

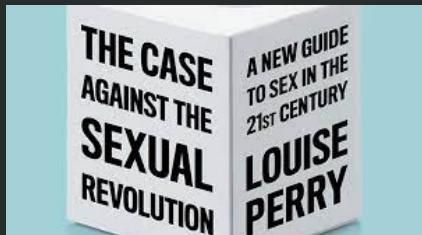
# The Conversation

## September 2023

**Mission:**  
**Father-Con inspires, informs and equips men to be the best they can be for themselves, their families and their communities.**

**Vision:**  
**Our vision is to see an end of human exploitation, and provide child and community well-being through father presence and responsible engagement.**

### Books we like



### Join The Conversation

The Founder's Conversation Starter

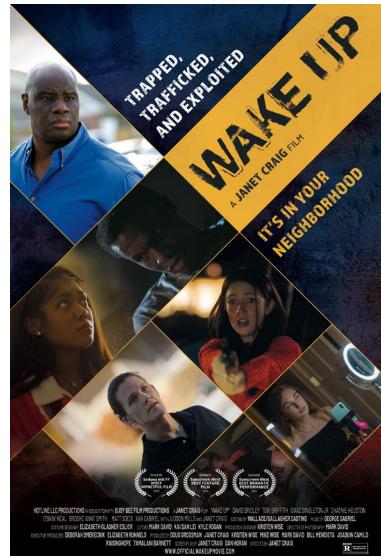
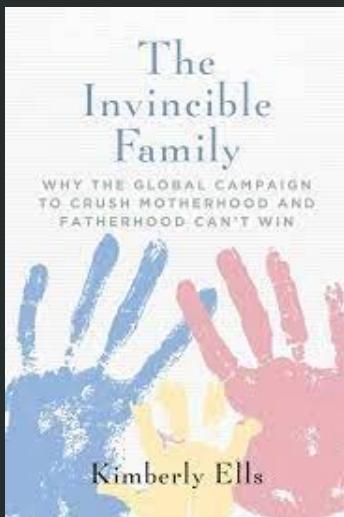
Greetings this September 11, with all the memories this day conjures up. I pray you find peace and the heart to remember the high cost of hate and the willingness to use freedom to take the lives of others. We are living in an age in which freedom is grossly misunderstood and so, misused. Whether flying a plane full of passengers heading home, to visit families, go to work, return to school, condemning them to a terrifying death, or seeking to profit from the terror of a child through sextortion, with heartless disregard for life, we all suffer the loss. I recently exchanged messages with South Carolina state representative Brandon Guffey about his son Gavin and the late-night suicide that shattered his family. Around midnight his son was contacted by a seemingly beautiful girl wanting to party. The good times lasted minutes, replaced by demands for cash and a frightening ultimatum. When 17-year-old Gavin was unable to produce the dollars required, pressure swelled into grief and despair until this boy demonstrated he owned his mistake with bullet. The perpetrator(s) used a vanish mode feature making their messages disappear and untraceable to law enforcement. The family has been left with a barrage of – "if only's" that echo throughout the days and into the nights.

As parents, please make the effort to be aware of such threats to your children and be willing to keep devices connected to the internet out of children's bedrooms. I often hear "I trust my son or daughter." The desire to be the parent who trusts the children to be immune to the pandemic and manipulative skill of practiced adults who use their freedom to exploit others, is misplaced. Learn from Rep. Guffey and the parents of 11 other children who took their lives in one year after being targeted to compromise their good sense by sending explicit photos to phantoms in disguise on the web. It is our responsibility to be trustworthy and protectors.

<https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/rep-lost-son-after-sextortion-it-happens-so-quickly/>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdin/pr/fbi-and-partners-issue-national-public-safety-alert-sextortion-schemes>

**Patrick Erlandson – Founder: Father-Con and See it. End it. Film & Arts Festival**



What is coming up...

If you watched Sound of Freedom or if you did not, this award-winning film paints a picture of what human trafficking looks like in your community. We cannot end what we don't understand. October 11, 6 – 9:00 pm at the LOOK Dine-In Cinema in Downey, California. Tickets at <https://rb.gy/3q34a>

Film followed by panel discussion with the writer director, Janet Craig.

#### What you can do to help:

Volunteer your skills and talents to stand with Father-Con.

We have big plans for 2024 to reach thousands of men and families, young people who will be parents one day, and fathers who need to heal from childhood trauma so they can be thriving husbands and fathers.

Email: [info@father-con.org](mailto:info@father-con.org)

Consider becoming an Executive Board or Auxiliary Board member.

**Donate or become a sponsor or have your company become a sponsor alongside dozens of others who are impacting lives.** Without funding our reach is limited. The need is so great. [You can give a mission to a man, give purpose to a father, give new life to a family.](#)

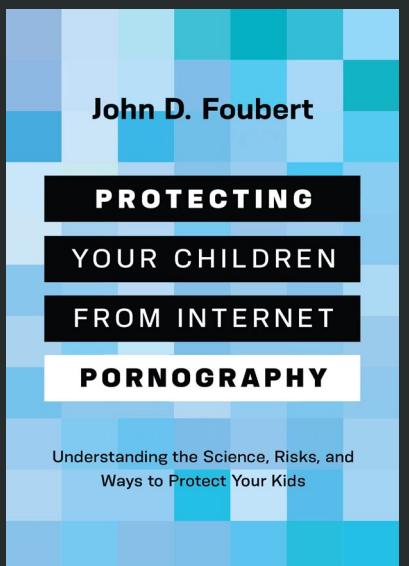


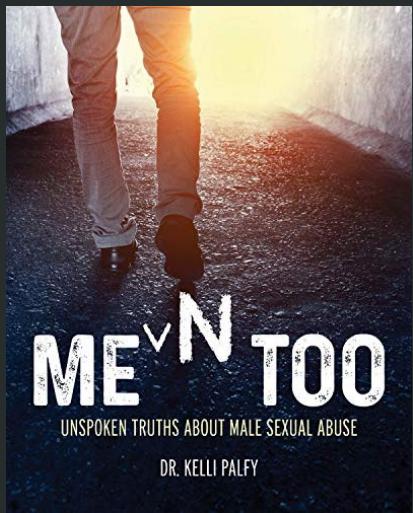
## The Conversation contributions

The "New Deal" by Bob Levy,

*Former foster youth, foster dad and Director of Family Recruitment for FosterAll and board member of Father-Con*

