Introducing

MARLEE LISS

FOUNDER | AUTHOR | SPEAKER | ADVOCATE



Marlee Liss (she/her) is a somatic educator, social worker, and sparkle-loving lesbian Jewish feminist. Her sexual assault case set a precedent in the North American justice system after she fought for a Restorative Justice outcome through the courts. Since then, she has founded the Survivors 4 Justice Reform global coalition and supported thousands in learning about trauma-informed pleasure and violence prevention.

Marlee's work has been featured in Forbes, Huff Post, Buzzfeed, the Mel Robbins Show, and more. As an award-winning speaker, she's delivered talks for: National Sexual Assault Conference, Vanderbilt University, University of Toronto, Action Trauma Summit, Women's Mental Health Conference at Yale, and more. Marlee sits on the Survivors Council Canada as a Director and Member at Large.

Her story is currently being made into a documentary directed by Kelsey Darragh, and her book on re-imagining justice will be released with Penguin Random House in Fall 2026. Learn more at @marleeliss and @survivors4justicereform

Author and Award-Winning Speaker on Healing, Empathy & Re-Imagining Justice for Sexual Violence



KEYNOTE TOPICS

COURAGEOUS AUTHENTICITY

Where Purpose Meets Impact & Embodied Empowerment

What does it take to show up as your authentic self - even when it feels uncomfortable, risky, or scary? In this keynote, restorative justice advocate, author, and international speaker Marlee Liss shares her powerful journey of choosing courage and authenticity in moments that mattered most. Through compelling storytelling and practical tools, Marlee shows how being true to yourself is not just an act of bravery - it's the foundation for purpose, connection, and long-term well-being. Participants will learn how to advocate for their needs, communicate boundaries with confidence, and lead with authenticity that ripples outward, transforming teams, communities, and systems.

BY THE END OF THIS PROGRAM, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Align with purpose by identifying their core values and using them as a guide for decisions, boundaries, and sustainable well-being.
- Cultivate courageous self-advocacy by noticing, trusting, and confidently communicating their needs to honour personal integrity and impact.
- Lead with authenticity and courage in both high- and low-stakes scenarios, fostering trust, meaningful connection, and psychological safety.
- Prevent burnout by making purpose-driven choices that prioritize authenticity over perfectionism and sustainability over self-sacrifice.
- Embody purposeful, courageous leadership that sparks empowerment and positive ripple effects across relationships, workplaces, and communities.

RE-HUMANIZE

Lead with Empathy & Transform Conflict for Stronger Communities & Healthier Minds

Leaders, communities, and organizations today face rising stress, polarization, and the challenge of guiding teams made up of people with diverse experiences and perspectives. In this keynote, restorative justice advocate Marlee Liss shares how choosing empathy over punishment and dehumanization not only transformed her own healing journey but also reshaped how she leads, connects, and resolves conflict. Through powerful storytelling and actionable frameworks, Marlee reveals how re-humanizing ourselves and others strengthens mental health, prevents burnout, and builds cultures of trust and belonging. Leaders will walk away equipped to handle hard conversations with compassion, create psychologically safe workplaces, and inspire collaboration across differences.

BY THE END OF THIS PROGRAM, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Support mental health and resilience by moving away from punitive, perfectionistic frameworks and toward self-compassion and holistic wellbeing.
- Lead with empathy and accountability to foster inclusive cultures where people feel safe to grow, change, and contribute.
- Navigate conflict with confidence by applying practical tools that transform disagreement into deeper understanding and stronger team dynamics.
- Appreciate diverse perspectives by contextualizing harm and behavior, leading with curiosity rather than judgment.
- Model values-driven leadership that bridges divides, reduces polarization, and promotes trust, collaboration, and belonging across teams.

RE-IMAGINE JUSTICE FOR SEXUAL HARM

Why I Fought for a Circle, Not a Courtroom

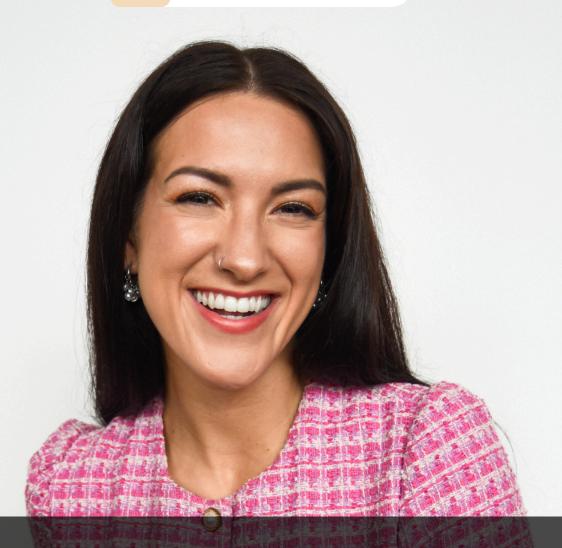
In 2019, Marlee's sexual assault case became one of the first in North America to conclude with restorative justice through the courts. She fought for the man who raped her to go to therapy instead of a criminal trial, and eventually, they met in an eight-hour restorative circle. After sharing with the media, she began receiving thousands of messages from survivors who shared their stories and the many reasons they wished they had known about Restorative Justice. Marlee takes a vulnerable and educational approach to talking about this alternative to the punitive system. In an environment rooted in hope and empowerment, listeners learn about breaking cycles of harm while challenging the notion of a 'one size fits all' approach to justice.

BY THE END OF THIS PROGRAM, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Define Restorative Justice and illustrate its principles of trauma-informed care, needs-based communication, and survivor-centred practice.
- Analyze the ways in which a punitive framework may impede survivors' capacity to reclaim agency, boundaries, justice, and consent.
- Describe diverse and intersectional justice options for survivors, which recognize that people who experience harm are not a monolith.
- Build a vision of justice that is synonymous with healing, thereby lessening the likelihood of secondary victimization.

For more on what Marlee offers, click here.

Click to watch Marlee share her story on The National, The Social & More



"Marlee's session was deeply inspiring. It was incredible to hear a process where a survivor could move away from being further traumatized and actually be able to move towards healing."

National SA Conference

READY TO BOLDLY MAKE A MARK ON YOUR EVENT?

Inkwell MGMT is here to collaborate with you to bring Marlee Liss' energy and expertise to your next event. Whether you're looking to inspire, motivate, or educate your audience, Marlee is ready to deliver a transformative experience.

Let's make it happen! Connect with Stevie Johns at Inkwell MGMT today, and together, what we create will be unforgettable.

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