

















TODAY WE'LL EXPLORE HOW PROTECTING PEACE BECOMES A SOURCE OF POWER:

- Moral distress and how it shows up in our work noticing how disruption to our values drains our inner strength. Grief-informed frameworks for understanding our reactions honoring loss as part of reclaiming our resilience. Resilience strategies rooted in purpose, boundaries, and self-compassion cultivating practices that restore energy and agency. Organizational responses to moral distress building cultures where collective peace fuels collective power.



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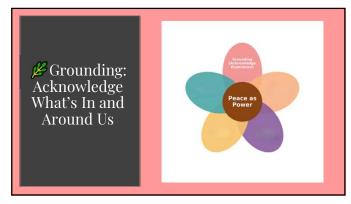
WHY THIS MATTERS TO ME



GROUP AGREEMENTS FOR TODAY'S SESSION **Be prepared to reflect. Have a pen and paper nearby for journaling or note-taking. You are welcome to capture anything meaningful to you. *Participate in a way that feels right for you. You are invited—but never required—to share your insights after reflection sessions. You can share in the chat, out loud, or in a private chat to me that I can share with the group. If you don't feel like sharing, that's 100% fine. Listening is participating, too. *Onor personal boundaries. Everyone gets to decide what to share (or not share). Let's respect each other's limits without judgment or pressure. *Or Practice confidentiality. What's shared in this space stays here. Please don't repeat personal stories or experiences outside the group. *Remember: we're impacted differently. There's no "right" way to feel. Let's honor the diversity of responses in the room—with curiosity, not assumptions. *Take space, make space. Notice if you're speaking a lot—or holding back. Our goal is shared dialogue, not perfection.

II Care for your nervous system. It's okay to step away, stretch, or pause if you feel overwhelmed. Your well-being comes first.

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MORAL DISTRESS DEFINED Moral distress is an umbrella concept that describes the psychological, emotional and physiological suffering that may be experienced when we act in ways that are inconsistent with deeply held ethical values, principles or moral commitments.* We are in a tug-of-war with our values and our actions.

WHAT CAUSES MORAL DISTRESS

- Types of Pressures:
 - Systems-level pressures
 - The emotional toll of supporting others in distress
 - Feeling complicit in systemic harm despite good intentions
 - Wondering about own future and how this work will be valued by the larger systems.
- Examples Include:
 - Navigating misinformation and fear
 Enforcing scarcity and burnout culture
 - Holding space for providers' own experiences of secondary traumatic stress
 - Witnessing politicized arguments on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives
 - Limited resources for high-need sites

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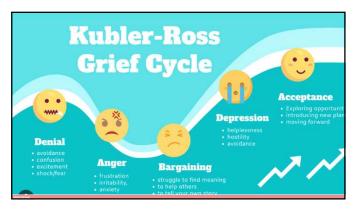
SIGNS OF MORAL DISTRESS

- Burnout and Emotional Exhaustion
- Increased Turnover and Absenteeism
- Decreased Job Satisfaction and Productivity
- Dysfunctional Team Dynamics
- Decreased Quality of Service or Care



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$DENIAL \gg$ DISORIENTATION

- Classic: "This isn't happening."
 Modern Adaptation: "This can't be real." 'It's too much to process."
 Today's Signs: Doomscrotling, detachment, numbing, avoidance of news or community conversations.
 Invitation: Offer grounding practices. Normalize overwhelm as a survival response, not failure.



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ANGER »→ MORAL **CLARITY**

- Classic: "Why is this happening to me?"
 Modern Adaptation: "This is unjust." "I'm furious at the system, the leaders, the silence."
 Today's Signs: Rage at political decisions, organizational injustice, helplessness turned outward.
 Invitation: Frame anger as a sign of care. Help folks channel it toward aligned action or healthy release, like storytelling, movement, or art.



$BARGAINING \Rightarrow$ OVER-FUNCTIONING OR OVER-ACCOMMODATION

- Classic: "If I do this, maybe things will go back to normal."
 Modern Adaptation: "Maybe if I say the right thing/post the right thing/help more, I can fix this."
- thing/help more, I can fix this:

 Today's Signs: Trying to fix systemic issues alone, toxic positivity, people-pleasing to maintain relationships.

 Invitation: Encourage discernment. What's yours to carry? What's a collective responsibility?



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DEPRESSION » DESPAIR AND MORAL EXHAUSTION

- Classic: "I can't go on."
- Modern Adaptation: "Nothing I do matters." "It's all too broken."
- Today's Signs: Numbness, withdrawal, cynicism, hopelessness about change.
- Invitation: Offer community. Remind people they're not alone. Introduce tiny anchors of hope or connection, even if full belief isn't there yet.

