

DR. NORA J. BALADERIAN
Los Angeles, CA



Since 1971, Nora Baladerian has made the problem of abuse of people with disabilities her life's work. In the early 1970s when she began working on this topic, there was virtually no information available and no funding to ameliorate the problem. Because of her passion and dedication, today the abuse of people with disabilities is a nationally recognized issue and millions of federal and state dollars are allocated to address this problem. Dr. Baladerian has authored several internationally distributed guidebooks for professionals, parents, and individuals with disabilities and written more than fifty articles related to abuse and neglect of children and adults with disabilities. She has convened ten national conferences and one online conference on abuse of people with disabilities.

Dr. Baladerian is an expert in conducting evaluations of suspected sexual abuse and conducting assessments with children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as providing clinical intervention. Most recently her work "Victim with Disabilities: The Forensic Interview" has helped debunk the myth that crime victims with developmental disabilities cannot be good witnesses. Dr. Baladerian's work has affected policies and practices in many arenas, including school campus policies, mandatory reporting, minimum standards for responding to child abuse calls, and protocols and practices for investigators, prosecutors, protective services, and victim advocates. Victim services in California and throughout the nation provide more consistent services to crime victims with disabilities, and to crime victims who acquire a disability due to an act of violence, because of her lifetime of advocacy. Nora Baladerian was nominated by James N. Stream, Executive Director, Arc Riverside.