

PARDEEP S. KALEKA

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Career

A native of India, I grew up as a first-generation immigrant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and received my B.A. in Criminal Justice/Sociology at Marquette University, and M.S. in Clinical Psychology at Alverno College. I have had the honor of serving our community for the past 20+ years, formerly serving as a Police Officer and an Educator in Milwaukee for 14 years. Currently, I'm the executive director of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, a 52-year-old non-profit that works with communities to dialogue, develop relationships, and navigate conflict and policy concerns facing our diverse faith and cultural communities. I am also a clinician and deradicalization interventionist specialist with Parents4Peace, a nonprofit who works with individuals and families to help them exit the life of violent extremism. Over the years, I have worked as a consultant helping communities face demographic shifts and

address communal trauma by working with survivors, formers, community partners, policy makers, law enforcement, mental health practitioners, and educational staff to build healthy social fabrics. A major part of my community work has been with Serve2Unite, an organization I co-founded in response to the Sikh Temple hate-crime in 2012. Our organization has engaged communities locally and nationally to build positive coalitions and communal identity addressing conflict and reconciliation through a public health lens. Over the past 10 years, our work of has been locally and internationally recognized for building safe, inclusive communities while addressing the rise of hate. I am the co-author of the memoir, "The Gift of Our Wounds," and have regularly contributed to the Milwaukee Independent as an award-winning public relations columnist focusing on mental health and social justice concerns. Finally, I am also honored to sit on numerous boards as my goal is create equitable conditions to make mental health and public health accessible to all communities.

Education

M.S. Clinical Psychology	Alverno College	2016
B.A. Criminology/ Sociology	Marquette University	2000

Certification

Licensed Professional Counselor	State of Wisconsin
Licensed Educator: Broad Field Social Studies	St. Mary's University
Police officer: City of Milwaukee	City of Milwaukee

Professional Membership

AAPI Coalition of Wisconsin Co-chair	2020-Current
Commissioner, Social Development Commission	2020-Current
YMCA Social Responsibility Committee	2020-Current
RedGen Board of Directors	2020-Current
Milwaukee Rep, MPACT Council	2020-Current
United Against Hate Board	2018-Current
Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force	2018-Current

Milwaukee Mental Health Diversity Task Force	2018-2020
Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, Board Member	2015-2019
Milwaukee Turners, Board of Trustees	2013-2015
Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, Board of Trustees	2012-Current

Employment

Executive Director, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee	2019-Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue, Programming, and Policy coordination with 20 Religious jurisdictions across the Greater Milwaukee Region • To uphold the dignity of every person and the solidarity of the human community • Executive Director of the Zeidler Group for Public Discussion during Covid-19 part time to work within both organizations to provide group dialogue and data analysis for DEI improvement for municipalities, school districts, and organizations. 	

Parents for Peace	2021-Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma Clinician to work with families and individuals exit various form of extremism • Assist in developing the methodology for preventative care 	

Trauma Psychotherapist	2016-Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private practice, diverse range of diagnosis and clients • Providing individual, family, couples, and group therapy • Consulting with colleagues and community partners about best practices to ensure systems are beginning to implement trauma-focused care. 	

Trauma Psychotherapist-Alma Center, Formerly Incarcerated Men	2016- 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing group and individual therapy for adult men under Dept. of Corrections and Deferred Prosecution Agreements • Wrap around services(i.e. employment, housing, education) provided to men and families to reduce recidivism rates of men released from incarceration in Wisconsin. 	

The Healing Center of Milwaukee	2016- 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing Trauma informed Sexual assault counseling for individuals and groups • Internship included 1:1, and group counseling. Consulting with peers, advocating for clients, and developing effective strategies for survivors 	

Co-founder/ Serve2Unite	2012 -Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacted the social, emotional, and educational needs of students, their families and their communities from a trauma informed approach, through creative service learning, restorative group dialogue, and global reconciliation projects • Collaborated with global mentors, community partners and schools to facilitate global and local research while also implementing multi-literacy approach to Technology use • Facilitated programming and community events for adolescents, students, educators, parents, activists, and adults. 	