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ACCEPTANCE → ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH **BOUNDARIES AND PURPOSE**

Classic: "I'm at peace with what happened."
Modern Adaptation: "This is hard—and here's how I choose to show up."
Today's Signs: Choosing valuesaligned action, setting boundaries, accepting limitations, recommitting to purpose.
Invitation: Frame acceptance as empowered realism. Not giving up—getting clear.



BONUS STAGE: MEANING-MAKING

- Modern grief often includes a sixth stage (per David Kessler): FINDING MEANING.
 In today's climate, that might took like:
 Reclaiming joy as resistance
 Building mutual aid or community care networks
 Honoring ancestral or intergenerational resilience
 Taking small actions that align with larger values



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REFLECTION PROMPT: WHERE DOES MEANING LIVE FOR YOU?

- What does peace or purpose look like through the lens of your community, your culture, or your ancestors?
 - -What practices or traditions help you feel rooted in something larger than yourself?
 - -How do you carry forward the wisdom of those who came before you?
 - -What is one story or resilience you've inherited?



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PEACE PAUSE 🖑 1 min

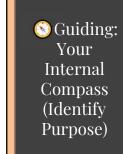


What shifted for you in that short pause?

Type it in the chat



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STEP ONE: REFLECT ON WHAT FEELS MOST ALIVE

- Some questions to explore:

 When do I feel most aligned with my values?
- What conversations leave me energized instead of depleted?
- . What kind of problem-solving comes naturally to me?
- When in the last month did I feel proud of how I showed up?





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STEP TWO: IDENTIFY YOUR ZONE OF UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION

Questions to Consider:

- . What am I especially skilled at (not just technically, but relationally)?
- What part of the mission or work resonates most with me personally?
- What lived experiences shape my insight or empathy?
- What do I understand on a soul level that others might not?



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STEP FOUR: DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN PRESSURE AND PURPOSE

- Before saying yes to a new task or responsibility, ask:
 Does this align with my zone of contribution?

 - -Will this energize or
- -Will this energize or deplete me? -Is this the work I'm uniquely called to do—or am I stepping in from habit or fear?



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STEP FIVE: RECOMMIT REGULARLY-PURPOSE EVOLVES

Instead of resisting that change, we check in with our purpose regularly:

- . What's emerging in me now?
- . Where is my energy being called?
- What old identities or habits am I ready to release?
 What new stories am I ready to live?



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REFLECTION PROMPT

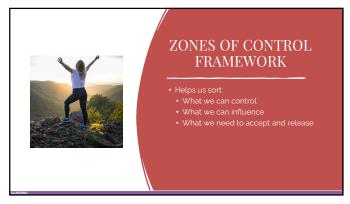
① 3 min timed reflection:

When did I feel most alive at work in the last month? What was I doing and with whom?

Opportunity to share with the group







GUARDING: SORTING WHAT'S YOURS TO CARRY Zone of Control - Areas You Had space in team meetings. - How you indicate the others including important information and update. - How you remained and update. - How you regulate your nevious system when you of the your commenced expectably around boundaries and values. Zone of Influence - Areas You Can Provide Input "Where Advocacy Lives" Zone of Acceptance - Areas You Cannot Change "Zone of Grief" - Laws we're required to follow. - Institutional decisions made far above your pop your sharing so or resistance you can't change overnight.

PERSONAL SELF-REFLECTION

- Take ① 2 minutes to reflect on the following prompts:

 · What's one action that is within my Zone of Control right now?

 · What is one action within my Zone of Influence right now?

 · What action am I focusing on, but is actually in my Zone of Acceptance?



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NEXT TIME YOU FEEL OVERWHELMED, I INVITE YOU TO PAUSE AND ASK:

- . What's mine to carry?
- . What's mine to influence?
- . What do I need to release— with intention, grief, and grace?



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BOUNDARIES AND BURNOUT

- Knowing your purpose helps clarify what's yours to carry.
- · Boundaries protect that purpose—so you can stay aligned, energized, and well.





POLL: WHICH BOUNDARY IS HARDEST RIGHT NOW?

- Time
- Role
- Emotional
- Digital
- · Other?

