

Desirée Luerene Israel
 Reproductive Mental Health Leader
 she/her/hers
www.linkedin.com/in/dlisrael

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Expected 2025	Ph.D. in Social Work Widener University Chester, PA
2011	Master of Social Work Morgan State University Baltimore, MD
2008	B.S. in Social Work Morgan State University Baltimore, MD

LICENSURE

Licensed Certified Social Worker, Clinical, State of Maryland, #17259
 Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Washington, DC, #LC200001438
 Licensed Clinical Social Worker, State of Virginia, #0904014595

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Perinatal Mental Health and the Black birthing experience, Womanism, Afrikan Womanism, African American Women's lived embodied experiences, Reproductive Justice, Lived experiences in the Family Policing System (child welfare/foster care), Black Feminist theory, Intersectionality, Photovoice, and Participatory Action Research.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Social Work Delaware State University, Dover, DE <i>Adjunct Professor</i>	12/22
Psychology Department Rhodes University, Grahamstown, Makhanda, South Africa <i>Guest Lecturer, virtual</i> Critical Health Psychology	09/22

Center for Social Work Education 11/22
Widener University, Chester, PA
CEU Presenter, virtual
 Hearts and Hands: Creative Career Opportunities for Social Workers with Families in the Perinatal Period

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Components of Care: Perinatal Mood & Anxiety Disorders, 2-day workshop 2022; 2015
 Postpartum Support International

Postpartum Doula, 3-day workshop 2021
 National Association of Black Doulas

[54: Holding Space for Ourselves as Birthworkers](#) 2021
 Your BIRTH Partners Podcast

[EBB 197: Addressing Perinatal Mental Health for Communities of Color](#) 2021
 Evidence Based Birth Podcast

Certified Breastfeeding Specialist, online course 2019
 Lactation Education Resources

Maternal Mental Health Intensive 2018
 Seleni Institute, New York, NY, USA

[56: Alliance for Women of Color](#) 2017
 Mom and Mind Podcast

Trauma-Informed Care 2016
 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Birth Doula, 3-day workshop 2014
 Facilitator: Nilajah Brown
 The Birth Well, Baltimore, MD, USA

For books that I have engaged with please review my [Bookshop Recommendations](#).

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

MotherlandCo., LLC 08/15 - present
Baltimore, MD
Private Practice

Pressley Ridge, Inc. Towson, MD <i>Clinical Services Supervisor</i> <i>Transition Team Coordinator</i>	11/20 - 08/21 11/19 - 11/20
Better Tomorrow Starts Today, Inc. Baltimore, MD <i>Off-Site Therapist</i>	11/18 - 11/19
The Children's Guild, Inc. Baltimore, MD <i>Family Life Educator</i>	09/16 - 11/18
Healthcare Access Maryland Baltimore, MD <i>Social Work Medical Case Manager</i>	09/14 - 02/15; 08/15 -09/16
Baltimore County Department of Social Services Baltimore, MD <i>Social Worker II (Child Protective Services)</i>	03/15 - 08/15
Seraaj Family Homes, Inc. Towson, MD <i>Social Worker</i>	03/13 - 09/14
King Edwards, Inc. Baltimore, MD <i>Case Manager</i>	07/11 - 09/11; 03/12 - 12/12
Change Health Systems, Inc. Baltimore, MD <i>School-Based Therapist</i>	10/11 - 02/12
The Board of Child Care Baltimore, MD <i>Child Care Worker</i>	06/10 - 11/10
Baltimore City Department of Social Services Baltimore, MD <i>Family Services Caseworker</i>	07/08 - 06/10
ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	
Postpartum Support International Nationwide <i>Hotline Counselor</i>	02/22 - present

Widener University 02/21 - 08/21
Chester, PA
MSW Off-Site Field Instructor

Souldier Seyyid Solutions 09/12 - 02/13
Baltimore, MD
Independent Contractor

Reginald F. Lewis High School 09/10 - 04/11
Baltimore, MD
2nd Year MSW Practicum Student

The Family Tree of Maryland 09/09 - 04/10
Baltimore, MD
1st Year MSW Practicum Student

Mosaic Community Service 01/09 - 08/09
Ellicott City, MD
Residential Coordinator

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Perinatal Mental Health Alliance for People of Color 02/17 - present
Nationwide
Co-Founder

The Bloom Collective 12/18 - 12/22
Baltimore, MD
Co-Founder

SERVICE

Postpartum Support International 08/16 - present
Global
Maryland Co-Coordinator

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

2020 Mom 11/16 - 11/18
California; Nationwide
Board Member

HONORS & AWARDS

2010: Phi Alpha National Social Work Honors Society Inductee

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Black Women's Studies Association
American Evaluation Association
Association of Black Social Workers
Postpartum Support International
National Perinatal Task Force

SERVICE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

Swing Phi Swing Social Fellowship, Inc.

PUBLICATIONS

Israel, D. (2018) *When Postpartum Packs a Punch: Fighting Back and Finding Joy* by Kristina Cowan. [Book Review]. *Clinical Lactation*, 9(1), pg. 44. 2018.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Coleman, J., Kumar, D., & **Israel, D.** *Bridging the Gap: Women of Color and PMAD Professionals*. Annual conference of Postpartum Support International, Houston, TX. July 2018; Philadelphia, PA. July 2017

Israel, D. *Beyond the Baby Blues: An Overview of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders for Helping Professionals*. Annual Conference of Maryland Reproductive Update-Access Matters, Baltimore, MD. April 2018.

Coleman, J., and **Israel, D.** *Perinatal Mental Health and Beyond* (Postpartum Facilitator Training). Baltimore Healthy Start, Baltimore, MD. December 2017.

INVITED TALKS

Israel, D. [*Aftershock Documentary Viewing and Community Conversation*](#). The Foundation for Delaware County and Baby's 1st Project Partners Chester, PA. December 2022

Israel, D. *Perinatal Mental Health for Birthworkers*. SistaFire Rhode Island, Providence, RI. November 2022.

Israel, D. *Perinatal Mental Health & Lactation*. The Bloom Collective, Baltimore, MD. October 2022.

Israel, D. *Birthing While Black: The Effects of Racial Trauma and Perinatal Outcomes*. Annual Conference of GOLD Perinatal, Online. October 2017.

Israel, D. Raising of America Documentary Viewing and Community Conversation.
Baltimore Healthy Start, Baltimore, MD. October 2017.

Israel, D. *Targeted Prevention*. Substance Abuse and Health Services Administration Maternal
Depression Meeting, Rockville, MD. August 2017.