices.

Co-Founder, Co-Executive Director | 2002- January 2025

My Life My Choice: Justice Resource Institute, Boston, MA

- Founded nationally recognized social justice organization with proven [efficacy](#) model. Set vision, strategy, impact metrics, service model, Board development, data-driven evaluation, media management.
- Designed and implemented trauma-informed service models; served 1000+ youth and trained 28,000+ providers across the country since founding.
- Grew team to 35 staff and raised \$4.5m annual budget through diverse funding streams and donor stewardship.
- Field-forward collaborative leadership model with survivors of sexual exploitation. Founded/facilitated policy-focused Leadership Corps for youth who have experienced trafficking.
- Led state policy advocacy including legislation as well as protocols for child welfare/juvenile justice.
- Regular media spokesperson and thought leader on gender-based violence and youth trauma.

Field Leadership

MA Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking

Co-chair, Human Trafficking Subcommittee

Co-lead development of five-year strategic plan for MA

MA Governor's Commission on Unaccompanied and Homeless Youth | 2016-present

Co-chair, Young Adults who Exchange Sex to Meet Needs Working Group

MA Attorney General's Task Force on Human Trafficking | 2012-2015

Chair, Training & Education Implementation Committee

National Center on Child Trafficking Advisory Board | 2022-present

Shared Hope's JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Council | 2017-present

Additional Leadership Experience

Leadership

- **Adjunct Faculty**, Boston University School of Social Work
 - *Courses*: Management, Ethics, Psychopathology
- **Director**, *Just A Start House* teen parent residential program; Boston YWCA Camp Unity; Substance Abuse Prevention Director, College of Eastern UT
- **Founder**: North Shore Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth (NAGLY); Malden Juvenile Diversion Program, Malden YMCA: Next Step Transitional Housing Program, Just A Start Corporation
- **Mental Health**: Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center; Hayden Goodwill Inn School –Deaf Adolescent Program
- **Community Outreach**: Center for Community Responsive Care, Dorchester, MA; Chelsea Board of Health; Center for Addictive Behaviors Regional Prevention Center, Salem, MA
- **VISTA Volunteer**: Navajo Nation, Utah

Awards & Recognition

Beacon of Light Award

My Life My Choice, 2025

One with Courage Award

MA Children's Alliance, 2025

Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Social Work

BU School of Social Work, 2014

Secretary of Health and Human Services Innovations in Public Health Award, 1999

Kolodny Prize, BU School of Social Work, 1996

Prior Consulting

- **Fundraising and Grant Writing**: Women Thriving; Malden YMCA; Just A Start House
- **Program Development**: Child Welfare Training Project; The Women's Negotiation Project, Mediation Works Inc.
- **Research**: Primary Investigator, Advocates for Human Potential/ Caliber, ICF International
- **Technical Assistance**: The "Redesigning the Court's Response to Prostitution" Project; Project Alliance, Middlesex County District Attorney's Office

Education

Master in Social Work, 1996; **LICSW**, 1999
Boston University School of Social Work

Master of Public Health, 1996
Boston University School of Public Health

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, 1990
University of Virginia

Authorship

Grace, L. G. (2021). [Applying a Universal Precautions Approach to Residential Programs for Girls](#). *Children's VOICE*, 30(1).

Grace, L.G., Bright, K., Morrissey, A., (2018). Preventing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: The My Life My Choice Model. In Nichols, Andrea, Tonya Edmond, and Erin Heil, eds. [Social work practice with survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation](#). Columbia University Press.

Additional publications, policy briefs, and testimony available upon request