



## About Fifty Shades of Purple Against Bullying

Fifty Shades of Purple (FSP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating bullying and addressing the effects of bullying across the entire age spectrum. Launched in September 2015, Kati “Jazz” Gray-Sadler founded the charity after years of struggling with school officials that failed to protect her own son. Jazz decided that no parent should ever feel as helpless as she did, and no victim of bullying should ever be without a strong advocate and a game plan.

Based in Philadelphia, PA, FSP has grown exponentially since its inception. Led by Executive Director Marchee Briant, expert volunteers from all backgrounds and experiences work within five committees: Education and Awareness, Resources, Organizational, Marketing and Communications, and Fundraising/Fiscal Management. The national board has 11 voting members and four advisory members. The charity holds two annual events, a community networking evening in the spring for families and individuals affected by bullying, and a performance showcase and gala in the fall, “Arts Against Bullying.”

FSP is a one stop resource for bullying victims of all ages, and their loved ones. Whether the bullying is occurring on a middle school playground or in the work place, FSP provides support, information, contact info for state resources, and more, to anyone who asks.

For more information, please visit [www.fspagainstabullying.org](http://www.fspagainstabullying.org)



**A Conversation with Kati “Jazz” Gray-Sadler  
Founder, [Fifty Shades of Purple Against Bullying](#)**

***What is Fifty Shades of Purple?***

FSP is a nonprofit that provides resources for individuals, families, organizations, and schools related to bullying and bullying prevention.

***Why did you start Fifty Shades of Purple?***

In 2015, I was sitting with my son Trevor, who was preparing for his college graduation the following year. I asked him if he could have one gift for his graduation, what would it be? He replied, “I wish I could share you with the whole world. That’s what I would want.” I didn’t know what he meant by that, until he elaborated. He had been bullied since the age of 8, brutal experiences that sometimes had him lying awake at night wondering if he should just end it all. But the one thing that he remembered through it all was me advocating for him, going head to head with apathetic teachers, counselors, principals, over and over again. I looked at my strong, amazing, son standing there before me, getting ready for the rest of his life and thought about him as a child wanting to cut it short. I thought about all the kids lying there at night, thinking the same things he did, who might not make it to where he was. And I knew that I had to do something.

***Where did you go from there with your idea?***

Trevor--who is my visionary and heavily involved with FSP-- and I started talking about what had been missing from our own experiences. What did we wish had happened all those times we tried to get him help? We decided we wanted people to have a safe place, somewhere they could go to be heard and understood. We wanted to create a place where people whose pain and desperation had fallen on deaf ears could go and speak to experts that could help them. My background is in research and communication, and so I reached out to Marchee who became our executive director and others. The first ten people I asked to be involved said yes immediately, because bullying is that pervasive that everyone knows it’s a problem.

***How is FSP different from other anti-bullying organizations?***

Many other organizations focus on bullying in schools but we encompass the entire spectrum of bullying. We don’t just deal with it at the juvenile level, we work with adults who are the victims of bullying at home or in the workplace. When needed, we also focus on the after effects of bullying. Just because someone may be physically safe now doesn’t mean there isn’t some form of PTSD.

In addition, we believe that everyone is a victim, including the bully. When you look at their circumstances, there is always a reason. How is a child supposed to process the question of why do they bully? I think most people aren’t cruel, though they may do cruel things. So when we look at the individuals who bully, and we take in the larger picture socially and economically for instance, you know what they say about fear and what it makes you do. We introduce healthier ways of communication and support, changing that paradigm. FSP has ambassadors who were bullies themselves. They now understand the devastation they left behind. We have people contacting us now who say, “I bullied this person 30 years ago, can you help me find them and make it right?”

We are whatever someone being bullied, or even a bully, needs us to be. We are advocates for victims being protected at home, school, or work, and champions for bullies who we know are better than their actions.

***What do you want everyone who has ever been bullied, or who is being bullied right now to know?***

You have options, and giving up and giving in are not one of those options. You are not alone. There are people who will stay by your side, who will walk into battle with and for you.



**A Conversation with Marchee Briant  
Executive Director and Chair, Community Outreach Organizational Committee**

***How long have you been with Fifty Shades of Purple?***

From the inception! Jazz and I sat down together and she shared her vision for the project. I had been searching for a way to make a difference, so it just clicked. My background is in public health and I've always worked with the underserved population, so everything she said resonated with me. I did some research prior to coming on board as executive director and was appalled at the level of bullying that occurs. From a public health perspective, it's a real crisis.

***What does the name "Fifty Shades of Purple" mean?***

Well first and foremost we wanted to grab people's attention, and the color for the anti-bullying cause is purple. But if you think more deeply on it, bullying touches people of all shades, from every walk of life. It doesn't matter what ethnicity or gender or age you are, or even where you are-- bullying can affect you.

***How does your organization help people who are being bullied?***

People can always reach out to us, or have someone reach out on their behalf. Like most health operations, we do triage and figure out who is just looking for information for now, and who has a situation that has escalated to the point where they require action immediately. Whether it's workplace, elder care, schoolyard, or any other type of bullying, a common theme is that people feel powerless. Many don't have a strong support system in place, or they just don't know what to do. FSP can be that first stop for them, the place they go to when they need help but don't know how to get it. Whether our subject matter experts are acting as advocates in situations such as hearings or parent-administrator meetings, or simply answering questions and providing direction, FSP will work to get victims and their families the support they need.

***Do you only help people in Philadelphia?***

FSP does a lot of work in our geographic region by partnering with community organizations and companies who share our goal of eradicating bullying. Our volunteers that act as in-person advocates are also concentrated in the region. However, through our Web site and social media group we help people nationwide, by giving them the information and resources they need to help protect themselves. When we launched our Facebook [group](#) and offered to help people dealing with the effects of bullying, within 48 hours we had more than 1700 members. That's how widespread this insidious problem is.

***How can people help FSP fulfill its mission?***

Be kind. Communicate. Ask for help when you need it. Give help when you don't. Stand up for each other. My hope is that one day we won't ever have to ask kids if they've ever been bullied.

For people and organizations who would like to contribute financially to our cause, you can donate [here](#). In addition, we have two events annually. Our "Families Against Bullying" event takes place in April and our main fundraising event, a performing arts showcase and gala, "Arts Against Bullying," is held in September. Our calendar of events can be found [here](#).