



מרכז הסמכות החדשה  
The New Authority Center

# Between New Authority and NVR

## Introduction to the New Authority concept

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The New Authority center - Israel



מרכז שניידר לרפואת ילדים בישראל  
مركز شتايجر لطف الاطفال في اسرائيل  
Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel

# Our team's history

## Helping parents and more...



- # The beginning... (1997)
- # The Parents' Counseling Clinic (2004)

## Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel

- # The hospital is dedicated exclusively for children and adolescents from the middle east.
- # The vision – to serve as a “*bridge to peace*” by receiving patients from all around the region.

## The Parents' Counseling Unit

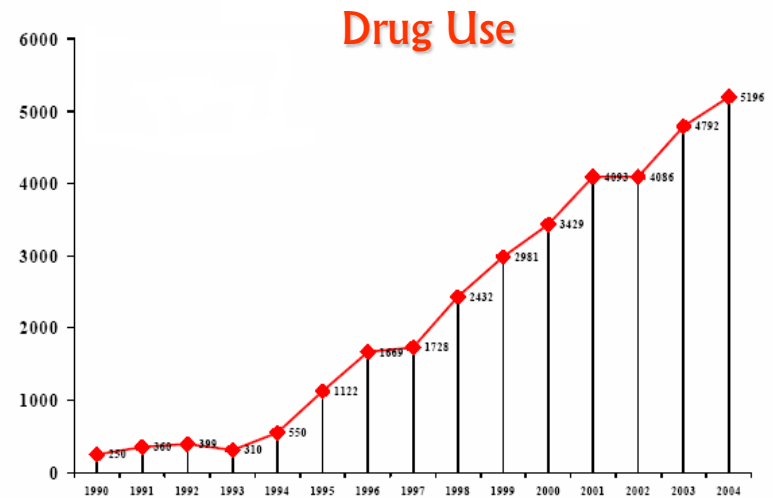
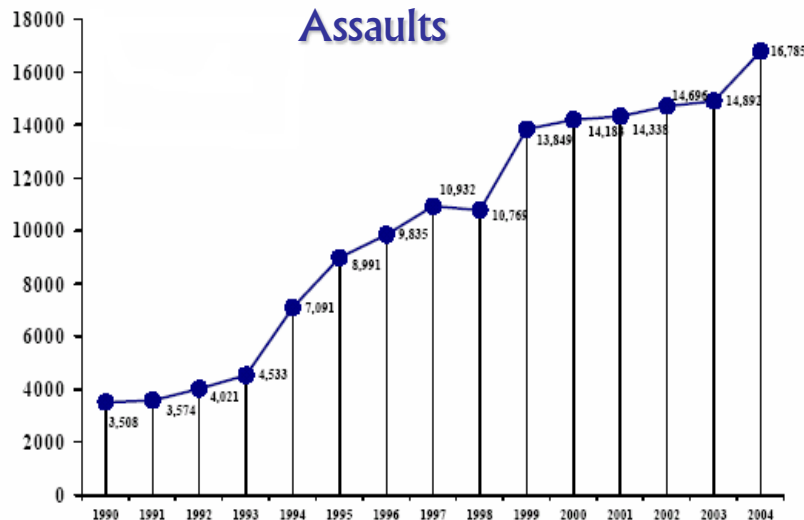
- # Part of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- # The treatment model is NVR & NA.



# Presenting the problem in Israel with 2 lines and 3 points



Number of cases at youth court over 15 years  
(Israel 1990-2004)



- **An increase of about 10-15 times in youth violent acts.**
- **The cases presented to court are more severe.**
- **The age of the children involved has decreased.**

# And in Netherlands?



Netherlands  
Youth  
Institute



Researching juvenile crime shows different trends:

The report Youth crime in the period 1996-2010 (June 2011) of the Scientific Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Security and Justice and the Central Bureau of Statistics shows **a decrease in the number of juvenile delinquents after the number had grown for years...** The decrease is especially noticeable in theft and handling stolen goods.

Another study of the Scientific Research and Documentation Centre (June 2011) sees **a growth of the number of juvenile suspects of violent crimes** and explains this through less social control on the streets...

- Juvenile crime statistics are produced differently in different countries.
- Criminal statistics are influenced by juridical and statistical factors.
- Recorded statistics may not accurately reflect the level of violence that is actually experienced.



