

# Fostering Well-Being in Autistic Girls and Women

Thursday & Friday,  
November 3 & 4, 2022

*Presented by Dori Zener,  
MSW, RSW*



Girls and women are often overlooked in autism research, clinical training and service provision. This two-day event will offer practical insights for professionals to better understand how to support autistic girls and women.

Dori Zener, a Registered Social Worker, has been working with neurodivergent individuals and their loved ones for over fifteen years. As an Individual, Couple and Family Therapist, Dori uses person-centred evidence-based therapy techniques to help each client achieve their goals and enhance their lives. She is the Director of Dori Zener & Associates, a neurodiversity-affirming mental health agency in Toronto. Dori is passionate about autism acceptance. She endeavours to expand the understanding of autism through publications, workshops, research collaborations and corporate consultation.



## Panelists

**Dr. Anthony Bailey** is Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia where he served as Chair of the Institute of Mental Health and Professor and Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, until his recent retirement. Prior to his retirement, Dr. Bailey earned the respect of families and autistic adults for his clinical work focused on teenagers and able autistic adults; he is particularly interested in the diagnosis of autistic women.



**Jennifer Branston** is a passionate advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion. She volunteers as a member of ACT's Board of Directors and as Chair of North Vancouver School District's Parent Advisory Council. Her experience as a mother with ASD and the parent of autistic children provides an important perspective.



**Juliani Kusmanto** was brought up in Indonesia before emigrating to Canada as an adult, where she was diagnosed with autism. She has thought deeply about the challenges of explaining her diagnosis to her Indonesian family and the disbelief she has met when communicating her diagnosis both in Indonesia and in Canada because she is a skilled professional. Juliani is active in a number of autism-related organizations and especially interested in the challenges facing women with a late diagnosis.



**Pam Palmer** worked as a lawyer for many years before marrying, having four children, and discovering that she was an autistic member of a neurodiverse family. She now works part time in a legal software company. She is a general member of ACT's society and is active in the autistic community with a special interest in autism in women.



**Kayla Tellier** is a committed autistic advocate. She works for the inclusion of those with neurodiversity by promoting education, specializing in autism. She works for the Canucks Autism Network and volunteers with several organizations that support autistic individuals. Currently she is researching the experiences of autistic women during pregnancy and the development of resources to better inform and support them.

### Schedule

#### Day 1 - November 3, 2022

- 9:00 am - 9:30 am Registration
- 9:30 am - 11:00 am Profile of Autistic Girls/Women
- 11:00 am - 11:20 am Morning Break  
Coffee and light snacks will be provided
- 11:20 am - 12:30 pm INVEST Model Presentation
- 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch  
Bring/buy your own
- 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Case Studies

#### Day 2 - November 4, 2022

- 9:30 am - 10:00 am Registration
- 10:00 am - 11:30 am Panel Discussion
- 11:30 am - 12:15 pm Lunch  
Bring/buy your own
- 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm Q & A - "Ask a Therapist"