Educator: Nova High School	October 2007-June 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed new courses and curriculum that promoted cultural awareness and empowerment with students deemed “At Risk” • Served as liaison between students, school and job supervisor to facilitate effective communication. • Taught work-related skills development and monitored progress of students/staff 	

- Presented and participated in responsible staff development program that promoted a culturally sensitive understanding of “At-Risk” students from a multicultural lens

Police Officer: City of Milwaukee

2001-2004

- Performed a wide variety of duties involved in the enforcement of laws and the prevention of crimes. Including, but not limited to: Enforcement of Federal, State, and local regulations; conducting criminal investigations; arrests; providing support and assistance to special crime prevention and law enforcement services; and performing a variety of technical and administrative tasks in support of felony investigations.

Small Business Owner

2005-Current

- Property management and ownership of commercial, apartment buildings, gas-stations, and mechanic shops providing opportunity and empowering employees to establish thriving ownership and stake.
- Successful entrepreneurship model

Highlight of Qualifications

- Provided opening Interfaith Prayer to the 2020 Democratic National Conference
- Numerous keynotes addressing cultural inclusion, the role of faith in healing, racism, the immigrant experience, the growth of hate crimes in America, and communal mental health
- Tedx, Google Talks, Huffington Post, Atlantic, and appearance on the View
- Published Author of “The Gifts of Our Wounds”
- Award winning columnist at <http://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/columnists/>
- Utilized facilitation of community dialogues to provide comprehensive data analysis for municipalities and school districts to address equity, <https://www.wauwatosa.net/home/showpublisheddocument?id=3678>
- Trauma-Informed approach to working with survivors, and perpetrators of violence
- Founder of Serve2Unite which has been internationally recognized by The Parliament of World Religions, and The Guru Nanak award for building positive identity and inclusive communities and has worked with over 20,000 youth, educators, and activists to build coalitions to solve issues of hate and inclusion.
- Worked with “at-risk” high school youth within the city of Milwaukee for 13 years. Successfully developed and implemented conflict resolution curriculum
- Worked as a Police officer in the City of Milwaukee and have partnered with local and federal law enforcement entities to counter the threat of domestic and foreign violent extremists and reporting on hate crimes.
- Business management and property development entrepreneur.
- Demonstrated effective skills in:

Community organizing

Trauma Informed approach to care

Working with first responders & leadership

Curriculum Planning for all ages

Client/Community Centered treatment

Adhering to Ethical and Legal Guidelines

De-radicalization Clinician

Utilizing Evidence-based Public Health Approach

Countering Violent Extremism Expert

Conflict Resolution training

Culturally agile communication skills

Project Management

Professional Multicultural competency

Building Interfaith relationships

Recent Publications/ Op-Ed

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/34964876-the-gift-of-our-wounds>

<http://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/category/pardeep-kaleka/>

<http://theforgivenessproject.com/stories/pardeep-kaleka-usa/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2018/03/pardeep-singh-kaleka/556295/>

Recognitions

2021 Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, Carrol University

2021 United Nations of Greater Milwaukee

2021 Unity Award Milwaukee Magazine

2019 Robert H. Friebert Social Justice Award

2019 Citizen Diplomat Award Global Ties U.S.

2018 The Peace Center of Connecticut Peace Hero Award

2017 Milwaukee Press Club Excellence in Journalism Award

2017 Search for Common Ground Common Ground Award

2016 Hofstra University Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize

2015 Parliament of World Religions Faith Against Hate Award

2014 Milwaukee Coming Together Partnership Youth Leadership in Gun Violence Prevention

Personal Information

I have been happily married for 17 years and have 4 beautiful children. I love traveling and meeting new people but my favorite is spending time with family, friends, and immersed within community. My hope is to leave this world a bit better than I inherited it and to always be grateful for the many blessings in my life.