

Parry Aftab is a cyberspace lawyer, author and child advocate. As the Executive Director of Cyberangels.org, the largest online safety and educational program in cyberspace which was awarded the President's Service Award in October, 1998, Ms Aftab works with law enforcement to police the Internet. Ms. Aftab is a worldwide leader in the area of online safety and parent and child Internet education. She also works closely with the FTC on online privacy and data collection practices. Ms. Aftab is on the advisory board for GetNetWise.

Ms. Aftab was recently appointed by UNESCO to head up its Innocence in Danger project for the U.S., to make sure that all children (regardless of wealth or ethnic background) can have safe access to the Internet ([www.cyberangels.org/unescooverview.html](http://www.cyberangels.org/unescooverview.html)). Its Wired Kids project, which launches in late March, 2000 ([www.wiredkids.org](http://www.wiredkids.org)) will be a collective effort of Internet leaders, educators, law enforcement, parents and librarians. It is designed to be a one-stop-shopping source for all matters related to children online, including online safety.

Her new book for parents and teachers on child online safety, *The Parent's Guide to Protecting Your Children in Cyberspace*, was released by McGraw-Hill in January, 2000. The U.K. version of the book, written expressly for the parents and educators in the United Kingdom will be released in March, 2000. The book reviews the software and hardware options available to block, filter and monitor children's computer and Internet activity and provides practical solutions to parents' concerns about Internet safety. The book is, notwithstanding its subject matter, light and fun reading. Her first book, *A Parents' Guide to the Internet...and how to protect your children in cyberspace*, was released in January, 1998.

Ms. Aftab has helped design programs for parents and children teaching them how to use the Internet safely, including the P.I.E. Program (Parent Internet Education) for the Baltimore County School system. She is also an expert on filtering and blocking products. The FBI has even (unofficially) endorsed Ms. Aftab's work with online safety and her book.

Ms. Aftab also provides parent Internet education and online safety content for such diverse sites as Children's Television Workshop, Disney, Family.com, ABC's Children's First Foundation and MSNBC. Ms. Aftab was the Internet expert selected for the Littleton Town Meeting on MSNBC, hosted by Tom Brokaw and Jane Pauley, which featured Vice President Gore, among others. She was selected as one of the four key speakers at the White House Summit on Online Content, in Los Angeles, June 1998, and, as an expert in online privacy issues, was the keynote speaker at C.A.R.U.'s conference on children's online privacy in September, 1998. (C.A.R.U. is the advertising

industry's joint project with the Better Business Bureau, and handles self-regulation matters.)

A free speech advocate, Ms. Aftab seeks to empower parents, not the censors. The book has been featured nationally in online and print publications, including U.S. News & World Report, Family Circle's Computing Made Easy, Newsweek, Smart Money Magazine, Family Circle, Good Housekeeping, The Sunday Times, Reader's Digest, Better Homes & Gardens and Home PC Magazine. As a result of her work online with children, Ms. Aftab was selected as a charter member of Children Television Workshop's Advisory Board, as well as appointed to The National Urban League's Technology Advisory Committee.

Parry Aftab has spoken to many groups, conducted an informal briefing for the U.S. Senate, been a key speaker at the White House Summit on Online Content and testified before leading legislative committees, all with the same message: The Internet is a wonderful resource for families, and once parents understand the online risks, they can use common sense (and perhaps some filtering tools) to help their children enjoy cyberspace safely.

Parry Aftab is admitted to practice in New York and New Jersey. She attended law school at NYU School of Law. She was Valedictorian of Hunter College (having completed her undergraduate degree in less than two years), where she was inducted into *Phi Beta Kappa*.

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