Started as a relief for overwhelmed immigrants in New York City in the 1850's, Foster Care was a way to help families get on their feet again so the family unit could build themselves back up and start to thrive. It could be likened to the Social Security Act of 1935 from which a federal welfare system was developed.





By Dr Kelli Palfy

Both were meant to aid a temporary crisis. Instead, fathers left their families putting more pressure on single mothers and on the government to continue to provide assistance. President Theodore Roosevelt the author of this "New Deal", after seeing the effects of an ongoing welfare system said, *"The lessons of history, confirmed by the evidence immediately before me, show conclusively that continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual and moral disintegration fundamentally destructive to the national fiber. To dole out relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit."* The idea and model of placing children in a safe healthy home while their family works to get them back is a good one, but we've allowed it to go too long and like Roosevelt said, *We've "been administering a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit."*

In 2023, this narcotic isn't subtle anymore. For many men and women, it is the drug of choice. And the drug is called, "Freedom"....and it's laced with "Entitlement".

Men walk away from their families and women medicate the devastating pressure of being a single mom- with men and drugs, thus perpetuating the cycle. On the other side of things, you have the foster family. A host family that is to love the child as their own with the hopes and focus of reuniting the child with their family, so they can move on together. But that doesn't happen. The fathers are not to be found, the mothers are with various men and usually the best outcome is- the child(ren) can live with grandma...and that's only 50% of the time. The other 50% need to be adopted. Right now we have 27,000 children in this country that emancipate out of the foster care system every year, with no family support system. They become homeless, pregnant, in jail, in gangs or human trafficked. This all could change if men would step up and take the responsibility of being husbands and fathers.

Our "New Deal" should be to teach and encourage men to live responsible lives. Success and fulfillment is not found in the executive position, the fast car or access to anything we want, but in caring and protecting others around us. Joy is not found in the freedom and ability to fulfill one's own lusts and desires, but in seeing the innocence, love and trust of a child and nurturing that innocence and then "fostering" hope, confidence, trust and success in that child.

As men, this is the greatest honor we can achieve. It doesn't come with prestige, and money and notoriety, but ask any man who has embraced "Fatherhood" and he'll tell you it's the best thing that he's ever done in his life!

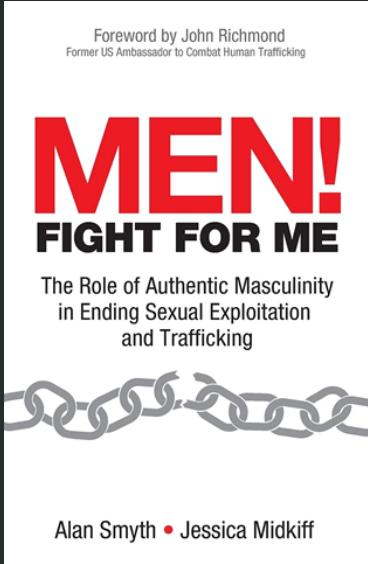
*Father-Con invites you to contribute to our monthly publication – submit contributions at [info@father-con.org](mailto:info@father-con.org)*

**We are growing and on the rise!!**

**The need for fathers to be informed, inspired and equipped as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fathers could not be greater. We can turn this ship and make waves of change!**

**Join our growing sponsorship community**





Available at:  
[Fightforme.net](http://Fightforme.net)



Heart of the Father recipient  
Evan Hess

**Pictures of Father-  
Con 2023 at**  
<https://www.father-con.org>



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Special thanks to our sponsors

**Just the Facts**  
1 in 4 men in the US live in a home without a dad.

**Just the FACTS**  
Fathers are the most important factor in a child's life.



## ABOUT

Father-Con creates pathways to change how we see ourselves as fathers and how society sees the significance of fathers - in child development and child safety.

The internet has elevated the threats to children to frightening levels and fathers - engaged, equipped and inspired - are critical to protect them and throw open doors of opportunity for them to thrive.

**Getting fathers informed, inspired and equipped!**

**FATHER-CON**  
NEVER TOO EARLY. NEVER TOO LATE.  
FATHERS MATTER



## MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE, RIGHT AT HOME

If there is one thing that deters a human trafficker from targeting a child, it is a strong father child bond. Prevention starts at home!



### Workshops & Trainings



Father-Con is not a men's organization but a father-centered approach to healing our families and providing the best course for children to thrive.



### THE CONFERENCE

Once a year Father-Con holds a conference for the diverse population of fathers and families to share, learn and get fired-up about fatherhood! Dozens of workshops, speakers and the Heart of the Father Award.



2023 Keynote speaker Fr. Greg Boyle founder Homeboy Industries



Dozens of resources available



Fathers Make a Difference  
Over 400,000 children are in the Foster Care system in the US  
Human traffickers prey upon those most vulnerable

### OUR REACH

#### Presenting at UNODC Vienna



**Get excited about Father-Con 2024 and Father-Con & Joy International Barefoot Mile Walk to DeFEET Child Exploitation 2024**



### Father links

Father legal rights in California  
<https://www.familylawrights.net/california/fathers-rights/>