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WITHOUT BOUNDARIES, WE OFTEN EXPERIENCE:

- Emotional exhaustion
- Resentment or frustration
 Feeling "used up" by the end of the day
- Difficulty saying no, even when over capacity
 Disconnect from our purpose and values



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WITH HEALTHY BOUNDARIES, WE GAIN:

- Greater clarity about what's ours to carry
 Increased connection with others, "space vs. spaciousness"
 More consistent emotional regulation
 Increased energy and presence
 Stronger alignment with our values
 Protection from compassion fatigue



Myths	Truths
Setting boundaries is selfish."	Boundaries honor both your needs and others' by creating clear expectations and healthier relationships.
"If I set boundaries, people will be upset with me."	Healthy relationships can tolerate and even grow from clear boundaries. Discom- fort is normal but not a sign you're doing something wrong.
Good leaders are always	
"Boundaries mean saying "no" to everything."	Good leaders model sustainable work by setting limits on their availability—this encourages others to do the same.
 "Once I set a boundary, it will always hold." 	Boundaries are about descerment— deciding what to say "yes" to and where "no" protects your time, energy, and values
"Boundaries push people away.	Leaders with strong boundaries are more resillent, effective, and better able to support their teams long term.

BOUNDARIES CAN SOUND LIKE "I can't take that on; here's what I can do by Friday." "Given capacity, I can offer A or B—what helps more?" "That's outside my role; who's the right owner?" "I'll need X to do that well." "I'm pausing to regulate and will reply at 3pm."

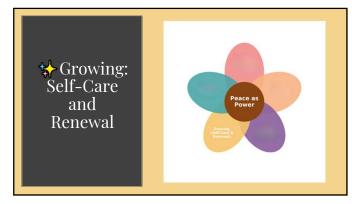
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SHARING: BOUNDARIES • What is one small boundary you could set this week to protect your peace? Individual journaling If you'd like, type it in the chat

Peace Pause 🛡 1 min



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GROWING KINDNESS FUELS STAMINA

- Self-compassion means treating ourselves with the same kindness and care we'd offer a friend. According to Dr. Kristin Neff, it has three key elements:
 Self-Kindness Gentle, not judgmental
 Common Humanity I'm not alone in this
 Mindfulness Notice, don't overidentify



LOVING-KINDNESS MEDITATION



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DAILY RENEWAL **MENU**

- Breathe
- Movement

- Sensory
 Creative Expression
 Limit Exposure to Distress



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REFLECTION **PROMPT**

- Think of a recent moment when you were hard on yourself.
- What would it have sounded like to respond with self-kindness instead?
- 🖱 2 min







MORAL DISTRESS IS NOT JUST AN INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM

Organizations have a moral and practical responsibility to create conditions where people can thrive, not just survive

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Acknowledge it openly instead of pathologizing staff reactions. Arain leaders to recognize more distress as an occupational hazard, not a personal weakness. Provide regular forums where staff can share pressures without fear of stigma. Align Values with Action Align Values with Action Build Collective Resilience Practices. Audit policies, practices, and messaging for alignment with organizational values. When values and actions don't match, name the gap and communicate steps toward alignment. Celebrate moments when individuals or tenams act in ways that protect peace and integrity. Offer access to ongoing training, coaching, or peer support groups that build coping capacity.

THE RIPPLE **EFFECT**

- When organizations normalize distress, staff feel seen and less isolated.
- When values align with action, trust increases.
- · When resilience is collective, people stay longer, burnout decreases, and quality of service improves.



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CALL TO ACTION REFLECTION

🖱 2 min

Think about your own team or organization. Which of these commitments feels most urgent right now?

- now?

 Normalize distress
 Align values with action
 Build resilience practices
 What's one small shift your organization could make to better protect peace—for you and your colleagues?

Type your thoughts in the chat



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CLOSING **MESSAGE**

- You are needed—not for everything, but for something specific.
- You matter.
- What you are doing matters.



ONE THING I'M TAKING WITH ME

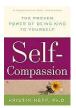
- Write down one value, boundary, or practice you're committed to holding. You can take it home or share it aloud.
- 🖱 1 min

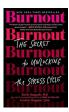


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Resources for Protecting Your Peace









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ABOUT LISA CONRADI, LLC

We help individuals and organizations reclaim peace as a source of power—building compassionate, resilient cultures through writing, speaking, training, and coaching.

UPCOMING OFFERINGS Peace as Power Community (NEW!) • Weekly Micro-Practices • Monthly Peace Circle (live • replays) • Supportive community • Memberonity training discounts • Community is FREE until December 31.1. After that, there are free and paid tiers. For more information, see: https://www.lisaconradi.com/peace-as-power-membership Peace as Power: Virtual Training Series • 3-part live series beginning September 23, 2025 • Topics: Energy & Well-Being • Boundaries & Purpose • Resilient Leadership • Interactive, trauma-informed, practical strategies for sustaining peace in turbulent times There are deep discounts for PAP community members on each individual training (\$30 each) or the bundle (\$75) #MyPeaceingo Weekly Blog Gentle, science-informed practices and reflections you can use in 10 minutes or less Free Resources Calm Calendar • Boundaries Self-Assessment • 7 Steps to Becoming a Trauma-Informed Leader



