

THE MELANIE ILENE RIEGER
Memorial Conference Against Violence



FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Rachel Lloyd, founder of GEMS (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services), will present a keynote address entitled "Girls Like Us: The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Girls in the U.S." at the 15th Annual Melanie Ilene Rieger Memorial Conference Against Violence at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. The theme of the Conference, to be held on June 22nd & 23rd, will be "The Many Faces of Survivors".

The Conference was established in 1996 in memory of Melanie Ilene Rieger, who was murdered by her boyfriend on May 24, 1994. Agencies & organizations throughout Connecticut joined hands to establish this Conference with the hope that others may avoid such tragedies and that we find better ways to stop the violence in our society.

Ms. Lloyd, who was abused at 3 and raped at 13, survived the horrific life as a prostitute, eventually emigrating to the United States. She founded GEMS to help young women who were at risk of being sexually exploited or were currently being trafficked.

Other speakers include **Robert Bryant**: "All for One & One for All: Building Safer Communities for Children"; **Chip St. Clair**: "The Butterfly Garden: Using Art & Music to Heal Abused & Neglected Children"; **David Kaczynski**: "Two Sides of the Coin: Creating Meaning Out of Loss"; **Dr. JoAnn Frieberg**: "Bullying, Suicides & Homicides: What We Know About the Connections"; **Alvin Notice**: "Tiana Angelique Notice: The Systematic Failure of the CT Criminal Justice System: A Personal Experience" and **Allan Johnson**: *The First Thing & The Last*: "Telling The Truth About Domestic Violence".

For program information and registration forms, visit www.melanieriegerconference.com. For further information, contact Dr. Samuel L. Rieger at SRIEGER243@att.net or (203) 756-8080.

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