

# Preface

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The National Partnership for Community Training (NPCT), a program of Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, Inc., with its partners, the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and the Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center for the Treatment of Survivors of Torture, led a project to identify and disseminate best, promising and emerging practices impacting the torture rehabilitation field. This project, funded by the United States' Office of Refugee Resettlement, commenced in the fall of 2008. Leading experts in the field were identified as authors and peer reviewers to ensure the collaborative and holistic vision was fulfilled. An extensive literature review was conducted focusing on the following domains: Medical, Psychiatric, Psychological, Expressive Therapies, Social Services, Legal and Spiritual. Findings reveal a growing body of evidence related to service provision with torture survivors. However, substantive gaps remain across these domains. Authors discuss the current evidence available in the literature and identify peer reviewed articles for practitioners' future

reference. Research among the torture survivor populations is rife with challenges, yet the importance of utilizing evidence-based practices, anecdotal or outcomes from a rigorous randomized control trials, continues to grow and be emphasized. The project editors intend this body of work to be a guide for those working with survivors of torture as they assess and evaluate appropriate, safe and effective practices to incorporate into day-to-day programming.

*Key words:* Evidence-based practices; literature review

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