# The parent's conceptual trap

**parents attempts to change the child's behavior waver between two extremes**

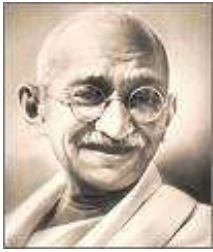
- Trying to explain, again and again...

Means: Persuasion and “understanding”

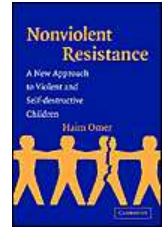
- Trying to “break” the child's behavior

Means: Threats punishments or a violent struggle





# NVR suggests a way out of the parental trap



## Three possible responses to violence (Gandhi):

- To accept or look the other way.
- Fight by force of arms.
- Use nonviolent means.

## Responses in the Parents trap :

- Explain, again and again...  
Persuasion & “Understanding”
- Breaking the behavior  
Threats & Punishments
- NVR ? ...

The Sit-In  
An example



# Non Violent Resistance

Basic assumptions for a struggle



## ● Power

**power does not necessarily mean acting forcefully**

## ● A clear definition of goals

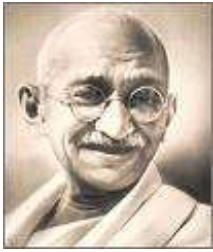
**“behave nicely” is not a relevant goal**

## ● Self control

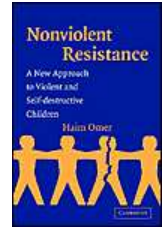
**don't be provoked and delay your response...**

## ● Respect the child

**a struggle is not a war...**



## The NVR conceptual trap



- It's hard to imagine that parents are always the “weak side”.
- The resistance part in NVR is “traditionally” neglected.
- Are parents the only adults that suffers from “authority helplessness”?  
What about teachers?  
What about professional teams in residential settings?

**Maybe the problem we face is not parental authority but a problem with authority itself?**







# The traditional authority



- Questioning a decision was an insult to the authority figure.
- The source of authority was inherent in its formal status.
- **The authority figure had immunity from criticism.**
- Demand for obedience justified punitive measures
- **The authority figure was fearsome & distant.**
- 👉 **The traditional authority lost its legitimate support and had to be changed**



# “The Sixties” Culture And the “child’s self” concept



**The Sixties - A complex of inter-related cultural and political trends across the globe, beginning around 1963 and ending around 1974.**

- Children are born pure and should have Freedom and Privacy
- Discipline will inhibit and repress a child’s natural instincts.

**A free society without Authority will raise natural and sociable children.**

- Children need only Understanding, Encouragement & Praise

**Praise & Love will build the child’s Self-Esteem**



**Violence, school dropout, drug use & delinquency**



The loss of legitimate support  
for the traditional authority

The failure of  
“The Sixties”  
dream



Led to a  
collapse of authority  
and created a vacuum...

**We need to re-formulate  
the concept of Authority**

### The 3 Questions:

- Do we need a new concept of Authority ?
- Does the concept presented here fit my ideals ?
- Can we act according to the ways suggested here ?



# The New Authority concept

From individualism and loneliness  
towards community & support...



- **Presence instead of distance or physical force.**
- **Use an alternative to force but be powerful – NVR...!**
- **Transparency empowers you – Don't be afraid from criticism.**
- **Create legitimacy to your stance through support networks.**

**Always Remember:**

**“It takes a whole village (community)  
to raise a child”...**

# New Authority

Case example - in school



## Assimilation of different values for the student and... the authority figure!

- The authority figure's stance:  
Repairing the damage is my responsibility.
- The message for **the student**:  
When you do harm you can fix it.  
The reparation act join you back.
- **The class**  
When there is damage the authority figure takes responsibility.
- Informing **the parents**  
parents are more willing to join-in .

# New Authority

## Definition



**The new authority is about empowerment. Influential figures (caregivers, parents, teachers, directors or trainers) need not be defined by their ability to control children but rather by their ability to initiate, whether it's initiating care, initiating resistance or initiating support.**

**The New Authority is a treatment for...  
authority figures!**

# The “New Authority” (N) A Team

Or how can we build authority to the New Authority



 **Vraag Kracht!**

**Thank you Wim Braamse** Pedagogische thuishulp  
en training op maat

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# Three last questions before we end...

- **Do we need a new concept of Authority ?**
- **Does the concept presented here fit my ideals ?**
- **Can we act according to the ways suggested here ?**

**Thank you  
for listening**

