



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

# Judith Herman



**Virtual presentation**

*broadcast live from the Palais des Congrès*

Judith Lewis Herman, M.D., is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard University and a renowned traumatic stress expert who helped establish the diagnostic category of complex post-traumatic stress disorder. She is the Co-Founder and Former Director of Training of the Cambridge Health Alliance Victims of Violence Program, Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and the recipient of numerous awards, including the 1996 International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr Herman is the author of two foundational books that have shaped the understanding of trauma survivors: *Father-Daughter Incest* (1981), and *Trauma and Recovery* (1992). Her new book, *Truth and Repair: How Trauma Survivors Envision Justice*, will be published in March, 2023.

**Plenary : May 10**

**Truth and Repair: How Trauma Survivors Envision Justice**

Crimes of gender-based violence, like other crimes against subordinated groups are generally crimes of impunity. Victims are blamed, shamed and isolated, so that violence becomes hidden and socially invisible.

Shame and isolation in turn predict malignant psychological harms of complex trauma, including the formation of a defiled identity. This talk, based on personal interviews and published accounts, explores survivors' views of what might be a just resolution of the crimes they have suffered. In general, survivors wished above all for the truth to be known and the perpetrators exposed. Beyond this, their focus was on restoring the relationships, not primarily with the perpetrators, but rather with the "moral community" from which they had been isolated. Finally, rather than punishment of perpetrators, survivors frequently prioritized prevention of future harm.