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Contact: Julia Tanen, Principal
Mavens and Moguls
508-346-3320
Julia@mavensandmoguls.com

Indiana- April 2005: The Right to be Safe Program (RTBS®), Adult Education in the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, by Karen A. Duncan, M.A., LSW, LMFT, licensed therapist, author, writer and lecturer is now available through the Internet at TheRight2BeSafe.org web-site. This new and innovative on-line program is free and is also available through Duncan's web-site www.healing4women.com. The RTBS® program was designed as a critical step to protect children so they never have to endure the traumatic crime of sexual abuse. It is provided to parents, adults and organizations that have a commitment to prevent and stop child sexual abuse. RTBS meets 12 criteria for sexual abuse prevention.

The Right To Be Safe Program is a comprehensive educational and informational program that parents can view in the privacy of their home and discuss with their children. Parents can share the program with other parents in an effort to spread the word that only adults can prevent the trauma of child sexual abuse. Schools can post a link to the program on their web-site for parents to access and school counselors and social workers can use the program as part of their child abuse prevention program. Walt Aldoriso, Director of Student Services at Center Grove School Corporation with an enrollment of over 6700 students shares "Karen Duncan's work is vital and her dedication, empathy and professionalism are evident in The Right to be Safe Program."

"Providing parents with relevant information on how to prevent child sexual abuse and stop perpetrators is critical to keeping children safe and out of the pathway of perpetrators—and that is what RTBS® accomplishes in a real and timely manner. While current prevention programs geared toward children are helpful, no child can ever really stop a perpetrator. Parents and other caring adults have to get involved in this effort as do schools and community minded organizations. PTA's, hospitals, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are just a few of the organizations who are dedicated to helping children. By putting a link on their web-site to RTBS® they can continue their commitment and dedication to children's safety and well-being—it's that simple. This program can be shared with anyone simply by clicking on it and sending a link. One of the beauties of the program is the privacy in the viewing—parents and other adults can view the program in their own home and discuss this critical safety information with their children in a private and confidential manner—what could be more important to any parent interested in the safety of their child" stated Duncan.

The Right To Be Safe program is already planned to be offered as a web-link by the National Association of Social Work-Indiana Chapter, Center Grove School Corporation and Greenwood School Corporation reaching over 13,000 parents and adults throughout the Indianapolis and Indiana community. Other schools and organizations are expected to be on-line by February 15, 2005 when The Right To Be Safe.org web-site goes on-line from the Internet. Duncan is currently presenting the program to a group of women at the Indiana Women's Prison in Indianapolis in an effort to prevent future victimization to this group of women and their children. "Women in the criminal justice system are truly the forgotten victims of child sexual abuse. If RTBS® program can help them to stop the pattern of victimization in their lives then it will also stop the victimization that often occurs to their children as well" stated Duncan.

Duncan is making the announcement about RTBS®: Adult Education to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse for parents, adults and organizations across the United States to begin to join in a concerted effort to get the word out that "there are adults who will stand against sexual perpetrators, protect children and make the world safer for girls and boys to thrive in a world free of violence and abuse" which is the message Duncan shares in the RTBS® program.

Karen A. Duncan, M.A., LSW, LMFT is a licensed therapist, author, writer, organizational and training consultant and lecturer. Known for her advocacy work with women and children in the treatment and prevention of childhood sexual abuse, Ms. Duncan specializes in the development and delivery of gender-responsive programs to heal and further prevent the trauma of sexual abuse and other related interpersonal violence. She has conducted national workshops and presentations on victimization prevention, chronic shock and dissociation associated with trauma; women, trauma and substance abuse, effective premises for the treatment of sexual trauma, and co-occurring disorders related to trauma. Ms. Duncan's approach is both practical and sensitive providing professionals with a valuable opportunity to learn new skills, advocate for the screening of sexual trauma for women and children by healthcare providers, and establishing community awareness and prevention programs. She is a dynamic speaker and writer whose lectures and workshops are based on knowledge, research and clinical experience.

Educated at Ball State University and Elmhurst College, Ms. Duncan received her Master of Arts Degree in Clinical Psychology in 1980. She is licensed by the state of Indiana in social work and marriage and family therapy. She has served as Adjunct Faculty at Marian College and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in the departments of psychology and women studies. Ms. Duncan was awarded Diplomate status in the American Psychotherapy Association, and she is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, American Counseling Association, Association for Humanistic Psychology, Association for Women in Psychology, Jacobs Institute of Women's Health, and Mid-West Regional Network for Intervention With Sex Offenders.

Her recent book "*Healing from the Trauma of Childhood Sexual Abuse: The Journey for Women*" (Praeger, 2004) advocates for the prevention of sexual abuse within families, supports and encourages holistic healing, and discusses how women face a moral and legal challenge to expose perpetrators within their families when protected against prosecution by existing state statutes of limitation. Her recent articles "*Bully Abuse: How Children Harm*

Other Children" was published in *Counseling Today* by the American Counseling Association and her upcoming article titled "*The Forgotten Victims: Women, Trauma and the Criminal Justice System*" will be published in March 2005. Ms. Duncan is currently developing SASK-a Sexual Abuse Screening Kit that is planned for piloting with Indianapolis physicians and a domestic violence shelter for women and children based in Louisville, Kentucky.

Her presentations include the Center for Women and Families, Voice in Actions, 21st Annual Substance Abuse Conference at the University of Evansville, International Society for the Study of Dissociation, and the Indiana Women's Prison. Speaking engagements for 2005 include the American Counseling Association Annual Conference, Association for Traumatic Stress Specialists Annual Conference, Association of Women in Psychology Annual Conference, American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and Prevent Child Abuse-Indiana.

Ms. Duncan is based in Greenwood, Indiana where she is the founder of The Right To Be Safe, Inc. a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of sexual abuse and violence on behalf of women and children. She can be reached at www.healing4women.com.