

I am starting this group in memory of Tracey H., a victim/survivor of physical and sexual violence beginning in childhood and later as an adult, she was a Domestic Violence victim. She moved from New Jersey to North Carolina in 2000 with a man who she thought she could trust to help her escape from a violent and abusive marriage. The man she thought she could trust ended up being a predator and a psychopath. I was her therapist and her Social Worker. When I discovered she was in danger while living in the same household with this psychopath, John Freifeld, I helped her find a safe place to live back in New Jersey. She had rejected the sexual advances of this predator and that put her in danger while living in the household with John and the couple with whom they were living. John was a charismatic, cult like character, who preyed upon vulnerable women. He misrepresented his skills, qualifications and credentials to provide treatment/therapy.

HIP is an acronym for Health, Information and Protection. A website and a group were started back in 2000 to provide resources for persons seeking health/mental health services online and in person from predators such as described above. This group continues and expands upon that project. The person who started that group back in 2000 was a survivor and she realized that there were other predators that were just like this person. Psychopaths. The internet was just one method in which people are vulnerable and the internet is one medium used to exploit and harm others. It is not just that some people were getting bad therapy/advice from someone unqualified, someone who can be a psychopath and a con artist, but in many cases the stalkers and sexual predators reach beyond the internet and people are lured to places that may seem like a safe place to go for treatment when in fact you could end up at a strange home where you might be exposed to treatment from someone who is not qualified to provide any form of treatment. In the case of Freifeld and others, people reported physical and sexual assault.

Law enforcement is a key ally in this effort since we are dealing with psychopaths who commit crimes. This group is not limited to assisting victims, their families, and society from online predators. Some of these predators do not use the internet. For example, a predator may utilize the non-professional natures of 12-step programs as a front for providing other forms of treatment or "healing" methods. However, in the information age, in which we are limited, it is important for anyone to be aware of web and internet security. The threats presented by some hackers can be seriously underestimated. This is another area where law enforcement is an important ally. Any number of illegal activities occur on the dark web. In addition, many people have been the victim of extortion, scams, stalking and identity theft to name just a few of the crimes.

Please support the effort.